

Dirkse Counseling Quarterly

Serving Portland, Vancouver and Seattle

DECEMBER 2009
Volume 5, Issue 2

DCC Hires Three and Opens Office in Seattle

By Heidi Dirkse-Graw
DCC Director

In late July 2009, Dirkse Counseling & Consulting, Inc. (DCC) opened its doors in Seattle. An expansion that rides a wave of solid success in SW Washington and Portland for more than a decade.

Three professionals were hired in Seattle to work with referrals from the State of Washington Division of Vocational Rehabilitation to assist individuals with disabilities to move toward and secure employment.

Just a few months later, the team of three: Jesse Martin, Kayla Beckman and Megan Mattas, feel the satisfaction of becoming an integral part of the vocational rehabilitation community in the Seattle area.

The Seattle staff hit the ground running and have provided services which have resulted in completion of 15 Community-Based Assessments, helped 7 people secure employment and are currently in the process of providing job retention services to 5 others.

Their success has been dependent on their ability to build solid relationships of

trust with their clients, referral sources and a myriad of local employers in the Seattle area.

Over Nineteen employers have worked collaboratively with DCC Seattle staff to date. These include:

- Sense Salon & Nail Spa
- YMCA
- AMC Theater
- Toys R Us



- Acme Bowl
- Habitat for Humanity
- University Bookstore
- Dollar Tree
- Walmart
- Lucky Dog
- Northgate Preschool and Daycare
- Games Workshop
- Safeway
- NSCC
- Lake Forest Park Montessori
- UW Nano Technology Lab
- UPS Store
- Cosmopolitan Kids
- Wellspring Family Services

Together, Beckman, Martin and Mattas have served individuals who have barriers to employment related to a variety of disabling conditions including:

- Mood Disorder
- Anxiety Disorder
- Cognitive Disorder
- Multiple Sclerosis
- Cerebral Palsy
- Orthopedic Injury
- Learning Disability
- Personality Disorder
- PDD
- ADHD
- Deaf/Hard of Hearing

The DCC Seattle office is located in the University District just off 45th street and I-5. The address is:

4500 Ninth Avenue NE, Suite 300, Seattle, WA 98105.

For more information about working with DCC in Seattle, please contact the Director, Heidi Dirkse-Graw at (503) 516-8073 or any of the Seattle staff members, directly.

- Jesse Martin
(206) 235-2344
- Megan Mattas
(206) 235-8788
- Kayla Beckman
(206) 330-9583

Heidi Dirkse-Graw, M.S.CRC
DCC Director
hdirkse@dirksecc.com

Glenn Bishop, M.S. CRC
DCC VR Services Manager
gbishop@dirksecc.com

Andrew Lundgren, M.A. LPC
DCC Vocational Evaluator
alundgren@dirksecc.com

Ron Apple, B.A.
Portland Vocational Consultant
ron@dirksecc.com

Laura Schaffer, B.A.
Executive Assistant/Consultant
lschaffer@dirksecc.com

Morgan Oliveira, M.S. CRC
Vancouver VR Specialist for Deaf
morgan@dirksecc.com

Susan Ayres, B.A.
Vancouver Vocational Consultant
sayres@dirksecc.com

Jorge Alves de Lima, B.A.
Vancouver ASL Job Coach
jorge@dirksecc.com

Kayla Beckman, B.A.
Seattle Vocational Consultant
kayla@dirksecc.com

Jesse Martin, B.A.
Seattle Vocational Consultant
jesse@dirksecc.com

Megan Mattas, B.A.
Seattle Vocational Consultant
megan@dirksecc.com

DCC Headquarters:
10700 SW Beaverton-Hillsdale,
Suite 110
Beaverton, OR 97005

DCC Vancouver:
237 NE Chkalvo, Suite 122
Vancouver, WA 98684

DCC Seattle:
4500 Ninth Ave. NE, Suite 300
Seattle, WA 98105

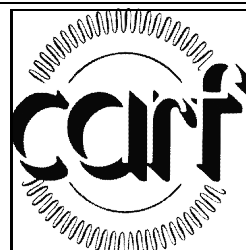
**Toll-Free Number/
Directory:**
1-866-749-7197

Fax:
503-672-9858

www.dirksecc.com

Mission Statement:

DCC is a dynamic rehabilitation service provider whose focus is to establish collaborative partnerships with individuals with disabilities and local businesses with the goal of improving the quality of life for the people we serve while diversifying the workforce and strengthening the communities in which we serve.



Exemplary Supervisor: *Michael Albiar* of Habitat for Humanity



Supervisor, Michael Albiar.
Pictures used with permission.

Written By:
Kayla Beckman

Habitat for Humanity Home Improvement Outlet Manager, Michael Albiar, has been an exemplary supervisor to two DCC clients in the previous quarter.

Habitat for Humanity has partnered with DCC to provide job coaching and training with two clients in Community Based Assessment services. Inspired to help people, Albiar believes that everyone has unique skills and can contribute to the workplace.

Having formed relationships with DCC vocational specialists, Jesse Martin and Kayla Beckman Albiar actively engages in helping volunteers develop their skills in order to help them get back into the workforce.

When asked what makes a good employee, Albiar stated that an essential quality for an employee is to be a good listener and to have a desire to be actively engaged in learning. Albiar expects all members of the store, both employees and volunteers, not to “leave your ideas at the lunch table”, ensuring that everyone’s voice is heard so that they can take pride in what they are doing. These principles, with consistent follow up, have allowed Albiar to provide great supervisory services not only to his employees, but to partnering agencies and volunteers as well, making Habitat for Humanity an exceptional place to work.

Habitat’s Mission: “The Home Improvement Outlet exists to provide funds and materials to Habitat for Humanity Seattle/South King County in the accomplishment of its mission to provide affordable housing. It additionally acts as a local resource to provide affordable material to the community, reducing the waste stream, and increase awareness and support for Habitat.”

The outlet is located at 21 S. Nevada Street, Seattle WA.



DCC Clients Tsu and Bragg work together on a project. *Picture used with permission.*

A LIFE IMPACTED

Written By: Megan Mattas

“Elizabeth”

There are so many paths before us; there is no telling where we can go, but sometimes it takes some encouragement and help from another person to help you see that these paths are really there...

Elizabeth (not the client’s real name, but information provided with permission) came to DVR and was referred to DCC after years of difficulties and without realizing her true capabilities.

Elizabeth had not worked for nearly four years and experienced difficulties with Depression, Alcohol Abuse and was diagnosed with cancer. She went through various medical treatments to battle the cancer and has permanent injuries to her knees that require physical therapy and reduce her ability to stand, walk and lift.

While working with Elizabeth, her DCC Vocational Consultant talked with her about likes and dislikes in past jobs and what Elizabeth was interested in doing for work in the future. An assessment site as a receptionist in a salon or spa was identified as a suitable option for her to try and see where it would lead.

Elizabeth had never considered working in a salon and was nervous before the start of her assessment. However, in a short time her confidence increased and she found that her knees did not limit her abilities as much as she had assumed. She also found a new passion in life, nails.

When asked how this assessment affected her, Elizabeth said, “I am now extremely optimistic, whereas before I was really pessimistic, with the economy as it is, my lack of skills and the gap in employment. That all changed when I worked with (DCC, Inc.)”

Elizabeth is now enrolled in a manicure/pedicure program at a local cosmetology school. She had never considered this career path before but thanks to her CBA experience, she is well on her way to becoming a nail stylist when she finishes her program in March.

