

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

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United for the Mentall III

Message From

Claudia Roberts, MEd, CPRP

Executive Director

Dear Friends and Supporters of Jeff Industries:

We have had a very busy season here at Jeff Industries as we enter our 33rd year of helping those individuals with chronic and persistent mental illnesses. Most grateful to our donors and friends for their contributions that enabled us to replace 2 air conditioning units, purchase a power stack forklift for our Wood Shop, offset the cost of our training materials and start our vegetable garden. We were fortunate to be selected to participate in The Great Charity Challenge again this year and came home with a \$15,000 prize!



Our new initiative "Good Food for Good Mental Health" is up and running. Research has shown a positive connection between healthier eating and better mental health. It teaches participants about healthier food choices and better menu planning for themselves and their families. With your help, we were able to complete the set up of our food pantry. Our plans for the immediate future include the expansion of our small food service program to include a daily salad bar and meal preparation using healthier cooking techniques. We also have a fresh vegetable and herb garden on site. We will begin the second vegetable planting in August. The garden will supplement the food donations we receive from the Palm Beach County Food Bank.



As always, we struggle to get funding to meet the needs of every applicant and always have a waiting list of those in need. That is why we are so grateful for your continuing support and thank you for being a friend of Jeff Industries.

Please don't forget us during the **GREAT GIVE** on **May 17**. Donate at www.greatgivepbc.org/jeffindustries

Thank you and have a GREAT Summer!

A Farewell...

Angelo Squatrito

Founding Executive Director

Angelo Squatrito, a Boston native, was Jeff Industries' first Executive Director starting in 1986. Angelo, a mental health professional, came to Jeff Industries with a strong mental health background including leadership, grant writing, and business development background.



Angelo developed his "Zero-Pressure Positive Response" mental health rehabilitation program model into a nationally recognized model. This small program grew under his vision and leadership to become a multi program mental health program incubator/agency that was recognized as a leader in the psychosocial field.

Angelo has served on three State and local gubernatorial appointed special task forces and numerous committees. He was a long time Board Member and past President of the State of Florida's chapter of The International Association of Psychosocial Rehabilitation (IASPRS). Angelo was also a founding member and past President of the Palm Beach County Charter School Association. In 2001 the *Palm Beach Post* nominated him as one of the 100 most influential persons in Palm Beach County over the last 100 years

Some of the programs that Angelo helped develop for Jeff Industries included the creation, funding and operation of the **Ed Venture Charter School**, Palm Beach County's first charter school and the states first mental health focused school to work high school.

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Meet Some Members of Our Professional Staff



Kathleen Atteo
Job Coach /
Transitional Specialist

“They call me ‘Miss Kat’”, says Kathleen Atteo, Job Coach/ Transitional Specialist for the Pathway to Graduation program. The bright, blue- eyed coach has been working with students at the Ed Venture Charter School, a project of Jeff Industries, for over 3 ½ years and originally hails from North Jersey. She has been a social worker for over 30 years having received her BSW from FIU Miami. Previously, she has worked for the ARC of Palm Beach County, the Sexual Assault Treatment of Broward County and the Department of Children and Families in Tennessee.

Ms. Atteo helps students prepare and transition to post-secondary options. She teaches employment classes for at-risk students ages 18-22 on subjects that range from resume writing, job searches, how to interview and basic life skills on how to get and keep a job. “You begin to see results when the kids know you truly care,” she continues. “I try to give them hope and confidence in whatever they want to do going forward; whether that is a job or to further their education.” Ms. Atteo has relationships with many local businesses that welcome her student recommendations including Burger King, Cracker Barrel, Big Dog Ranch Rescue, Goodwill Industries, JFK Hospital and many others.

“I love my kids and they know it” she says with a smile. “Progress always begins with baby steps like making behavioral changes and then we work from there.”

C. Stacy Towson
Program Coordinator /
Vocational Instructor



C. Stacy Towson is the agency’s Program Coordinator and Vocational Instructor. Stacy Has a Master’s Degree in Public Administration from Metropolitan College of New York. She has over 15 years’ experience in the Social Services field and 5 years employed with Jeff Industries. Stacy is also a Certified Workforce Development Professional. Stacy graciously transitioned into numerous positions within the organization and wears many hats but her main responsibilities are maintaining agency records/reports, quality assurance, staff development and most recently supervisor of the Janitorial Enclave.

A Success Story

Luke was referred to Jeff Industries, by his psychiatrist, as a step in helping him become an employed, self-sustaining member of the community. At Jeff Industries, he participated in an active on-the-job training/work experience in a normalized business environment. The program allowed him to earn an income while working on his personal barriers to employment which prevented him from securing or maintaining competitive employment. At Jeff Industries, he was assigned to work at the “Tropical Sun Signs and Woodworking” Company. The emphasis during this work/training period included adhering to an assigned work schedule, organizing his time, receiving and responding to direct supervision from vocational instructor, working in a team/crew that produces a variety of high quality, handmade wood products, and maintaining his own mental and physical health.

In April, after collaboration with our Job Coach, Luke secured a community position at HomeGoods, and officially transitioned out of our woodshop. He will now work closely with our Job Coach to maintain his community position, and continue towards his goals which include becoming a behavioral health tech to assist others.

A Farewell...

(Continued)

Jeff Industries Supported Employment Continuum (State, County, united way, school district and private foundation and sales of products funding).

Tropical Sun Bakery Café - a fully operating 80 seat indoor/outdoor upscale Bakery café training/employment site in Juno Beach.

Tropical Sun General Construction and Woodworking Company (training and employment)

Tropical Sun Sign And Graphics Company (training and employment)

Palm Haven Independent Living Program - two matching duplex houses built by Jeff Industries with foundation and programming money maintained through revenue generated and private foundation funding.

Acorn Program, (school district, CSC and private foundation funding) A violent without remorse, child research focused family and youth counseling program.

Family Hope Project (federal funding) Development of a family focused children’s services delivery system

Get to Work (workforce development funding, a mental health focused foster care adolescent supported employment program)

We are grateful to Angelo for all he has done for Jeff Industries and wish him well in his retirement.

Our Agency in Action

With great appreciation to the United Way for awarding Jeff Industries the 2017 “Simply the Best” Ambassador Award.



(L. to R.) Laurie George (UW CEO), Claudia Roberts, Stacy Towson and Ernie Ellison, Jr. (UW Board Chairman)

