Breakthrough

South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department

Making a difference

It's not about what we do
It's about what we can do for you

scvrd.net • 2012

Enabling eligible South Carolinians with disabilities to prepare for, achieve and maintain competitive employment

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SCVRD

Breakthrough is published by the S.C. Vocational Rehabilitation Department, 1410 Boston Ave., P.O. Box 15, West Columbia, SC 29171-0015.

SCVRD distributes *Breakthrough* free. Requests for copies of the current issue may be sent to:

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West Columbia, SC 29171-0015

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The South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department printed 10,000 copies of *Breakthrough*. Money earned by the department from outsource agreements with employers paid for the printing. The total cost of printing this publication was $4,650.00, or about $0.46 per copy.

Printed July 2012

breakthrough.scvrd.net

Our partners

Cooperation among public agencies is essential to expanding the opportunities for their respective clients.

Our partnerships with more than 400 agencies and organizations throughout the state result in better employment outcomes and newfound independence for people with disabilities.

Our partners include:

- Commission for the Blind
- Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services
- Department of Commerce
- Department of Corrections
- Department of Disabilities and Special Needs
- Department of Education
- Department of Juvenile Justice
- Department of Mental Health
- Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services
- Department of Social Services
- Department of Employment and Workforce
- Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School
- Workers' Compensation Commission
- County commissions on alcohol and drug abuse

Client-focused, business oriented SERVICE

South Carolina's workforce has faced serious challenges due to economic conditions. As we head into the recovery it is a prime time to consider all resources for well-prepared, qualified workers to meet our state's needs.

People with disabilities are ready to make their mark in South Carolina's workplace, and the S.C. Vocational Rehabilitation Department (SCVRD) is the place for our state's employers to find well-prepared, qualified and motivated individuals to help drive success and economic recovery.

In addition to outlining the many services we provide to prepare people with disabilities for employment success, this issue of *Breakthrough* presents examples of the impact of that success, both in the lives of individuals and the very substantial return on our state's investment in Vocational Rehabilitation.

We are proud to highlight some of the many business partners whose commitment to hiring people with disabilities and providing opportunities though our statewide network of work training centers are essential to the success of our clients and our programs.

Whether your interest is in services for yourself, a friend or loved one, or for your business, thank you for taking a few minutes to learn how "SCVRD Works for South Carolina."

We hope to hear from you soon!

Barbara G. Hollis

Barbara G. Hollis, Commissioner

It pays to hire VR clients

The best person for the job may be someone who has shown a great deal of motivation and responsibility to become employable.

People with disabilities often possess valuable problem-solving skills because they are accustomed to finding creative ways to perform tasks others take for granted.

We work with you to identify the traits you look for in employees and match those skills with potential applicants.

After employment, we follow up to make sure everything is going smoothly, and to help you and the employee with any concerns.

Tax credits are available to businesses who tap into the disability community, including the Work Opportunity Tax Credit, providing a federal income tax credit of up to $2,400 for each new hire.

Client SERVICES

clientservices.scvrd.net

SCVRD services are available to all eligible South Carolinians with disabilities except the blind, who are served by the S.C. Commission for the Blind.

To be eligible for Vocational Rehabilitation services, you must have a physical or mental impairment that hinders you from working. You also must require and be able to benefit from Vocational Rehabilitation services that would lead to gainful employment.

Recipients of Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and beneficiaries of Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) who apply and intend to enter employment are presumed eligible for VR services.

To apply, contact one of our offices, located conveniently around the state (see back cover).

Tailoring an individual plan

Many individuals who come to SCVRD are highly motivated but need help keeping or getting a job due to their disability.

As a client, you participate in an assessment to help determine your interests, abilities and potential for employment; the kinds of jobs you are best suited for; and the services required to help you achieve employment success. Assessments may include:

- Job shadowing,
- Mentoring,
- Job tryouts,
- Job coach assistance.

All of these community-based experiences are conducted at no cost to employers. Clients are paid a stipend for work performed and covered by Workers' Compensation.

Once a vocational goal is established, you will work with a VR counselor to develop an Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE) tailored to your abilities and interests. You participate fully in decisions made during the course of your rehabilitation.

VR services available in your local office

SCVRD's local offices provide many services designed to help you reach your vocational goal. Your IPE may include:

- **Diagnosis and treatment** to correct or substantially modify within a reasonable period a chronic and stable or slowly progressive physical or mental condition that is a substantial impediment to employment.
- Vocational **counseling and guidance services**.
- **Evaluation and interpreter services** if you are deaf or hard of hearing.
- **Job-readiness training** in our work training centers to gain real work experience.

