

# HORIZONS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF TRESKO, INC.

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## Tresco's Early Years, Part I

On August 26, 1968, a program called the Open Door Center began with a volunteer staff in Las Cruces's Mesilla Valley Christian Church. By the end of 1971, five part-time employees and approximately 30 volunteers were enrolled in the program.

For one dollar per year beginning in 1977, Open Door entered into a 99-year lease with the city of Las Cruces for the 6,000 square-foot building on Nevada Avenue, built with funds from the Community Development Block Grant. The Open Door Center built two group homes that year: one for women ("Las Vecinas", on Idaho Street), and another for men ("Puerta Abierta", on Armstrong Road). The Early Childhood program was inaugurated on the NMSU campus in 1979.

The Open Door Center, which operated both a wood shop and a print shop, also bid on various contract work, such as cutting battery parts, making survey flags for El Paso Electric, and constructing sleeves for plants at the Aldershot nursery.

"I remember 'Old Blue': that big, old blue bus that would go around Las Cruces, picking up people and bringing them to the Center every day," reminisces Human Resources Manager Gail Estell, who has worked at Tresco ever since she was hired as a temporary six-week job there in 1979. "Old Blue was much better than those old yellow vans. They were so ugly."

*"Tresco's Early Years" is adapted from the Spring 1998 edition of Horizons, edited by Jeanne G. Howard.*



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## Employee Spotlight: Maria Lette

Marla Lette is a longtime Tresco employee currently working on a Navy contract at the White Sands Missile Range. She is a valuable member of the Navy Team, goes about her work in a professional manner, and is always cheerful and ready to assist in any task that needs to be performed. A fine example of a team player, Marla is very detail-oriented, letting her coworkers know when she discovers something that needs repair or further attention. She leaves everything she works on in better condition than what it was when she arrived. We are grateful to have Marla working here at the White Sands Missile Range, and with the Navy Team!



## 45th Anniversary Open House

On July 25th, Tresco celebrated its 45th anniversary with a ribbon-cutting by both the Greater Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce and the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. Senator Tom Udall and Congressman Steve Pearce sent representatives to present congratulatory letters to Tresco (*see pages 7 through 9*).

The event was attended by many community members and business owners to help us celebrate the start of the another amazing 45 years!



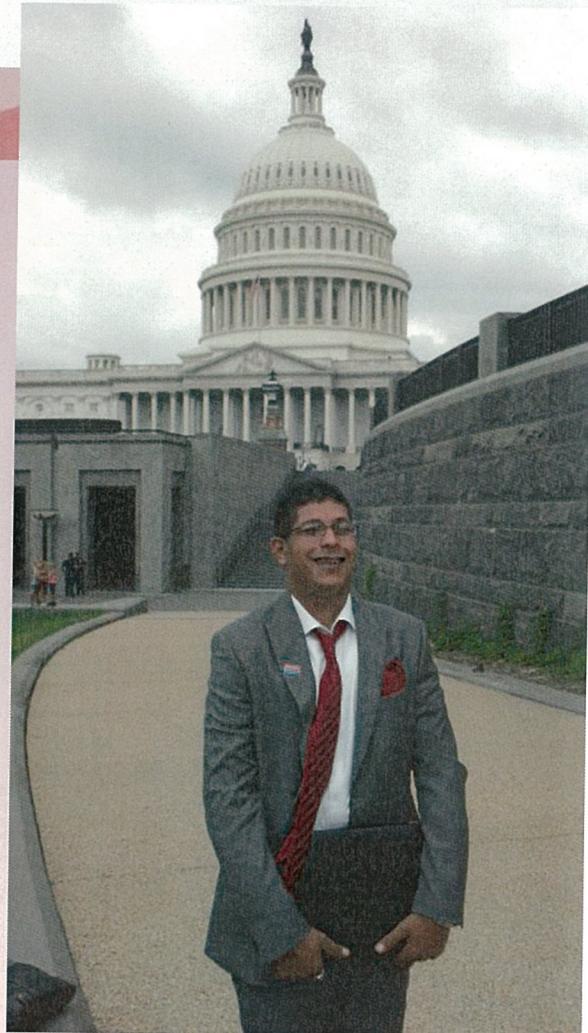
## Spotlight: Carl Rizzuti

For the 2013 NISH Grassroots Advocacy Conference, Tresco, Inc. took an advocacy team to Washington DC. The purpose of the conference was to provide training for people with disabilities employed on an AbilityOne contract. Using their voice and experience, the advocacy team called upon the federal government for additional support and employment opportunities for people with disabilities.

