

“I am program coordinator at Westside Family Resource Center - responsible for daily operations ... programming and making sure the center is a bustling beacon in the community ... Everyone is essential ... each person involved with PEACE, Inc. serves a purpose toward the advancement of the mission of PEACE, Inc. ... Dedicated to PEACE, Inc. since 1984.”



Ryan Barone



EMPOWERING PEOPLE TO THRIVE | EST. 1968

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PLEASE TELL ME ABOUT YOUR ROLE AT PEACE, INC.

BARONE: I am responsible for daily operations of the center for programming and making sure the center is a bustling beacon in the community. I am responsible for community outreach, connecting with the westside, and helping to further the mission of PEACE, Inc.

WHY DID YOU JOIN THE PEACE, INC. ORGANIZATION?

BARONE: I decided to join PEACE, Inc. because I know PEACE, Inc. I know how integral PEACE, Inc. is in the community. I've always been around PEACE, Inc. because I have family who work for PEACE, Inc. I was a Head Start child. I felt that personally I could further the mission of PEACE, Inc. and learn from the people we serve while serving them.

DO YOU HAVE A HOBBY?

BARONE: Yes. I have been a martial artist for 25 years. I am a master black belt. I have been teaching for 20 of those 25 years. Martial arts is a passion. It feeds me body, mind, and spiritually. Being a martial artist - both training and teaching has helped to shape my personality, my attitude, and my ideas.

WHO ARE THE PEOPLE WHO ARE ESSENTIAL AT PEACE, INC.?

BARONE: Everyone is essential in some way, each person involved with PEACE, Inc. serves a purpose toward the advancement of the mission of PEACE, Inc. Without people to serve, we don't have an ability to improve our community, nor do we know what the needs of the community are. Without volunteers we may as employees just not have the manpower or resources to fully connect with the community, our volunteers serve as our eyes and ears a lot of the time. My fellow employees and I - we drive the ship, we create the services, and carry out the mission of PEACE, Inc.

SUM UP ONE THING YOU WANT OTHERS TO ALWAYS REMEMBER.

BARONE: I want people to always remember the power of empathy and compassion. I would love for people to remember we are more alike than different. If people can take one moment to identify with someone they may not know, they would realize that they and that person have more in common than they think. Love is bread from empathy. True connection comes from the marriage of compassion and empathy. When I tie together compassion and empathy, I allow myself the freedom to let down my walls and connect with other humans.

WHAT CAN THOSE YOU SERVE DO TO HELP YOU HELP THEM?

BARONE: To be honest, to be open, and to be willing to try something different. To believe in themselves and the ability of PEACE, Inc. to empower them to become self-sufficient.

IF YOU WERE A COLOR, WHAT WOULD YOU BE?

BARONE: The color green. It represents hope and new growth, new beginnings. The green always comes, which means we are always allowed to start over.