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Accident puts VR in a different perspective

Keith Altman is not a man to sit back and let life roll over him. But he wasn't prepared for the ATV accident during a hunting weekend in November 2002.

"Most of us when we're 35 think we're pretty much bullet-proof; there's not much that's going to affect us," Altman said. "Disability is the farthest thing from your mind."

In a matter of seconds, it became the central issue. When he awoke at the Shepherd Center in Atlanta two weeks later, he first had to figure out what had happened to him and then how he was going to deal with using in a wheelchair.

With a young family and a demanding job as logistics manager at the LeCreuset cookware plant in Early Branch, it was a "life-shattering event," he said.

But "day by day, you learn to deal with it," he said. And there was lots of help available.

Altman already had a business relationship with S.C. Vocational Rehabilitation Department's Walterboro work training center where our clients do assembly and packaging for LeCreuset as they prepare to go to work.

As he was recovering at home following several months of rehabilitation in Atlanta, Paul Mears, who was Walterboro area supervisor at the time, told Altman, "You've worked with Voc Rehab from a business standpoint; now you get to see what we're really all about."

Although Altman was still undergoing physical therapy in Augusta, he was able to go back to work part-time in March 2003.

A VR rehabilitation engineer went to LeCreuset and made suggestions about desk height, entrance and exit capabilities and restroom facilities.

"He was very instrumental in paving the way so that it was easy for me to move back into a work role," Altman said.

The engineer also worked on making his home more accessible, in addition to helping him get hand controls for his vehicle.

Months of having someone constantly with him made simple things very important.

"The first time you get in a vehicle and ride by yourself, it's an amazing thing," he said. "I don't think I played

"Most of us when we're 35 think we're pretty much bullet-proof. Disability is the farthest thing from your mind."

Keith Altman
Manager, global purchasing & customer service, Floralife

the radio for 30 minutes when I was in the car for the first time, just so I could be alone."

There have been a number of adjustments to accommodate his disability, but he's determined not to let it affect his quality of life.

"Being a father is important to me; being a good husband is important to me," he said. "I don't want to sit inside and look through the window of life."

He frequently hunts and fishes with his 14-year-old son and stays involved in the activities of his 12-year old daughter. The family spends a lot of time on the water in the summer, so he's constantly in and out of boats.

"Climbing in and out of a boat is a difficult task," he said, "but it's something I'm willing to do for the enjoyment of my family and myself."

Altman and his wife often talk about how his disability affects his family.

"We hope our children have a greater sense of awareness of people with disabilities," he said.

Four years ago, Altman moved to Floralife in Walterboro, where he is manager of global purchasing, distribution and customer service. The company, which has facilities in South America, Kenya, Czechoslovakia and South Korea in addition to its home office in Walterboro, supplies chemicals that sustain the life of cut flowers – from grower to retail sale.

Although he was a bit nervous about the initial interview, his disability wasn't a problem.

"I think the biggest compliment I've had from people here is 'I don't even think of you in a wheelchair.'"

"I think the biggest compliment I've had from people here is 'I don't even think of you in a wheelchair.'"

Keith Altman
Manager, global purchasing & customer service, Floralife

The VR Business Partnership Network advantage

The Vocational Rehabilitation Business Partnership Network (VRBPN) is a joint effort of public and private employers and SCVRD.

Blue Cross/Blue Shield, Lowe's, and more than 110 businesses, promote best practices and leadership of including people with disabilities in the workforce.

Using a "business to business" strategy ,VRBPN educates S.C. employers about the benefits of hiring individuals with disabilities and utilizing untapped resources available through SCVRD.

To learn from other businesses how they have saved time and money while gaining valuable employees, join the VRBPN in your area.

vrbpn.scvrd.net

Putting potential to work

People with disabilities are one of the nation's most significant employee resources, but they represent its greatest unemployed minority.

Almost 350,000, or 14 percent, of South Carolina's citizens are sidelined from the workforce because of their disabilities and dependent on government benefits.

SCVRD has been enabling South Carolinians with disabilities to prepare for, achieve and maintain competitive employment for more than 80 years.

Each year we place more than 6,500 people with disabilities in jobs paying competitive wages.

These new workers become taxpaying citizens, proud of what they achieve, and building fulfilling lives for themselves and their families.

Outsourcing PAYS OFF

North American Rescue (NAR) is a strong advocate of the quality of craftsmanship and dedication demonstrated by people with disabilities given the chance to prove themselves in the workplace.

In 2005, when our partnership with NAR began, we provided 5,000 square feet of space and a workforce to kit, assemble, package and distribute their line of combat life-saving equipment.

"Because we didn't have to invest significant funds in infrastructure, we were able to put our money into research and development," says Jim Carino, Vice President of Operations at NAR.

