Sullivan graduate builds a new life

In 2003, Lisa Olds knew she had a gain skills to enter the job market. As a single mother of two, she knew her kids were relying on her to provide much needed stability. Lisa decided the quickest way to become employable was through Sullivan University’s Clinical Assistant Program. She completed the program in June 2004 as a magna cum laude graduate.

Sullivan’s Graduate Employment Services, assisted Lisa with her first job at Northside Family Practice and as a Certified Medical Assistant.

Lisa Olds

Another dream comes true

But Lisa’s journey to success didn’t end there; she had dreamed for years of owning her own home and contacted Reach, Inc., a non-profit agency that helps low and moderate income families purchase homes in the Central Kentucky region to start the process of qualifying for housing assistance.

Lisa and her children, now teenagers, had spent most of their lives living in public housing or with Section 8 assistance. She was determined to provide a safe place for her children to live. “My children have had to struggle right along with me,” Olds observes, “Once they said I could own a home, did whatever it took. Every step I had to take, every meeting I had to go to, I went.”

Lisa Olds now knows that dreams do come true. In June, Reach Inc. partnered with Brester Homes to build her 1,200 square foot dream house in less than 48 hours.

Her home, in the Konner Woods Subdivision, was built with $105,000 in donations from Brester and other local subcontractors leaving her with a small $30,000 mortgage that purchased the land. “It’s definitely like a butterfly bursting from a cocoon,” said Olds.

Sullivan salutes administrative professionals

Tomorrow’s Administrative Professionals (TAP) is a campus group that supports the development of students majoring in office technology. TAP members learn the latest innovations in administrative technology, business and networking skills.

Recently, TAP honored the administrative assistants and students on campus with a catered lunch. Each assistant received a corsage and a chance to win prizes. TAP President, Evelyn Dehner, contacted local merchants to donate gifts for the occasion including a one night stay at the Marriott Courtyard Inn, a fresh fruit arrangement from Incredible Edibles, free donuts from Krispy Kreme, among others. Special guests Executive Director David McGuire, Dean of Academic Affairs, Beth Timoney and several faculty members were on hand to honor the professionals.

Student Service Center Coordinator Linda Pugh was the recipient of the Marriott Courtyard gift certificate. She said, “It was so nice to be honored for the work we do. TAP put on a wonderful luncheon and the stay at the Marriott Hotel was very luxurious!”

If you would like to learn more about TAP, contact Instructor Gerri Smolwood or visit the next Organizational Fair in October.

Embrace Your Geeniness Day

Sullivan University staff members were recently on the lookout for students caught in the act of studying for the “Embrace Your Geeniness” Day. Students using Sullivan’s Library Services that day were entered into a raffle to win a $25 gift card to Joseph-Beth Booksellers.

Christie Oliver was the lucky bookworm.

Perdón Club participates in Relay for Life

Relay for Life is a cancer survivorship celebration event with games, entertainment and information. The goal is to raise money for cancer research and was the second year Sullivan University’s Perdón Club participated in the Relay for Life event. The Club supports students’ spiritual development while they pursue their careers. Various Perdón Club-sponsored activities raised more than $650.00.

David McGuire, Executive Director, graciously provided matching funds to double the group’s efforts for the American Cancer Society.

Funding events held

The Perdón Club spent months raising funds with a wide array of activities. Management major, Quinn Kennedy, prepared his famous Buffalo wings for a fundraiser on campus. He said of the event, “I like to cook and I like to help people. The smile on their faces when they eat my barbecue makes me feel good inside because I know cancer patients will benefit from the little bit I can do.”

Arthur Cargill purchased a pizza card from the Perdón Club before departing for active military duty in Iraq. “I have four children; three, six, eight, and nine years old and they love pizza. I purchased a card because all the funds go to research,” he stated.

Unusual learning activity

The most unusual fundraising occurred in Instructor Carol Hannah’s Thursday night Statistics class. Her students asked for her help to mathematically determine the number of jellybeans in a large jar raffled by the Perdón Club. Even though she observed, “It’s not exactly statistics,” she thought it would be a good “active learning” opportunity, so she placed a formula on the board, instructing students to use it to determine the number of jellybeans in the jar.

Several students in the class came very close to the correct number. Chris Hegwood said, “It was fun and created excitement in class.”

Personal ties

Many of the Perdón Club’s largest individual contributors like Wendy Courtney, former Perdón President Kyle Hisle, and former Vice President Dustin Combs; all have had family members or friends with cancer or know cancer survivors. As student Whitney Nelson said, “Cancer has struck my family, friends, and even my pets! I am more than willing to do anything I can to help find a cure and support others in the battle against cancer.”

Sullivan’s Relay for Life Team participants included students Kristy Gaines, Emily Blandford, Dustin Combs, Cornell Coffey, Lisa Olds, and Carrie McCall.

Jail ‘N Bail for MDA

Sullivan faculty, staff, and students are always looking for ways to contribute to a great cause. A recent helping hand was given by faculty member and Sullivan Services Coordinator of Finance in the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA). Jeff was sent to the MDA Lock-Up to raise funds to fight muscular dystrophy. Local police officers donate their time to arrest the MDA fundraisers and take them to the Jail-Up. Mr. Stone was bail out thanks to $750 worth of donations given by family, friends and Sullivan employees. Stone said of the experience, “I was fun being a part of this event. It was great meeting all the different people involved.”