

# Monarch News

Articles by Monarch  
staff and clients

*Winter 2017*



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## Holiday Greetings from the Director

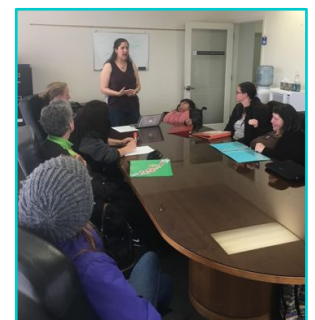
December is a natural transition time to pause and reflect, a time to celebrate successes, appreciate struggles, and set goals for next year. During the past year, Monarch has responded to legislative, regulatory, and policy changes putting “employment first” by becoming the first agency in Santa Cruz County to be a SARC vendor for the Paid Internship Program (see our spotlight on Chris on pg. 4). A huge thank you to our Program Manager, Beth Prentiss, for doing 100% of the work to make this happen, and to SARC and DDS for making this wonderful opportunity available to clients. After we were approved for the Paid Internship Program, Monarch responded to DDS’ and SARC’s disparity report by formalizing our on-going efforts to provide services to our county’s Spanish speaking community. Tania Rodarte is Monarch’s Bilingual Inclusion Coordinator and has been working to further our objective to ensure equal services for all adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities living in Santa Cruz County, whether they are monolingual in Spanish or English, or bilingual.

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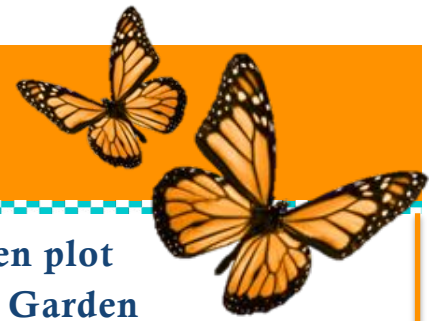
## American Sign Language Class

Hello everyone! My name is Brianne, and I am a Monarch client, and I teach a monthly American Sign Language class to other Monarch clients. I have always had a passion for ASL, and now I am blessed enough to be able to work with these amazing students. Teaching to me doesn’t mean telling a student how to do something, it’s about showing them how so that they can also learn in the process.

Through this class my main goal is to be able to help my students to learn how to communicate as best they can with the language. So far, we’ve learned: holiday signs, interpreting to the song “Imagine”, numbers, letters, basic introductions; we have focused on emotion signs and facial expressions, and there is still more to come! I hope that my students will be able to take what I have taught them and apply it to real life, as for my goals for the class, I look forward to seeing what my students will teach me.



# What's Happening?



## This summer's Gathering of Extraordinary People was the best one yet!

We had a great turnout, fun performances at the talent show, a drum circle, face painting, dancing, and tie-dye! Big thanks to all of the agencies we collaborated with: Imagine SLS, Santa Cruz SLS, E&CO, and Camphill. Talented Monarchian Luke S. hosted the tie-dyeing table, alongside his mother, Mary Jane, helping participants to create colorful, one of a kind t-shirts. Luke had hosted tie-dyeing activities for Monarch in the past and he and his mom are always generous with their skills and supplies. Luke began his craft, making tie-dyed baby clothes as gifts for his family two years ago.

*My mother and I had a great time sharing tie-dye with everyone at the Gathering of Extraordinary People.*

—Luke



*I enjoy assisting Luke in his craft, for me making tie-dye is a great way to reflect how colorful and full of life you are on the inside.*

—Monarch Staff

## Monarch's garden plot at the Homeless Garden Project Farm is up and running!



While the winter months may be on the quiet side, we can expect leafy greens and root veggies during late winter and early spring.

Garden participants have started seeds such as Swiss chard, kale, mizuna, lettuce, and carrots. Soon we will have healthy, fresh food grown by Monarchs themselves to enjoy and share with their families!

As the seeds slowly sprout over the upcoming weeks, gardeners can stop by to check in on the little sprouts and help the folks at HGP by volunteering on other projects to keep the farm running. It is a great place for garden enthusiasts or beginners to learn more about gardening, growing food and flowers, and contributing to their community.



## Come Join Us At Our Next Communication Device Meet-Up on Friday, December 15th

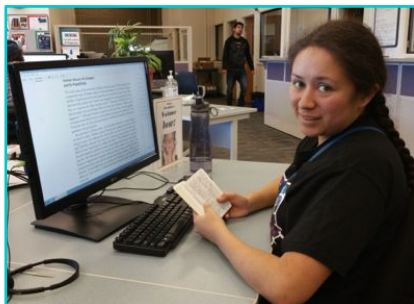
A time of communication and connection for Assistive Communication Device users. This meet-up is a chance to show off how you communicate and learn from others.

