

From: WorkQuest <information@workquesttx.com>
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WorkQuest

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WorkQuest FOCUS on Jobs for People with Disabilities

WorkQuest Newsletter LVII
October 2022

Jonathan Olgin of PermiaCare honored with the 2022 Artie Lee Hinds Award



2022 Artie Lee Hinds Award winner Jonathan Olgin, PermiaCare, pictured with John Luna, WorkQuest Board of Directors Vice-chairman, and Aaron Demerson, Commissioner Representing Employers for the Texas Workforce Commission.

Jonathan Olgin of PermiaCare was recently recognized by WorkQuest with the 2022 Artie Lee Hinds Award. The award honors an outstanding Community Rehabilitation Program (CRP) employee for leadership, dedicated service and commitment to excellence.

Olgin works on janitorial contracts with the Texas Department of Transportation and the Midland District Parole Office. In his role, he takes the lead

"When you put your mind to something that you want, you set some goals and work towards those goals. Even if you fail along the way, you get back up. And to see somebody do that just brings joy to my heart," said Black. "Jonathan's life is not just about working, it's about who he is as a person. As long as we can keep him growing and being the best man he can be, the world will be a better place."

in cleaning and is a vital member of the janitorial crew.

"Jonathan is really good at what he does. He is a great worker, is always on time and does anything you need him to do," Sabrina Kelly, Olgin's supervisor, said. "Even when he is finished with his tasks, he is always willing to help out."

Having this job has allowed Olgin to be financially stable and independent. He looks forward to earning his own money every day to be able to provide for himself.

"Whenever I ask Jonathan if he is ready to work he says, 'Oh yeah, I need my money because I have bills to pay,'" said Kelly. "This money helps him pay his bills, take his fiancé on outings and keep money in his pocket, and that's exciting for Jonathan."

As for Olgin, he is grateful for the ability to provide for himself through a job he loves. He is known for going out of his way at work to make sure everything is clean and tidy.

"I always like to check and see if I missed something. Sometimes I find stuff that needs to be cleaned that nobody asked me to do, but I like to clean it anyways," said Olgin. "I like to work because this job helps me be my own man like my dad taught me."

The entire team at PermiaCare is proud of Olgin's accomplishments and enjoys being by his side to support him along the way. Michael Black, Provider Services Manager at PermiaCare, says he is proud of Olgin's success as if he were his own son.

Olgin's inspiring story of success has touched the hearts of many, including the leadership team at PermiaCare. Chris Barnhill, CEO at PermianCare, says Olgin is a prime example of the mission of the company. He admires Olgin for how far he has come and is excited to see the things he will continue to accomplish.

"Jonathan began living in one of our residences, moved to a host home where he lived with a family who supported him, and then he moved to an independent state where he is now living in his own apartment," said Barnhill. "That really is the evolution that we would want for all of our clients, he is a good example of what PermianCare wants to accomplish."

At home, Olgin's family cannot feel more blessed to see where he is today. They are glad Olgin has a job that he is passionate about and gives him purpose.

"This particular job has changed his attitude, he feels more confident and has a greater desire to make his life better and more comfortable," Rosemary Sanchez, Olgin's grandmother, said. "He has had many jobs, but for one reason or another, he didn't keep them for long. This job is a good long-standing position for him."

Congratulations to Jonathan Olgin and to all of the 2022 Artie Lee Hinds Award nominees for their hard work, dedication and perseverance.

Artie Lee Hinds Award dinner recognizes outstanding WorksWonders Program employees and customers

WorkQuest hosted its 15th annual Artie Lee Hinds Award dinner on Sept. 19, 2022. The event took place at the Doubletree Hotel in Austin. Nearly 350 attendees gathered to celebrate the *WorksWonders* Program - which provides employment opportunities for Texans with disabilities - and its supporters.

At the award dinner, Community Rehabilitation Program (CRP) representatives, award nominees and their families, Texas Workforce Commission representatives, and WorkQuest board members and employees came together to celebrate the accomplishments of Texas employees with disabilities—and the dedication of WorkQuest and its CRP partners.



