From the Director

Connie Thrash McGoodwin, M.Ed.

DRTC Director Praises Growth & Memories that “Shine”

It’s hard to believe after 35 years I can still be so excited about many of the aspects of my “job.” The last five years have been the most innovative, lucrative and “fun” of all 35. Innovative because we have to be good stewards of our limited resources; lucrative because of our potential with federal contracts, our large Employment Services Department, Prism Place, and several new marketing ventures (thanks to our outstanding Public Relations/Marketing/Graphics Department); and fun because we’re learning so much about business and marketing, building a customer base and creating jobs.

Even as I count down my last couple of full-time years here, I am excited about DRTC going to another level. Only 16% of our programs and services are located at our Northwest 23rd St. & Utah Ave. campus. The rest are in community jobs, federal contracts or an enclave in a business (e.g. Pelco). Yes, as I wrote in our Biennial Report, the last two years have been tough with new rules and regulations – you just shoulder through the challenges.

Pride in the smile of the “President” of the Roy & Dale Fan Club blowing out the candles on our 50th Anniversary Celebration.

NO GUTS NO GLORY

I’ve always thought the bravest person in the world was the first person to drink milk from a cow. Things do not always go perfectly. There are three main reasons, not excuses, we did not continue our Papa Murphy’s franchise: location, location, location. The strip mall we moved into added some new businesses that gave us concerns about the safety of some of the vulnerable folks employed there. Neither the economy, nor the growing number of indigents in that area helped matters. In retrospect, the Papa Murphy’s business model was more for a couple who actually managed the store instead of having to hire and pay a manager. We were also disappointed in the amount of sales as the profit margin in pizza is slim. People loved the pizza and the concept but not enough to go out of their way regularly to “buy a pie.” It was taking too much of our agency resources to continue, but we did some awesome training of people with disabilities and high school kids who had never worked. Maybe the next nonprofit to do something like that can learn from our mistakes. Thanks to our Board of Directors for being so supportive and going the distance with us.

Connie Thrash McGoodwin, M.Ed. Executive Director

DRTC  Director Praises Growth & Memories that “Shine”

Dale Rogers Training Center

Carl Hamilton
DRTC Board President
Connie Thrash McGoodwin, M.Ed, Executive Director
Michael T. Jones
PR/Marketing Manager, Staff Writer
James Helm
PR Coordinator, Staff Writer
Brian Landreth
Senior Graphic Designer

Roy and Dale’s granddaughter cuts the 50th Anniversary cake.

I can think of so many Shining Examples of success for our folks with disabilities:
The pride in the eyes of our workers the first time they served a meal at Vanwey Dining Hall at Tinker.

Seeing their own creation on display in the Prism Place showroom or on the front of the TV Guide.

Friday paychecks for folks in the workshop – biggest day of the week!

The shy smiles of all the folks wearing their special Olympic medals their first day back from Regionals.
Encaustic Art

A group from Dale Rogers Training Center released their inner artist at The Skirvin Hilton in Downtown Oklahoma City.

The team of five, along with two DRTC employees, visited Skirvin Hilton Artist in Residence and former DRTC employee Gayle Curry, to make their own encaustic art designs.

Encaustic is a Greek word meaning “to burn in.” Encaustic painting hails from ancient Greece, when the technique was used to waterproof ships. For this experience, however, Bruce, Ronnie, Sandra, Valley and Virginia used a warming plate, wax colors and paper to “burn” their designs.

Curry walked participants through the process, explaining how to melt the wax and use different tools to make various designs.

“What I enjoy most is the involvement with the process itself,” Curry said. “The sheer love of beautiful natural materials, the completion of the process by sealing it with fire.”

All five artists enjoyed encaustic painting and returned to DRTC with new memories and experiences to share.

Look for their designs coming to Robin’s Corner Gift Shop soon!

