

VODEC Makes Name Changes Services Remain the Same



Vocational Development Center	➔	VODEC
Work Center (Workshop)	➔	Development Center
Supported Employment	➔	Community Employment

“Some terms we have been using just don’t adequately describe their targets. A decision was made to change those to accurately portray the organization or particular services we provide,” said CEO Steve Hodapp about VODEC’s name change. Changes in people’s perceptions of work programs and habilitation programs have caused confusion among consumers and stakeholders and what VODEC actually offers. VODEC is not only a place for those with disabilities to work or socialize, but also a place to learn skills that will help VODEC’s consumers become more active members of the community around them.

Vocational Development Center becomes VODEC

The Vocational Development Center was founded by families with intention of providing meaningful vocational development-type activities for their members with disabilities. Out of that intention came the organization’s name. There will be a focus on the name acronym VODEC rather than the corporate name Vocational Development Center. Again the Vocational part of the corporate name is limiting as a descriptor of all that VODEC does. ‘The Vocational Development Center’ will continue to be used in business and legal documents but ‘VODEC’ will be emphasized in internal documents and promotional materials. Presently, changing the corporate name is not considered an option.

Work Center (Workshop) becomes Development Center

Physical locations have been referred to as Work Centers or Workshops. The terms Work Center or Workshop are self-limiting and exclude other activities within each location. In short, the terms don’t work anymore. To project a more complete image of a location’s activities, the term Development Center will now be used to describe each location formerly known as a Work Center or Workshop.

Supported Employment becomes Community Employment

The term Supported Employment is still used in the industry as an umbrella over services describing activities supporting a person’s goals of being employed in the community. But the term focuses on the “how” (supported) rather than the expected outcome in the community. VODEC will use the term Community Employment instead. Community Employment Service will include job development with employers, job coaching, and support of the person in the employer’s setting as the person is paid a wage.

Services will not be affected by these name changes. In an effort to clearly define what VODEC does and what services VODEC offers, VODEC has decided that these changes will positively benefit not only those VODEC serves, but also the community around us. “After years of dual identities - Vocational Development Center and VODEC - we decided to hang our hat on VODEC for general use,” continued Hodapp.

From the Desk of CEO Steve Hodapp

Why should a business hire a person with a disability? Where's the benefit to the employer? Well, let me share the business benefits and facts with you from the Association of People Supporting Employment First (APSE). Business Benefits of a Disability Outreach Initiative:



1. **Recruiting/Hiring:** It will allow your company strategic access to the last untapped labor pool in America.
2. **Job Training:** It will allow you to set up and/or access exciting new job training/internship programs.
3. **Collaboration:** It will create opportunities for your company to collaborate with new business partner and customer groups.
4. **Marketing:** It will help you tap this powerful niche market.
5. **Incentive Planning:** It will assist your company in accessing a variety of local, state, and federal grants and incentives.

The Facts:

1. 56 million people with disabilities plus close family, friends, and supporters comprise almost one-third of the United States population.
2. 20 million of 70 million families in the U.S. have at least one member with a disability. (One out of 10 families raising children have at least one child with a disability.)
3. People with disabilities in the U.S. have an annual spending power of \$796 billion – more than any ethnic minority group. (\$200 billion more than the African American community; \$300 billion more than the Hispanic community - and this does not take into account family, friends, and supporters.)
4. With the baby boom generation retiring and tightening immigration laws, people with disabilities are the last untapped labor source in the country. (40% higher unemployment of people with disabilities as compared to those without disabilities.)
5. Targeting the disability community as a customer and labor source is one of the hot new, rising trends in the American business community. Companies like Walgreens (<http://www.walgreensoutreach.com>), CVS, Starbucks, MBNA, Cincinnati Children's Hospital, Pepsi, Hyatt, and Bank of America have already initiated large scale outreach efforts to the disability community.

And then there's Section 503 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (Section 503) at 41 CFR Part 60-741. Section 503 prohibits federal contractors and subcontractors from discriminating in employment against individuals with disabilities (IWDs), and requires these employers to take affirmative action to recruit, hire, promote, and retain these individuals.

Source: www.dol.gov

So if you operate a business and would like more information about hiring from this pool of potential applicants, contact VODEC and ask to be directed to anyone on our Community Employment team or visit www.vodec.org.

Thank You
FOR YOUR HELP

Emmanuel Lutheran
Church Women
Hy-Vee
Rotella's Bakery
Walmart
Paula Bacon
Jamie Brown
Lavonne Chapin
Chado Carrillo

Gwen Hartford-Stick
Miles & Crystal Havekost
Steve & Mary Hodapp
Rebecca Lepin
Erin Lucas
Joe & MaryLou McGinn
Rachel Olmstead
Glen Smith
Mark Stromer

*This list reflects donations received between
11/21/2013 and 12/11/2013*

VODEC to Hold Annual Valentine's Dance

VODEC will once again host a Valentine's Dance for consumers of VODEC and any other providers in the Omaha/Council Bluffs metros and surrounding communities. This year's dance will be held on February 6th at the Ralston Arena in Ralston NE from 7-9pm. Music will once again be provided by EJS Sound and Lights. We will also be providing refreshments throughout the event. Watch our Facebook page and NEW website for more information as it becomes available.



(Above)-Consumer Josh Davis attends last years Valentine's Dance.

Knights of Columbus Donate Funds to VODEC

“The continuing support for our programs by the St. Patrick’s Knights of Columbus helps VODEC meet needs of persons with disabilities in this community. It demonstrates a tradition of the Knights to honor charity and unity in each Council’s local community,” said Steve Hodapp. Items such as pots and pans, kitchen utensils, wall hangings, window coverings, extra towels, beddings, and many even large appliances such

as washers and dryers help make a house a home for those in our services. To make a donation to support individuals with intellectual disabilities, please visit VODEC’s website at www.vodec.org.



