



All in a Day's Work

Nonprofit Work Training Center offers
meaningful work and engagement
opportunities for adults with disabilities



Keeping Up the Good Work

Work Training Center creates opportunities for adults with disabilities

by Shannon Springmeyer

Adults with disabilities desire and deserve the same things we all do: a chance to make a meaningful contribution, the satisfaction of being independent and vibrant human connections. The Chico-based nonprofit Work Training Center has made it a mission to ensure individuals have equal opportunities for these basic elements of a rich life, regardless of level of ability. The organization has served the community since 1949, growing from humble beginnings to touching the lives of more than 700 individuals annually as the area's largest provider of services to adults with disabilities.

Despite the organization's established history of service, Executive Director Don Krysakowski says many in the community are unaware of the vast scope of its work and impact.

The center runs two types of programs. WTC's day programs provide socialization, independent living skills training, meals, care, transportation, and recreation and work opportunities to adults with disabilities.

WTC's work programs, on the other hand, are focused on providing adults with disabilities training in transferable work skills and paid experience in a variety of industries. The work programs provide clients with the specialized support and job coaching they might need to be successful in building a more self-sufficient lifestyle.

"There's a dignity that comes with work," Krysakowski says. "We're inspired to imbue our clients with a work ethic that we hope they will take with them when they leave and go out into the world and find a job out in the regular workplace."

To watch WTC clients at work is inspiring, their supervisors will tell you. You couldn't ask for a more committed, enthusiastic group of employees. They work hard to get the job done right, and take tremendous satisfaction in a job well done.

Krysakowski knows firsthand the power of WTC programs. He says his own son David, who has a developmental disability, lacked steady employment, lived at home and suffered from a low sense of self-worth before connecting to WTC five years ago. WTC helped his son make a 180-degree transformation, and David, 41, is now employed full time and lives independently on his own.

To fulfill its important mission, Work Training Center relies in part on support from the community. Businesses that contract with WTC for services provide income to sustain the programs. WTC clients earn a wage and work experience while providing janitorial, landscaping, manufacturing, assembly and other services to businesses at competitive prices. Clients learn to adhere to the highest standards of quality, making them attractive candidates



PHOTO BY
EMILY TEAGUE

"THERE'S A DIGNITY THAT COMES WITH WORK."

Don Krysakowski
Executive Director, Work Training Center

on the job market.

Community residents can help support WTC's mission, too, through donations or by patronizing the WTC home goods store, recycling center and nursery, all of which are open to the public and staffed by WTC clients.

Everyone deserves an equal opportunity to enjoy the most meaningful and independent life possible. Keep reading to learn more about the lives touched by Work Training Center, and what you can do to help.

WTC OFFERS A VITAL CONNECTION FOR ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES

WTC is the largest provider of services for adults with disabilities in Butte County, with



work training programs and



day programs.

In 1978, WTC had **15 employees** and a **\$500,000** budget.

By 2014, WTC had grown to



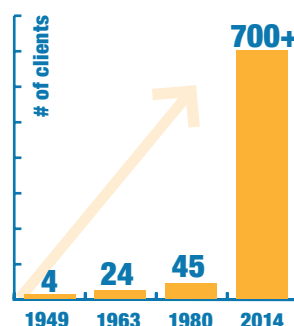
250 employees

and a



\$12.1 million budget

WTC's client growth



WTC travels over



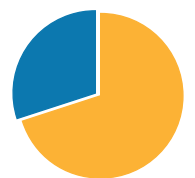
transporting clients between programs and home.



Individuals and businesses who purchase goods and services provide as much as

35%

of the funds needed to maintain WTC's programs.



WTC aims to increase that percentage to

70%

over the next

5 years

to achieve greater stability and independence from state funding.

