



# QUARTERLY

Fall Edition

September 2019

*Blazing Trails  
Since 1953*



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## AFTER THE CLOSETS ARE CLEAN...

Andy Rooney liked to say:  
*"Life is like a roll of toilet paper,  
 the closer it gets to the end, the  
 faster it goes."*

As my last four months as executive director quickly "roll" by, people regularly ask how I feel about retiring. I reply, "it's the perfect time," and it is. I turned 70 in August, but with a sense of humor and rebellion sporting green toe nails and a purple streak in my hair. It's time for me to focus attention on my family, friends, health, dogs, and newest family member daughter-in-law, Sarah. She is beautiful and smart, and from Connecticut. She and our son, Colin, live in Washington, D.C. (No pressure on having grandchildren, I've given them 18 months.) I'm told retiring is a bittersweet experience, especially when you love your job. Forty years is a long time for my car to head toward Northwest 23rd and Utah each morning. I love to organize so I admit I can't wait to clean out all my closets! After the closets are clean I'm thinking about designing purses, writing my one great novel, joining a



Connie Thrash McGoodwin, M.Ed.

senior River Dance group, teaching a little and, of course, volunteering. I will be volunteering with young special needs children. (Remember I'm a special ed teacher and speech therapist at heart.) If you have a unique type of opportunity for me, I'm happy to hear it, but I have criteria: I can't start till after 10 a.m., can't stay longer than four hours, must be given a snack, and there must be restroom "facilities" within three minutes. Lastly, it must be FUN!

I am really seeing a lot more generational differences with my younger staff this last year. My abilities with electronics at this point isn't even enough to be called remedial. The other day I asked a staff to "hang up your cell phone!" I confessed to them I go for days without taking one single picture with my phone, not one. They looked at me very sympathetically and patted my arm.

My husband, Jim, and I will have been married 30 years this fall. We crossed the "you're officially old" line recently by buying a new couch with two recliners built into it, adding closed caption on our TV, and starting to donate to PBS. Last month we went to see the play Titanic at Lyric Theatre only to discover at the door it was being

performed downtown at the Civic Center, just like the tickets said?!#? (as Jim and I often reflect, two halves do not necessarily make a whole).

This has been an amazing year for Dale Rogers Training Center, and our best fiscal year EVER! Deborah Copeland has fit right back in and is ready to take over the sheriff's badge the end of December. There are so many great opportunities for the hundreds of folks we serve. How lucky am I to have been in a field I love since college! Past jobs at OSU, New York City, Australia, and Dallas; I've loved them all. I will remain at DRTC as a resource for a few months, working on a few part-time projects.

You have to be very intentional as you age, to focus on being grateful and all the "positive" things about retirement and getting older. A friend shared with me recently that one advantage to being older is kidnappers are no longer very interested in you! Likewise, if you're in a group hostage situation, you are likely to be one of the first to be released!

Here I go, self-laughing once again! That's really funny!

**Dale Rogers**

TRAINING CENTER  
 Allen Brown

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# “OCTOPUS” PROVIDES NEW WORK

Clients at Dale Rogers Training Center (DRTC) are keeping staff and instructors busy with requests to be assigned to the agency's brand new, \$50,000 screen printing machine, affectionately called “The Octopus.” It's the newest work option at DRTC, which includes subcontracting projects, awards manufacturing and picture frame assembly.

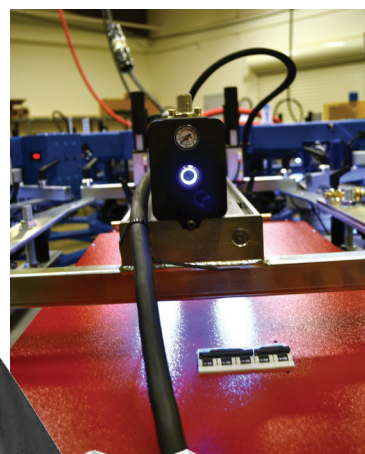
Screen printing is the latest entrepreneurial step designed to further the nonprofit agency's goal of self-sufficiency. Dale Rogers Training Center, which provides work opportunities for people with disabilities in the Oklahoma City metro, recently purchased a state-of-the-art, eight-station screen printing press.

“The Octopus” features eight rotating stations, with the capability of producing t-shirts, polo shirts, tote bags and other branded items. The new screen printing press was installed with the safety of DRTC's program participants in mind; it features several auto-off sensors, as well as a safety bar and a foot pedal to advance to the next station. “The Octopus” can produce 300-400 t-shirts per hour!