Carl Rizzuti, a janitor that works for Tresco at White Sands Missile Range, anchored the team from Tresco, which also included CEO Pam Lillibridge, and Carl's family, Bertha and Rebecca Rizzuti.

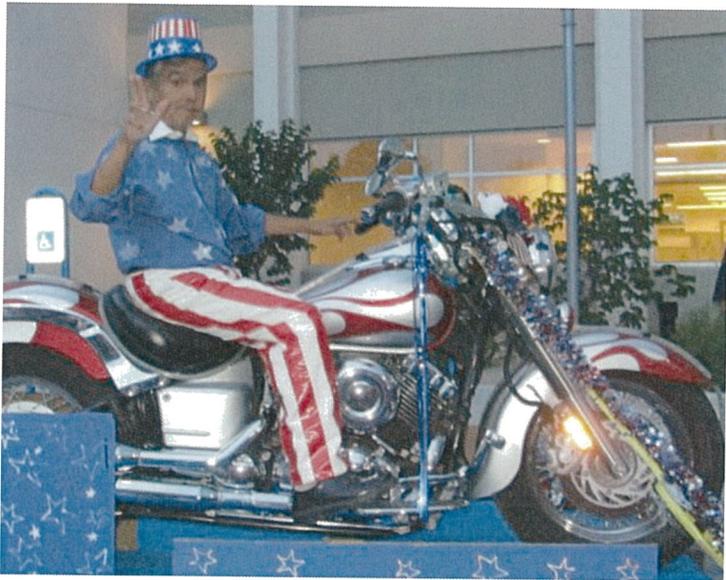
For many years after graduating high school, Carl struggled to find meaningful employment due to his disability. His life changed in 2011 when he attended a Tresco-sponsored job fair, and soon after was hired at the White Sands Missile Range as a janitor to provide facilities support. In addition to Carl's success in his new job, he began advocating for both himself and others, pushing for lawmakers to do as much as possible to ensure that he and his coworkers would have every support necessary to obtain and sustain a thriving career.

After a full day of training briefings on issues affecting employment for people with disabilities, and practicing telling his story, Carl and his team visited Senators Udall, Heinrich, and the offices of Congressman Pearce. Carl spoke about his struggles finding employment before he found a supportive employer in Tresco and the AbilityOne Program. His success story is a compelling and exceptional one; it is our hope that many more such stories are to follow!



*"Your organization has empowered [Carl] to accomplish so much, to feel fulfilled, and to live a 'normal' life, as he says. You can't imagine how his work at Tresco has improved his self-confidence... Tresco has truly given him a new outlook on life in general. As his sister, it has been a joy to watch him grow and thrive through his work with Tresco."*

*- Rebecca Rizzuti, Carl's sister*



## ▲ Electric Light Parade

Las Cruces's Fourth of July celebration kicked off with its annual Electric Light Parade, where light-outfitted floats from numerous organizations traveled from City Hall to the corner of Main and Picacho Avenue. The best-designed and best-lit floats were also awarded prizes.

Tresco participated in this year's event, this time proudly displaying its 45th Anniversary banner amidst the stars and stripes. Everyone had a great time and thoroughly enjoyed participating in the event!



## ▲ Socorro Tresco and the Special Olympics

Hot temperatures during the summer months didn't put a damper on community activities. On June 1st, team Socorro joined other athletes to compete in the Special Olympics held in Albuquerque. Socorro consumer Stella Shoemaker, 47, was the longest-standing participant with 25 years in attendance. Coached by Tresco's Julie Marquez and her team, eight adults from Tresco's Socorro location participated this year!



*The Special Olympics of New Mexico is a non-profit organization giving children and adults an opportunity to overcome their disabilities through physical fitness, competition, and a supportive community.*

For more information, go to [www.sonm.org](http://www.sonm.org), or connect with them on Facebook at [facebook.com/sonmpr](https://facebook.com/sonmpr).

