



UPLIFTING THE HUMAN SPIRIT · UPLIFTING THE HUMAN SPIRIT · UPLIFTING THE HUMAN SPIRIT · UPLIFTING THE HUMAN SPIRIT · UPLIFTING THE HUMAN SPIRIT



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THE WESTCARE EXPRESS

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A Home...for the Holidays



United States Air Force veteran **Talaya Scott** is now the new owner of a condominium on Milwaukee's Northwest side, accepting the keys from WestCare Chief Operating Officer **Maurice Lee** and Wisconsin Business Manager **Claudia Brewer** at a special ceremony. Ms. Scott is the first veteran to receive a condo, refurbished by our Facilities Management crew, under a program started by WestCare Wisconsin in cooperation with the City of Milwaukee.



She got a special waiver to enter the Air Force at age 17. She then returned and now works at the refueling wing in Milwaukee while attending school to get her masters degree in finance. The single mother of three says she was honored and grateful. *"This opportunity came into my life when I was going through a very, very rough patch,"* Scott told CBS 58 News.

Thank you for your service, Ma'am. And Merry Christmas.

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WISCONSIN: A Place for the Grandkids to Visit

Excerpted from WDJT: <http://www.cbs58.com/story/31485890/local-veteran-receives-new-milwaukee-home#.Vum4zr5mflg.email>

A Milwaukee veteran had a happy housewarming in mid-March. He was given the keys to a new home.

Vietnam veteran **Joseph Barlow**, 62, said money troubles have long kept him and his wife **Lena** from the dream of owning their own place. *"It's been kind of rough,"* he said. *"Now it seems like it's all coming together and I love it."*

The Barlows qualified for the home from the WestCare Foundation based on income level. *"It's like a good feeling inside. It just feels good. I can't even explain it. But it feels good."*

State senator **Lena Taylor** welcomed the Barlows with a plaque. She expressed a desire to turn the neighborhood



Wisconsin State Senator Lena Taylor (center) with the Barlows

on North Swan Road to one where many veterans feel welcome. Mr. Barlow says once the home is furnished, he can't wait to have his seven grandchildren over for a visit!



IN THE NEWS: President Highlights Rx Drug and Heroin Summit

Photos courtesy of the Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

Longtime WestCare supporter Congressman **Hal Rogers** of Kentucky introduced President **Barack Obama** at the recent National Rx Drug and Heroin Summit in Atlanta, Georgia. The President led a panel discussion on the first day of the three-day gathering, of which WestCare was a sponsor.





WISCONSIN: *The New Milwaukee Mindset*



In the fall of 2014, WestCare launched its Cognitive Restructuring Program in Milwaukee Public Behavior Reassignment High Schools. Since then, the program has served over 100 at risk youth.

As the program embarks upon its 2nd year, WestCare counselors are reminding students of a simple message: *"New Beginnings Are Possible."*

Our Cognitive Restructuring Program aims to assist students with developing the critical thinking skills and cognitive infrastructures they need in order to make better decisions.

Through provision of Cognitive Behavior Therapy (CBT), students explore various topics such as risk situations, drug use, violence, gangs and urban social dynamics. Wisconsin's *"person centered"* approach to CBT has really helped at risk youth to embrace the hope that *"New beginnings ARE possible."*

FAMILY FEEDBACK

"WestCare EXPRESS is so uplifting. I love reading each and every page. I particularly liked the Mental Health and Spirituality Page. I would like to read more about that. It is a wonderful newspaper."

- Patti Munson, Administration, Arizona

"It is truly wonderful to have all of our programs share our experiences and successes. This newsletter helps unite us all."

- Maryann Calderon, Housing Services Coordinator, California



WISCONSIN: *Uniting a Thankful Community*

WestCare in Milwaukee hosted a “CommUNITY Thanksgiving Feast” at the Harambee Community and Involvement Center three days before the holiday. They wanted to be able to provide a festive atmosphere and give thanks to the community.

“We uplift the human spirit. That is our motto, that is what we live by and that’s what we wanted to do today, uplift the human spirit. We know that in Milwaukee, some people are having a very difficult time because of the economy and the joblessness, so come on and break bread and have a good time,” said **Elizabeth Coggs**, Regional Vice President.

This is was the first time the organization hosted the event. They hope to continue it every year going forward.



DID YOU KNOW? *World AIDS Day is December 1st*

World AIDS Day is held on the 1st December each year and is an opportunity for people worldwide to unite in the fight against HIV, show their support for people living with HIV and to commemorate people who have died. World AIDS Day was the first ever global health day, held for the first time in 1988. Wearing a red ribbon is one simple way to show your support.



WISCONSIN: *Collaborating to Put Kids to Work*



WestCare Wisconsin was asked to be a part in the Midwest Food Service Expo because of the work we do with *Power of Harambee Youth Employment Collaborative*. We did a combined exhibit with McDonald's executive **Robert Pyles**, displaying WestCare and Power of Harambee information. We had **Grimace** as the mascot, and our Community Organizer **Kenneth Brown** did drumming.

Two POHYEC participants, some of our first cohorts, were honored with certificates and a gift card for recently being promoted to restaurant managers. Mr. Pyles participated in a dialogue regarding the history of this demonstration model and we met with possible future partners and food vendors.

Daniel Hodgson, newly promoted Case Manager, took the lead and coordinated everything. **Betty Erby** recruited employers for our upcoming *Face Forward Teen Job Fair*. It was an amazing experience for WestCare Wisconsin and all the staff pulled together!