“Any time we consider a new job, safety is at the forefront of our mind,” said Mark Claunch, DRTC Sales & Business Manager. “With so many moving parts, each person who wants to work in our screen printing area is fully trained in the various components of the machine to ensure a safe working environment for all.”

Dale Rogers Training Center has already filled orders for several entities, including the Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics, Putnam City Public Schools and Richey's Grill. For ordering inquiries, please visit DRTC at 2501 N. Utah Ave., Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm, email [promosales@drtc.org](mailto:promosales@drtc.org) or call 405-946-1079.

View DRTC's screen printing in action on the agency's YouTube page (search Dale Rogers Training Center).



Email [promosales@drtc.org](mailto:promosales@drtc.org)  
for more information.







**OKC Mayor  
David Holt**

"Inspiring visit to Dale Rogers Training Center"  
– Mayor Holt

DRTC rolled out the teal carpet, so to speak, for some familiar faces in Oklahoma politics: Congresswoman Kendra Horn, Oklahoma City Mayor David Holt, State Senator Julia Kirt and Oklahoma DHS Director Justin Brown. All four made separate visits to DRTC's main campus over the summer months, seeing firsthand the various work opportunities for people with disabilities and their contributions to the community.

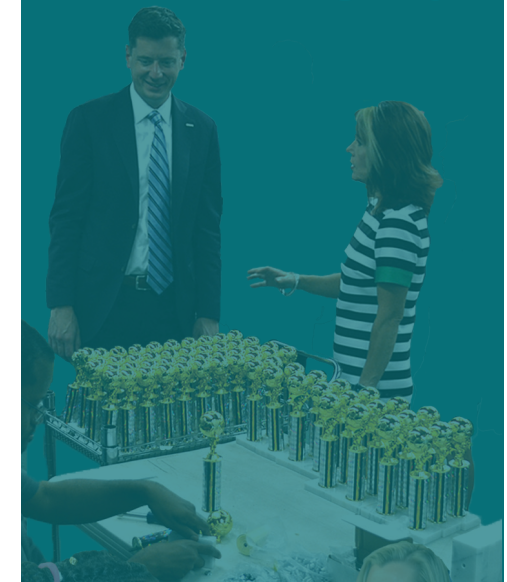


**DHS Director  
Justin Brown**

Read more about  
Director Brown's DRTC  
tour on our blog!  
[DRTC.wordpress.com](http://DRTC.wordpress.com)



# VIP Tours



We love hosting groups for meetings  
and tours! Want more info? Email us  
at [dalerogers@drtc.org](mailto:dalerogers@drtc.org).

**U. S.  
Representative  
Kendra Horn**



"What DRTC is doing is so  
important for Oklahoma."  
– Rep. Horn

The tours included stops in the production center, where they witnessed some of the 140+ subcontracting jobs completed every year; Dale Rogers Awards, where individuals were busy hand sanding, buffing and polishing beautiful acrylic awards; and Dale Rogers Framing to learn about the state contract for office art. DRTC thanks Congresswoman Horn, Mayor Holt, Senator Kirt and DHS Director Brown for taking the time to learn about the agency's daily impact on the lives of those we serve.

**State Senator  
Julia Kirt**



"We had a great time.  
Thanks for your work!"  
– Sen. Kirt





# STEP RIGHT UP!

Businesses, agencies and supporters are all stepping up this season for United Way and its partner agencies, including Dale Rogers Training Center. DRTC recently held its own United Way rally and, once again, had 100% participation!

United Way helps partially fund DRTC's transportation, and Special Needs, Camp Tumbleweed and extended care programs.

Learn more about how United Way of Central Oklahoma is making a positive difference at [UnitedWayOKC.org](http://UnitedWayOKC.org). Thank you for your support!

## CARF 2020

It's hard to believe another three years has flown by! DRTC is due for another Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) in 2020. The agency has held CARF accreditation, signifying its commitment to superior services for people with disabilities and their caregivers, since 2011.



DRTC is accredited in the following areas:

Community Employment Services:  
Employment Supports  
Community Employment Services:  
Job Development  
Organizational Employment Services  
Transition Services

We'll keep you posted on our accreditation status online and in future Quarterly Newsletter publications!