Living Life to the Fullest

Work Training Center's Day Program provides fun and foundation

by Kate Gonzales



Ian Winchester, right, has been a client at Work Training Center's Joe McGie Center in Chico for a decade. The program has helped him enjoy a richer life and build relationships with other clients and staff, including Elise Gladu, Joe McGie Center program coordinator, left. PHOTO BY EMILY TEAGUE

Ian Winchester loves the outdoors, is social and has a good sense of humor. He also has cerebral palsy, communicates nonverbally and uses a wheelchair. So the activities and support offered by the Work Training Center's Adult Day Program are perfect for the 40-year-old.

For the last decade, Winchester has been a client at the Joe McGie Center in Chico — one of four Adult Day Program sites run by the nonprofit. His mother and primary caregiver, Pat Roberts, says the program is unparalleled in providing a rich quality of life.

"Each week there's something for him to do and something to look forward to," she says. "The best part is that he wants to be there."

Five days a week, clients enjoy exercise, meals, activities like gardening or community outings to bowling alleys, movie theaters and more. Many clients whose caregivers cannot drive them to a center are transported by Work Training Center buses.

Each client works with a service coordinator from Far Northern Regional Center, an organization that refers clients to the program. WTC, Far Northern Regional Center and the client collaborate to develop an individualized service plan with specific objectives. Winchester's plan focuses on physical goals like strengthening his core and expanding his range of motion.

The center also organizes special events like dances and trips to baseball games, field trips with Chico State University and more. Elise Gladu, Joe

McGie Center program coordinator, says community integration is at the heart of what they do.

"Society doesn't really know how to interact with our folks," Gladu says.

Those frequent outings create learning opportunities for both clients and the community.

While attending a concert in Chico, one little boy seemed curious about Winchester. Gladu introduced the two, and explained to the boy how Winchester communicates visually using a tray attached to his wheelchair.

"It was a really good opportunity for the boy to meet someone with a disability and have a positive interaction," Gladu says.

Winchester has also made connections within the center. It's where he met his girlfriend, Aly. When his mother asks if he would have met someone like her without Work Training Center, he shakes his head "no."

The Joe McGie Center means so much to her son that Roberts decided to move from Paradise to Chico when transportation became an issue, so he could continue to attend. While moving, more than two dozen Work Training Center employees came to help.

"I was really touched that they would do all of that for him," Roberts says. "Elise [Gladu] even came and put the sheets on his bed."

The outpouring of support showed Roberts that it's not just about day trips and exercising, although that's important. At the Joe McGie Center, her son has a family.

"EACH WEEK THERE'S SOMETHING FOR HIM TO DO AND SOMETHING TO LOOK FORWARD TO."

Pat Roberts
Mother of an adult with a disability

OPPORTUNITIES TO THRIVE



PHOTO COURTESY WTC

At the Work Training Center, adults with disabilities are empowered to live as independently as possible and enjoy the highest quality of life.

Through the center's Adult Day Programs, clients enjoy a variety of daily activities and special outings, like cooking, music classes, bowling and field trips with Chico State University. They also perform paid contract work like litter abatement and recycling collection.

Michelle Ely, director of client services, says community integration is key to their work.

"Every person has a very valid place in the community," she says.

The center runs Adult Day Programs at four sites: Joe McGie Center in Chico, the Sierra Center in Oroville, the Creative Learning Center and the Made in Paradise gift store and art gallery, both in Paradise.

The impact you can make

Financial contributions and endowments are always appreciated. However, Ely adds that people can give the gift of time by volunteering at the center.

Make an online donation at wtcinc.org or call 530-343-7994 for volunteering information.

More than a Paycheck

Finding fulfillment through Work Activity Programs

by Kate Gonzales



Work Training Center client Michael Hill, far right, works on a janitorial crew with fellow clients and his supervisor and job coach, Betti James, second from left. Both agree that Hill has developed beneficial job skills in his years with WTC.

PHOTO BY EMILYTEAGUE

Michael Hill knows the satisfaction of a job well done. As a crew member with Pioneer Janitorial Services, he has gained valuable work skills and has grown to become a leader.