*The Journey of Hope is a cross-country cycling trek comprised entirely of members of Phi Kappa Phi, raising funds and awareness nationwide to support people with disabilities. For more information, visit [www.pushamerica.org](http://www.pushamerica.org).*

## ▲ Journey of Hope

Tresco Socorro also hosted day 22 of PushAmerica's Journey of Hope, a cross-country cycling marathon which started in Los Angeles on July 2nd and ended up in Washington DC on August 10th. Community members, consumers, and staff gathered at Socorro Plaza for a welcoming ceremony, and served everyone a traditional New Mexico cuisine dinner at the Socorro facility's courtyard.

**Push AMERICA**

**PI KAPPA PHI FRATERNITY**

**JOURNEY OF HOPE**

PRESENTED BY:

**KRG CAPITAL PARTNERS**

**CLIF BAR**

**THULE**

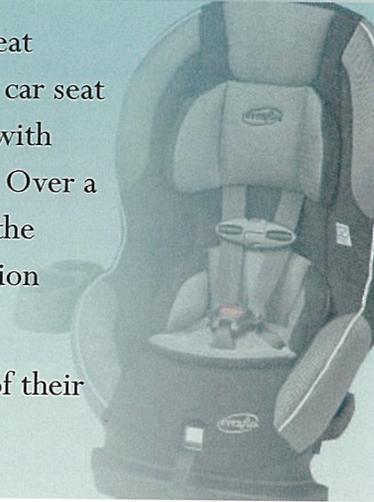
**ONE HUNDRED MEN 4,000 MILES ONE MISSION ABILITIES TEAMWORK EMPATHY INTEGRITY**

**RoadID** **MOUNTAIN KHAKIS** **GIARDINO** **FASTSIGNS CHARLESTON** **NYCYVELO** **ONASSET** **Spoke Guy** **POLAR BOTTLE™**

## ▲ Car Seat Clinic

On June 1st, Tresco TOTS hosted a Safer New Mexico Car Seat Clinic at Baird's Automotive. Physical therapist and certified car seat technician Christina Suessbrich volunteered her time, along with some local technicians, to inspect car seats during the clinic. Over a dozen cars had their car seats inspected. Families also asked the TOTS staff who volunteered for the event for more information about the program and its services.

Special thanks to Baird's Automotive for allowing us the use of their garage to ensure families have safe seats for their children!

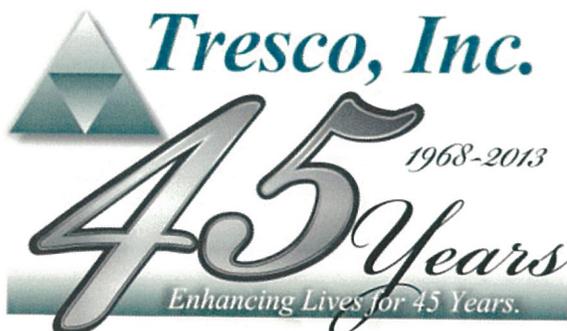


## ▲ Transdisciplinary Early Intervention

The New Mexico Family Infant Toddler (FIT) program provides early-intervention assistance to the families of infants and toddlers who have (or are at risk for) developmental delays. The program has charged all early-intervention services like Tresco TOTS to provide their services using a transdisciplinary team approach: one lead interventionist will work with a family on a weekly basis, while the other team members will provide consultative support to both the team leader and the family. Teams will meet weekly to provide support through coaching, providing families with the knowledge and confidence to foster the unique growth and development of their child. Tresco TOTS plans to have finished training for this new transdisciplinary approach by the end of July, and to have the program fully-implemented by the end of the fiscal year! We all look forward to giving families the strategies and tools they need to succeed to engage with their children. Early intervention can make a lifetime of difference!



*The Tresco Outreach and Training Services (TOTS) program serves infants and toddlers, from birth through thirty-six months of age who are either developmentally delayed or are at risk for delay, by giving parents the resources to ensure their child gets the help they need. For more information, visit [www. TrescoInc.org](http://www.TrescoInc.org), or call (575) 527-4900.*



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Horizons is edited, compiled, and designed by [Nate Daniel](#).

Photos courtesy of Joe Ervine, Gail Estell, Pam Lillibridge,  
Gary Manley, and Arleen Lindsey.