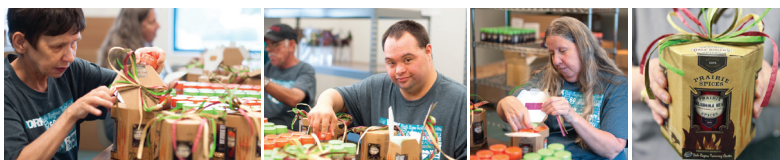


### PRAIRIE SPICES GIFT SET

This beautifully packaged gift set, made in the heart of Oklahoma, features four seasonings: Garlic Gusher, Oklahoma Heat, Okie Onion and Prairie Blend.

These delicious flavors, custom blended, come packaged with two recipes, the history of DRTC and a personal message from the individual who packaged the set.

*Shop for a Cause with DRTC!*



*"Shooting down myths about people with disabilities since 1953"*



Ordering from DRTC not only supports the agency, but it also provides jobs for the hard working clients we provide opportunities to every day.

Made in  
**OKLAHOMA**

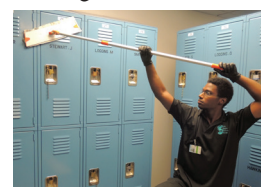


DRTC is a proud member of Made in Oklahoma

## NDEAM

This year's theme for October's National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) is "The Right Talent, Right Now."

Approximately 1,000 individuals participating in DRTC's programs are dedicated and want a chance to earn a living, whether in a community job with the help of an Employment Training Specialist, at one of DRTC's Work Projects locations (Tinker Air Force Base, FAA, or federal buildings in downtown OKC) where employees earn well above minimum wage, or on DRTC's main campus where individuals have many work options.







# Governor and Lt. Governor Framed

No political scandals at DRTC: we're framing Governor Stitt and Lt. Governor Pinnell — picture framing, that is! Dale Rogers Framing & Supplies (formerly known as Wyman Frame) is filling orders for various state agencies to help dress their offices for success with images of the current administration. Certified Picture Framer Carla Folks is helping lead the charge, providing guidance for people with disabilities who help assemble these, and other, picture frames.

DRTC is a state-approved vendor, offering many products made by people on the main campus at Northwest 23rd and Utah Ave. The State Use Program provides work opportunities for people with disabilities through nonprofit agencies like DRTC. Benefits include higher earned income and reducing the reliance on state and federal programs. Dale Rogers Training Center has participated in the statewide program since 2008. DRTC's products under the State Use Program include custom acrylic awards, plaques, name badges, picture frames, traffic delineators and more. DRTC staff have also compiled a first-of-its-kind comprehensive State Use catalog detailing its products for state agencies. These same products, and more, can also be purchased for personal use, so visit us today for your needs!



## Transition Students Back 2 School

DRTC's Transition School-to-Work Program is back in session, helping high school juniors and seniors with disabilities have success after graduation! Seventeen schools across the OKC metro partner with DRTC to offer this unique training opportunity for teenagers. Transition instructors help students get a head start to employment after graduation, covering topics such as how to dress for success, developing job interview skills, as well as personal and work skill development. Students experience firsthand different work environments, with job site visits to locations like OSU-OKC Horticulture Center, Crest, Santa Fe Family Life Center and more. There, they learn the skills necessary to work in these businesses, while also keeping a running count of their interests and wants in an employer.



Learn more about our divisions providing work options at:

[DRTC.org/awards](http://DRTC.org/awards) - ask for Jennifer

[DRTC.org/custom-frames](http://DRTC.org/custom-frames) - ask for Carla

[PromoPlace.com/DRTCpromos](http://PromoPlace.com/DRTCpromos) - ask for Colleen







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Video 405-445-7314  
DRTC.org

NON-PROFIT  
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**PAID**  
Okla. City, OK  
Permit No. 988

Look for our  
**Special Edition DRTC  
Commemorative  
booklet that will come  
out in December of this  
year in lieu of the  
Quarterly.**

*Blazing Trails, Promoting Abilities*

Find Us! Like Us! Follow Us!



Oklahoma nonprofit since 1953

#### Our Mission

To provide training and  
employment opportunities for  
people with disabilities.



United Way  
Partner Agency



# 2019 Holiday Card Now Available!

## Poinsettia Star

- Gloss cover/matte inside
- Full color
- 5" x 7" card
- Envelopes included
- Custom corporate logo cards available

**\$10 set of 10**

*Poinsettia created by Woody.  
Ornament designs courtesy  
of DRTC workers.*

**Buy Online  
@ DRTC.org**



*See beauty  
in your  
holidays!*

