

ImagiNe!ws

Employee Newsletter

Jason Kingsbury Wins DSP of the Year!

Imagine! employee Jason Kingsbury takes home the Alliance Direct Service Professional of the Year award.

On February 28, Alliance held its annual Awareness Day Luncheon at the McNichols Civic Center in Denver. Service agencies from all over Colorado were in attendance to celebrate their successes in supporting individuals with I/DD. As a grand finale to the event, Alliance handed out a Direct Service Professional (DSP) of the Year award.

In the mix of 28 nominations, Jason rose to the top as the employee most deserving of this honor. He works at CORE/Labor Source in Boulder and was initially nominated by his colleagues. Program Coordinator Jeff Rodarti said this about Jason:

“Jason has demonstrated a dogged advocacy for clients with intense and challenging behaviors. He has consistently modeled a sense of determined and graceful patience in those moments, even going so far as to educate members of the community with regard to how Imagine! supports those with significant behavioral challenges, and how these individuals deserve a space in the community as much as anyone else.”

Jason gave a meaningful speech after accepting



Jason (left) receiving award from Josh Rael (right) of Alliance

the award. “My mother was a school teacher for 45 years and she taught me that I have the choice to either be a part of the solution, or a part of the problem. Since then, I decided whatever the case, to be a part of the solution.” Jason received a standing ovation.

Congratulations Jason for this well deserved honor and thank you for all you do!

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Leadership Development Group

Update Submitted By: Brodie Schulz

Next week, Imagine!'s LDG members have the opportunity to attend a training through the Employer's Council called "How Great Leaders Build Trust." This training is one that all of us are excited to attend for one primary reason: it focuses on how important trusting and believing in employees is for an organization. Not just any employee however, but those who are on the front lines of services. This training instills the idea that those at the front are the most important individuals in an organization and have much to offer.

One example of an organization that embodies this idea is Toyota, the world's leading car manufacturing company as measured by profit and reliability. According to the author of "The Future of Management," Gary Hamel, American car manufacturers studied Toyota for twenty years and they

determined that American companies could not match Toyota's success for only one reason: American organizations did not believe in their employees the way their Japanese counterparts did. Toyota truly valued everyone in the organization, while American companies discounted those at the bottom as "cogs in a machine." Many companies are now recognizing that this approach can dramatically impact their ability to provide quality services and products, and have begun adopting these ideas. Companies such as Whole Foods, Google, and Gore-Tex are among that group.

"We want front line staff to have more opportunities to affect change."

We are excited to attend this training and learn how we can continue to push Imagine! and all of its departments in this direction because we on the LDG also believe that those on the front lines of service are Imagine!'s most valuable assets and deserve to be trusted. We have seen their hard work and ideas change not only the organization, but the lives of those we serve, and we want front line staff to have more opportunities to affect change. We agree with Imagine!'s commitment to embrace a bottom up philosophy and are looking forward to how we can take what we learn at this training and provide more opportunities for growth in this area.

2017-2018 LDG

Brodie Schulz
Jeff Rodarti
Jen McIntyre
Ally Joel
Britt McWilliams





“Disney Dog Disaster” draws a packed house

Every year, Imagine!’s Out & About adult program leads an activity called “Centre Stage,” in which they prepare a theater performance for a live audience. This year’s show, “Disney Dog Disaster,” marked their 8th annual performance. “I like being on stage with all of my friends,” said Jeannie, Out & About actor.

This is the fourth year Out & About has teamed up with the Parlando School of Musical Arts and director Kristel Brown, to see the production through. “I am so proud of the heart, energy, and creativity this group brings to the process, and humbled to have shared in the story-telling with these incredible individuals,” said Brown.

Alongside Brown’s direction was Out & About Therapeutic Specialist Bridget Heddens tackling behind the scenes work. Centre Stage met once a week for two hours and created a production from scratch: characters, script, costumes, the whole nine yards. Brown and Heddens guided the participants throughout the process and prepared

them for the stage.