As the company quickly grew, our flexibility to maneuver workers and resources allowed us to meet rapidly increasing production schedules, product demand and warehousing needs. We can change and adjust what we do every day to meet their needs, something industry generally can't do.

"I don't believe North American Rescue could have grown anywhere close to the pace we have without SCVRD," affirms Carino. "The partnership works so well because of their ability to match services to needs, attention to detail, customer service excellence, and frank communication."

And, he adds, "It's cost effective for us and an effective use of tax dollars."

NAR purchased and up-fitted a 100,000 square foot facility in Greer in 2008, featuring 25,000 square feet of climate controlled space plus warehousing that can be expanded for contingency storage and kitting. SCVRD leases a portion of this facility as a training center, where we continue kitting and assembling the variety of combat medical supplies produced by NAR and used by the military, tactical law enforcement professionals, fire fighters and emergency health care responders around the world.

Up to 45 SCVRD clients a day assemble litters, create subassemblies for products, and pack backpacks and smaller kits that can be attached to the belt or leg. Our clients and staff meet demanding standards and quality control, knowing the work they do helps save lives.

Carino reveals that having workers with disabilities completing their products in a typical work environment has increased quality due to unparalleled accountability and pride in workmanship. NAR has been so pleased with our clients that they have hired several as full-time employees.

"This is the culmination of our mission to return local residents to competitive employment," says David Turnipseed, SCVRD Area Supervisor for Greenville County. "North American Rescue provides our clients with invaluable training opportunities in high quality production positions that prepare them for re-entry into the modern workplace."

It's a total win-win-win for NAR, our clients and the community.

"Our clients fulfill their desire to do meaningful work and be successful," continues Turnipseed, "and businesses get well-trained, pre-screened employees with an entire support network behind them." And the community benefits from thriving businesses and individuals on the road to independence.

Work training centers

SCVRD's 24 work training centers offer a great outsource alternative to businesses and industries statewide.

We can do jobs that may be too labor-intensive and costly to do in-house.

We can assemble, bundle, collate, fold, inspect, mail, package, paint, salvage, saw, shred, sort and just about any other similar task your business may require.

Our work training centers meet your needs by providing:

- Commitment to quality
- Cost-efficient labor
- A flexible work force
- Pickup and delivery services
- Quick turnaround time

worktrainingcenters.scvrd.net

Business SERVICES

businessServices.scvrd.net

People with disabilities are the single largest minority group seeking employment in today's market. Various surveys show that 50 to 70 percent of employers find it difficult to recruit qualified employees. Vocational Rehabilitation answers the needs of both groups.

SCVRD can help your business achieve its competitive advantage by providing qualified job candidates who are trained in a wide variety of skills and have the good work habits that you require.

Employers say our clients (people with disabilities) also have a good job retention rate, which reduces training costs that come with turnover.

In addition to hiring our clients, you can utilize other valuable Vocational Rehabilitation services:

Job Retention Services help your employees whose jobs are jeopardized by disabling conditions. You hold on to good employees and avoid retraining costs. These services are confidential.

VR-operated centers in Greenville and Florence provide **Substance Abuse Treatment**. Employers across the state make referrals through their local VR offices to help employees with addiction problems turn their lives around and get back to work.

Our **Supported Employment** specialists help new workers learn their job at no cost to you.

Community Work Experiences give VR clients job tryouts at no cost to you, allowing you to assess the person's potential as an employee. This also gives our clients experience in real work situations and helps them set career goals.

Through the **Skilled Workforce Apprenticeship Training** (SWAT) program our clients are matched to your needs using WorkKeys.

Clients go through a structured training period and learn on-the-job from a mentor, becoming fully competent in all aspects of the job, including knowledge, skills and company culture.

Our web resource, **Employing Ability** (employingability.scvrd.net), provides you with concise, straightforward information on employing people with disabilities, including:

- How to conduct job interviews with people who have disabilities
- Tax benefits for businesses hiring people with disabilities
- Providing reasonable accommodations
- How to create an accessible work environment without spending a lot of money
- Disability etiquette
- A clear, concise overview of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

Clients prove they are up to the challenge

Rick Rivers had reservations the first time a Vocational Rehabilitation staff member came to see him several years ago.

"Michael Johnson came in, dropped off a business card, told us a little bit about VR," said Rivers, production manager at Ebtron, a Loris-based company that designs and manufactures electronic airflow measurement instruments for heating and air-conditioning systems in a worldwide market. "I didn't know what to think" about people with disabilities doing work for Ebtron, he said.

Johnson, who was a job readiness training coordinator with SCVRD's Conway Work Training Center at the time, said Rivers did give him a tour of the facility on that first visit.

