

STARLIGHT NEWS is a newsletter started by the writer/editor Tim Thompson.

STARLIGHT NEWS is news stories about people with all levels of disabilities and agencies that help the disabled community. There are people who may not know about helping people with disabilities or they don't understand. Starlight's mission is to help people understand and help out.

STARLIGHT NEWS would like to invite people in the disabled community and the general public to read the newsletter. The first one is free if you would like to subscribe our fees are \$1 a month or \$10 a year. If you are a business and you're holding an event or you just want to place an ad our fees are \$5 for small and \$10 for big ads. Comments and suggestions are always welcome please e-mail Tim at icewolf260@gmail.com

STARLIGHT NEWS will start out with these 3 things;

1. A poem
2. News on the disabled community
3. Ads

Treat Yourself Each Day to Love and Kindness

By J.S. Bach. Sequenced by Margareth Greentree

Treat yourself each day to love and kindness

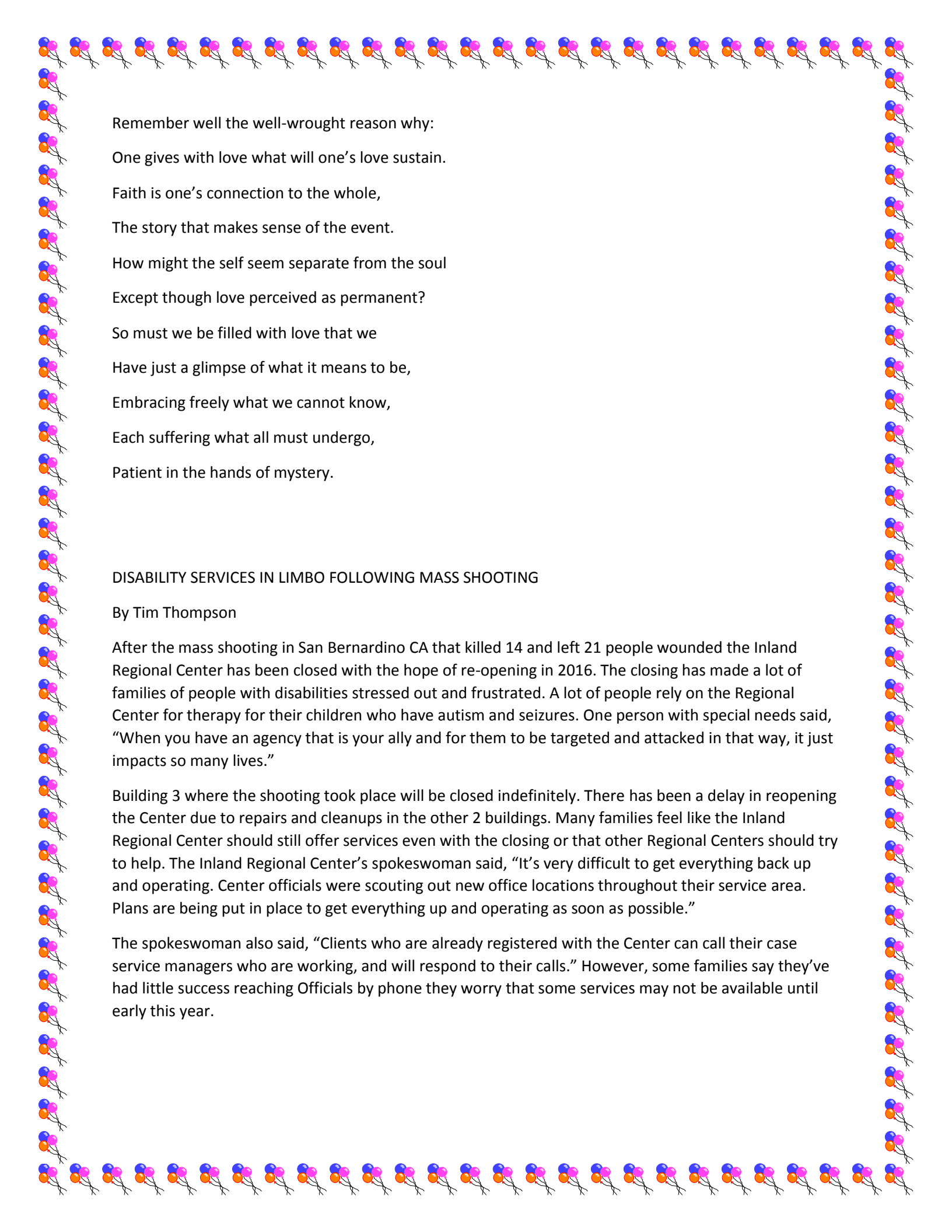
Heaven is a place within the heart.

Each ritual of faith may well seem mindless,

Yet one is only whole when one is part.

Even though I may seem timid, shy,

A worrier for all who might feel pain,



Remember well the well-wrought reason why:
One gives with love what will one's love sustain.
Faith is one's connection to the whole,
The story that makes sense of the event.
How might the self seem separate from the soul
Except though love perceived as permanent?
So must we be filled with love that we
Have just a glimpse of what it means to be,
Embracing freely what we cannot know,
Each suffering what all must undergo,
Patient in the hands of mystery.

DISABILITY SERVICES IN LIMBO FOLLOWING MASS SHOOTING

By Tim Thompson

After the mass shooting in San Bernardino CA that killed 14 and left 21 people wounded the Inland Regional Center has been closed with the hope of re-opening in 2016. The closing has made a lot of families of people with disabilities stressed out and frustrated. A lot of people rely on the Regional Center for therapy for their children who have autism and seizures. One person with special needs said, "When you have an agency that is your ally and for them to be targeted and attacked in that way, it just impacts so many lives."

