



Dale Rogers Training Center QUARTERLY

Summer Edition

June 2015

Blazing Trails, Promoting Abilities Since 1953

Blazing Trails For A Lifetime of Opportunities



*DRTC's Mobile Workforce
and Special Needs Program
attended the Disabilities
Awareness Day at the
Oklahoma Capitol.*

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Connie Thrash McGoodwin, M. Ed.

Rumors of my Death are Greatly Exaggerated!

I'm not as out and about as much as I was when Dale Rogers Training Center was smaller. Yes, I'm still here and yes I've been here 33 years (a la David Letterman)! I was an executive director at a special education nonprofit 4 years in Dallas prior to that. And I'm the oldest of four children born to a military family. Seriously now, how could I have NOT turned out to be in management?

I have a lot of work to do the next 3-5 years before I can turn in my badge and my horse and let a new sheriff take the agency to another level. I don't want to be that 80 year old director who won't leave or turn over the reigns. My job functions have become almost all legal decisions plus trying to stay in compliance with new regulations that seem to pop up every week. By the time I phase myself out, I think DRTC will be functioning even more like a business. According to one lifecycle chart, DRTC has been in its "prime" for a long time. Now is the time the Board of Directors



and management staff have to be intentional and strategic about the future, not be too tied to the past, but still be true to the mission and culture.

The world is changing every day and the field of disabilities has to change to meet the evolving needs. I like to call the period of time between Dale Rogers' 50th (2003) and 60th (2013) anniversaries as the "wonder years." Life was good. We dared to take calculated risks outside of the traditional mold to train and employ folks with disabilities. We were very successful and exceeded our own expectations. We grew and added different business models to train and employ people with disabilities and to generate income.

LUDDITES AMONG US

The followers of Ned Ludd during the Industrial Revolution complained about machines replacing jobs, especially in the textile industry. In fact, in the early 1900s, they actually pillaged and burned factories. While I have no intention of egging an Apple store or the Dell headquarters, I do worry machines and computers will not only replace jobs, but also people (by the way, there wasn't ever really a Ned Ludd). Pundits like to make a comparison to electronics and all of today's technologies and those modern "Luddites" who reject

them. I'm somewhere in between, but seriously, do you want to be driving to Tulsa knowing the huge semi-truck next to you has no human in it? No one will ever convince me a thank you by email is the same as taking the time to handwrite a note (ok, now I do sound 80).

The economy will drive a lot of what the future becomes. The Gen Xers and Millennials will change the workplace, for better or worse, time will tell. Marketing & advertising via social media will dominate and I think there are some really cool things about that. Change can be a great thing when done right.

LESS IS MORE

You will continue to see less of me at events and meetings as I continue the process of strengthening the agency and showing the multiple faces of staff and programs. DRTC is about SO MUCH MORE than me and we do SO MANY amazing things here. Part of my 5 year succession plan includes re-evaluation and restructuring using strategic planning. By the time the next executive director phases in, he/she will have a great team to work with. I have a lot of housekeeping to do for whoever that new sheriff turns out to be.

Sam Presti (a genius, by the way) didn't replace Brooks with another Brooks. He looked into the future (in our case, business, legal and marketing) and found someone with different skills and experience to take the team to a new level. That's exactly what our Board of Directors will be doing the next 3-4 years!

Happy Trails!

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Connie".

DALE ROGERS TRAINING CENTER

Cheryl Moore
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Coordinator, Publisher

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PR Coordinator

Brian Landreth
PR Assistant
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A New Day Dawning

CONNECTING WITH TEENAGERS



Julie, Papa Murphy's employee, trains Charity & Milivan, two of our Transition students.

Nowadays, it seems like we're capping our conversations at 140 characters. IKR? ("I know, right" for those of you not on the DL [Down Low]).

ICYMI (In Case You Missed It), teenagers involved in DRTC's programs have been very busy (for details, read the following sections) and experiencing new things.

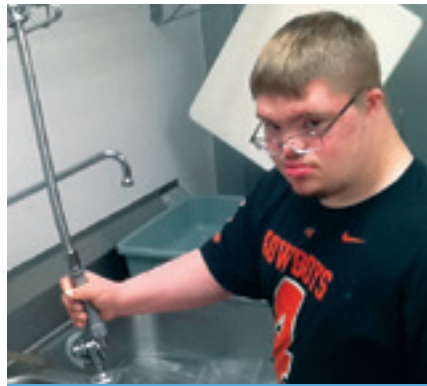
While the school year is in BRB (Be Right Back) mode, the learning and fun don't stop!

Trips to the zoo, museum, spraygrounds at city parks and other places can be fun breaks from day-to-day activities.

