



WESTSIDE JAM 2007

With nearly 600 people in attendance, the Westside Jam 2007 was a huge success. The annual event featured Self-Advocacy booths, consumer entertainment, and highlighted some of Westside's client-owned businesses.

For this year's event the Consumer Advocacy Committee (CAC) chose the theme of "Consumers as Producers" as a way to celebrate the achievements of the people served by Westside Regional Center and to showcase many of the wonderful products being created by clients. Elizabeth Bogen displayed her beautiful mosaics, Pauline Anderson sold her hand-crafted jewelry, and Caleb Adams featured his disability

rights themed T-shirt business. Artists Jason Sherman and Milton Davis exhibited their original artworks, while Westside DJs Rayvone Douthard and Ayode Woods shared information about their successful DJ business. WRC Service Providers were also well-represented at the event, with client-produced crafts, artwork, greeting cards and photography displayed by Morning Sky, Life Management, Prairie Place, LA Goal, Work Skills Center, Marine ATC, Peer Mentor SLS and Arts and Services for the Disabled.

In keeping with the theme of the event, all of the table decorations and centerpieces were designed and produced by regional center clients. We applaud the fantastic efforts of the participants at New Visions Day Programs, Peak Performance,

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achievable

The Achievable Foundation is dedicated to supporting low-income clients of WRC in achieving their greatest potential. Each year, Achievable has a Run, Walk and Roll event as its primary fundraiser to help support its mission. This year's event included Achievable's first Battle of the Bands, where bands from near and far entered the contest for a chance to play and win up to \$10,000 in cash.

A local band named Anomaly from one of WRC's own vendors, Performing Arts Studio West (PASW), was one of four bands chosen by professional judges to play at the Achievable event.

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Anomaly played their best and earned second place in the competition. Recalling the event, John Paizis, Founder and Director of PASW and Anomaly bass player says, "The stage set-up was wonderful and the sound was great. We were infused with an energy that we hadn't experienced previously."

Anomaly is a five-member band that includes three very talented regional center clients. Each member has an impressive background of playing and creating music. Joe Seabe, Musical Director at PASW, is a producer, vocalist and guitarist for Anomaly. Joe states that the "tastes and backgrounds of the band members are very diverse, but we put it all together to make it one sound." Ryan Lauter, vocalist, has been a member of other bands in the past and he says, "Anomaly is more creative...they get me going more creatively."

All of Anomaly's music is created, written, produced and recorded in-house at PASW. Many of their song lyrics are written collectively by PASW participants during a songwriting class. John remarks that, "The [songwriting] process is amazing. Many people are surprised that clients are writing this music." The band members describe their music as Pop-Rock-Alternative. Anomaly has 35 songs of their own, and they are expected to complete and record their first full-length album this year.

Anomaly has performed for audiences ranging from 50 to 1500 people. The group remarks that they always have fun playing live, as they did at the Achievable event. Performing on stage brings the already harmonious band even closer together. Jonetta Ward, vocalist, says, "Performing with Anomaly has made me a better person and made me understand what it takes to come together as one because there is no 'I' in team."

Anomaly is a remarkable and motivating band, with inspirational music. As August McAdoo, keyboard player and vocalist, states, "Being involved with Anomaly has shown me that I've got what it takes to make myself a better person in performance and in life." Anomaly's goal for the future is to continue writing, performing and to eventually start an international music library and submit songs to film and television.

For more information about the Achievable Foundation, visit their Web site at www.achievable.org.



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