Building 3 where the shooting took place will be closed indefinitely. There has been a delay in reopening the Center due to repairs and cleanups in the other 2 buildings. Many families feel like the Inland Regional Center should still offer services even with the closing or that other Regional Centers should try to help. The Inland Regional Center's spokeswoman said, "It's very difficult to get everything back up and operating. Center officials were scouting out new office locations throughout their service area. Plans are being put in place to get everything up and operating as soon as possible."

The spokeswoman also said, "Clients who are already registered with the Center can call their case service managers who are working, and will respond to their calls." However, some families say they've had little success reaching Officials by phone they worry that some services may not be available until early this year.



MORGAN'S INSPIRATION ISLAND

By Tim Thompson

Morgan's Wonderland in San Antonio, TX announced that they have broken ground in building Morgan's Inspiration Island. The world's first ultra-accessible splash park. Fun for all ages and people of all abilities. Morgan's Wonderland officials say, "it feels like it did when we first built Morgan's Wonderland for special needs individuals." "It's never been done before," said Gordon Hartman, CEO of Gordon Hartman Family Foundation.

Gordon Hartman's inspiration for opening up an amusement park for special needs comes from his 22-year-old daughter Morgan who deals with cognitive and physical challenges. The water park has been in the planning stages for 2 years. They have been working with water park consultants from Texas, Arizona, Florida and even Canada. They also have been working with doctors and special-needs therapists and now they are laying down pipe, installing pumps in building facilities. The splash park is scheduled to open in spring of 2017.

Morgan's Wonderland officials believe the splash park will be tremendously popular because even kids and adults in wheelchairs will be able to have a splashy good time. Morgan's Inspiration Island will be between Morgan's Wonderland and STAR (South Texas Regional) Soccer Complex. This area overlooks the theme park's 8-acre catch-and-release fishing lake.

The wife of CEO Gordon Hartman, Maggie, added, "Morgan's Inspiration Island like Morgan's Wonderland will concentrate on inclusion and inspire guests with special needs to do things previously thought to be impossible. Those without disabilities and those with, including individuals in wheelchairs and guests with hearing and visual impairments, will be able to play alongside each other and gain a greater understanding of each other."

There will be a river boat adventure ride that will twist and turn more than an eighth of a mile through a jungle setting while bird and animal sounds will be heard in the background. Five water play areas, Hang 10 Harbor, Rainbow Reef, Shipwreck Island, Castaway Bay and Calypso Cove. These water play areas will offer a variety of splashy elements such as raintrees, falls, pools, geysers, jets, water cannons and tipping buckets.

Every element will be wheelchair-accessible, and waterproof wristbands with RFID technology will be available so parents can go to a Location Station and easily ascertain the whereabouts of their children and other members of their party.

The Academy at Morgan's Wonderland, located next door to the theme park, has worked closely with students with special needs (ages 12-24) on traditional subjects such as reading and math. The wonderful thing about the Academy is the Bridge Program—one-on-one interaction with each older student to identify his/her special abilities and build upon those to achieve independent living, meaningful work and much success as possible in adulthood.

Hartman has noted that they are working with university researchers to develop waterproof wheelchairs. "Our guest in expensive motorized wheelchairs can't afford to get them wet, so we're planning on having special Morgan's Inspiration Island wheelchairs available along with spacious private areas where guests can be lifted out of their chairs and put in a waterproof wheelchair."



COLORADO SPRINGS SAFE FOR THE DISABLED

By Tim Thompson

Colorado Springs Police Department reports that in 2015 no disability-related hate crimes have been committed. However the FBI has reported that 95 disability-related hate crimes have been committed in the U.S in 2014 of that 69 were committed against people with mental disabilities and 26 of them aimed at those with physical disabilities the FBI said.

STARLIGHT NEWS has heard from individuals in services that have said that they were discriminated against by people in the general public because of their disability. The accusation's maybe faults because the accusations were never reported to the Police.

However these same individual's also have committed hate crimes with other individual's with disabilities based off of the person disability. The Host Home Providers or Agencies have not called the authorities on theses clients. One individual told us that he will be his roommate because his roommate can not talk and get's frustrated when no one know what he is trying to say. It is wrong for anyone with a disability to lay hands on another person in services. We should not judge other individual's based on their disabilities.

ABOVE AND BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY

By Tim Thompson

STARLIGHT NEWS would like to recognize Donald Romero for his time as a professional in the disability field. Donald has a heart for the disabled community since he started back in 2002 working in a group home owned by a CCB in Southeast Colorado. He has proven that he will go above and beyond for the individuals he works with.

Donald would volunteer to work shifts with no coverage found. He also would take the individuals he worked with out in to the Community to do work. The individual's he worked with trusted Donald they would wait until he came to work to tell him their concerns and Donald would always help them. One individual had an incident with his Coordinator the individual was very upset and did not know what to do but this individual trusted Donald and told him about the incident, Donald immediately took care of the situation by calling the agency and telling them what the individual said about the Coordinator. The Coordinator was suspended and later fired after the investigation, the police were also notified.

Donald also helped out by saving the life of one of his co-workers who got attacked by a bee Donald and the other individuals helped that staff with first aid until the ambulance arrived. In the blizzard of 2007 Donald took individuals out to help dig people out of the snow and he would stop to help people

who's cars were stuck. Donald has a heart for helping just about anyone who needs it. He no longer works in the disability field but he still has a heart for the people he worked with and he will be missed.

If you are a professional in the disability field learn by this example to go above and beyond for the individuals You should want to help individuals who may not have anyone to help or care for them. Show them that you care and that you are here to help them anyway that you can. STARLIGHT NEWS will publish articles for anyone who goes above and beyond for the individuals they serve.



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