"The more we looked around, I saw all these jobs that we could be doing for Ebtron, but I knew what we had to do was build a relationship first because I could tell there was a little resistance," he said. It took two years before Rivers felt comfortable enough to give VR clients a try.

"The first thing we did was a real simple labeling job," Johnson said. "What you have to do with businesses is what you do in any relationship—prove yourself. That's what the training center did, that's what the clients did. They proved themselves."

Six years ago when a cable vendor's product was not up to Ebtron's standards, Rivers asked if VR clients could do the job. Johnson assured him they could.

In all, there are nine stages to preparing a cable and each client working on the contract has to learn each part of the job to move through the system.

Each cable has 25 color-coded wires but only 13 are used. Clients must cut the cable to the appropriate length, separate the wires on each end, strip the usable ones, attach a pin to each wire then insert the wires into the proper holes in a base that contains a memory chip. Then they have to pull the cable jacket flush, apply hardware and cap it off. It goes through a quality control check before it's sent to Ebtron.

The training center started off with 100 cables a week. Clients are now doing 500 to 700 a week, depending on demand.

"It's a great opportunity for people to learn things other than just putting wires together," said Steve Suggs, the training center job readiness training coordinator who oversees the contract. "Working with others and following instructions on quality issues are things every employer wants."

And, he said, it opens the door to more high-tech jobs outside the training center.

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"VR is a supplier to us, and they are our partner. What VR does [is] an extension of what happens at Ebtron."

Rick Rivers
Production Manager, Ebtron

Youth programs

If you're a high school student with a disability, you're probably thinking about your future. We can give you the extra boost you need to succeed in the job market after you graduate.

Through **High School/High Tech** (HS/HT) you are encouraged to set your sights on college and a career in the fields of science, technology, engineering or math.

HS/HT students gain on-the-job experiences through job shadowing activities and internships.

The **South Carolina Youth Leadership Forum** is an annual career and leadership training program for high school juniors and seniors.

Disability Mentoring Day pairs students with disabilities with employers for one-on-one job shadowing experiences. DMD exposes you to a variety of career options and provides you with a better understanding of the work place environment.

youthprograms.scvrd.net

Client SERVICES

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- **Supported employment** if you need extra assistance getting started on the job.
- **Training** at trade schools, technical schools or colleges if required to achieve a vocational goal.
- **Job search and job placement**.
- **Job Retention Services (JRS)** to help you if your job is in jeopardy because of disability-related factors.
- Services in collaboration with **cardiac rehabilitation** programs throughout the state.

Services available statewide

If you have a significant physical disability, you may spend time at the Center for Comprehensive Services located on SCVRD's main campus in West Columbia, or the Bryant Center in Lyman.

- The staff at the **Evaluation Center** evaluates physical disabilities and determines vocational needs. Physical therapists develop exercise programs to help you increase your strength and stamina while occupational therapists help you adapt to your work and home environment.
- The **Pain Management Program** is available if you have chronic pain.
- If you have a brain injury, the **Brain Injury Program** helps you to develop behavioral and compensatory strategies to improve your work-related performance.
- The **Muscular Development Center** features state-of-the-art physical therapy equipment, swimming and therapy pools, and well-equipped exercise areas.
- The **Information Technology Training Center** prepares qualified clients for jobs in the computer field.
- A **Rehabilitation Technology Program** engineer may consult with you and make recommendations for technological adaptations that can help you overcome barriers and compete more successfully in the employment market.
- If you have drug or alcohol problems, you may be referred to one of our residential **substance abuse treatment centers**, located in Florence and Greenville.

A successful outcome

Once you are employed, we follow up with you to ensure both you and your employer are satisfied. Our staff remains available to you should any problems arise.

SCVRD is a partner in South Carolina's coordinated workforce development and employment network.

YLF helps students DISCOVER THEMSELVES

For many, it was the first time they had been away from home alone. For most, it was the first time they had set foot on a college campus.

It was pretty scary, checking in at the Youth Leadership Forum, a three-day leadership program for high school juniors and seniors with disabilities. The apprehension lasted about an hour – until they had participated in the first group exercise.

SCVRD is a leading partner in YLF, a national program that has been operating in South Carolina since 2006. The curriculum includes training and development of individual career and life goals, leadership skills, social skills, and self-esteem. Guest speakers and peer counselors supplement the volunteer staff.

This year, 25 delegates were chosen from among 90 applicants, an eclectic mix of races, genders and disabilities. Their vocational goals are as diverse as carpenter, nursing assistant, medical researcher and art teacher.

They stayed in one of the dorms at Newberry College and ate in the college dining hall. The YLF staff is familiar with different disabilities and supports were in place for those who needed them.