The story takes place at Disneyland, where a handful of tourists are not happy with the over-priced concessions and admission fees. The park falls into chaos and a few famous Disney characters strive to bring back peace to the park. Check Imagine!’s Facebook page to find a recording of the show and see what happens next!

*Top: John Holcomb and PJ Kohnert act out Captain Hook and Aladdin’s Genie.
Bottom:
Bridget and Kristel after the show.*

Out & About’s 8th annual adult Centre Stage performance took the spotlight February 23



Ian

Featured Artist at CORE/Labor Source

It first started with basic painting, then splattering paint off the brush onto the canvas, then squirt and spray bottles. Soon after, Ian found his niche and masterpieces were being made.

"Ian has been selling artwork online, although a lot of them don't even make it that far because someone sees him creating it and requests to purchase it as soon as it's dry," said Erin Schram, Ian's art teacher at CORE/Labor Source in Longmont.

Erin has worked with Ian since the beginning, helping him find the right tools and methods, allowing him to create art he got excited about.

Ian starts with a white canvas. He chooses colors using the iPad and Erin mixes the color into a bottle. Ian fills all the white space, emptying bottle after bottle. Once the canvas is full of color, he adds texture by spraying splashes of gold, silver, and other bright colors.

What's with the hazmat suit, you may ask? Once the spray and squirt bottles became Ian's tools of choice, the suit, goggles, and tarps granted him the freedom to be as creative (and messy) as he wanted to be.

Beyond the canvas, Erin programmed software



onto an iPad that allows him to better communicate what colors he wants, as well as a naming page, where he labels his artwork with creative titles. Some examples are 'Crazy Galaxy' and 'Ghost.' "It gives Ian control of his work," said Erin.

Ian generously donated four paintings to the silent auction at the Imagine! Celebration, and the artwork raised \$165. Thank you, Ian!

*Left: Ian and his art teacher, Erin
Right: Ian poses with a completed painting*



Imagine! Employee Spotlight



Erica Stamm
Excellence in Customer Service

"Erica's daily actions and strong work ethics define what it means to be team player. Erica is always willing to step up and offer assistance to all areas of Family Support operations."



Erika Skewes
Early Intervention Rock Star

"Erika is so passionate about her work. In recent customer surveys, families rave about Erika's work with them and 'could not have asked for a more amazing service coordinator!'"

Check the Imagine! Voices blog for full length stories of these achievements.



Melissa Allen
Innovations Super Hero

"Melissa has taken the time during highly time sensitive and stressful situations to make stakeholders and Innovations administrative staff her priority, and has offered assistance even if it is not specifically her job."

Imagine! Employee Spotlight

Quincy Malecki

Congratulations to Quincy of Out & About as she was one of 28 nominees for the statewide Direct Service Professional of the Year Award.

Quincy was invited to the annual Alliance Awareness Day Luncheon last month, along with all other Colorado nominees, to be recognized for her hard work. Here is an excerpt from her nomination write-up:

"A lot of instructors use her as a resource for advice and see her as a wealth of knowledge. She has a quality skill set to learn from."



Quincy alongside Imagine! CEO Mark Emery at Awareness Day.

Chris DiRosa

Congratulations to Chris of Innovations as he was presented the Paul Harris Fellowship Award through the Open World International Program of Rotary. Last month, the Longmont Rotary Club invited Chris as a guest to their meeting and gave him the award.



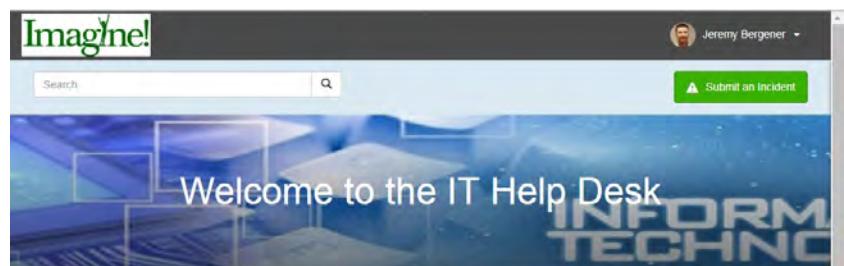
"Chris has received this award for his dedicated passion of serving individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities."

