



**Work Training Center, Inc.
and Affiliated Programs**

2255 Fair Street
Chico, CA 95928
www.wtcinc.org

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The Work Training Center
2255 Fair Street
Chico, CA 95928
(530) 343-7994



**Work Training Center's
Affiliated Programs**

Adult Day Programs

Creative Learning Center
Joe McGie Center
Made In Paradise
Sierra Center
Social Skills Training Program

Work Activity Programs

Bear Mountain
Production Services
Deer Creek Sewing
Feather River Industries
Feather River
Opportunity Center

Do-It Leisure

Community & Sports Programs
Individualized Programs

Community Employment Services

Individual Placement
Community Crews & Enclaves
Fair Street Recycling (Chico, Oroville and Magalia)
Prestige Landscape Services



Accredited by the
Rehabilitation Accreditation
Commission

WTC NEWS

WORK TRAINING CENTER, INC. AND AFFILIATED PROGRAMS

FALL, 2011

Employment Services, Earnings, and Accreditation: What Families Need To Know

By Carl Ochsner,
WTC Executive Director

For the past several weeks, some newer competing programs that offer to provide employment services to adults with developmental disabilities in our region have been advertising their pay levels on local radio stations. What they generally fail to mention is that the number of work hours per week is usually minimal, that they are not vendorized to provide employment services by the State Department of Rehabilitation, and that they are not accredited!

Families and local citizens with disabilities who are considering entering an employment training or placement program should ask each potential service provider the following questions:

1. What are the average earnings per month that current trainees/employees experience in your program?
2. Are you vendorized with the State Department of Reha-

Trent Advises: "Don't Give Up"

TRENT PUELICHER is proud to be employed as a Parking Lot Attendant and Merchandise Loader for Home De-



pot, where he has worked since December of 2004. Over the past seven years, he has taken steps toward career advancement at Home De-



partment. Trent prides himself in his ability to speak Spanish, and utilizes his

lingual abilities at work. Trent's word of encouragement to those seeking jobs in the community is, "To not give up, hone your people skills, and don't get discouraged when you are turned down the first time."

WTC's Community Employment Services is delighted that we are able to assist Trent in maintaining his position in this fully integrated and competitive employment setting.

bilitation? If not, why not?

3. Are you accredited by CARF International; the Rehabilitation Accreditation Commission? If not, why not?

4. How many hours per week can I expect to spend in non-work activities or "volunteer" assignments?

WTC work-based programs have been in place since 1960, have been approved by both the Department of Rehabilita-

tion and the Department of Developmental Services, and have maintained full accreditation since it was mandated three decades ago. We are proud that our clients' average earnings per month exceed figures for other programs; and that, since 1985, we have helped so many individuals to find integrated community employment positions at the highest possible wages commensurate with their capabilities.

From the President



Judy Smith,
WTC Board President

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As I write this, it is a fairly cool July day, although I think summer has finally arrived. I was in Bidwell Park for the July 4 celebration, handing out tickets for the pancake breakfast. It was a perfect day, and I believe it was also very successful. The weather cooperated, and the line and the food ran out at the same time!

Being the President of the Work Training Center Board of Directors is a big responsibility, but it is also fun and rewarding. I am the Chamber of Commerce Ambassador for WTC,

as well. In that capacity, I have the privilege of taking part in many different activities in and around Chico. I am introduced to many, many people. The very best moments are when someone compliments one of the WTC divisions. Recently I was at an early morning event and someone found me to let me know about the super service she and her husband had received at Fair Street Recycling. She especially mentioned Ryan. This is the best advertising for our services. If she tells just one of her friends, the good word spreads. I want to add my compliments as I drop off donations from

two businesses here in Chico. Keep up the good work, as I know you will. All the other divisions are to be recognized as well. I see Prestige Landscaping crews all around Chico, along with the parking lot crews. Believe me, I talk to any and all who will listen about all the services WTC has to offer the community, and what good work is done.

I have a mail box at the Fair Street office so if anyone has any questions or concerns, a confidential letter or note can be left there. I am in and out of the office during each month, and I check my mail box regularly.