"The students have a wide spectrum of capabilities and challenges," said Shannon Lindsay, State-wide Postsecondary/Transition Coach with the S.C. Department of Education, who coordinates the program. "It's not about difference, it's about how much we are the same."

Large group activities broke the ice quickly as the students began to learn about each other.

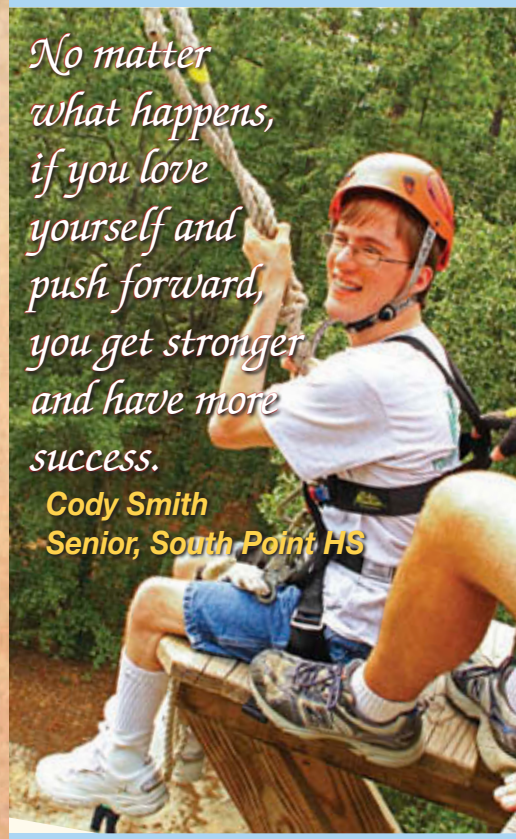
The activities "encourage teambuilding, let them explore themselves and see how they respond to each other," said Edwin Dunlap, a YLF volunteer who is an interpreter for the deaf in Richland County School District One. "It's fun, but they have a goal. If something's not working, they have to figure it out, find their strengths."

Small group activities involve more one-on-one interaction as they learn about what it means to be a leader, what kinds of communication styles are most effective, and how to advocate for themselves.

The activities are carefully guided, said Carol Page, another volunteer who is director of the S.C. Assistive Technology Program.

Coming to YLF made me realize I can do anything.

Danielle Lepley
Graduate, Lake Marion HS



No matter what happens, if you love yourself and push forward, you get stronger and have more success.

Cody Smith
Senior, South Point HS

"They take what they learn with them for years and years. They're advocating for themselves and testing their skills in a safe environment with other students who have similar needs," she said.

Todd Knight, head football coach at Newberry College, spoke to the students about the importance of teamwork.

"It's a great opportunity to work with kids who have a different lifestyle," he said. "You can tell they're enjoying it—getting something out of it, interacting, learning."

A field trip to the ropes course at the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School in West Columbia presented challenges the students probably otherwise wouldn't attempt. No one who wanted to participate was left out.

Danielle, who uses a wheelchair, wants to become a medical researcher. She is enrolled at Coastal Carolina University where she'll study biology.

Last year, she wanted to go down the zip line, so the question for the staff was how to safely get her up to the tower. It took three tries and a lot of trust on Danielle's part, but they did it.

"I had a lot of people tell me, 'You can't do it, it's too hard,' " she said. "Now I tell them I can. I felt like I was on top of the world."

This year, her comment was, "It wasn't fast enough."

South Carolina YLF

"Coming to YLF has made me realize I can do anything," she said. "I'm not disabled. I just have to do things in a different way."

Cody, who has cerebral palsy, wants to one day open his own rehabilitation clinic. He said encouragement from the group meant a lot.

"It lets you know other people believe in you; that you have friends around you who care."

Differences brought the students closer and they readily compensated for one another's challenges.

Marvin, who is deaf, wants to be a carpenter. He pushed Cody's wheelchair and helped him get ready for bed.

Jordan, who wants to become a nursing assistant, made sure Marvin and Cody were included in off-hours activities.

Rebekah, who is interested in dance education and photography, and Abbey, who wants to become an art teacher, were virtual sisters by the time it was over.

"The best thing is that everyone is like a family," Abbey said. "I felt safe, close. They helped me feel confident."

So what's the takeaway?

"No matter what happens, if you love yourself and push forward, you get stronger and have more success," said Cody.

"If I want respect, I need to give it," said Jordan. "I'll leave YLF less nervous to be myself. I look in the mirror and now I love myself."

"I've learned to work as a team, take suggestions and take new chances," said Abbey. "I'm learning to be a leader and ask for help if I need it."

