

May-June 2021

the INSIDER

Apollo Helps Prevent COVID at CVS

Diversity and Inclusion Spotlight!

Apollo Kudos, and More!

Merchandiser, Larry Paris as Mya Alexander



CERTIFICATE OF EXCELLENCE

This certificate is presented to



Adrian Judge, Travel

In our business, we book hundreds of travel arrangements of and come across some unique circumstances! We are fortunate enough to have an awesome travel department to help accommodate all of our needs while helping control our costs. We especially would like to recognize Adrian Judge. Adrian always comes through to make it happen while still thinking of innovative ways to make things smooth and cost effective. She most definitely goes above and beyond trying to accommodate our employees. Adrian has been with Apollo since 2018 and has 5 sons, 1 daughter, and 1 beautiful granddaughter. - Tammy Alemazkour, VP of Operations



Tyler French, Assembly

Tyler French is a Service and Assembly tech out of San Diego California. Tyler has been with Apollo for four years. In that four years Tyler has completed in homes, Office Depots, and small projects at the highest level. We receive compliments from customers monthly on how great Tyler is. Tyler is always willing to go the extra mile for Apollo. Thank you Tyler you are very important part of Service Assembly team.- Dustin Hall, DM

for demonstration of superior performance, hard work and dedication.

C. Michael Sunderland
President

2021

C Michael Sunderland

Tribute to Charlene White



Charlene became a part of our team 10 years ago and at that time we are pretty sure she thought we were crazy!! We had a team drive from Texas to Wyoming to start work the next day; this was out of the norm for the structure that she was used to. Even if she thought we were crazy, she jumped right in and became a great asset to our division in no time.

Charlene went the extra mile to help everyone whether it was jumping through hoops on a Sunday night to get her team's hotel changed or to calling to check on them when she knew they needed a shoulder to lean on during a tough personal situation. She was always there for her team and willing to listen, talk or jump in and help in any way that she could.

Many of the Lowe's/Walmart team members have reached out to let us know how much they will miss Charlene and how great of a person, friend, and boss she was. She was the boss and friend that everyone wants in life, so caring, compassionate and dedicated to everything/everyone that she was involved with. Charlene was also a great friend, mother and sister. She always let us know how proud she was of her son and that family meant the world to her, especially her brother and sister.

She was a very special person that was taken from us way too soon! Charlene White we will miss you every day but will never forget you!! -- Walmart/Lowes

CAN I GET A
WOOP!
WOOP!

APPLAUSE, PLEASE!

Pablo Rodriguez & Team

Pablo Rodriguez and his team were here the past 2 weeks and they did such an amazing job here not only supporting us to catch up on freight, but also with some of the heavy lifting, steel work and resets they helped us with. Pablo and his team were great and I wanted to communicate that to you to ensure that they get recognized for their performance, support and positive, helpful attitudes. What an amazing Team!!! - Home Depot #6988

Philip Lancaster

Phil did a great job ;thank you very much and I'm very impressed with your company.- Customer, Kay S.

Pedro Valdivia

Desk was just set up. The lad that assisted was very nice. Thanks again.- Customer, Joanne

Robert Hatley

Robert was wonderful. On time, quick, and friendly! I would definitely use him again! Very happy !- Customer, Staphany

Anthony Farmer

Anthony was called the scheduled day of service for this customer as another rep had not shown up. Anthony not only arrived to the customer when he said he would be there but then provided the customer with outstanding assembly service.- DM Bill Blakely

Carlos Rodriguez

I'm glad you sent Carlos. He installed furniture for me before. He is a Jedi Master.- Customer, Marcus D.

Arthur Guertin

Arthur the assembler was so efficient that he assembled all the furniture on April 16 leaving no need for the April 23rd appointment. - Customer

Marcus Freeman

Dawn, thank you for sending Marcus to our home yesterday. He was right on time. Marcus is a tireless worker and just an all around pleasant person. Our desk looks perfect! It was a joy having him in our home.

CAN I GET A
WOOP!
WOOP!

APPLAUSE, PLEASE!