Enjoy social time and make connections with others who use assistive communication.

Interested in learning more about meeting time and location? email Gail at [gailwilson@monarchils.com](mailto:gailwilson@monarchils.com)



# Congratulations!



**This newsletter we celebrate Mitchell and Lyza! After years of dedication and hard work at Cabrillo Community College, both Mitchell and Lyza were accepted into UCSC!**

Mitchell began taking classes at UCSC this fall quarter, and Lyza is set to start attending in 2018. We cannot express how proud we are of both of them, and how grateful we feel to have been (and to still be) a part of their journeys. Mitchell wrote to following about his experience:

My name is Mitchell, and I have been a client with Monarch ILS for more than 4 years. I began with them during my first semester at Cabrillo of 2013 and am currently working with staff during my fall quarter at the University of Santa Cruz. The transition to attending Cabrillo College was much different than high school because not only was there more independent studying, but the workload made a slight dent in my academic progress. Once I managed to find the right people and the right resources, I managed to develop a more balanced schedule that allowed me to receive better grades. I may not always be on the same page with my coordinators at Monarch, but they have helped me with my academics from how to proofread my writing or helping me reach out to my professors more if I am unable to solve a problem for a given task. I have had the privilege to know new people who come and go from Monarch ILS and have given me some of their personal feedback on dealing with changes and have even told me their personal experiences of being in school or dealing with independence on their own.

Over the years, I've had to speak with professors before a semester began at Cabrillo College in order for them to not only understand me a student, but as an individual who is being supported by a hard working mother, a group of caregivers who will do whatever it takes for their client to succeed, as well as seeking support from the professor throughout the semester. The one thing that I was unqualified for was early access to Cabrillo College because I was unable to fulfill my General Education requirements such as credit units that did not allow me to transfer soon. After my fourth year at Cabrillo College, I had help from my Coordinator, Lindsey, who helped me with applying through general admission to the University of Santa Cruz and I was able to fill out a statement paper about myself to see if I would be accepted. When I found out that I was denied from UCSC, I was able to fill out an appeal form and was finally accepted.

Once I was finally accepted, I was more than thankful for the help of everyone who wanted me to achieve this goal and I can finally study my major of Environmental Studies in Conservation Biology. I was also proud of myself for this accomplishment because if it wasn't for the right people in my life, I would be unsure for what my future would have in store for me. This was a photo of me and one of my staff workers who were able to attend my graduation events at Cabrillo College.



*Holiday Greetings from the Director continued...*


Over the past year, Monarch has enjoyed rewarding partnerships with other providers in the field. Our commitment to offer opportunities for socializing through client-initiated and hosted activities has included associations with Santa Cruz Supported Living, Imagine Supported Living, and Camphill. Our weekly yoga and dance classes have remained free to the community in thanks to our continued partnership with E&CO and generous contributions to our non-profit arm, Wings of Success. I want to give a shout out to the Santa Cruz Warriors, the Monterey Bay Aquarium, and Roaring Camp for donating tickets and entrance fees so that many of the people we serve were able to join in on activities that may not have otherwise been affordable to them.

Monarch enjoys an excellent reputation with SARC and other partners, due in no small measure to the trust and enthusiasm of the people we serve, our amazing, creative, and dedicated staff, and wonderful community support. For 2018, our goal at Monarch is to provide the best services possible to individuals who have chosen to work with our agency. We are committed to responding to the needs of our community, so suggestions and input are always welcome. Feel free to email me directly at: [smacy@monarchils.com](mailto:smacy@monarchils.com) or call me at: (831) 239-1085

To all who read this newsletter, we at Monarch wish you all a happy and healthy 2018!

*Sarah Macy*

## Employment Spotlight



We are so excited for Chris B. to be the first Monarchian to participate in the Paid Internship Program! His coordinator and job coach Gail briefly interviewed him to see how things are going...



*Where are you working?*

At Trader Joe's, the one in Capitola.

*What do you do there?*

I like organizing the product in the store and facing it forward. I greet customers and help customers find their product in the store.

*What is your favorite part of your internship?*

Getting to know my coworkers better, helping the customers out, and saying "Hi" to my customers and making sure they have a awesome day of their lives.

## Holiday Fun

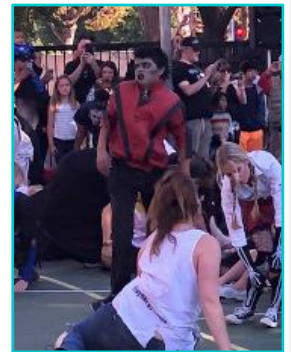


We had some *very* festive holidays this year! During Halloween season, Monarch was represented throughout the community in some very creative ways.