"YLF teaches you about yourself," said Danielle. "It helps build self confidence, helps you grow as a person and you have a lot of fun too."

Partners involved in making YLF a success are SCVRD, the state Department of Education, Continuum of Care, PRO-Parents, the Center for Disability Resources, the S.C. Assistive Technology Program, the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School and the S.C. Developmental Disabilities Council.

ylf.scvrd.net

Outsource partners

We have more than 400 business partners outsourcing work to our 24 work training centers, including:

A.O. Smith Water Products
AM Conservation Group, Inc.
Bic Corporation
Boeing Company
Bridgestone/Firestone
Crown, Cork & Seal, USA, Inc.
Cytec Engineered Materials
Dunline Rubber Products
Ebtron, Inc.
Electrolux
Freightliner Custom Chassis
Hubbell Power Systems
INA USA Corporation
Inergy Automotive Systems
Kaydon Custom Bearings
Kohler Company
Koyo Corporation
Michelin Tire Corporation
North American Rescue
Oak-Mitsui, Inc.
Racor Division Parker Hannifin Corp
Rempac Foam Corporation
Robert Allen Group
Rieter Automotive North America
Rotorion North America
Savannah River Nuclear Solutions
Siemens Industry, Inc.
Sonoco
Stanley Tools
Stealth Concealment Solutions
Velux-America
Walgreens

up to the challenge

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"The first time I met any of the clients, it was a struggle for me to see any difference," Rivers said. "They're doing as good a job—in some cases better—as anybody else.

"For me to go in there and think that this person may be different puts me at a disadvantage."

"Rick really gets it that you can't really judge a person by a physical disability or mental challenges," said Rob Amrine, former SCVRD business development specialist.

"He takes the 'd-i-s' off the word disability every time," Amrine said. "He consistently looks at the ability of the individual and by doing that, he's able to identify whether or not we have a good match."

Stewart Granger, a machine shop technician, went through SCVRD's Palmetto Center to overcome an addiction problem.

"This job has made a big difference," he stated. "Without it, I'd probably be in a gutter somewhere."

"This man, I have to kick him out of here," Rivers said of Granger. "He's such a hard worker, he's one of my top people. I'm just so blessed to have this guy as an employee. Where maybe somebody else wouldn't have given him a chance, I stole him."

Johnny Cass, another former VR client, is also a machine shop technician. One of his legs was amputated below the knee and he'd almost given up hope of working before coming to Ebtron.

"What you have to do with businesses is what you do in any relationship—prove yourself. That's what the training centers did, that's what the clients did."

Michael Johnson
SCVRD Conway Work Training Center

"Without Ebtron, I'd probably be sitting in front of the TV riding a wheelchair," he said.

Rocky Martin was a car mechanic for 15 years before his health began to give him problems. He came to VR for help and has been at Ebtron for four years, calibrating and testing circuit boards for a transmitter that measures air flow.

Rivers sums it up: "VR is a supplier to us, and they are our partner. Steve Suggs has made what VR does an extension of what happens at Ebtron."

Disability Determination SERVICES

dds.scvrd.net

A premature baby born weighing less than 1200 grams; an individual diagnosed with lung cancer that has spread to the brain; the Iraqi war veteran with severe Post Traumatic Stress Disorder—these are a few of the complex and pressing needs of the public addressed by Disability Determination Services (DDS).

While SCVRD's primary mission is helping people with disabilities have a productive work life, DDS works closely with Social Security offices throughout the state, assisting citizens who have physical and mental impairments preventing them from working in navigating the disability claims process.

In these challenging economic times, SSDI and SSI are a safety net, helping people with disabilities afford critical medical treatment, put food on the table, keep their homes and obtain other lifesaving services. Individuals may be eligible to receive benefits from these programs when a physical or mental impairment prevents them from performing any type of work for a sustained period of time.

DDS processes Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) claims under the Social Security Act. With offices in West Columbia, Charleston and Greenville, DDS annually provides quality, timely and cost-effective decisions to more than 100,000 South Carolina citizens. In addition, DDS also processes S.C. State Retirement System disability claims and Medicaid disability claims.

A DDS disability examiner and medical consultant objectively evaluate the medical and vocational factors of each disability claim and make a recommendation to SSA on the medical portion of the claim. DDS staff process initial, reconsideration, Continuing Disability Review (CDR), and CDR appeal-level claims.

Find out more or apply for SSDI or SSI at your local Social Security Administration (SSA) office, or at ssa.gov

SCVRD LEADERSHIP

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Walterboro
6th Congressional District

The South Carolina State Agency of Vocational Rehabilitation board sets policy under which the Vocational Rehabilitation Department operates.

The members, appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the South Carolina Senate, serve seven-year terms.