(Right)- L to R- VODEC CEO Steve Hodapp and Knights of Columbus member Steve Chambly.

Congratulations to our Christmas and holiday Card Winners!

VODEC recently held a Christmas and holiday card contest for the Day Programs. Every consumer who wanted to submit a Christmas or a holiday card could. All the cards were photographed and put onto VODEC’s Facebook page where they were voted on by VODEC’s Facebook fans and the top three cards were then turned into official VODEC’s Christmas

and holiday cards that were mailed out to over 400 stakeholders. This years event was a huge success and many of the consumers are looking forward to submitting a card again next year.



(Left)- Consumers Divesh Bastola, Bradley Ross, and Brandon Blesh. (Missing from photo is Emily Havekost) (Above)- Consumer Brian Major and his winning entry



The mission of VODEC is to provide services to persons with disabilities in order that those persons may live, work and participate in the community in the least restrictive environment to achieve their full potential.

The purpose of VODEC is to support and advocate for persons with disabilities so those persons have opportunities to develop to their fullest potential, to interact with society, to experience a sense of belonging, and to contribute something of themselves at their own levels of ability.

Vocational Development Center is a private, non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation. Donations may be tax deductible. Vocational Development Center is an equal opportunity employer. Applicants for services or employment are considered without regard to race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, or disability.

We are a certified provider of day and residential services by the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services.

We are approved to provide vocational services by the Nebraska Department of Education.

We are approved by the Iowa Department of Human Services to provide waiver services to individuals with intellectual disabilities, brain injuries and we are an approved habilitation service provider.

We have accreditation from CARF for Community Employment Services, Organizational Employment services and Community Integration.

An applicant must meet the following criteria to be considered eligible for any VODEC service:

1. Be at least 16 years old for any vocational program
2. Have behavioral needs within VODEC’s scope of service
3. Have medical needs within VODEC’s scope of service
4. Have transportation needs within VODEC’s capability to provide
5. Have adequate funding in place (including service hours’ authorization or private payment in place) for services being requested
6. If applying for an in-home service, the applicant’s home must meet basic health and safety requirements



VODEC is a proud member of:



Iowa and Nebraska Residential Programs Celebrate Christmas with Parties

Both the Iowa and Nebraska Residential Programs held Christmas parties in December. Nebraska consumers were treated to food, karaoke, and a gift exchange. The Iowa party had food, a gift exchange, Christmas crafts, and BINGO. It was a fun time for all of the consumers who are looking forward to Christmas.



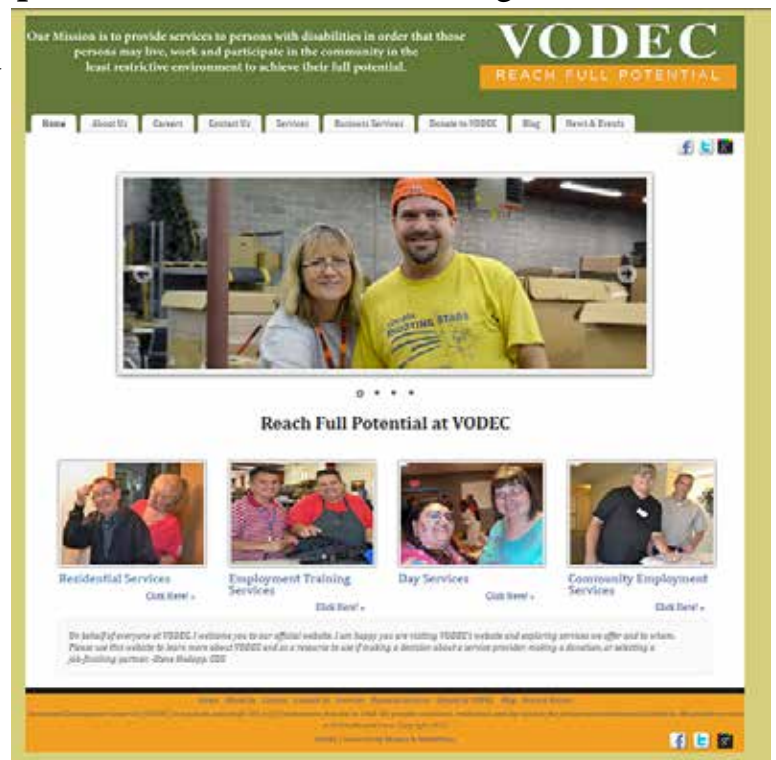
(Above Left)- The Cares Program's Gingerbread train. (Bottom Left)- Consumer Donald Lily show off his Christmas gift from the exchange. (Middle)- Consumer Harry Brisbin gets a full plate of food with the help of staff. (Above Right)- Consumer David Christian and staff sing Away in a Manger at the NE Residential Christmas Party. (Bottom Right)- Consumer Rose Leggio shows off her new calendar.

VODEC Launches New and Improved Website (www.vodec.org)

VODEC has recently launched its new website that offers much more information about services and how to get involved with VODEC either through employment or by donations. Some of the information included in the new website are:

- Pages on Residential, Day, Employment Training, and our Community Training Programs
- Host Homes and Extended Family Homes Page
- Careers pages with detailed information about working for VODEC
- News & Events
- Voice and Press Releases
- Calendar of events for our Day and Residential Programs
- Blog

Check out our new website at www.vodec.org, and as always we value your feedback and comments.



VODEC IS ON GoodSearch!  You Search, We Give!