"I take pride in everything that I do," Hill says, adding that Work Training Center, which runs Pioneer Janitorial Services, has made his professional development possible. "They have helped me with my work ethic, my performance, my encouragement."

For eight years, Hill has been a client of the Work Training Center's work programs. The center offers people with disabilities vocational opportunities in various industries — with little or no experience.

About 200 clients benefit from WTC's three work programs: Work Activity Programs, Supported Employment Groups and Community Employment Services. Clients are matched to a program based on their individual goals and capabilities.

Hill, 36, has a mild cognitive disability, and worked in the center's landscaping program for four years before moving over to janitorial. Clients of WTC have the freedom to choose which of the center's various indus-

tries they want to work in, with their abilities taken into consideration. Supportive staff train clients and establish an environment where they will thrive.

"Mike Hill takes so much pride and ownership in the work he does, it's amazing," says Betti James, supervisor job coach for the center's janitorial program. "When he gets something done he's really proud of it, and he wants to show it."

Hill and his fellow crew members work full days — Monday through Friday, 40 hours a week — and he often goes above and beyond. He takes it upon himself to stock, organize and clean the van, and often arrives early to make sure the laundry is done.

"It's a good challenge for me to take on more responsibility," he says.

James says her janitorial crew keeps busy providing efficient services to their business clients. She's proud that her team works so well together and leaves every job site with a sense of satisfaction.

"It's so thrilling to see how happy they are with their work," she says. "I get goose bumps when I think about it — it's so gratifying."

"IT'S A GOOD CHALLENGE FOR ME TO TAKE ON MORE RESPONSIBILITY."

Michael Hill
Work Training Center client

In early 2016, Hill will start his job hunt for a janitorial position in the community. He says he'll miss his fellow crew members and the staff members who have supported him on his path to employment.

"Work Training Center is a good bunch of people to work with," he says.

WORK PROGRAMS PROVIDE MEANINGFUL EMPLOYMENT

Work Activity Programs

Clients perform assembly and light manufacturing services for businesses that contract with WTC. Tasks include woodworking, sewing, assembling end item products for schools and businesses, and more. These jobs take place at three sites: Feather River Industries, Feather River Opportunity Center and Bear Mountain Production Services.

Businesses can support WTC through contract work by calling 530-343-7994.

Supported Employment Groups

Clients with a wider range of physical and cognitive capabilities can work in one of three businesses: Pioneer Janitorial Services, Prestige Landscape Services and Nursery, and Fair Street Recycling. These positions offer community integration, as clients provide services to community members.

See how you can support these ventures on page 5.

Community Employment Services

For clients who want to compete in the job market, these services offer one-on-one training with a job coach. Assistance in writing a résumé, submitting online applications, interviewing and more will help clients put their best foot forward.

To find out more about these career services for adults with disabilities, call 530-924-2371.

All the Ways We Work

The Work Training Center offers work opportunities in a variety of industries to clients with disabilities, according to their abilities and interests. Clients earn a wage and gain valuable work experience, like:

CUSTOMER SERVICE

TEAMWORK

HANDS-ON JOB SKILLS

APPROPRIATE WORKPLACE CONDUCT

AND SO MUCH MORE!

WORK ACTIVITY PROGRAMS



In these programs, clients provide general assembly and packaging for business partners. Work Training Center ensures a high-quality product at a competitive price, and businesses help support these meaningful programs. It's a win-win relationship!

Bear Mountain Production Services

Clients perform light industrial assembly for businesses large and small — sewing, packaging and preparing items like **tote bags, mailers and gift baskets**.

Feather River Industries

Commercial woodshop division, where clients assemble **gift boxes, wine and olive oil crates, and specialty pallets**.

Feather River Opportunity Center

Manufacturing shop, offering services like **ammunition casings assembly, paper shredding and shrink-wrapping**.

For information on how these services might fit your business assembly needs, call 855-233-4692.

SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT GROUPS



Employment focused on customer service and transferable work skills, geared toward preparing clients for jobs in the community.