\$5,000 Gift from Soroptimists

During a luncheon meeting recently, the Soroptimist International of Chico presented a \$5,000 donation to WTC to be used at the Joe McGie Center, Sierra Center, and Creative Learning Center programs. The funds will be used for higher capacity shredders, and to enhance the



“Sierra Snackers” business. The Soroptimist relationship with WTC goes back to 1931. It was instrumental in WTC’s

startup as well as assisting in various events and endeavors over the years. This award is consistent with Soroptimist President Lisa Fitzgerald’s theme of “Service: Bringing Together Past, Present, and Future”. The club voted unanimously to donate to its past partner as a way to help serve the organization into the future.

Greg Sanger - New WTC Board Members - Frank Cuny



Greg is a recently retired executive whose background is primarily (and extensively) within the optical systems manufacturing, although he also has over 35 years in the aerospace, telecom, and petrochemical industries.

Greg became familiar with this area while serving as part of the management team at Spectra-Physics Corporation in Oroville.

WTC Board of Directors Welcomes New Members

Frank is a retired non-profit Executive Director and health services advocate. He has been active in local agency governance for many years, has



served on several other boards, and is closely related to a service recipient. Frank resides in Palermo with his wife, and enjoys his four children and eight grandchildren.

FINANCES HOLDING DESPITE CHALLENGES

Financial data available through June indicate that we finished the 2010-2011 fiscal year in good shape and that we will stay off the credit line in the near future at least. Moreover, a quick resolution of state budget issues in June means that we do not need

to worry about the State of California or our local regional center running out of money this summer or fall. In turn, this allows us to proceed with development and program improvement projects quickly over the next few months. Some of these include improved air

cooling at our work centers in Oroville, better restrooms at our day center in Paradise, relocating Prestige Landscape Services to its own new home near our main office in Chico, and upgrading our fleet of vehicles.

Carl Ochsner, ED

NOTE !

IF YOU HAVE KNOWLEDGE OF THE WHEREABOUTS OF BINDERS CONTAINING WTC BOARD OF DIRECTOR MEETING RECORDS FOR YEARS 1983-1996, PLEASE CONTACT JANICE UNDERWOOD AT 343-7994 X124 OR E-MAIL TO junderwood@ewtc.org.

Ed's Patio ~ In Memory of Ed Vollgraff

The staff at Made In Paradise (MIP) are constantly looking for ways to raise funds to allow for the purchase of higher quality of supplies, which will then allow clients to create more marketable and saleable products. Commission sales are a huge incentive to our program participants to remain actively engaged in art projects and to continue attending the program regularly. At the end of the fiscal year, we received word that our grant request to the Town of Paradise for a ceramic and glass firing kiln had been awarded. This acquisition will allow us to expand to a new medium and will certainly result in increased sales revenue for the artists and the gift shop.



THE GANG AT MIP



Deb Royat and Doug Vollgraff

Unfortunately, a very crucial part of this grant did not provide for the actual patio or kiln "pad". However, the much needed patio came to MIP because of a generous \$6,000 gift from Doug Vollgraff and Deb Royat by way of an inheritance from the estate of their father, Ed Vollgraff. Doug and

Deb wanted to see this project come to fruition, and they also wanted to honor their father; a man who wholeheartedly supported programs like Made In Paradise. For more information about MIP, call Abbey Hornung, Program Coordinator, at 872-3296.

Made In Paradise
7837 Skyway
Paradise, CA 95969
abbeyt@ewtc.org



57TH ANNUAL

TURKEY DINNER

& Raffle

November 10, 2011
5:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Manzanita Place

1705 Manzanita Ave. Chico, CA

All-you-can-eat turkey dinner buffet with a "Golden Circle" section for guests who need full service.

Benefits individuals with developmental disabilities through programs provided by Work Training Center, Inc.

