

**Angel Guardians**  
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# ANGEL GUARDIANS December News



## Spooky Times at VSP Club

by *Trish Kuiper*  
VSP Coordinator

The VSP club members are still buzzing about our fantastic Halloween party! Spooky sounds, spider webs and dry ice greeted members as they entered the club and members loved how the club was transformed into the festive atmosphere. There was plenty of dancing, games, food and fun for all. During the evening some members spontaneously formed a conga line and danced around the club inviting their friends to join in. If dancing wasn't their thing there was still plenty for them to do. Members enjoyed Halloween games such as our annual candy jump game and our mummy wrap relay.

There were plenty of food and drinks for the members to

enjoy in the snack room where they could also chat with their friends. The costumes were great! We had a referee who kept calling penalties all night. Elvis made an appearance and a few baseball players were in attendance. Scary Jason kept creeping up on us throughout the night and thankfully, Spiderman was there to save us all.

Each member left with a bag of candy and a great big smile on their face. And that's what all of us at the VSP Club want to see! They are already talking about next year's party. We write down all the member's ideas so we can put them to use next year.

The VSP Club is a great place for our members to enjoy seasonal parties – whatever the occasion. Throughout the year, the club hosts a variety of holiday gatherings. The Halloween costume party is typically one of our biggest events of the year. We have also have a Fourth of July party, Thanksgiving Dinner and games and a Christmas Holiday party.

Please visit our website to see our upcoming events and what else we have planned for November and December. We hope you can join us!



## "vsp club" VERY SPECIAL PERSON

### DECEMBER CALENDAR

- Friday, December 2nd**  
Holiday Decorating & Movie.  
6-9 pm \$15
- Saturday, December 3rd**  
Holiday Lights Tour  
6-9 pm \$15
- Friday, December 9th**  
Candy & Cookie Exchange-  
Gingerbread Houses.  
6-9 pm \$15
- Saturday, December 10th**  
Hand-Me-Ups Holiday  
Shopping 6-9 pm \$15
- Friday, December 16th**  
VSP Christmas Party  
6-9 pm \$15
- Saturday, December 17th**  
Lancers Hockey Game  
6-9 pm \$15
- Friday, December 30th**  
New Year's Eve Sleep Over  
6 pm to 8am \$30
- Saturday, December 31st**  
Afternoon Bowling  
Meet at Maplewood Lanes  
Noon-2 pm \$15

**Please make a reservation by  
Wednesday of each week.  
Meet at the VSP Club for all  
events unless noted.**

*"Everything is in a state of flux, including the status quo."*  
Robert Byrne

Those familiar with our organization are aware that adjustments to the status quo are essential elements in the vision of Angel Guardians, Inc. Breaking new ground, while providing new options and unique opportunities for individuals and families, drives our mission to improve the quality of life for those with special needs. With the opening of the AngelWorks Career Center on June 1<sup>st</sup> of this year, Angel Guardians, Inc. is exceptionally pleased to have taken another step off of the beaten path while paving a new way to provide habitative day services for adults with developmental disabilities. AngelWorks is currently serving 44 individuals in our assisted day program, where activities such as working in our Artisan Center, Sewing Center or Production Kitchen Center keep everyone engaged in learning new tasks while developing skills. One can't walk past any of the production stations without our men and women proudly holding up and displaying the products they are working on, which may be a rosary, a piece of jewelry, a chew toy or the latest fashions for your family pet. Walking into AngelWorks, you are met with the warm aroma of the pet treat of the day, whether it is chicken or peanut butter, and greeted by the uplifting smiles of our proud buyers. Due



expanding our space and introducing new stations to include woodworking, ceramics and clay. Not only will our new centers provide space for additional individuals, but also new options and opportunities which add to the variety of tasks AngelWorks offers. In a constant effort to provide exceptional service, we are continually seeking ways to improve on behalf of our clients and our staff. Angel Guardians, Inc. is grateful for the overwhelming support from the extraordinary families and dedicated Service Coordinators who believe in our mission and play a major part in our undertaking to transform the status quo. As we continue to look forward, we thank you.

*Christopher Slater*  
Executive Director

## Transforming The Status Quo

to the wonderful success of the program, AngelWorks is already beginning work on

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## PERFECT HOLIDAY GIFTS



Shop our Hand Me Up Thrift Store for beautiful jewelry, rosaries, pet products and so much more!!

**BRING IN THIS NEWSLETTER FOR AN ADDITIONAL**

**10% OFF**

Any AngelWorks jewelry item!!



**\$4.99**

AngelWorks Dog Biscuits!

16 oz. bag. Purchase at AngelWorks!!  
Offers end December 24th, 2011.