IT Update

Submitted By: Jeremy Bergener

We are excited to announce upcoming changes to the SysAid Helpdesk ticketing system. The user-interface is different and offers a modern look. We hope to roll out this new format in the first week of March.

The first thing you will notice is the new “Submit an Incident” button at the top of the page. This allows you to easily open a new ticket. Clicking the button will take you to the newly designed ticket submission form. The layout is essentially the same as before, but with a newer, cleaner look.



Next is the “My Tickets” section. Here is where all of your currently open tickets will be displayed. You can easily check on the status of the tickets or open them to get further details. There is also a “Recently Closed” tab that will show a brief look at tickets you have submitted and have since been closed. From either tab you can also easily use the “Show All” feature to jump into a full overview of your opened or closed tickets.

Moving on is our FAQ (frequently asked questions) section. This is our Knowledge Base of common issues and resolutions. There are numerous articles in the FAQ that cover a variety of issues and how to resolve them. Unfortunately, at this time, the sorting does not appear to be working correctly for the FAQ section on the Self Service Portal. Once this is resolved, it will display the highest viewed FAQ articles first. Until then, we recommend clicking on the “Show All” link under the FAQ section to access the articles. This will open the Knowledge Base in a new window which will allow you to browse the FAQ by categories and also includes a search feature.

Finally, the Toolbar section. Here we have included shortcuts to the most frequently accessed portions of SysAid. We will add future items to the Toolbar as needed. Say an issue arises where a required

update is needed to use one of our software systems correctly, we can easily add a shortcut to the Toolbar for installing the update. This will greatly help us cut down on the need to send numerous emails and respond to the same ticket multiple times. We will keep you updated on any changes made to the Toolbar section.

FAQ

Billing Search	08/08/2017	0 5
Displaying One Field Value as Default Value in Second Field	08/08/2017	0 18
Tracking Is not saving properly	07/11/2011	0 0
virus	06/09/2011	0 1

Show All >

Submit an Incident

Experiencing technical problems or have an issue to report? Click here to submit an incident to your IT department.

My Activities

Access your submitted service records, pending workflow actions, and supervised service records

FAQ

Find helpful information that can help you quickly resolve a technical problem on your own. Try to save time by doing it yourself!

SysAid Calendar

See a schedule of when you submitted service records, the dates by when they must be resolved, and all events that have been published to your group.

We hope you enjoy the new layout and ease-of-use of the Self Service Portal! If you have any suggestions, please let the IT department know.



BENEFITS spotlight



Wellness Benefit

Imagine! will pay a portion of full and part-time employees' fees for approved weight loss programs, event entry fees or fitness centers. Imagine! will pay 100% of the cost up to \$200 per year for a full-time employee. The maximum annual benefit for a part-time employee is 100%, up to \$100. Imagine! also offers no-cost on-site programs throughout the year such as yoga and Lunch and Learns.

The Wellness Benefit can be submitted once every 12 months, which is a rolling 12 months and does not follow a calendar year. You are welcome to submit anytime and will be eligible to submit again one year after your last submission.

Take advantage of this great benefit by completing an application today!

How to submit for your wellness benefit:

Option 1

If you would like to be reimbursed for money spent, you will fill out the Reimbursement Form and return it with copies of your receipts. You are welcome to bring those in to Human Resource (HR) or e-mail them to HR@imaginecolorado.org. HR will send the completed form to Payroll and the reimbursement will show up on your paycheck.