Among those honored were Christina Sosa of Camino Real Community Services, who received the Most Motivational Employee Award; Nick Allen of Janie Clements Industries/Center for Life Resources, who earned the Most Inspirational Employee Award; and Craig Tallent of the Lighthouse of Houston, who was presented the President's Award.

WorkQuest also presented this year's Spirit of State Use Award to Larry Sargee, former regional marketing manager for WorkQuest, for his extraordinary commitment to the *WorksWonders* Program through his 25 years of service. Additionally, Susie Miduri, of UniqueSource Products and Services in Pennsylvania, and Brenda Bonafair, formerly of UniqueSource Products and Services, were recognized with the Honorary Texan Award for their long-term partnership with and contributions to WorkQuest and the *WorksWonders* program.



The evening's keynote speaker was Josh Sundquist, motivational speaker, comedian, Paralympian and author. Sundquist gave an inspiring speech on how he worked to accomplish his goals despite his disability and talked about how important it is to support individuals as they attempt to achieve success.



Following the keynote address, WorkQuest recognized the Top 10 customers who purchase products, services and temporary employment services through the *WorksWonders* Program. These customers include multiple state, city and county agencies and organizations. Organizations that were recognized for being new to this year's lists were the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for its purchase of services, and the Texas Division of Emergency Management Services.

Throughout the event, attendees viewed videos showcasing the standout employees recognized during the program, including Sosa, Allen and Tallent, as well as the recipient of the pinnacle honor of the evening, the 2022 Artie Lee Hinds Award, Jonathan Olgin of PermiaCare. Olgin was recognized for his personal growth, hard-working mentality and leadership in the workplace, where he is admired for his determination to provide for himself and his family.



Thank you to everyone who was able to attend this year's event. We look forward to seeing you again next year!

Scenes from the Awards Dinner



A Message from President and CEO **Fred M. Weber, Jr.**



On behalf of WorkQuest, I would like to thank everyone who attended the 2022 Artie Lee Hinds Award dinner and the Products and Services Expo. We are so glad to see everyone come together to celebrate the *WorksWonders* Program and the individuals who are employed through the Program, as well as the customers who purchase their products, services and temporary employment services.

I'd also like to congratulate all the community rehabilitation programs (CRPs) and their nominees who continue to impress us with their perseverance and determination to succeed.

WorkQuest implemented the Texas State Use Program in 1978, and has worked to increase employment and wages and enhance the lives of Texans with disabilities. The Program was initiated by the Texas Legislature under Chapter 122 of the Human Resources Code, and has the goal of offering meaningful employment opportunities to people with disabilities.

Throughout the years, WorkQuest has closely monitored the progress of legislation and will continue to do so as the 88th session of the Texas Legislature begins in 2023. We will continue to advocate for Texans with disabilities to ensure they have access to employment opportunities that will allow them to have meaningful jobs and improve their quality of life.

We thank you for your continued support of the *WorksWonders* Program.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'F. Weber', written in a cursive style.

2022 Artie Lee Hinds Award Nominees



Penelope Alba, Goodwill Services, Inc.



Carolyn Aldridge, East Texas Lighthouse for the Blind



Joycelyn Allen, Rising Star Resource Development Corporation



Nick Allen, Janie Clements Industries-Center for Life Resources



James Bennett, Work Services Corporation



Catherine Corff, Relief Enterprise of Texas



Preston Daniel, Daniel Pest Control & Professional Services



Steven DeLeon, MHID of Nueces County



E. Thelbert Dennison, Xceed Resources

2022 Artie Lee Hinds Award nominees (holding awards) are pictured with John Luna, WorkQuest Board of Directors vice-chairman; Josh Sundquist, motivational speaker, comedian, Paralympian and author; and Edward Serma, executive director of the Texas Workforce Commission.