Pioneer Janitorial Services

Mobile janitorial business serving Chico and Oroville, where clients learn various aspects of janitorial work, like:

- Office cleaning
- Floor stripping
- Stocking supplies

Schedule an appointment for a demonstration of services for your business at 530-343-7994.

Prestige Landscape Services

Offers all aspects of landscape maintenance, while teaching clients:

- Plant health assessment
- Landscaping tool use
- Measurement and garden construction

For landscaping services at your business, call 530-343-7994.

Prestige Nursery

Enjoy friendly, knowledgeable service while shopping for:

- Locally grown, healthy plants
- Seasonal color, perennials and shrubs

Open to the public! Visit the nursery Mon.-Fri., 8 a.m.-4 p.m. at 2270 Fair St. in Chico, or call 530-343-7994.

Fair Street Recycling

Drive-thru recycling center, where clients help with:

- Customer service
- Weighing recyclables

Open to the public! Drop off recycling or e-waste Mon.-Sat., 8 a.m.-4 p.m. at 2300 Fair St. in Chico, or call 530-343-7994.

CREATED4ACAUSE



Clients gain a sense of pride knowing products they help craft and assemble are sold at the Created4ACause store. The store also hosts paint-your-own-pottery gatherings for the community. Profits from these activities and the affordable, locally produced items support Work Training Center activities and programs.

Shop Created4ACause for:

- Ceramic art and coasters
- Foodie gift baskets
- Totes and duffel bags

Open to the public! Shop at Created4ACause at 830 Broadway St., Chico, or online at Created4ACause.org.

Find out more about the wide range of services WTC offers, and how you can support this work in the community. Visit wtcinc.org/put-us-to-work for more information on all programs.

Helping Clients Achieve Independence

A little support from Do-It Leisure goes a long way

by Anne Stokes

Diane Manwill and Patty Willis have been close companions for nearly 23 years.

"I like her smile and how she makes me laugh," says Manwill. "She helps me deal with my problems, and how not to be hard on myself, and how to be a better person. She's there when I need her."

Manwill, who has a mild cognitive disability, is a client of Work Training Center's Do-It Leisure program. The program helps adults with disabilities learn independent living skills and provides social and recreational opportunities. Willis works with Manwill as an independent living specialist, helping her handle important skills such as money management, using public transportation and dealing with medical issues, as well as coaching her through behavioral and emotional challenges.

"She's does really well and she's an amazing lady," says Willis, who admits that although Manwill is high-functioning, she still needs a little extra support to maintain her independence.

Manwill, 53, has lived independently for the past 27 years. In the past, she has held full-time jobs at local hotels and fast food restaurants. But recently, medical issues have forced her to stop working. For Manwill,

who doesn't have a close relationship with her family, Willis has been a constant source of support. That support was especially important after Manwill lost her leg due to complications from a childhood injury. Willis often attends doctor and rehabilitation appointments with Manwill, serving as an intermediary between the doctor and her client.

Willis herself has a unique understanding of some of the challenges her clients face navigating daily life independently. Willis has low vision and is unable to drive, which provides an opportunity to teach her clients how to reliably use public transportation.

"That has proven to be beneficial to our clients — I've taught them to be more independent because I would teach them to ride the bus," she says.

These lessons in independence have given Manwill the ability to successfully live on her own, something she says wouldn't be possible without Do-It Leisure.

"I think it's very important because it helps keeps me out of care homes. Do-It Leisure has an awesome [Independent Living Skills] program," she says. "At Do-It Leisure, they don't treat you like a kid, they treat you like an adult."



Independent Living Specialist Patty Willis, right, and her client, Diane Manwill, left, work on skills such as money management, appropriate social behavior and problem-solving techniques, which keep Manwill living independently.

PHOTO BY EMILY TEAGUE

"AT DO-IT LEISURE, THEY DON'T TREAT YOU LIKE A KID, THEY TREAT YOU LIKE AN ADULT."

