



805 S. Missouri Avenue, Mercedes, TX 78570  
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AUGUST 2025

# MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



## Community Partner Spotlight: Golden Ice Cream

We're excited to highlight Golden Ice Cream, a true inclusive employer and valued partner of the VR Division. Located in McAllen, they've created a welcoming workplace where individuals of all abilities can learn, grow, and thrive—serving handcrafted ice cream with a generous side of community spirit.

Founder Sonia Marroquin, an occupational therapist, built Golden Ice Cream with a mission rooted in kindness and inclusion—proving that meaningful employment and quality customer experiences go hand in hand.

Thank you, Golden Ice Cream, for your leadership in inclusive employment. We're proud to grow alongside your team and continue empowering individuals through real-world learning opportunities.

Golden Ice Cream is located at 4500 N. 10<sup>TH</sup> Street, Suite 40, McAllen, TX. Their hours of operation are Sunday through Thursday from 12:00 p.m. to 10:00 a.m.; Friday and Saturday from 12:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. To learn more about Golden Ice Cream, follow on them on their social media accounts @thegoldenicecream.

### TWC-Approved Vocational Adjustment Training (VAT)

- Entering the World of Work
- Disability Disclosure Training
- Skills to Pay the Bills (Soft Skills Curriculum)
- Money Smart (Financial Literacy Training)
- Soft Skills for Work Success
- Explore the "You" in Work
- Public Transportation Training
- Specialized VAT Services (Conflict Resolution, Stress Management, Hygiene and more)

Each course includes extension activities, journaling, and customized accommodations to meet individual student needs.



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## MEET THE TEAM



**Erika Herevia**  
Specialized Employment  
Consultant

Erika Herevia is a Specialized Employment Consultant with over 7 years of experience at L.E.G. She holds a Master's degree in Organizational Leadership from Our Lady of the Lake University, and works closely with TWC-VR customers across a variety of services.

Erika supports individuals through career exploration, vocational adjustment training, postsecondary planning, and job placement. She takes pride in delivering thoughtful, person-centered guidance, whether she is building a resume, facilitating soft skills training, or helping someone map out their next steps.

She brings compassion, purpose, and professionalism to every interaction. Erika is passionate about helping individuals discover their potential and believes that meaningful employment opens the door to independence and self-worth.

*"I believe in meeting people where they are and walking with them toward where they want to be." -Erika Herevia*

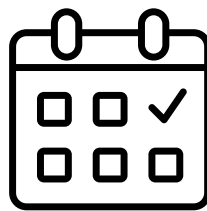


## From Planning to Placement: One Step at a Time

We're excited to celebrate a recent job placement success facilitated by L.E.G. consultant Dr. Shawn Saladin. After receiving individualized support through the VR program, the customer explored career options, participated in work-readiness training, and successfully transitioned into a new role with a local employer.

This placement is a powerful example of how personalized guidance, persistence, and community collaboration can open the door to meaningful employment. Our team remains committed to walking alongside each customer as they move forward with confidence.

Congratulations to Dr. Saladin and the customer on this important milestone!



## Save the Date: ADA Webinar for Inclusive Employers

Looking for ways to support inclusive hiring and accessibility in the workplace? Join the ADA National Network's free webinar:

Topic: Small Business at Work: Ensuring Inclusion for All

Date: Thursday, August 14, 2025

Time: 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. (CT)

This session will provide actionable insights for employers and community partners on creating inclusive work environments for individuals with disabilities. It's a great resource for anyone looking to strengthen their inclusion practices.

To register or learn more, visit [www.adata.org/events-calendar](http://www.adata.org/events-calendar).