Willie Dixon, Envision – Dallas Lighthouse for the Blind



Antonio Dominguez, PCSI



Eric Fitzpatrick, South Texas Lighthouse for the Blind



Brent Fry, Beacon Lighthouse, Inc.



Anivar Garcia, Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth



Rachel Gomez, West Texas Lighthouse for the Blind



Kevin Horigan, New Hope Academy of Fort Worth



Alexandria Romero Gonzales, San Antonio Lighthouse for the Blind



Vincent Hill, Peak Performers

2022 Artie Lee Hinds Award nominees (holding awards) are pictured with John Luna, WorkQuest Board of Directors vice-chairman; Josh Sundquist, motivational speaker, comedian, Paralympian and author; and Edward Serna, executive director of the Texas Workforce Commission.



Rodriquez Kellum, Goodwill Industries of East Texas



James Lutzenberger, World Technical Services



Samuel Martinez, Marian Moss Enterprises



Vicente Moreno, MHID of Nueces County



Nathadis O'Bryant, Rucon, Inc.



Jonathan Olgin, PermiaCare



Marco Rea, On Our Own Services



Freddy Rios, Relief Enterprise of Texas



Eliasar Salazar, Endeavors Unlimited

2022 Artie Lee Hinds Award nominees (holding awards) are pictured with John Luna, WorkQuest Board of Directors vice-chairman; Josh Sundquist, motivational speaker, comedian, Paralympian and author; and Edward Serna, executive director of the Texas Workforce Commission.



Craig Tallent, The Lighthouse of Houston



Jonathan Teague, WorkQuest – Central Store



David Trejo, Sr., Easter Seals Central Texas



William Westpoint, Goodwill Industries of Central Texas



Jerry Woods, Goodwill Industries of Central Texas



Oscar Zaragoza, Austin State Supported Living Center

Congratulations to all of the 2022 Artie Lee Hinds Award nominees!

2022 Artie Lee Hinds Award nominees (holding awards) are pictured with John Luna, WorkQuest Board of Directors vice-chairman; Josh Sundquist, motivational speaker, comedian, Paralympian and author; and Edward Serma, executive director of the Texas Workforce Commission.

WorkQuest hosts 34th annual Products & Services Expo



On Sept. 20, WorkQuest hosted its 34th annual Products and Services Expo. The event brought together Community Rehabilitation Program (CRP) representatives and the customers who purchase products, services and temporary employment services through the WorksWonders Program, the State Use Program that helps connect Texans with disabilities with meaningful employment opportunities.

The CRPs at the Expo were once again eager to showcase their products and services, connect with their current customers and get the opportunity to meet new customers to bring in new business.

“We have been attending the expo since 2015 and we’re excited to present our services to all the different state agencies and purchasers,” Kurt Daniel, director of operations at Daniel Pest Control, said. “I enjoy coming here to see our current customers and to hopefully get some new business as well.”

CRPs at the Expo were ready to display, provide samples and answer any questions about their latest products and services.

“We are excited to showcase our products and our new call center service at the expo today,” Michael Geisler, director of contract management and client services at The Lighthouse of Houston, said. “We currently staff a 24/7 call center that services the University of Houston’s facilities and building management. Our award nominee, Craig Tallent, is a supervisor at this call center and we are very proud of him for winning the President’s Award last night at WorkQuest’s Artie Lee Hinds Award Dinner.”

Throughout the Expo, CRPs expressed appreciation for their relationship with WorkQuest and thanked them for their ongoing support. They were appreciative of WorkQuest for helping them gain business and achieve their companies’ goals.

“WorkQuest has been a valuable partner for Peak Performers from the very beginning and we couldn’t

The Expo also gave CRPs the opportunity to interact with the employees of WorkQuest which help them grow their business.

“WorkQuest has been an excellent partner,” Ruth Davis, director of commercial services at Goodwill Industries of East Texas, said. “They help us get new products, support our orders and are always helpful with any questions we have. We are excited to support WorkQuest and are grateful for all they do.”

