



NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2024

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BASIC SUPPORT/SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

REPORTED BY: RUTH PANGELINAN AND ALLY SANTOS

Zhimin “Jimmy” Huang of Pacific ABC Corporation dba J&J Mart, one of OVR’s business partners located on the beautiful island of Tinian. Mr. Huang runs a quaint little store that provides convenience and simplicity.

Mr. Huang has graciously taken on one of OVR’s consumers to provide On-The-Job Training (OJT) where he mentors and enhances the necessary skills to allow for smooth functioning within J&J Mart.

Due to the nature of his business, Mr. Huang seeks individuals who are friendly, active, independent, cooperative and dependable. As an employer, not only does he expect these few, out of many skills, of his employees but he ensures that they are provided with all they need to fulfill their duties and responsibilities. Nonetheless, he still provides guidance and assistance to enhance skills and build good relationships with all his employees and customers.

Overall, Mr. Huang is happy he could offer an opportunity and help build the skills necessary for our consumer to succeed in his employment goals.



JOHN JERRICK CABRERA, VR CONSUMER

PRE-EMPLOYMENT TRANSITION SERVICES PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

REPORTED BY: JASMINE CALVO

Do you have the skills to pay the bills? If not, don’t worry! The Pre-Employment Transition Services team has partnered with several agencies to create a valuable resource for students and individuals with disabilities, accessible publicly and conveniently.

Skills to Pay the Bills is designed to help students and individuals develop essential soft skills for workplace success. Through this resource, you can explore topics like communication, employer expectations, teamwork, and more—all through engaging and fun activities you can enjoy with friends or on your own!

This resource will be available at the Center for Living Independently, Family2Family, Joeten Kiyu Public Library, and the Autism Society.

INDEPENDENT LIVING OLDER BLIND PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

REPORTED BY: JASMINE CALVO

Transition Specialist and Management Team collaborated on technical assistance to enhance outreach efforts for the Independent Living Older Blind (ILOB) Program. As a result, the ILOB Program has produced large-print calendars for the year 2025. These calendars will be distributed to the visually impaired community, disability partners, aging agencies, and local eye clinics.

If you or a loved one is visually impaired or blind, contact (670) 322-6537/38 to apply for the ILOB Program. This program is dedicated to helping individuals with visual impairments or blindness live independently and comfortably, both at home and in public spaces.

DECEMBER

NATIONAL IMPAIRED DRIVING PREVENTION MONTH

TECH PIECS PARTNERSHIP REPORTED BY: ARLENE YAMAGATA

MORE NEWS!

The Northern Marianas College has been selected to receive nearly \$9.2 million in federal funding for its project, titled "Technology Partners Increasing Employment Through Coordinated Services (Tech PIECS)." The project will be led by Eileen A. Babauta, Director of the University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD). Over the course of five years, the project will provide personalized advanced technology services and comprehensive transition and reintegration support to 200 individuals with disabilities. These services aim to enhance independence, education, and competitive integrated employment.

Project partners include the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR), the Council on Developmental Disabilities, the Center for Living Independently (CLI), and the Northern Marianas Technical Institute (NMTech). Key services provided through the Tech PIECS project will include technology assessments, technology training, career navigation, comprehensive support services (such as counseling, mental health support, and substance abuse treatment), postsecondary training, educational coaching, pre-employment services, work-based learning opportunities, job development and placement, and professional development training.

On October 24, 2024, Lt. Governor David Apatang, along with Special Assistant Henry Hofschneider and Protocol Officer Ignacia Evangelista, joined project partners for a photo following the delivery of their presentation. →



CNMI SPECIAL EDUCATION STATE ADVISORY PANEL (SESAP)

OVR Transition Specialist Jasmine Calvo had the privilege of serving as a proxy for OVR Director Arlene Yamagata during the November 2024 SESAP Meeting. The SESAP brings together a diverse group of community members, including partners, parents, teachers, and board members, to collaboratively provide guidance and support for enhancing the CNMI Special Education Department. "This experience was both enlightening and rewarding, providing valuable insights into parents' perspectives and highlighting how, as a team, we can work together to better support students with disabilities." The SESAP is currently seeking parents of students with disabilities enrolled in PSS to join the panel. If you're interested, please call (670) 237-3029 for more details.

PARTNERSHIP SHOUT OUT: BRABU PHARMACY

A big thank you to **Brabu Pharmacy** for partnering with OVR and the Disability Network Partners (DNP) in celebrating the International Day of Persons with Disabilities. Brabu Pharmacy generously provided free COVID-19 and flu vaccinations, along with complimentary blood pressure and blood glucose checks, to support our disability community!



FISCAL HIGHLIGHT

REPORTED BY: LOU ATALIG, FISCAL OFFICER

FY 2025

10/01/2024-11/30/2024

Total Federal/State Budget:
\$953,924.00

Total Federal/State Expense:
\$105,777.00

MEET JENNIFER MARTIN!

VR COUNSELOR AIDE

Hafa Adai! My name is Jennifer Martin, and I'm excited to join the OVR team! While VR is a completely new experience for me, I've always had a passion for helping others. I believe that approaching each day with a positive attitude can make the world a better place!



FUN FACTS: When I am not at work, I enjoy doing Zumba, spending time with my daughters, going to the beach, and gardening. Going to the beach brings peace to my heart and soul, while having a green and healthy lawn equates to a happy home.



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