

## Community

### FORT LAUDERDALE ARC to open career training center

By HELEN WOLT  
Staff writer

In February ARC Broward is opening WorkBar in Flagler Arts Village. The new training center will provide career specialists and services to guide its members, mostly individuals with disabilities, as they start or reboot their careers.

The Sunrise-based nonprofit chose the urban district in Fort Lauderdale for its proximity to job opportunities, said Andy Patten, director of workforce services. "This center is intended to support South Florida businesses as

they diversify their workforce and embrace inclusion," said Dennis Haas, president of ARC Broward. Located at 735 NE 2nd Ave., WorkBar fills a 2,600-square-foot space with a staff of six. It features a conference room, multipurpose common area and an internet café with coffee and snacks for members.

"It will provide us with better opportunities to connect with businesses throughout the county and improve our accessibility to our job seekers," said Andy Patten, director of workforce services. WorkBar offers a centrally lo-

cated resource for workplace diversification training. Business owners can learn to leverage the skills of Arc Broward members as they transition into the workforce. "Hiring people with disabilities is something most corporations want to do," said Jessica Rodriguez, ARC's director of development. "It's a good thing to do and a step to give back. The good theory can be hard to implement."

To smooth that transition, ARC Broward's job training will cover a variety of topics that go beyond technical smarts. Included are soft

skills or the social skills that ensure positive interactions with others in the workplace. And financial literacy training that teaches new members how to budget and understand paycheck statements.

WorkBar will highlight two key training programs with certification. Culinary arts certificate holders are ready for entry-level kitchen work. And Arc's material handlers can step into light industrial warehouse work such as sorting and stocking in big box settings.

WorkBar aid continues when a new employee is hired. On the job

services include technical assistance and workplace analysis for any physical accommodations. "We're employer based. We're not just focused on the job seeker," Rodriguez said.

"There are so many benefits to workforce diversification and workforce inclusion," Patten said. "It shows people that a business values and respects all employees. It shows customers a business is welcoming and accommodates all people."

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### FORT LAUDERDALE Gardens on display

Club plans tour of 'secret' locations

By HELEN WOLT  
Staff writer

Private homes with breathtaking gardens will be open to the public during the Fort Lauderdale Garden Club Secret Garden Tour. However, exact locations will not be revealed until the tour begins.

That's why it's named the Secret Garden Tour and has been the club's signature event for years.

The host cities include a residential, historic-style garden with garden statues to ward off evil spirits.

An expansive villa on the Intracoastal Waterway offers views beyond the lush grounds. Multiple secret gardens fill a two-acre plot created by artists who were inspired by their low-lying. The landscaped layout took two decades to complete.

Tourgoers pick up a tour guide with directions on the morning of Feb. 24 in the parking lot of Virginia-Shawnee Young Elementary School, located at 3337 N.W. 2nd Ave. in Fort Lauderdale. The school is not involved in the event.

Participants will also be invited to the various addresses of their own piece. Light refreshments are included in the non-charge entrance.

Visitors chosen from select members and guests will be invited to visit. And the Garden Shoppe will offer books, decorative plants and garden tools.

Club member Rosemary Geller said every time she opens an email of plant or two during the annual event.

"Last year I got one rosemary Geller said that the seed garden shows plant care tips from a range of diverse landscaping environments. "Seeing new plants is nice," Geller said. "It's always a pleasure to walk through a pretty garden."

Tickets for the Fort Lauderdale Garden Club 2017 Secret Garden Tour are \$25 in advance, \$30 day of the tour.

Tickets can be purchased online at [www.flgc.com](http://www.flgc.com) or at a club booth in "FLGC" at Sun Landwalk Garden Club, 300 S.W. 4th, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301-0800. Checks must be received on or after March 15. For more information email [FLGC@floridagardenclub.com](mailto:FLGC@floridagardenclub.com) or call 954-881-8172.

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### HOLLYWOOD Looking up



WILLAM CHALK, 6, looks at the sky through a telescope at the Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital/CeCe and Anna's Point at the Transportation Center in Hollywood.

### Families of young surgical patients celebrate

By HELEN WOLT  
Staff writer

For Subira Trehan, the Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital patient was a welcome break from appointments and procedures. The 6-year-old jumped into the bus home and then made a beeline for the same room again.

"She knows these doctors are her friends," said her mother, Sheraton, sobbing to the grief of the hospital's staff and a crowd of visitors.

Mother was here with a child by and patient and had her first surgery at three months old. Multiple procedures followed, and the three kids were, but the landscape is an emotional one as they heal, and her father, Brian, said he was here to support his wife and child.

The Los Angeles family was among more than 100 people at the center's annual gathering in Transportation Village Park in Hollywood.

"The reunion is an opportunity for patients, their families and the medical staff to cele-

brate their progress in a one-on-one and fun atmosphere," said Holly Bricker, CeCe and Anna's Point Center program coordinator.

The center's multidisciplinary team of physicians, nurses, music and therapists work to change the lives of youngsters with facial deformities. Services include plastic surgery, speech therapy, genetics, radiology and orthopedology.

"A lot of these children are very shy, anxious to be out in public since they've had bad experiences with people staring or being asked to pose for photos or portraits of them," Bricker said. "This is the opportunity for them to play to be themselves, to just enjoy the world as a typical, ordinary kid."

"I'm proud of my son, and I'm proud of anybody starting or reboots finding their way," Bricker said. "I'm proud of my son, and I'm proud of anybody starting or reboots finding their way."

"The hospital helps me out a lot," Martin said. "The doctors are almost like friends."

Photos

See more on Page 2.

While the anxiety of many children are eased by years.

"The work with pain they've been used they think," said Bricker, who coordinated center day more on Monday the 10th.

"Every team member they come in. The 10th is the day when they go to the hospital to see if they've been accepted for surgery."

"Our team members helping these beautiful young people and families succeed and move through life," Bricker said. "It takes a village, so they say."

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