



# NEWS

## Spring



### **WORK Inc. South Coast Division in New Bedford Celebrates 50 yrs of Service**

A grand time was had by all at the Opportunity Center in New Bedford as they celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Friday, January 25<sup>th</sup>. This event really came from the heart, as it was partially funded by a bequest from Edward "Junior" Travers. Mr. Travers was a longtime Opportunity Center client who, sadly, passed away two years ago, but was determined that his friends at the Opportunity Center be able to celebrate this important milestone in a memorable way.

Held at the elegant Café Funchal in downtown New Bedford, the event was attended by more than 70 people, including past and present clients, staff and vendors. Also in



Longtime Opportunity Center supporters Mr. and Mrs. Grace and their daughter Kathleen enjoy the festivities.

attendance were Work Inc. CEO Jim Cassetta, Chairman of the Board Jim Flanagan, our Chief Operating Officer Sharon Smith, and Vice President of Employment Services, Steve Aalto, all of whom travelled from Boston for the festivities. After a five course buffet meal and a few words by Program Manager Tracey Cunningham, the entertainment began when a DJ started pumping out popular dance tunes to get the crowd moving.

This celebration of over 50 years of service to individuals with disabilities was a party through and through. To give everyone a rest for a bit, longtime staffer Katrina Massie then introduced an all girl choral group "Voices in Time", who delighted the crowd with a stellar performance. Then it was back to the dance floor as the DJ took right over and the folks from New Bedford celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in style.

What a wonderful way to celebrate the Opportunity Center and all it has meant for the past 50 years! Thanks again, Junior Travers. We hope you know how much your gift was enjoyed by all who were there.

### **Family Support Center Gains Ground**

Last July, Work Inc. was awarded a 5 year grant from the Department of Developmental Services to create the Family Support Center, a community resource center based at our

Beach St. facility. Family Advocates offer individuals with developmental disabilities and their families support, education and resource navigation to help them live more



Bill Getman Fiona Healey and Tuan Le of the Family Support Center pose in the Center's new office.

independent and fulfilling lives. Aply spearheaded by Fiona Healey, and assisted by both Tuan Le and Bill Getman, the center has succeeded in engaging and serving individuals and their families at a far faster rate than anticipated.

In September, they held an open house that offered tours and information about the center's services. That event was attended by 25 guests. Since then, the center has

*(Continued on page 2)*

**Please Join Us for Awards Night 2011**

**6:30-9:00**

**IBEW Hall 265 Freeport Street  
Dorchester MA,**

**Thursday, June 23, 2011**

***Celebrating Our Successes!***

For Ticket and RSVP please contact Susan Buckley at 617-691-1516 or email at [Sbuckley@workinc.org](mailto:Sbuckley@workinc.org)



WORK INC is a proud participant in the



network of service providers

**The New Commissioner of Boston's Disability Advisory Board**



Kristen McCosh recently appointed as Commissioner of Boston's Disability Advisory Board meets with Work Inc. CEO Jim Cassetta and COO Sharon Smith. Ms. McCosh toured our facility in Dorchester in December.

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run movie nights and a Halloween party that attracted many families. Work Inc.'s Family Support Center offers valuable services in a holistic manner that engages not just developmentally disabled individuals, but their entire families. Some



*The Whitlow family enjoys a turkey dinner at the Family Support Center's first "Family Holiday Celebration" in December*

of these services include: specialized trainings on Social Security, Health Care benefits and housing assistance. Additionally, the center provides a forum where families can meet, share common problems and support each other. There are parenting groups, advocacy and networking groups and recreational activities

for all. Because of the broad range of services and the wealth of knowledge gained from the many programs that Work Inc. offers, from residential, vocational, or school to work transition, the Family Support Center provides a team-approach that encourages input from all parties and educates family members on how to navigate the vast array of services available to the developmentally disabled.

Currently, the Center serves families with a variety of services and is forming a Family Advisory Council to identify issues and needs and collect ideas from each other. It hosts both a Face Book page [www.facebook.com/pages/Family-Support-Center-at-WORK-Inc/144828548890715](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Family-Support-Center-at-WORK-Inc/144828548890715) and an active blogging site <http://fscworkinc.wordpress.com/>. Additionally, they host community events, including Holiday parties and dances, outdoor sports activities and even bowling and yoga. The Centers hours are Monday to Friday 9-5, and on Thursdays, it's open until 7. For more information call 617.691.1600 or email [fsc@workinc.org](mailto:fsc@workinc.org)

**EcoMV<sup>®</sup> Green Scene**  
*positively responsible*

Work Inc. has begun working with an exciting new company called EcoMV. Headquartered in Martha's Vineyard, EcoMV provides sustainable and eco-friendly alternatives to Styrofoam and plastic food service disposables and packaging. Fully compostable and petroleum-free, their products are better for the environment and poised to take off as consumers make more environmentally conscious purchases. The company has partnered with Work Inc. as a packaging, distribution, and warehouse center as it seeks to expand its market into the Boston area and beyond.