Diane Manwill
Work Training Center client

TOOLS FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING



PHOTO COURTESY WTC

From social graces to money management, Work Training Center's Do-It Leisure programs have been providing Independent Living Skills (ILS) and recreational opportunities to more than 450 adults with developmental disabilities across Butte County since 1975. The programs help clients develop the

skills needed to live independently.

"We provide services that are unique and not provided anywhere else in the community on this scale," says Andrea Moriarty, WTC's director of community services. "We teach clients how to do anything and everything you or I take for granted doing on a daily basis, so they can stay out of care homes and out of living with mom or dad."

The state Department of Developmental Services funds several programs, including Independent Living Skills, Group Social Recreation and a Home Companion Program, which provides a respite for caregivers.

However, WTC receives no state support for Do-It Leisure's Community Programs, and must raise all funds to keep the programs going. The Community Programs provide enriching recreational and social

opportunities for clients, such as dances, movie nights and trips, helping adults with disabilities enjoy vibrant, active lives. Some support comes from the City of Chico and limited grants from local parks and recreation departments, but private donations are crucial.

"We try to keep it as affordable as possible [for clients], but it's really difficult," Moriarty says. "We want to keep our doors open, that's the most important thing."

For more information on ILS, Group Social Recreation or respite programs, contact Andrea Moriarty at 530-343-6055. To volunteer, donate or learn more about Community Programs, contact Julie Ellen, community coordinator, at 530-343-6055.

Working with the Community

Hands-on work experience benefits clients and businesses alike

by Anne Stokes

Transfer Flow has been in business in Chico for the past 34 years. The family-owned company designs and builds automotive fuel systems, specializing in state-of-the-art technology and manufacturing. For the past decade, Transfer Flow has partnered with Work Training Center to provide vocational training and employment opportunities to people with disabilities.

"I think that we're helping serve a need," says Transfer Flow founder Bill Gaines. "The people that Work Training Center serves are hard-working [and] good people. We help them be self-sufficient and feel good about what they do each day, [which] we see in the people who come out to our facility. They are joyful, kind, polite and I think that it's great that we can work with them. I think it's a good relationship."

That relationship has resulted in a mutual benefit for both companies. For nearly the past decade, Transfer Flow has successfully employed WTC clients to meet the company's product packaging and janitorial needs while providing workers the opportunity to gain valuable, real-world vocational experience. Such hands-on experience provides an important transition between training and individual job placement.

"We're creating more than just a service, we're creating a livelihood for people that, in other places, wouldn't have anywhere to work in the community," says Tim Sharkey, WTC sales manager. "A lot of other community-

based commercial services, you're hiring people off the street to do a job, get a paycheck and go on to the next job. There's a little more love put into the work that we do, and I think that makes us stand out from the competition."

Gaines praises the high-quality professional service his company receives, including the workers' exceptional standards for customer service, an important skill for any employee to possess.

"They're a very happy group," Gaines says. "They work hard and they pay good attention to cleaning up the area and making sure it looks good."

The challenge, according to Sharkey, is to balance professional standards while still supporting their clients' needs.

"We're still accountable in a commercial sense to be as competitive as any other business out there," he explains. "We have to take a bigger step forward to accomplish that because we also have to take into consideration our clients, their well-being and the job they're performing."

Sharkey adds that community support is crucial to WTC's

success and the nonprofit's vision of being self-supporting in lieu of asking for donations.

"By helping provide places for [clients] to work with our commercial services, you're helping to pay for the services for all the other people you don't see behind the scenes in the day programs," he says. "We're helping to support ourselves and with that we're providing services for the community."

"THERE'S A LITTLE MORE LOVE PUT INTO THE WORK THAT WE DO, AND I THINK THAT MAKES US STAND OUT FROM THE COMPETITION."

Tim Sharkey
Work Training Center sales manager



Bill Gaines of Transfer Flow has a long and successful history of partnering with the Work Training Center to provide clients with vocational opportunities while satisfying the janitorial and packaging needs of his business.
PHOTO COURTESY OF TRANSFER FLOW

PARTNER WITH WORK TRAINING CENTER TO FILL YOUR BUSINESS NEEDS!