Our Transition students who have been through Papa Murphy's are also quite handy around the kitchen! Make memories while making meals and see your daughter/son grow before your eyes.

And if you need an inspirational message in fewer than 140 characters, how about this one from Dale Evans Rogers:

"It's how you ride the trail that counts." #truth @DRTCorg



Doug is learning how to clean the kitchen.

Papa Murphy's TRANSITIONING TO SUCCESS

Papa Murphy's was a bright spot for our Transitions Program this school year!

About 50 students from Oklahoma City and Moore participated in job site training with DRTC's newest division. Students went through a mock new employee orientation—similar to what a Papa Murphy's employee could experience.

Then they learned skills relating to the job: weighing and cutting dough, making dough balls, shredding cheese, prepping all items needed for the day, and making pizzas and salads. Students also learned valuable, and transferable, customer service skills.

We even had a student able to work the cash register, take orders and complete the transaction with no assistance.

The program was a big success! Several schools called the Transition Coordinator and said the students came back excited and talking about all the "cool" things they did at DRTC/Papa Murphy's.

CAMP Tumbleweed DAY CAMP

Camp Tumbleweed Update

We're off to a great start at Camp Tumbleweed! This summer's theme is "Around the World in 80 Days," and we're beginning our adventure in Europe!

Campers will build paper hot air balloons, go to the Oklahoma City Dodgers baseball games, OKC Zoo, Science Museum and Firefighter Museum. They'll also go geocaching (treasure hunting), play Frisbee golf and visit several local parks. Whew!

There is still time to sign up for our second session which runs July 6-August 7. Call Ty Beasley at 405-946-4489, ext. 1504, or email camptumbleweed@drtc.org

**CAMP TUMBLEWEED
SESSION II: JULY
6-AUGUST 7
AGES 13-21
M-F 8:00AM-4:30PM
(EXTENDED HOURS CAN
BE ARRANGED)**

Jonathan is enjoying his trip to the Zoo.



1953 DRTC's founders hold first meeting and incorporate

1957 Dale Evans Rogers visits Dale Rogers School

1966 Eunice Kennedy Shriver visits Dale Rogers Training Center

1971 New workshop completed after tornado destroyed "The Barn"

1981 Connie Thrash named DRTC Executive Director, 54 clients/students served

A LIFETIME OF



Ethel

If anyone knows about the opportunities DRTC has to offer, it's Ethel. This is Ethel's second career with us. She started in 2011, worked at Papa Murphy's and then returned to become a productive employee at Prism Place!

Today, Ethel works with acrylics, plaques and nametags. She takes



great pride in buffing and sanding as well as assembling various products.

"I like it here because you have fun," Ethel said.

She's not only having fun, but she's also making friends, growing as an individual and setting new goals.

"I'm wanting to learn how to do engraving," she added.

Ethel also works at Wyman Frame. Earlier this year, she and several other team members completed a large order as part of a massive renovation project at Sequoyah State Park.

"I just love doing what I do," said Ethel. "There's no other job I would actually pick."



TOP LEFT: Ethel working at Papa Murphy's Pizza. ABOVE: Ethel polishing medals at Prism Place LEFT: Ethel working on a large order at Wyman Frame.

1983 Prism Place opens for business

1985 New wing for workshop & loading dock completed, 90 clients/students served

1988 Supported Employment Program launches

1989 School to Work Transition Program begins, 135 clients served/employed

*Know me for
not my d
- Robert M*

*Guinness World Reco
non-stop wheelie*

OPPORTUNITIES

*my abilities,
disability.*

M. Hensel

*ord holder for longest
in a wheelchair.*



Mike

If you go on a tour of Dale Rogers Training Center, chances are likely you'll see Mike working meticulously at Prism Place.

Mike is an expert craftsman—sanding and buffing acrylic awards.

He should know how it's done.

Mike has been with DRTC since before Prism Place opened. He didn't miss a beat when asked how long he has been with DRTC: 36 years! In fact, Mike was one of the first employees at the nonprofit's first venture into becoming an entrepreneurial business in 1983.

He's also a regular in the Prism Place showroom cleaning and dusting display products ensuring they have all the luster and beauty as when they were first finished.

Mike has taken advantage of other opportunities at DRTC. He also spends time in Vocational Services working on various contract projects.

It's not all work for Mike, though. As you can imagine, he has made several

friends during his 36 years at DRTC. He also likes our monthly Fun Fest events!

Mike looks forward to getting his paycheck and earning his own way. He was beaming with pride when he said he would pay for his mother's birthday present with his own money. When asked if he's excited he can pay himself, Mike emphatically said, "YEP!"



