



Evonne Ly, Multi Cultural Program Coach

For Evonne Ly Attitude+ is Win-Win for Consumers and Staff

A positive attitude is coach, Evonne Ly's, key to building a good team, providing quality service, promoting trustworthiness, and gaining respect. Evonne has found that by maintaining a positive attitude, she benefits her consumers, herself and all those around them.

Evonne works with her consumers teaching them simple communications and safety skills in English. "That is very important for consumers in a community based program," Evonne explains that Coaches must learn everything they can about the consumers they work with in order to serve them best. "Listen to them, and they will teach you." Evonne speaks/interacts with her consumers all of the time listening, showing, reading their faces and body language. She challenges each consumer daily to see how far he/she can progress. Evonne says she breaks down every activity process step by step. "It does not matter how long it takes to learn something. The idea is for the consumer to become more self-sufficient, independent, and have fun doing it. There is no race."

When Westview expanded its sports activities to include Special Olympics, Evonne jumped at the opportunity for consumers to experience

new challenges and broaden their community experiences.

For example, Evonne and her consumers teamed up with another Coach (Kahn Le), and his group of consumers to learn all about bocce ball. Evonne studied the bocce rules and taught her group every move and regulation. Kahn and his group were part of this as well. The groups understand where the boundaries are when playing. They know how to take turns and who is up next. They know what color balls each team has. They know when to stop play to measure the winning placement of balls. Not all of the consumers will make it to the Special Olympics competition because some have more difficult challenges than others, yet, with a positive attitude, Evonne has coached each consumer to be good at some part of the activity. Everyone feels he/she is a valuable member of the team. Evonne's team did place in Westview's Orange County Special Olympics. Each member of the team went home with a medal.

Evonne celebrated eight continuous years of coaching in April. She attributes her dedication and success with consumers to maintaining a positive and optimistic attitude.