Support Work Training Center's mission and give purpose and jobs to adults with disabilities, while at the same time fulfilling your business needs with the highest quality services at competitive rates. WTC offers:

- Janitorial services
- Landscaping services
- General assembly and light manufacturing (including wood products and textiles)
- Document services and destruction
- Recyclables pickup
- And more!

Call 530-343-7994 or visit wtcinc.org to find out how Work Training Center can meet your business service needs.

Put Us to Work!

Help Work Training Center build a better community

The secret's out — Work Training Center's work programs for adults with disabilities offer the best way for businesses and individuals to meet their needs for a variety of products and services, while enjoying the good feeling of giving back.

When you support WTC work programs, you are helping more than 700 adults with disabilities each year learn valuable job skills, earn a living, and lead more fulfilling, independent and connected lives. Support WTC today — because everyone deserves an equal opportunity to thrive.

worktraining
JOB AND LIFE SKILLS SUPPORT
FOR ADULTS WITH
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIESSM
center

wtcinc.org

FOR COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Fair Street Recycling

Drive-thru recycling and e-waste center with friendly service provided by WTC clients.

2300 Fair St., Chico

M-F, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Call 530-343-7994 to schedule a recyclables pickup at your business.

Prestige Nursery

WTC clients provide welcoming, knowledgeable service and healthy plants for your home, garden or business.

2270 Fair St., Chico

530-343-7994

M-F, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Created4ACause gifts and goods

Make your next gift one that makes a difference. Shop a selection of home goods handcrafted with love by WTC clients. Find ceramics, coasters, foodie gift baskets, totes, duffel bags and more. Or, create paint-your-own-pottery.

830 Broadway St., Chico

530-894-5227

T-F, 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Shop online: Created4ACause.org

info@created4acause.org

FOR BUSINESSES

WTC work training programs offer consistent quality, competitive pricing and the unique opportunity for your business to fulfill vital services while giving back to the community. Make WTC your vendor of choice for:

- Wood, fabric and soft goods design and manufacturing services
- Assembly, kitting and packing services
- Document mailing and shredding services
- Commercial janitorial and landscaping services
- Recycling pickups

Visit wtcinc.org/put-us-to-work to discover the vast range of services available, or call 1-855-233-4692 or 530-343-7994 to find out more.



Help ensure WTC will always be here to change lives. Support Work Training Center programs today — all proceeds directly support WTC's nonprofit mission.

DONATE TODAY!

Individuals, businesses and corporate sponsors can help WTC continue its life-changing work in the community.

Visit wtcinc.org/home/please-join-us-to-make-a-one-time-gift-or-join-the-dollar-a-day-challenge.

For corporate sponsorship opportunities, call Executive Director Don Kryszakowski at 530-343-7994.

WHAT WTC BUSINESS PARTNERS ARE SAYING

COURTESY PHOTOS



"It's good for the community and it's the right thing to do. It's a good business decision because we have them assemble and package things for us probably cheaper than we could do [in-house]. We're helping individuals that want independence and to learn life skills."

Debbie Bauman,
Purchasing Manager,
RCBS



"In addition to the fact that they have clients that do good work, they actually help support the economy by having several different plants here [in Oroville]."

Sandy Linville,
President and CEO,
Oroville Area Chamber of Commerce



"They've been a great resource for us. They do a great job, they're dependable, they're here all the time, they've always had great long-term management, which makes it easier for us to communicate. I would highly recommend their services."

Les Doll,
Director of Plant Operations,
Enloe Medical Center



"This is a good representation of caring for all members of the Chico community. In the programs that we partner with, we've always been pleased how the Work Training Center responds. They're always flexible and responsive, the quality of their work is great and the turnaround always meets our deadlines. They're a great service."

Ryan Arnold,
Communications Manager,
Sierra Nevada Brewing Company



Produced for Work Training Center by N&R Publications,
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