



Spotlight on Staff

MAKLIN GARCIA

ASSISTANT MANAGER; ART TEACHER

Maklin Garcia, assistant manager of the Canton Life Enrichment Program (CLEP), is particularly adept at getting people Favarrh supports to smile. He does it by helping them create spectacular artwork.

Maklin has only been with Favarrh since August, but he has already made a big impression by using his own background as an artist to help people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) explore their interest in the arts.

A native of El Salvador, Maklin came to the United States when he was six years old and grew up in Los Angeles. He eventually succumbed to the U.S. Navy recruitment posters that urged people to, "Join the Navy; See the World." He did just that, spending six years as a crane operator and cargo handler, literally traveling throughout the world. In the process, he also met Alicia, a Canton native and fellow sailor.

Maklin and Alicia eventually married and settled in her native Connecticut where Maklin worked while attending the University of Connecticut. He began as an art major, but took a psychology course and became enthralled. It's what sparked his interest in working at an agency like Favarrh. So he changed his major to psychology and minored in art.

Speaking of working with people with IDD, he said that he, "like(s) the field – helping people who can't completely fend for themselves; giving them a little joy."

Maklin worked for four years as a program manager at a different agency supporting people with IDD before joining Favarrh. In addition to being the assistant manager of the CLEP, he also uses his art background to teach some of the Favarrh residents of Old Farm Crossing how to paint and sculpt. The result has been the creation of some strikingly beautiful paintings. The other result, however, has been to see the huge smiles on some of those successful artists. Maklin explained that his students do the artwork themselves while he is there guiding them. The result is amazing.

"Working with them, it's a joy for me," he said.

Meanwhile, Maklin and Alicia live in Torrington with their son, Mathew, who will be two-years old in May.

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