Ivan Mercenit

Just wanted to let you know how fantastic the service was. Job done in 1 1/2 hours and marriage still intact. Apollo retail is now my favorite company on earth. Have a wonderful weekend - Laurie, Customer

Justin Lamoreaux, Matthew Phillips, Marcus Freeman

We had three of your gentleman assemble office furniture for 10 offices here at our facility in Texas City. All three of them (Justin, Marcus and Matthew) had exceptional customer service skills and worked carefully and quickly to get us all back in our offices in a timely matter. We greatly appreciate it and look forward to business in the future as opportunities arise. Great Job Justin, Marcus and Matthew!- Customer, Heather

Russell Pennington, Chris Cottrell, & Kathie Cox

Thank you Chris! That's 2 or 3 jams fixed by Russ at this point? This is why I LOVE APOLLO! Thank you team very much!!- Floor & Decor

Mike D'Angelo

Mike was outstanding and extremely proficient. - Customer

Giora Lahav

This assembly yesterday went PERFECT!- Customer

Tyler French

Your representative did a great job in fact the last three did a great job

Billy & Bobby Grice, Jonathan Castellano

Floor & Decor

*Apollo shows up to 112, I only wa
Grice Boys!*

Signature: Micah Hill

Print Name: Micah Hill

Position: Manager



CAN I GET A
WOOP!
WOOP!

APPLAUSE, PLEASE!

Peter Weist, Ashley Germann, Dustin Hall

everything has been delivered and assembled in Westminster & Colorado Springs, CO. Thank you all for the quick turnaround time on this! - Office Depot

Justin Johnson

I just wanted you to know that Justin Johnson is a tremendous asset to your district and your company. He is polite, professional and one heck of a builder. I am just so impressed with him that I had to share it. I hope he stays in this area for a long time and that he gets the credit he deserves from his company. Thank you for having him at our store!- OD

Double that! I had the pleasure of working with Justin last week, he's awesome!- Office Depot, Misty

Darrel Davis

Darrel is so sweet and I was glad to have him in my home! Thank you for the wonderful assembly!- Customer

Michael Hill

the work was completed on schedule. We are very satisfied and will consider Apollo in the future.



Damiah on Left, Ranette on Right

Congratulations, Ranette Hoover!



Here's to 10 years at Apollo!

Marriage, Drag Queens, & Merchandising: Larry Paris is Speaking His Truth

by Heather Petrone

Apollo merchandiser, Larry Paris, went to his first drag show with his ex-wife 22 years ago. He had no idea at the time that years later he would win numerous pageants including a Ru Paul Drag Show viewing party for 'Best in Fashion' with his persona, Mya Alexander.

"My wife's best friend was one of the headliners of this drag show, so she dragged me out to my first one," he said. "I just remember thinking she was a great entertainer. And I didn't even realize it was a guy! Her hair was real - she was just phenomenal, her moves the way she carried herself. I was just in Gaga-land!" he said.

My ex and I were married for 14 years and we have three beautiful children together, but they're all grown up now. My oldest was 14 when I started creating this entity, Mya. My persona had more clothes in our closet than my wife did!

Larry explains when he first started out, he was quiet and sheltered, however, his other friends in the drag world told him that would disappear and he would become unfiltered and quick-witted. "It was kinda like a protective-thing," he said. These performers told me, 'If you don't speak your mind, no one will hear your truth. No one is going to know how you feel unless you speak up.'

In my drag career, I was best known for doing Bette Midler. That's what I won my pageants for, but I did others as well - Christina Aguilera, Whitney Houston, Jennifer Lopez. Although Larry doesn't do drag shows any more, he still mentors his "drag children."

"I have 12 drag children that I mentor - they call me Glam-ma, because I actually teach make-up online and do live tutorials.



Mya Alexander on Left, Larry Paris on Right



Miss Gay Arkansas USofA 2018

My oldest girl has done it 19 years now and if anything ever happened to me, she would emulate me. She's the headliner here in Hot Springs now," he said.

"I used to run all the shows, I did all the bookings. I had one girl who was nervous about doing a show once and I looked at her and said 'Girl, what's up. What's wrong with you?' and she asked, 'Are they going to love me?' and I said, 'Do you want them to?' and she goes 'Yeah.' And I looked at her and said, 'Well, make sure whatever you put out there on the floor, you love them back - you love them first.'"

When I explained to Larry that Apollo feels Diversity and Inclusion is so important to us as a company - especially given the fact that our team is comprised of a melting-pot of all types of people from all walks of life, he said, "Yes, it's important. I always say that everybody has their own song they have to sing in life, they just have to find the words to put to the music. That's sometimes the hardest part, but if you're speaking your truth and you have a positive support system behind you - whether gay, straight, bi, whatever, in anything that you do, and you're promoting a positive mindset behind it, you never know until you try! If you don't speak your mind no one will hear your truth!"

Larry says his persona, Mya, is really a mother figure and protector to others in her community. "I try to instill the community to unite, not fight. My drag mother taught me to have tact, have class, and keep it civil. If you're going to argue, don't stoop to another's level. When they go low, we go high!"