Tickets available at the door or for faster seating, buy in advance at:

Chico

- Work Training Center (2255 Fair St.)
- Creative Apple (2201 Pillsbury Rd.)
- Olde Gold Jewelry (225 Main St. #3)

Paradise

- Made In Paradise (7837 Skyway)

Oroville

- Feather River Opportunity Center (2905 Lincoln Blvd.)

Online

- www.bmgwholesale.com

PRICE

Adults	\$15
Kids (10 and under)	\$10
Children (under 5)	free
Seniors (65+).....	\$10
Late-bird	
(served after 6:30 PM).....	\$12

Cannot Attend?

Send \$20 donation and "Take a Turkey to Dinner" to: WTC, 2255 Fair St., Chico, CA 95928
For more information call (530) 343-7994 or visit www.wtcinc.org.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED IN OROVILLE

WTC is currently in need of two or three volunteers who can assist our Vocational instructors in our Feather River production shops in Oroville. Hours would be daytime, at the convenience of the volunteer, Mondays through Fridays.

Volunteer vocational aides

assist instructors in teaching workers with disabilities how to perform various mechanical assembly, mailroom, and woodshop tasks. Persons with an interest in woodworking and cabinetry are especially invited to participate, but any responsible adult who would like to help a person with a developmental

disability to increase his/her productivity and earnings is more than welcome to apply.

For more information about these volunteer opportunities, please contact Brett Barker, Director of Vocational Services, at 343-7994 x106.



WTC Adopts New Strategic Plan

This past winter, after many months of stakeholder input, reviews of outcome data, and a general survey of our competitive environment, Work Training Center's Board of Directors approved our comprehensive 2010-2015 Strategic Plan. This was the first complete ground-up re-do of our plan in a decade, and it includes the service areas of Community Support and Development; Administration and Human Resources; Information Technology and Accounting; Vocational and Industrial Services; Transportation; Day Programs; Environmental Services; Program Quality

Assurance and Compliance; and Community Integration and Employment.

To receive a personal copy of our new Strategic Plan, please contact Janice Underwood at 343-7994 x124 or e-mail to junderwood@ewtc.org.

If you have questions, comments, or would just like to have more information about our plans, please call me at 343-7994 x104.



*Carl Ochsner
Executive Director*

Outcomes Management - 2011

The big story in outcomes measurement this year is the new data breakdowns for age groups at our various service locations and their evolution over recent years. In response to comments by some referral and funding sources that traditional programs were losing their appeal to younger citizens with disabilities and their families, we decided to track the key 20-35 age demographic (young adults) and see what was happening over time. Here's what we found:

In our adult day programs, this particular age group increased by 70 indi-

viduals between June of 2006 and June of 2011, thereby showing a jump from 22 to 36 percent of day program clients. In supported employment, (both group and individual), the trend was equally dramatic with young adults rising from 30 percent in 2006 to nearly 51 percent today. In our center-based production shops the increase was not as dramatic, but still noticeable with the crucial group of younger program participants going from 22 percent in the summer of 2006 to 30 percent today.

Closer relationships with

all local school districts, plus the fact that workers with disabilities frequently work more hours per week and earn more dollars per month than at competing programs, have contributed to our ability to attract younger families and program participants.

Our 2011 Outcomes Report will be available shortly after Labor Day. For your copy, please contact Janice Underwood at 343-7994 x104, or e-mail to junderwood@ewtc.org.

Carl Ochsner, ED

**A BIG
THANK YOU
TO
BEN &
JERRY'S**



**Surprise Ice Cream Social at
Recycling/Landscaping April 15, 2011**



**United Bikers of Northern California
BUTTE COUNTY CHAPTER PRESENTS**

RIDE TO PROVIDE

**All proceeds to benefit:
WTC's Sierra Center in Oroville
Services to Adults with Disabilities**

September 11, 2011 ♦ 2 - 6 p.m.

Harley's, 2021 Baldwin Avenue, Oroville

\$10 a person ♦ \$15 a couple

**Donations Welcome. 50/50, door prizes, food provided, music by
Rock Slide Classic Rock.**

For more information contact: Mandi 530-682-0266