Option 2

The other option is for Imagine! to cut a check up to \$200/\$100, directly to the facility. For this option, you would submit the Pre-Pay Form to HR with documentation showing the amount you would be paying. Once HR receives the signed Pre-Pay Form back, we will submit it to the Business Office and you pick up the check directly from them.

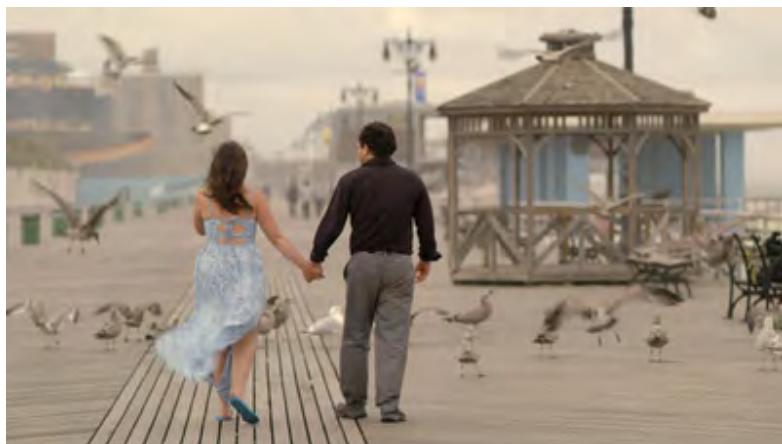
Applications can be found on the documents website at <https://imaginecolorado.org/documents> or requested through the Human resources Department.

Employees who meet Imagine! benefit requirements are eligible for this benefit.

Community News

Boulder Jewish Film Festival

On March 8, the Boulder Jewish Community Center (JCC) kicked off its annual Film Festival and highlighted inclusion as its theme. They featured a film titled “Keep The Change,” a romantic comedy starring two actors on the autism spectrum.



Congratulations to Lucas Warren, an 18-month old from Dalton, GA for being selected as this year's Gerber "spokes-baby!" Lucas is the first baby with down syndrome to represent Gerber. Lucas's mother commented, "We know Gerber chose him because of his cuteness, but it also is spreading awareness of acceptance of people with disabilities of all kinds," she said. "No matter if we have a disability or not, we're all just humans."



“Because our film deals with the subject of disabilities and specifically autism, people who haven't yet seen it might dismiss it as a niche film—but it's not a niche film. To me, this is a full butter popcorn movie: entertaining, moving, and opening up a world that most people have never seen before,” said director Rachel Israel.



An award winner at the Tribeca Film Festival, the rights to this film were recently purchased by Kino Lorber, Inc. and will be given a limited release in the United States starting mid March. ■

Sensory Friendly Activities Nearby

Chuck E. Cheese

First Sunday of the month; 9-11am

WOW Children's Museum (Lafayette)

March 11; 8-10am

Get Air Trampoline Park, Longmont

Every Saturday, 8-10am

Denver Aquarium

March 11, April 8, and May 13; all at 8:30am

History Colorado Center in Denver

April 21; 8-10am

RSVP to shannon.voirol@state.co.us or 303-866-4691

Save the date!



Imagine! Community Forum

Tuesday, April 10 from 6-7pm;

Imagine!'s John Taylor Conference Center - 1665 Coal Creek Dr, Lafayette

Join us for our Annual Community Forum at Imagine!. We will share information about Colorado House Bill 17-1343, regarding conflict free case management. Representatives from Imagine!'s staff and Board of Directors will be on hand to answer questions from families and local community members. Join us in person or by phone!



To join by phone

1-877-668-4490 Toll-Free Number
(US/Canada)
Access code: 803 664 368

Out & About Children's Centre Stage

Friday, April 13 at 7:30pm; Angevine Middle School

Come watch the 4th Annual "Centre Stage for Kids" performance on the big stage. This year's show is an adaptation of Where The Wild Things Are.



Creating a World of
Opportunity for All Abilities