1
"I saved someone's life doing what I love"

Larry has really made a positive impact in his community and tells me he actually unknowingly prevented a suicide once by performing one of his numbers.

"I saved someone's life from doing what I love," Larry said. "There was a gentleman that came to watch the show from out of town, and I remember I wanted to do an uplifting ballad to make people feel special that night. Afterwards, this gentleman approached me and said, 'Can I sit with you?' He was from Texas, and he and his husband of 20 years just got a divorce. I told him that I always believe when one door closes, another one opens, and I explained that I left a marriage to live my truth. I told him I didn't leave my wife or my kids behind, but I left the marriage. You need to stay positive and non-judgmental to everyone – that's what my mama taught me. He had a tear in his eye and later that night confessed that he was planning on committing suicide after the show. He told me, 'You saved my life tonight.' I couldn't believe it and thought, 'I can't leave you now.' But he said he was ok, and he would call me in the morning which he did. He came back every year for 6 years in a row and is now married to a new man. I told him, 'I told you when one door closes, another opens.'"

When Larry told me that story, I got chills up and down my body. It's truly incredible to think that this was just one gentleman that shared his

thoughts and feelings with him. How many others has Larry encountered and made a positive impact on without him knowing? I'm sure many. Larry has such an exuberance for life. He's a kind soul, and full of positivity - Apollo is so lucky to have him.

When I asked what Larry's up to right now at Apollo, he said traveling with his husband for Walmart remodels. He explained he's been in retail management for over 30 years as a Dollar General Store Manager and worked for Walmart. He can walk into any Walmart read the schematics from top to bottom. "I can walk into an empty shell of a Walmart and just start building shelves from the ground up, right away."

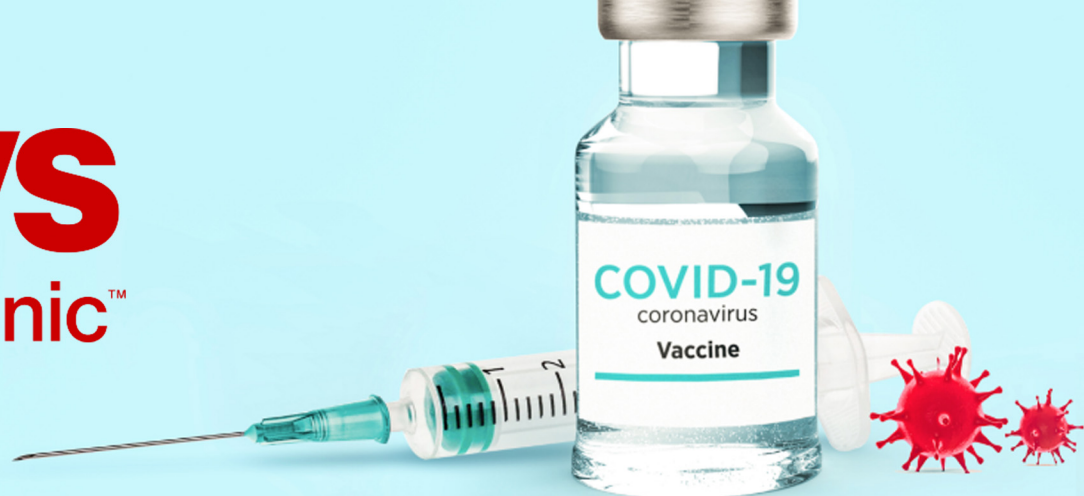
Larry said he's looking to grow with Apollo and is excited to be back merchandising.

If you're interested in reaching out to Larry or even Mya, he's on our private Facebook Group 'Apollo Buzz.' If you'd like to see Mya, be sure to check out her Facebook page, Mya Alexander.

<https://www.facebook.com/mya.alexander>

We Embrace Diversity & Inclusion. Learn More!