Exhibitors who attended:

1. Travis Association for the Blind
2. Austin Task, Inc.
3. Beacon Lighthouse, Inc.
4. MHID of Nueces County
5. Camino Real Community Services
6. Corpus Christi State Supported Living Center
7. Daniel Pest Control & Professional Services
8. East Texas Lighthouse for the Blind
9. Enterprise Professional Services, Inc.
10. Envision - Dallas Lighthouse for the Blind
11. Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth
12. Goodwill Industries of Central Texas
13. Goodwill Industries of East Texas
14. Marian Moss Enterprises
15. New Hope Academy of Fort Worth
16. PCSI
17. Peak Performers
18. Rising Star Resource Development Corporation
19. South Texas Lighthouse for the Blind
20. Texas Correctional Industries
21. The Lighthouse of Houston
22. Austin State Supported Living Center
23. West Texas Lighthouse for the Blind
24. WorkQuest – Central Store

Products included:

- Office and school supplies
- Furniture items
- Food supplies
- Janitorial supplies
- Outdoor clothing supplies
- Safety supplies

Services included:

- Janitorial maintenance
- Grounds maintenance
- Litter pick-up
- Call-center operation

Temporary employment services included:

- Accounting and clerical support
- IT staffing
- Data entry services

be more grateful for everything they do,” Myles Wallace, partnerships specialist at Peak Performers, said. “Peak Performers is proud to change the workforce one job at a time, but we cannot do that alone. A lot of this is the result of the valuable partnership we have with WorkQuest.”



Scenes from the Expo

“We are glad to have this strong partnership with WorkQuest and are grateful for their help finding new customers in new markets.”

Michael Geisler, Director of Contract Management and Client Services, the Lighthouse of Houston

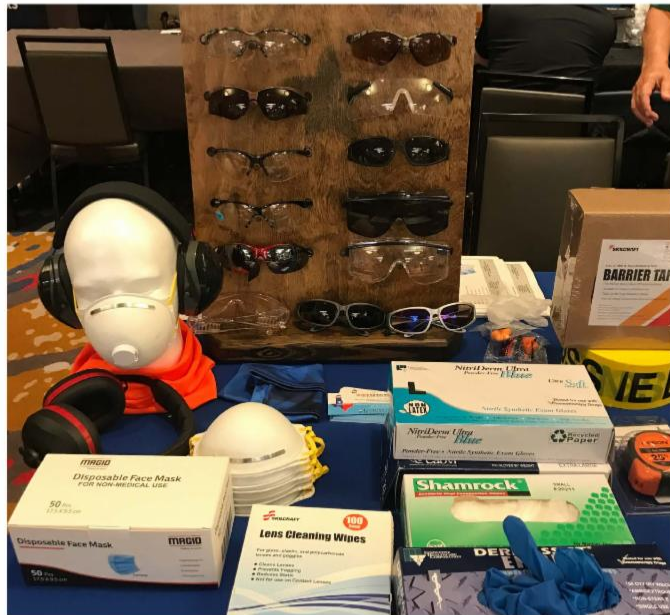


“WorkQuest has been an excellent partner. They help us get new products, support our orders and are always helpful with any questions we have. We are excited to support WorkQuest and are grateful for all they do.”

Ruth Davis, Director of Commercial Services, Goodwill Industries of East Texas

“Peak Performers has been doing business with the state of Texas and WorkQuest for the last 27 years. This is our core business, and we are very excited to engage with organizations that are looking to hire people with disabilities.”

Myles Wallace, Strategic Partnership Specialist, Peak Performers



“We enjoy coming to the expo to see our customers and to highlight our office chairs, motivational portraits and salsa. I can’t think of a better way to spend my work time. There’s truly so much passion here with everyone.”

Elvira Burns, Director of Day Programs, Camino Real Community Services



WorkQuest recognizes and celebrates October as National Disability Employment Awareness Month.



View the WorkQuest catalog at WorkQuest.com

WorkQuest

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