WymanFrame.org

DRTC’s framing division has a new home—online, that is! WymanFrame.org has a new look, highlighting how people with disabilities can make quality picture frames on a budget. The site is fully accessible for all to enjoy, and features videos and an expanded gallery of items the crew has framed. Learn about our Certified Picture Framer, Carla Folks, and what sets Wyman Frame apart from others. Framing for a Cause!
FUNDRAISING PRODUCTS

Dale Rogers Training Center has expanded its product line for community fundraising groups. In addition to Prairie Spice Gift Sets, DRTC has added Prairie Coffee, as well as a selection of classic holiday cards to interested organizations.

These Made in Oklahoma products will help further DRTC’s mission by providing jobs for people with disabilities, while helping schools and other groups raise money.

“Great spices for your kitchen, but also great gifts for friends and family,” said Laura with Norman North High School. “We sold them all and made like $3,000. It was spectacular. And we didn’t have to wash one car.”

DRTC recently took its fundraising line on the road to the annual Oklahoma State School Boards (OSSBA) Association and Cooperative Council for Oklahoma School Administration (CCOSA) Conference at the Cox Center in Oklahoma City, handing out spice samples.

Various superintendents and school board members came away impressed at the unique items offered and the profits from each product.

Fundraiser exclusive

Love Prairie Coffee? We’ve included one pound bags of DRTC’s latest Gift Shop item in our fundraising products. Choose from Sunrise Blend or Snickerdoodle™.

Interested in Fundraising for a Cause? Email PR@DRTC.org or call 405-946-4489.

State Use Showcase

DRTC invited State Procurement Officers and other state representatives to a Showcase of DRTC State set-aside products demonstration. On Nov. 3, the Workforce Skill Training Center transforms into a consortium of DRTC campus employment activities. Wyman Frame displays OK State Seal, Certificate frames and custom framing options. Prism Place workers showcase polished acrylic awards, shining trophies and a plethora of customized promotional items. Samples of the newest product line being crafted at Prism Place highlight UV printed plaques, signage and even full color name badges.

Visit WymanFrame.org
Camp Tumbleweed

For two months this summer, teenagers had a fun, safe place to learn and play at DRTC! Our annual Camp Tumbleweed was jam-packed with field trips and learning opportunities.

Among many other activities, campers hung out with Oklahoma City police officers, visited a spray park weekly and learned about advocacy, leadership and communication thanks to the Center for Learning and Leadership at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center.

Students from Bishop McGuinness High School’s Social Justice class volunteered at Camp Tumbleweed, learning about people with disabilities and how to advocate for their peers, playing games and watching the end of summer awards ceremony.

Tasty creations

Campers also set up a lemonade stand, complete with watermelon, in Friendship Circle to raise money for their end of summer bash. There was even a rice krispy making contest where two teams vied for best chef of camp.

OCCC Therapist

Camp Tumbleweed was not only educational for campers, but also for Occupational Therapy Assistant students at Oklahoma City Community College (OCCC).

Students organized and coordinated a fun-filled day of activities for campers, including a scavenger hunt at Will Rogers Gardens, games, lunch and activities.

Camp Tumbleweed campers enjoyed planting mint to take home and grow as well as eating gummy words “planted” in chocolate pudding!

We send a big DRTC “Thank you” to Program Director & Professor Reeca Young, M.Ed and the OTA students for their hard work!

Stuff the Bus

DRTC’s Mobile Workforce volunteered at the United Way of Central Oklahoma to help sort Day of Action school supplies to benefit students in the metro. Last year our Mobile Workforce logged more than 1,500 volunteer hours in addition to working at various locations in the metro!

YOU HAVE WORK. WE HAVE WORKERS!

Natjun

Transition School-to-Work student Natjun made the most of his time at DRTC. Natjun, who recently graduated from John Marshall High School in Oklahoma City, is ready to apply the skills he learned in the Warehouse Assistant program in the workforce. DRTC staff trained Natjun on safety in the workplace and being aware of not only others, but also himself. Natjun took on a variety of tasks, including loading a pallet of products, wrapping it and moving it throughout the Vocational Services floor and warehouse. Read more about Natjun on our blog!
National Disability Employment Awareness Month

DRTC’s mission of training and employing people with disabilities takes center stage in October, which is National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM).

