

POSITIVE CHANGES

Cenikor Foundation Salutes Its Business Partners

Cenikor's Business Partners do more than provide work therapy opportunities for long-term residents, says Jerry Hall, senior vice president.

"Our Partners are sensitive to the fact that they are working with people in recovery and are instrumental in setting our clients up for success," he says. "The experiences they provide help move the residents forward. They work with us in stressing productivity, consistency and accountability."

A thumbnail sketch of Vocational and Career Services is this: within 90 days of entering one of Cenikor's long-term treatment programs, clients participate in full assessments to determine their educational and career interests. Clients begin working with Business Partners to develop life skills and a work ethic and later to prepare for a career path.

On any given day, up to 250 residents from Cenikor's long-term residential facilities are working for 40 to 50 Business Partners. Their stories are compelling.

Pasadena Skid and Pallet, Inc.

Timothy B. says his work ethic got lost in his addiction to alcohol and cocaine. After entering Cenikor, he worked at Pasadena Skid and Pallet before beginning a career path at Turner Industries.

"Pasadena Skid and Pallet gave me a start. They're great people who have an open door policy with Cenikor residents. In other rehab programs, you leave as you came – no job, no opportunity. I'll leave Cenikor with a career, a place to live, transportation and a support system."

Brian Forrister, plant manager of Pasadena Skid and Pallet, likes knowing that he is helping people get back on track. From a business standpoint, working with Cenikor residents makes sense. "With Cenikor, I

know what I'm getting. Cenikor residents are held to a higher standard than anyone I would hire off the street."

Brian makes a commitment to Cenikor residents. "If they complete Cenikor's program and do a good job for us, I will make jobs available for them. We believe that strongly in the program."

Southern Floral Company

Before coming to Cenikor, William J. worked in customer service jobs but never lasted more than six months. Now, during the week, he drives for Cenikor, and on Sunday, he works at Southern Floral.

"It makes me feel good that they keep asking me back – every Sunday for seven months. Come to think of it, this is the longest I've held one job. I'd like to work there during re-entry."

"Cenikor says that work is therapy. And it is. Before I came here, work wasn't important to me; I didn't care about responsibility. I was a 31-year-old kid."

Toni Lummus, who manages Southern Floral's subsidiary Southern Exposure, has nothing but good things to say about Cenikor residents. "I don't have to babysit them. They come with a positive attitude. They work hard, follow directions and stay focused."

Swaby Lobeline Manufacturing

Matthew D. started working in shipping at Swaby Lobeline one month out of Cenikor's orientation. Today, he operates complex machinery that mills square parts.

"It hasn't been easy, but I've worked my way up. It's a great opportunity that's based



on performance and attitude. I'm learning something new every day. I plan to work here after I graduate. I'll be able to pay my legal bills and get established. I would not have a job like this without Cenikor."

His supervisor, Priyesh Sharma, says Matthew deserves the opportunity. "There's no harder worker. A job may be tedious, but he always does it the right way."

Residents placed at Swaby start at the bottom. As they gain experience, hands-on training and confidence, they are given more responsibility. In addition to Matthew, a re-entry resident, three Cenikor graduates are employed at Swaby.

Why Cenikor? "Because these guys are good," says Priyesh.

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Learn how your company can become a Cenikor Business Partner.

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FROM THE DESK OF Bill Bailey

I'm very happy for you to read our cover story – our salute to Business Partners. There is so much we could say about our work therapy and career path opportunities. Conventional wisdom, professional studies and experience tell us that recovery, coupled with employment, helps transform lives.

I like the way Timothy B. said it, "In other rehab programs, you leave as you came – no job, no opportunity. I'll leave Cenikor with a career, a place to live, transportation and a support system." We could not make this happen without our Business Partners. Our appreciation is immeasurable.

On this page, you'll read about men and women who were recognized at our Celebrate Recovery luncheons. Their contributions of time, talent and service make Cenikor's programs possible. Again, our sincere appreciation.

As you celebrate the holidays, please remember Cenikor's clients. We try to make the holidays special, especially in our residential communities where some of our residents may not see family members or friends. For some of them, the gifts they

receive from Cenikor and our supporters may be their only gifts. During this season, we help many of our residents buy gifts for their children and host celebrations for families – opportunities to help re-build family relationships.

Please consider Cenikor as you make your year-end gifts. If there is any question about the effect of your donations to Cenikor Foundation, I invite you to read Stacey Ward's story on the next page.

All of us at Cenikor wish you a happy holiday season and a healthy, purposeful and prosperous new year! ■



Cenikor Celebrates Recovery

The celebrations kicked off on September 8 at Boudreaux's in Baton Rouge. Cenikor is honored to continue a tradition of recognizing community members whose interest in recovery makes their contributions invaluable. Pictured, at left, left to right: Bill Bailey, Cenikor president; Eric Bertolet, Community Leader of the Year; Mike Pitts, Amedisys, Philanthropist of the Year; Dr. Laura Cassidy, representing Congressman Bill Cassidy who is Elected Official of the Year; Mayor Kip Holden; and Doug Richards, Baton Rouge facility director.

Bill Bailey, Luncheon Chair Rae Sinor and Senior Vice President Jerry Hall (center picture, left to right) welcomed guests to the September 22 Deer Park luncheon at Houston's Junior League. Congratulations

to award recipients Tim Culp, Deer Park Chamber of Commerce, Community Leader of the Year; Sandra and Keith Peterson, Philanthropists of the Year; Vince Cordova, Lufkin Automation, Business Partner of the Year; and Harris County Judge Ed Emmett, Elected Official of the Year.

Vice President Michael Hathcoat, Fort Worth, led the celebration on September 30 at Colonial Country Club along with emcee Scott Murray, Emmy Award-winning sports and news anchor. Pictured here, at right, left to right, Judge Michael Flanagan, Cotton County, Oklahoma, Elected Official of the Year; D'Ann Dagan, Hangman's House of Horrors, Philanthropist of the Year; and Steve Leaman, Leaman Container, Business Partner of the Year. ■

(continued from cover)

Turner Industries

Gabriel F. was working on a degree in computer drafting and design before his addiction derailed his plans. Since being in Cenikor, he has operated an auto-cad computer for Ameraflex, and as of this writing, he was interviewing for a job at Turner Industries and completing a college application for the Spring 2012 semester.

"I've had my career in front of me, but my lifestyle got in my way. Now that I have a chance to advance in my career, education and life, I'm going to take advantage of it. With the help of Cenikor and my peers, I know I can be a successful person."

Brian Daigle, vice president and plant manager of Turner Industries, is one of Cenikor's biggest supporters. "Cenikor residents are extremely motivated and

looking for a second chance. Some have never had a real job, but they have a good attitude and want to work. They're a joy to be around.

"We promote from within and look at everyone for additional responsibility. When Cenikor residents come to work here, they find a built-in support system. Of the 150 employees in the Deer Park shop, at least 25 of them are Cenikor graduates." ■