SCVRD: The Bottom Line 2011-2012

results.scvrd.net

Cost per successful employment outcome

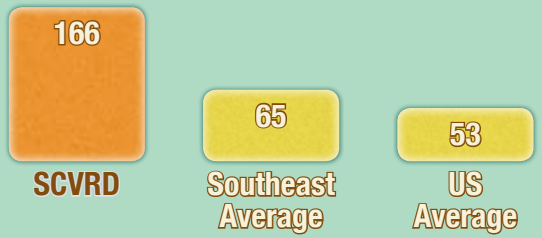
SCVRD's total expenditures reveal a far lower cost per client employed than national and regional averages.

SCVRD ranks 2nd nationally.

Employments per 100,000 population

SCVRD rehabilitates more citizens with disabilities into employment per 100,000 population than any other state in the Southeast.

SCVRD ranks 2nd nationally.



Cost per client served

SCVRD's integrated service delivery system helps us achieve one of the nation's best cost-efficiency levels.

SCVRD is 9th in the nation.

These figures are from 2010, the latest year for which national figures are available.

Clients served

Total clients served	38,999*
Total employed statewide	6,625
New referrals	14,846
Served in work training centers	5,105

* Since rehabilitation is a continuous process that often takes a period of years, SCVRD serves some of the same clients in successive years.

Types of jobs our clients get

Service	29%
Clerical / Sales	16%
Professional / Management / Technical	15%
Manufacturing	14%
Construction	8%
Agricultural	3%
Miscellaneous	15%

Client earnings

Mean weekly earnings at referral (72% have no earnings)	$122
Mean weekly earnings after employment	$385

A great return on investment

SCVRD clients become tax-payers instead of tax consumers when they become employed, reducing their reliance on government disability benefits.

Employed clients realize a $11.26 increase in earnings for every $1 of Vocational Rehabilitation funds invested in them.

Many receive health insurance coverage through their new jobs and no longer rely on Medicaid.

Competitively employed clients pay back $3.16 in taxes for every $1 spent on their rehabilitation.

Employed clients repay the cost of their vocational rehabilitation in an average of 6.1 years. That's a **16.3 percent annual rate of return on taxpayer investment.**

SCVRD OFFICES

offices.scvrd.net

Aiken
855 York St. N.E.
(803) 641-7630 (Voice/TDD)
(800) 861-9410 (Toll free)

Anderson
3001 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
(864) 224-6391 (Voice/TDD)

Beaufort
747 Robert Smalls Parkway
(843) 522-1010 (Voice/TDD)

Berkeley-Dorchester
2954 S. Live Oak Drive
Moncks Corner
(843) 761-6036 (Voice/TDD)
(866) 297-6808 (Toll free)

Camden
15 Battleship Road Ext.
(803) 432-1068 (Voice/TDD)
(866) 206-5280 (Toll free)

Charleston
4360 Dorchester Road
North Charleston
(843) 740-1600 (Voice/TDD)

Conway
3009 Fourth Avenue
(843) 248-2235 (Voice/TDD)

Florence
1947 West Darlington Street
(843) 662-8114 (Voice/TDD)

Gaffney
364 Huntington Drive
(864) 489-9954 (Voice/TDD)

Greenville
105 Parkins Mill Road
(864) 297-3066 (Voice/TDD)

Greenwood
2345 Hwy. 72/221E
(864) 229-5827 (Voice/TDD)
(866) 443-0162 (Toll free)

Hartsville
2413 Stadium Road
(843) 332-2262 (Voice/TDD)

Kingstree
405 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave.
(843) 354-5252 (Voice/TDD)

Lancaster
1150 Roddey Drive
(803) 285-6909 (Voice/TDD)

Laurens
22861 Highway 76 East, Clinton
(864) 984-6563 (Voice/TDD)
(866) 443-0103 (Toll free)

Lexington
1330 Boston Ave., West Columbia
(803) 896-6333 (Voice/TDD)
(866) 206-5184 (Toll free)

Lyman
180 Groce Rd., Lyman
(864) 249-8030 (Voice/TDD)
(888) 322-9391 (Toll free)

Marlboro
1029 Highway 9 West, Bennettsville
(843) 479-8318 (Voice/TDD)
(800) 849-4878 (Toll free)

Oconee-Pickens
1951 Wells Highway, Seneca
(864) 882-6669 (Voice/TDD)
(866) 313-0082 (Toll free)

Orangeburg
1661 Joe S. Jeffords Hwy S.E.
(803) 534-4939 (Voice/TDD)

Richland
516 Percival Road, Columbia
(803) 782-4239 (Voice/TDD)

Rock Hill
1020 Heckle Blvd.
(803) 327-7106 (Voice/TDD)