## A PARENT'S PERSPECTIVE

by Mary Norris

David's enthusiastic smile said it all as he stepped off the AngelWorks van after his first day of work. Rather than being exhausted, he came home energized. AngelWorks is a perfect fit for David. Most of us look forward to our days off. Not David, he asks to go to work on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays. In fact, most mornings David is awake before us, dressed with his lunch packed in his backpack and looking forward to his day at AngelWorks. We are grateful he has this sense of purpose and passion in his life.

Besides his desire to go to work everyday, we are seeing other exciting growth in David since he started working at AngelWorks. He has volunteered for

three years at the

Cottonwood Elementary library where I work as a para. Since his time at

AngelWorks, David's social

skills have improved. In the past, he rarely spoke to anyone unless he was spoken to first. Now David has

confidence to initiate greeting teachers and students. He also is taking ownership of his volunteer

responsibilities. I no longer have to tell David what he needs to do. He independently goes to his work area

and begins tasks and comes to me if he needs anything rather than just sitting.

But when that AngelWorks van arrives to take him to work, David eagerly charges out the school door!



David Norris getting off the AngelWorks bus.

As parents we can't praise AngelWorks enough. We feel they truly place the consumers' (like David and his friends) needs first. For example at our initial meeting, Christopher Slater, Executive Director suggested it might be best for David's transition to begin at AngelWorks on a part time basis and gradually add days when David was ready. It didn't take long for David to let us know that he wanted to work at AngelWorks everyday.

We especially appreciate the good communication between the staff and our family. David has limited speech skills so we depend on the communication

notebook. We feel welcome call to ask questions or to stop by to visit. We have had lunch with David at work for lunch several times and we like what we see when we visit. The staff is impressive as they interact with the consumers in an encouraging and fun manner. We are also pleased with the friendliness and good manners of the consumers. The facility is a beautiful, comfortable environment. God bless the good folks at Angel Guardians for making

AngelWorks possible for "our kids."

## CLIENT SPOTLIGHT

### Spotlight on Tim Malone



**VSP Member:** 6 years  
**Angel Works client:** Since June 1st  
**Favorite VSP event:** BBQ with Hot Dogs  
**Favorite Holiday:** Valentine's Day  
**Favorite Food:** Wraps  
**Favorite Color:** Blue  
**Favorite area to work in at Angel Works?** The Kitchen  
**Why do you like coming to Angel Works?** Working with my friends.

**Favorite sport to watch:** I like watching World Wrestling. My favorite wrestler is Randy Orton. →



## DONOR NEWS

### A Big Thank You!

- Mike Poulin, pastoral minister at Saint Vincent de Paul Church recently toured our Angel Works facility. He later returned to Angel Guardians and presented us a check for \$1,200.
- Many thanks to Alan D'Agosto. Alan gifted us a walk in freezer and other much needed kitchen equipment.
- Another Big Thanks go out to Middleby Marshall Company. They gifted us an amazing oven for our kitchen.

**THIS IS THE PERFECT TIME TO CONSIDER US FOR END OF YEAR TAX PLANNING AND LAST MINUTE DONATIONS.**

Go to our website or call our office for donation options.

## HAND-ME-UP THRIFT STORES

by Megan Malone  
Project Coordinator



Angel Guardians is constantly finding ways to maximize the potential of our generous donations. At Hand Me-Ups, our staff and volunteers sort pounds of clothing

and other donations daily. Usable, good-condition items are tagged and put in the Hands-Me Up Thrift and Furniture Stores. Damaged or un-useable clothing and shoes are sorted separately and recycled locally into rags. Unusable electronics, broken furniture, and mismatched items are set aside for the Disabled Veterans to salvage.

Truly, we seek to maximize the potential of our generous donations at every turn while giving back to the community and recycling. We have now added two new sorting mechanisms to our madness - our New With Tags and

designer merchandise will be available for sale on ebay.com or see them on our Facebook page. Any local customer interested in the ebay items can message us to arrange local pickup and skip shipping fees.

It's that time of year and a perfect holiday gift is waiting at Hand Me Ups for you! Check out the beautiful jewelry, rosaries and pet products made by AngelWorks! Do you have a teenage daughter or college bound son that suddenly thinks you looked cool in all your seventies clothes? Head over to the White Hat Vintage area where we offer vintage merchandise ideal. We truly offer something for everyone!

Thanks again to our neighbors and families who help our dream of improving the lives of special needs teens and adults a reality. If you have items you'd like to donate, call 402-502-2430.

**Hand Me Ups Thrift Store**  
15663 Spaulding Street  
10 am-6 pm Mon-Sat  
402-502-2430

**Hand Me Ups Furniture**  
2820 N. 90th Street  
10 am-8 pm Mon-Sat  
402-505-8300