Work Inc. program participants are busy packaging the firms' products, including plates, cold cups, utensils, and trash bags. All of these products are made from wheat stock, a 100 percent compostable resource. Unlike petroleum-based Styrofoam and plastics, the wheat-based products are sustainably produced and will burn clean when incinerated or naturally break down when disposed of in a commercial compost facility or landfill.

Heather Gilmore, Eco MV's Vice President of Sales (who works from our facility), reports the company strives to make a concerted effort to support businesses and initiatives that have a positive impact on society, which makes it a perfect fit with Work Inc. This way, Work Inc.'s workers can see that the work they do makes other people's lives better, all over the planet!

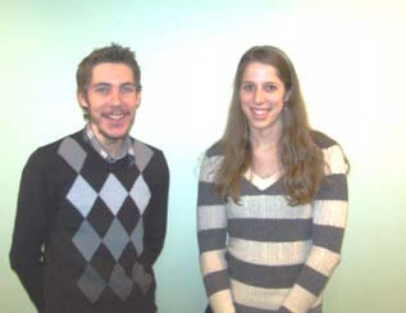
For product information you can give Heather a call at (617) 691-1680

**Another Good Day at Black Rock**



September 20<sup>th</sup> saw the Annual Work Inc. Hank Cheney Golf Tournament where 29 foursomes competed for a variety of awards. Shown here is the best overall team, LifePlus Insurance. (From Left to Right) Peter Cook Jr., Work Inc. CEO Jim Cassetta, Dr. Craig Gillard, Dr. Jeff Creed and Bruce Cluett. Next year's tournament is scheduled for September 19<sup>th</sup> so mark your calendars.

## Around the Sites



Dorchester Vocational welcomes two new case managers. Andrew Sullivan of Worcester comes to us from the University of Tampa and has worked as a volunteer for “Horizons for Homeless Children”

and Kristen Braley is from Canton attended Bridgewater State College and had previously worked as a mental health assistant at the Judge Rotenberg Center.



AmeriCorps Financial Support staffer Resse Millican assists a client with tax preparation. Resse along with Michael Ibanez, Derek Polard, Ellen Maher and Lane Standige are all part of this years group. They provide financial counseling and tax preparation to Work Inc. program participants’ and members of the community. Last year the AmeriCorps team assisted 112 clients.



The razing of Work Inc.'s old headquarters at 3 Arlington St. has begun, as illustrated here. The agency’s home since 1977, the 57,000 square foot facility holds many mem-

ories for both staff and clients. Currently Work Inc. is negotiating with several contractors on the future use of the property and working with the Quincy community to find the best use of the site.



School to Career Specialist Kaitlyn Galofaro reports good news. The Randolph Public Schools has joined Work Inc.'s list of clients. The 11 new program participants will join the 70 individuals already in programs from the Boston Public Schools for life skills training and vocational exploration as they make the transition from school to working life.

Work Inc.'s Deaf Services are growing with the addition of 3 new residences (on Safford St., Morton St. and Cove Way) and a greater number of Supported Living Apartments, all based in Quincy. The new residences staffing is complete with an additional 25 new positions filled. This expansion already compliments a robust vocational program lead by Margaret Dinon and her staff of 7, who serve over 70 individuals. Margaret also reports that Deaf Services now offers daily interpreter services, coordinated by Deaf Communications Specialist Amanda Neal. This, with the existing videophone technology that Work Inc. uses and the expanded residential program, truly puts the agency at the cutting edge for services for the deaf. We're proud to be a leader in this field!



Ronda Mothersell, House Manager at Morton St. uses the Videophone to complete a call.

## Action & Advocacy

March 22, Work Inc. attends a “Community Breakfast” at UMass Boston shown here from left to right. Phillip



Carver UMass and Work Inc.'s newest board member, State Representative Paul McMurtry, Jimmy Cawley, Work Inc.; UMass Chancellor J. Keith Motley, Jim Cassetta, Work Inc. CEO; Don Uvanitte, Work Inc. board member; and State Representative Marty Walsh.



*We have a new website  
please visit us at  
[www.workinc.org](http://www.workinc.org)*



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All net proceeds will benefit WORK Inc.



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