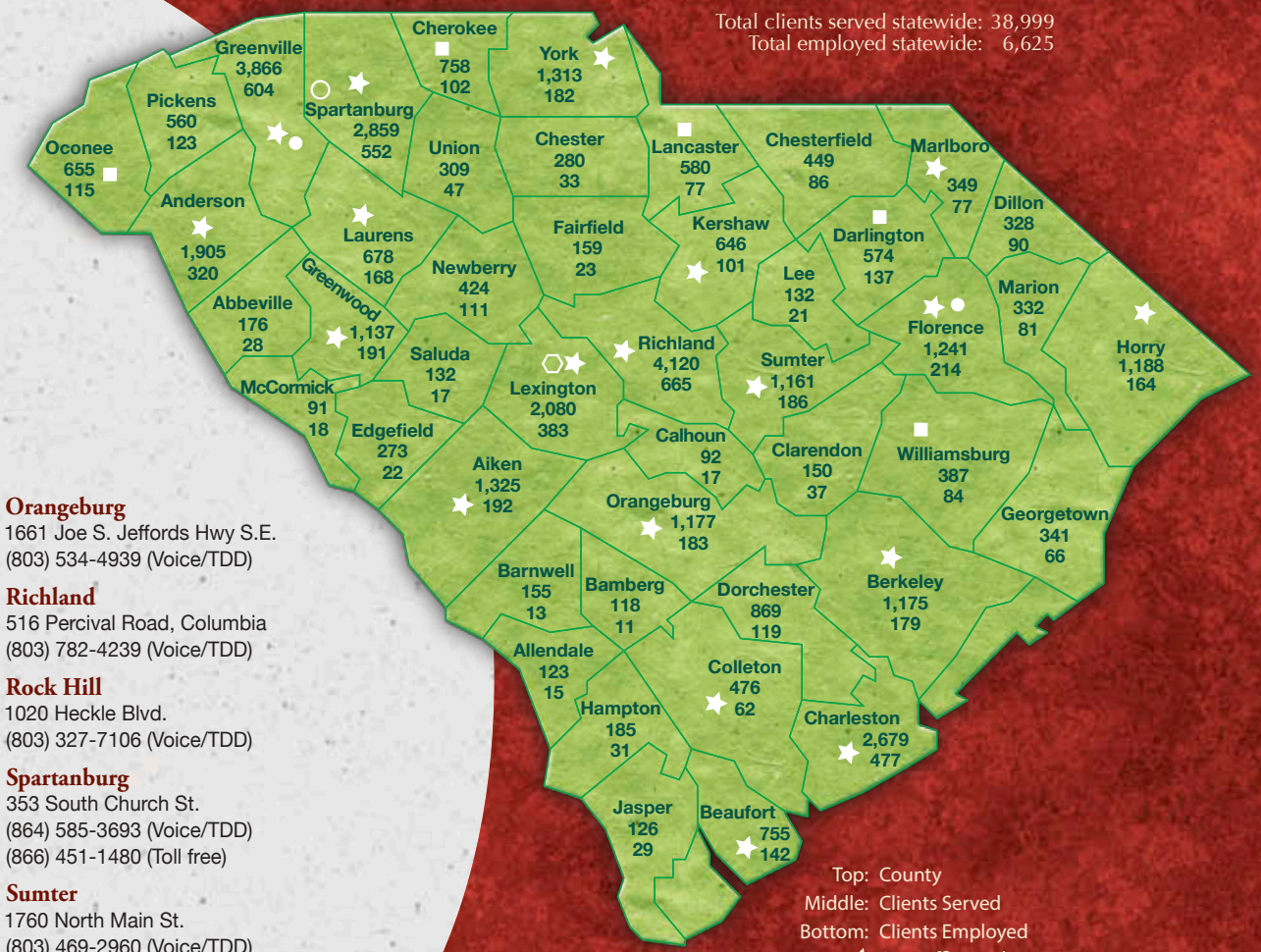
Spartanburg
353 South Church St.
(864) 585-3693 (Voice/TDD)
(866) 451-1480 (Toll free)

Sumter
1760 North Main St.
(803) 469-2960 (Voice/TDD)

Walterboro
919 Thunderbolt Drive
(843) 538-3116 (Voice/TDD)
(888) 577-3549 (Toll free)

SCVRD services by county for 2011-2012

Total clients served statewide: 38,999
Total employed statewide: 6,625



Top: County
Middle: Clients Served
Bottom: Clients Employed

- ★ Area office with training center
- ■ Stand-alone training center
- ○ Comprehensive programs with area office
- ⬡ Comprehensive programs
- ● Treatment center