Every year, Dale Rogers Training Center trains or employs 1,100 people with disabilities. Many of these people work in the community, thanks to the dedicated efforts of DRTC’s Employment Training Specialists.

In the 2015 program year, participants in DRTC’s programs and work projects earned $5.3 million allowing them to be contributing, tax-paying citizens.

Join the conversation
The U.S. Department of Labor announced the theme for this year’s NDEAM is #InclusionWorks.

“Our nation’s most successful companies proudly make inclusion a core value,” said Jennifer Sheehy, deputy assistant secretary of labor for disability employment policy. They know that inclusion works. It works for workers, it works for employers, it works for opportunity, and it works for innovation.”

CIMS
Dale Rogers Training Center’s Work Projects was recently awarded its second, two-year accreditation with honors during its Cleaning Industry Management Standard (CIMS) review.

An auditor visited DRTC’s various work projects locations reviewing procedures, paying attention to six areas of the cleaning operations:

- Quality systems
- Service delivery
- Human Resources
- Regulatory compliance
- Management Commitment
- Green building (Optional, though DRTC participates in the Green Building category as part of the agency’s commitment to green sustainability.)

“It is vital to our organization to remain a leader in the industry.” said Carolyn Thompson, DRTC Director of Custodial Services.

The award positions DRTC among the best cleaning organizations in the nation.

Cody
If you’ve made your way through DRTC’s main campus, you’ve either seen Cody or the fruits of his work. Cody is one of our dedicated yard crew members who take such great care of the grounds at Dale Rogers Training Center. Since 2004, Cody has left his mark on the nonprofit, working in Area B where he works on subcontracting projects and his favorite, Wyman Frame, where he cuts moulding for DRTC’s picture framing division. Keep up the great work, Cody!
Governor’s Awards

It’s not all work and no play for the Special Needs Program (SNP). They’ve been busy in the community, too!

DRTC’s group went on several field trips this spring and summer, enjoying some fun in the sun. Among the trips: a visit to the Oklahoma Capitol during Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, where people in DRTC’s programs met with state lawmakers.

SNP also had some fun going to Bricktown for lunch, sightseeing along the canal and even visited the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum, where visitors toured the new Oklahoma weather exhibit. Some people even got to play meteorologist in front of the weather map!

Where will they go next? Like our Facebook page to follow their moves!

Individuals who found a job through DRTC’s award-winning Employment Services Program are in the running for a coveted Governor’s Disability Employment Award.

The annual honor is bestowed upon employees with disabilities, as well as the businesses that hire these individuals.

Congratulations to the nominees and Employment Services Program!

Look for an update online at DRTC.org.

Happy Trails

After four years, DRTC announces that due to location & safety concerns it has closed the door to its NW 23rd Street Papa Murphy’s franchise location. This location has trained many people with and without disabilities the past few years. Some have moved on to other careers. Stay tuned this winter for “The Rest of the Story” as Paul Harvey would say.

Kathy

Choices and opportunities define Kathy’s tenure at Dale Rogers Training Center. Since she started here in 2002, Kathy has worked in Areas A & B, Mobile Workforce and now produces beautiful acrylic awards at Prism Place, where she buffs and sands awards, as well as helps with orders. But that’s just the start for Kathy. She hopes to someday work at Wyman Frame and has sights set on community employment. When asked what she likes the most about working at DRTC, Kathy said, “Being around people I know and friends and making money.”
Blazing Trails
Promoting Abilities

Our Mission
To provide training and employment opportunities for people with disabilities.

Holiday Cards

- 5” x 7” size
- Gloss cover
- Matte inside for easy writing
- Sold in packs of 10
- Red envelopes included

$10

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