

Northwest Center promotes the **growth, development and independence** of people with disabilities through programs of **education, rehabilitation and work opportunity**.



Northwest Center and Junior Achievement Team Up to Introduce Teens to Work Opportunities

We're thrilled to announce that Northwest Center and Junior Achievement are working together to introduce people with disabilities to a myriad of community job positions. We're always seeking community positions for our clients, and Junior Achievement Seattle leads a year-round job shadow program for high school students who want to learn about potential work opportunities. Put the two together, and young adults with disabilities get an unprecedented chance to visit and learn about jobs at a variety of local businesses—from Best Buy to Boeing.

"People with disabilities often have limited information about available jobs, and then have to make career decisions based on that limited information," said Karen Hoffman, Vice President of Adult Services at Northwest Center. "This partnership gives people at an early age the ability to learn more and explore more opportunities."

Northwest Center is working with Junior Achievement chapters in both Seattle and Spokane, and is proud to be a part of the group's first outreach effort to bring people with disabilities into its job shadow program. The "shadowing" consists of a group of students (with and without disabilities) who visit a business for several hours. The students arrive with a prepared resume and get a full orientation about the different types of jobs available. If time permits, the participants can review their resume with the manager—and even do a mock interview.

Thank you, Junior Achievement, for this outstanding opportunity!



Northwest Center's Adult Services Receive CARF Accreditation

The Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) recently surveyed Northwest Center's adult services in both eastern and western Washington. Spokane-based Nova Services was surveyed in September and received a three-year accreditation. Our Seattle program was surveyed in March. While Seattle will not

hear the outcome for a few weeks, all indications are that the same three-year certification will be awarded. CARF's accreditation carries significant weight in the field, and we're glad to have this stamp of approval once again!

Client Spotlight



Jack loves to work. No matter what he's doing, he's always focused and ready to tackle his tasks. Jack is currently employed at Northwest Center's headquarters, where he is responsible for the onsite recycling collection. He's a pro at gathering used paper from all the cubicles—as well as collecting cardboard, cans and bottles at various spots throughout the building.

Jack also delivers the Coffee News to businesses throughout Queen Anne and has adapted well to the increased level of independence that comes with working in the community. In fact, he's doing so well that he's an excellent candidate for a position outside Northwest Center—which he's hoping to pursue in the near future. We wish Jack the best of luck!



What's On Your "Bucket List?"

Nova Services made a big splash recently at a business fair sponsored by the Spokane Valley Chamber. Playing off the success of the film "The Bucket List," staff members created an interactive display that asked participants to write on the back of their business card what would make their bucket list. Their idea was a winner—literally! Staff were kept busy by a continuous line of attendees who were drawn to the display and the concept. Rather than company pens, Nova Services gave away colorful hand-made origami buckets filled with "bucket list" ideas. Through their efforts, they made

several key contacts that will help Nova Services further their mission of obtaining community-based employment for individuals with disabilities, including an interview with the local public radio station. Nice job! If you would like to see what made the bucket list "Top Three," and find out more about how Nova Services works with the community, visit their website at www.nova-services.org.



Enterprise Spotlight: Thrift Sales

Where can you turn clothing and household goods into services for people with disabilities? Northwest Center! Use your spring cleaning to make a difference for the hundreds of kids and adults who participate in our programs every day. All you have to do is gather your unwanted items and schedule a pick-up by calling 800-992-2060. Want to go one step further? Organize a clothing drive at your workplace or apartment building, and get other people into the giving spirit! We'll help you organize the drive and pick up the clothing for you. Remember that whatever you decide to do will have a

big impact in the lives of people with disabilities. Your support makes all the difference!



Children's Program Ramps Up For April Events

The Northwest Center Child Development Program will be busy in the coming months, with events to support families and strengthen our community. In April, we'll host a work party to finish Spencer's Garden, a sensory garden dedicated in memory of Spencer Stoker. Our families will be working hard to bring in the spring season with flair, coming together for activities and a dedication celebration. If you'd like to make a donation, we need new or gently used outdoor toys, children's gardening equipment and seeds. Then, May 5-11 is Teacher Appreciation week, a time to honor the fabulous

teachers who make the children's program such a wonderful place to learn and grow. As summer approaches, we will host an informational evening for parents to learn about the transition process into Seattle Public School kindergartens.



9th Annual Golden Hearts Luncheon

The Golden Hearts Luncheon highlights the accomplishments of children and adults with disabilities and recognizes our partners in the community who help make these accomplishments possible. We are currently seeking sponsors who want to show their support by underwriting the luncheon.



Monthly Breakfast Tours

Our monthly tours are a great success! Come join us to see firsthand who we are and why we do what we do—we're looking forward to showing you how we achieve our mission on a day-to-day basis. Community members are welcome, and there are spots open for the tours each month.

To attend either of these events or get more information, call us at 206-378-6379.



NORTHWEST CENTER

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