



# THE ESS CHRONICLES

ELMY'S SPECIAL SERVICES NEWSLETTER | VOLUME 2 | JANUARY 2016

*"Building a Better Future by Enhancing the lives of People with Disabilities"*



## ELMY'S ANNUAL HOLIDAY SOIRÉE

A Day Habilitation Christmas Extravaganza For Individuals

## MENTOR AND GOOD FRIEND

Julie Smith Will Truly Be Missed

In spirit of the holiday season, Elmy's Special Services threw its annual soirée for the individuals of its Day Habilitation Program. This past holiday season, ESS entertained a whopping crowd of over 40 attendees. It was a rather exhilarating experience as individuals, relatives and staff alike came out in full force to join in on this year's festivities. Celebrants enjoyed an assortment of sweets, lively music, dancing and a talent show. Fattened with holiday cheer, Individuals gathered together to give anime performances to Whitney Houston, Jennifer Lopez and classic old school jams among others.

This was an especially exciting time here at ESS. Our annual soirées are one of the many activities used to enhance the skills needed to advance our individuals to the next level of their lives.



"They get very excited about this; too excited," said staff. "They prepare every morning until the show. They'll come in, show us their routine and keep practicing throughout the day." Individual's commitment and dedication shined vibrantly throughout their performance. Coordinated dance numbers to dance-hall music had the audience on their feet. Soft ballads set the tone and Staff, individuals and relatives alike embraced one another with warmth and holiday cheer.

Based on applause, prizes were given out for first, second and third place. Although it was a fierce competition there were no losers. "At ESS everyone's a winner. There are no losers in my eyes," said staff. We are all winners when we put our best foot forward. ESS annual holiday soirée is a perfect exemplification of that ideal.

Elmy's Special Services (ESS) lost one of its most hardworking and caring employees last month. Julie Smith, former Director of Operations, was the backbone of ESS for several years. For many of you who were fortunate enough to know her, she was a great mentor and good friend. Smith leaves behind 3 daughters ages 22, 11 and 15.

To Julie, ESS was simply more than a job or a place to go to, it was a family. "Whether it was work related or personal, Julie was always there to help out," said Blanca Cortes, Administrative Assistant. "I could always count on her to calm me down and help me to see things in a different perspective."

Julie, was a woman of multiple hats here at ESS. She was the driving force behind Elmy's operations. "There will never be another Julie. She was unmatched and irreplaceable. Her spirit will forever be here with us at ESS," said Executive Director, Ray Knights.

Although Smith is gone, her work and memory will not be forgotten. Smith was a phenomenal person who will greatly be missed by staff and Individuals alike.

"Smith had a major impact here at ESS. She always worked towards a resolve and she was always down to help" said Cortes. Rest in Love!



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## CONTACT & NOTICES

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Please be advised that due to the high volume of applicants, we are only able to contact those candidates whose skills and background best fit the needs of the open positions. Thank you for your interest in employment opportunities at ESS

## GONE, BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

Luz Ortiz Continues to Live On In The Hearts of Many

It brings us great sadness to announce the passing of one of our beloved members. Luz Ortiz, an individual from the Day Habilitation Program, passed this late October. Luz, known by many as "Lucy," was a proud member of the ESS family for 6 years. We began providing services to Luz on August 19, 2009 until her passing, October 28, 2015.

"She was a happy go lucky individual who could best be described as Nonchalant" said her sister, Carmen Ortiz. Luz got along with everyone and brought a smile to the faces of many whenever she could.

Luz was an avid fan of our Day Habilitation program. She loved connecting with her peers and engaging in recreational activities outside the home. Dining and shopping were amongst her favorite past-times. "She loved going out instead of being stuck in a house" said Carmen. "Luz found new life at ESS and she loved it.

In a short statement for the newsletter, Carmen states "Luz will truly be missed. Let's remember her thirst for life and how she touched the hearts of those she came across. Our family will truly miss her. Our sister will continue to live on in our hearts and minds. Rest in peace Lucy."



"Death leaves a heartache no one can heal, love leaves a memory no one can steal."

Coping with the loss of a loved one is never an easy task. Within it there are many curves and bumps along the way. Although there are no right and wrong way to deal with loss, acknowledging the fact that you are not alone and that it is a natural course of life, helps us get there.

We suffered the loss of our Director of Operations, Julie Smith; and our Day Habilitation Individual, Luz Ortiz, last year. Their memory and impact will forever live on in the hearts of Elmy's Special Services. Collectively, they embodied the true definition of friendship and family. Let us take this time to commemorate their lives by cherishing the fond memories shared with them. They will forever be missed. Rest in peace.

## EXECUTIVE'S NOTE

Ray Knights