In addition to the Shared Adventures

Halloween Dance and the Peer Group Costume party, which we both tons of fun, there were some wonderfully spooky crafts created. Plus, FOUR of our very own Monarchians participated in Thrill the World, a worldwide Thriller flash mob held as part of Louden Nelson's Halloween Festival. That means they went to rehearsals, memorized the moves, got zombified, and performed for cheering, terrified onlookers!



So far this December, we have had holiday crafting, Christmas carol karaoke, and a fun ride on Roaring Camp's Holiday Lights Train! When you work as hard as our clients and their staff do, you deserve a bit of festive fun!



## Peter and Petit-Rouge

A reimaged fairytale, original fiction by Calvin G.

### Chapter 1: New Moon

Petit-Rouge looked out over the snowy town. Cold winds blew across the icy streets. Smoke leaked from chimneys and pipes as everyone in every house struggled to keep warm.

"Rouge," said a voice.

Petit-Rouge turned to her elder sister, Fide 'le wearing a brown woolen coat. "Close the window it's freezing. Staring out there won't make father come home."

Petit-Rouge closed the window and joined her second eldest sister, Fide 'le II, and her mother, Me're, and baby brother, Pue-Un, by the fire.

Petit-Rouge sighed. It had been seven months since the war began, and her father left for battle in mother Russia. And now it was winter and enemy was nesting in the Dark Forest outside of the Village.

The enemy was slowly starving out villages just like theirs. But, they were strong. They would win. Now, they were freezing their butts off. The bitter cold storms made it hard for the town to survive, let alone the family.

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There was a knock at the door. "Fetch the door," Fide' le II shouted at Petit-Rouge.

"I am not a dog," Petit-Rouge talked back.

"You should be," Fide' le said. "A dog would not be a burden to us in this weather."

Petit-Rouge did not get up. "Fide' le you've been this since Father left and all you have done is blame him, mother, and me for the karma of..."

Karma, the universal judgment, had the nerve to throw the town into war when no one wanted to. The Glorious Emperor Napoleon had lead the forces of France on a glorious raid to the east and invaded the land of Russia, and now forces of the enemy were hiding in the darker part of the old woods.

People who venture into these Dark Forests are never to be seen again for if evil lives within the Dark then the devil is amongst them. He with eyes of blood and coat of sin.

This winter of fear has fallen and all who are born into it shall suffer.

The knocking continued. "Rouge," shouted Me're. "Close the window and fetch the door."

Petit-Rouge stood up from her spot, closed the wooden shutters, and opened the top hatch of the door. A man appeared in a brown bear skin, green sash, and a beret of the color of newborn cranberries, along with a signet of an embroidered sickle and star.

The courier had arrived presenting letters and notes from relatives far off or battling in the war. Among the courier other citizens of the small and forgotten town were along the crowds doing day to day jobs. Each one wore a garment of the newborn cranberry or fresh holly berries--red. Only without the sickle and star signet.

Petit-Rouge was confused about the new attire the town was showing. "Why is everyone red?" She asked the courier.

"It's the color of the enemy," the courier responded. "Our foes' allies wear berets such as this which allow those like me to pass by their outposts. Your town's folk believe that this color will fool the enemy, allowing them to leave the town, but I won't give up my pin." He continued, "You have a letter from your Granny and a note from the troops at Leipzig. Also, I found this at your door."

The courier handed two rabbits to Petit-Rouge. The young girl brought the gifts in to her ungrateful family. The ladies took the letters and hares from Petit-Rouge as she walked back to see the winter outside.

Fide' le I skinned and boned the rabbits while Me're read the letter and notes. The note from the troops at Leipzig told that the Russians were putting up much a fight, and they were coming home victorious or failures. But sad to say that their father had passed, not from war, but from a wild animal attack. If Petit-Rouge had heard that father was gone, the family would never be warm again. As she would keep the doors open. Awaiting the return of his soul.

They had to remove her from the house. Taking the unopened envelope from their Granny, they read a little that said Granny was sick.

But, if they had read more of the letter, they would have read that Granny had caught a rare disease, and she didn't want to hurt anyone.

"Fide' le I go to the cellar and find a bottle of our oldest aged wine. Fide' le II bake up a sweet cake. Wrap them up and put them in a gold leaf basket," Me're said still holding Pue-Un. "Then find me a red cloth or sheet and some thread and a needle. Tomorrow we are sending puppy to Granny."