

L. A. HABILITATION HOUSE NAMES BRYAN COSAJAY EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR



LAHH employee Bryan Cosajay always has a friendly word for us as he keeps our offices clean.

L.A. Habilitation House (LAHH) is a non-profit corporation which provides Janitorial Employment Program Outreach & Training Services, and which contracts with Harbor Regional Center to provide janitorial services. During a recent graduation ceremony for new trainees, they honored Bryan Cosajay as Employee of the Year.

In their newsletter they explained why he was selected:

Bryan is the Light Duty Specialist at Harbor Regional Center in Torrance. "He is always ready to go two to three hours ahead of time" as his mom told us. It has been amazing to work with him during this year. Bryan works incredibly hard and is diligent. "He is the type of person

who sees something that needs to be done and just does it – with enthusiasm and professionalism," recounted LAHH President Guido Piccarolo.

Bryan's worth as an employee goes beyond his work ethic; it is bound in his character and therefore tells what is in his heart. This has been more than evident in watching Bryan deal with the most difficult aspects of his work, watching him remain positive and upbeat when many of us would have given up! Bryan is a unique man who believes that he has been given this opportunity in life and who gives everything he has to fulfilling that purpose without regrets.

Thank you, Bryan, for all you have done this year – for your commitment and for being such a positive influence on the lives of your co-workers and the people you serve each day! ■

The Parent is the Child's First Teacher: Parent-Participation Therapy Groups (continued from page 4)

"She has had really bad seizures, had stopped interacting, and stopped smiling. And now she is so much more engaged.

She will even approach other family members and give them a hug."

They Shouldn't Be In Isolation...These Are Social Activities

Being part of a parent participation therapy group also provides a built-in network of support. HRC therapist Fran

Harman notes, "I have seen a great deal of change in the way that parents interact with their children and the kids' response to their parents. Coming together in a group provides the additional opportunity to learn social skills such as taking turns and sharing. "



HRC Speech and Language Pathologist Melissa Greener demonstrates the use of play activity for language development.

Adds therapist Marcie Rhee, "Parents can come together with other parents who experience and understand the same challenges they are experiencing, feel mutual support, and with their children can enjoy that social time together that they would not otherwise have."

"The therapists make the hard work so much fun, she can't wait to see her teachers. We feel like part of a family every time we visit," reports Michael Zislis, parent.

Parent Kathleen Hayes adds, "It can be a very lonely and discouraging world when you see that your child is different, but the therapists, the other parents, and their children give us hope and encouragement that it will be OK, and that we are not alone. We as parents have grown confident in our ability to help our child when they need us the most. It empowers me every day when I can teach my child at home what we learn in therapy."

Children and their parents, Sharing... Supporting...Succeeding. That's what it's all about. ■