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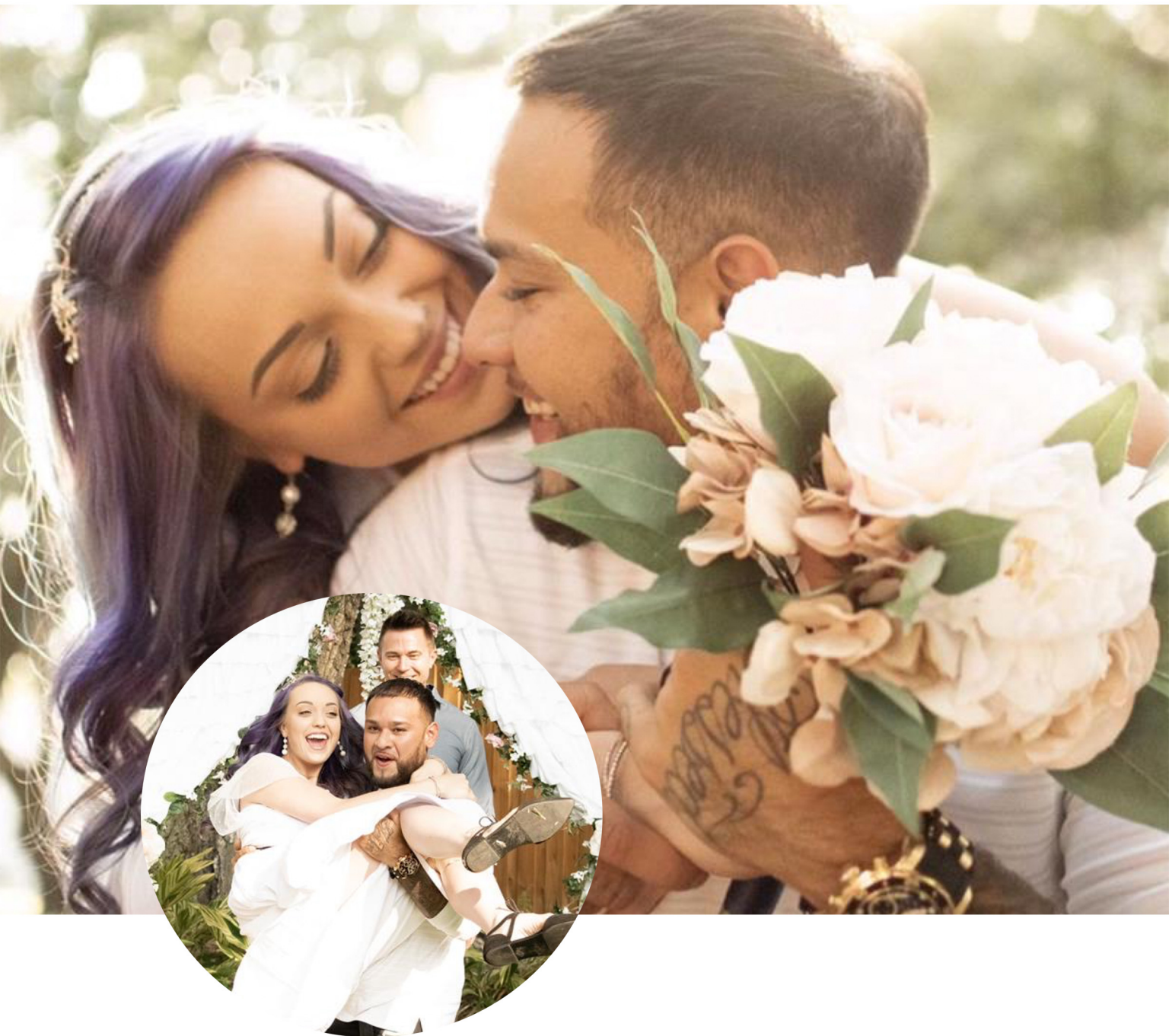


We have 635 CVS stores where we are installing Covid Vaccine stations between 4/5 and 5/16. This is projected to be the first wave of stores. We are waiting to hear more. Teams are typically 3 merchandisers working in stores from 1-4 days depending on the scope of work. We are clearing space so CVS can install vaccination stations to administer the Covid 19 Vaccine. The teams have been amazing and have done a great job of navigating the hurdles in a project that was put together very quickly and have adapted well to all the changes.

I am so proud of the teams and all the scrambling the DM/DC teams have done to make this first wave a huge success. -- PM, Rachel Lee

PROUD MOMENT

Recruiter, Bryan Jaglal, tied the knot to his best friend, Emma. He and his fiancée made it official on their two year anniversary at her parents home where she grew up on May 28, 2021. Congrats to the newlyweds!



MORE LOVE IN THE AIR!

District Coordinator, Kevin Carroll and his fiancée were married on 4/23/21 ! Congrats to you both!



Photos from the Field



Left to Right: Jesse Grant, Nicole Grant, Dyani Gause, Jonny Palombini, Lea Hemphill (front), Jim Andersen, Laurie Johns (front), Elizabeth Tipton, Sean Bruggers, Sandi Gober, and Shayla Potter.

Great crew. Everyone had Apollo shirts and name badges.

Please note... Everyone 100% mask compliant (except for the 10 seconds it took to get this picture). No customers in area at that time.



Debbie Baldwin's Display for Publix in Valrico!

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