TOP: Mike demonstrating how to assemble trophies. ABOVE: Mike polishing acrylic early in his career.

1993 DRTC earns food service contract with Tinker Air Force Base, wins AFMC Gold Plate Award

1995 DRTC takes over contract for food services at Altus Air Force Base

1997 New building housing Prism Place finished, Special Needs Program created

1999 Food service project at Altus Air Force Base wins AFTC Command Award

Employee Recognition Program

FROM PRISM PLACE AWARDS & TROPHIES AND WYMAN FRAME



DRTC took another step this spring to solidify its status as an entrepreneurial nonprofit by unveiling its latest business venture at the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber's Spring SchmoozaPalooza.

Prism Place and Wyman Frame, both divisions of DRTC, have teamed up to create an awards and recognition program for businesses across the country.



Employees will make custom acrylic awards, flag boxes, certificate frames, promotional items and more; creating a one-stop shop for honoring workers.

Corporate gift orders help create additional job opportunities for people with disabilities.



Papa Murphy's Pizza

SUMMER JOBS

Need extra cash?

Current openings at our Papa Murphy's at NW 23rd and Pennsylvania:

- Shift Supervisor
- Production Line
- Cashier
- Prep Person

*Other openings for P/T & Supervisors also available. Ideal for students looking for their first work experience.

We will train!

No ovens, fryers or table service. Store closes at 9:00PM. Schedules vary – Starting pay \$8.00-\$8.50/hour depending on experience.

Apply online at drtc.org or visit us for an application!

Papa Murphy's

MAKING THE GRADE

Our Papa Murphy's recently underwent a thorough store audit and we're happy to say we passed with flying colors!

Customer Service: A
Quality: A

Great job to our hard working crew!

2002 DRTC earns GSA custodial contract in Downtown OKC

2005 Camp Tumbleweed constructed as part of Eagle Scout Project



OU Volunteers at DRTC.

OU Big Event

DRTC thanks students who took part in this year's OU Big Event on our main campus in Oklahoma City! Thousands of student volunteers fanned out across the metro as part of the University of Oklahoma's official day of community service.



Principal Ms. Bressman proudly displays sign made by Eugene Field Elementary School.

Papa Murphy's BRIGHT SPOT FOR SCHOOLS

DRTC's Papa Murphy's is helping schools raise some dough! Papa Murphy's offers 2 main fundraising options: Peel-a-Deal cards and Raise Some Dough nights. Our first partnership with Eugene Field Elementary was a big hit with moms. We are already looking forward to next school year! If you'd like your school or group to participate, call James Helm at 405-946-4489, ext. 1450. Pizzas for a Cause!

Madison & Christine learn how to make dough.



Prairie Spices BBQ Set

Spice up your Father's Day with the Prairie Spices Boot Kickin' BBQ Set at Robin's Corner Gift Shop! The set comes with a stainless steel grilling wok with skewers, Boot-Kickin' Mesquite Wood Smokin' Pellets, Boot Kickin' Rub, Chipotle Spice blend and basting brush. Makes a great corporate gift! drtc.org/commerce



Eileen & Heather at the State Capitol.

Disability Awareness Day

DRTC had a strong presence at Disabilities Awareness Day at the Oklahoma Capitol on March 25, 2015. The Mobile Workforce Volunteer group and individuals with the Special Needs Program delivered Prairie Spices to legislators, attended the rally and went to lunch.



2006 New contracts with TAFB (custodial) and Lockheed Martin, 929 clients served/employed

2010 DRTC buys Wyman Frame, clients fill Prairie Spices order

2011 AFRC Norman & Mustang custodial contract awarded

2012 FAA custodial contract awarded, DRTC clients volunteered 1,057 hours



Dale Rogers Training Center

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OUR MISSION

To provide training and
employment opportunities
for people with disabilities.



United Way
Partner Agency



Promoting Abilities

SUPPORTING THE
PRODUCT AND
SERVICES....

Spices, your corporate logo
holiday cards, notecards
and more! Come check out
Robin's Corner Gift Shop
and support DRTC's mission
of helping people with
disabilities earn their own
way! Products are made and/
or packaged by individuals at
DRTC. Shop for a Cause! No
order is too large.

WWW.DRTC.ORG

ROBIN'S CORNER GIFT SHOP SHOP FOR A CAUSE



2013 60th Anniversary, DRTC becomes first nonprofit to own a Papa Murphy's franchise, new building housing Wyman Frame opens, 1,078 clients served/employed

2014 DRTC wins 3-year accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities and Cleaning Industry Management Standard

2015 180 subcontracts with 40 companies, Prism Place secures State Mandatory Contract, 20th Anniversary of first federal food contract