

SUCCESS TRACKS

Monthly Newsletter - March 2021



Matt - Manager, Alex - Employee of the Month, Damaris - Employment Specialist

EMPLOYER AND EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH -

WALGREENS - REDI PROGRAM

ALEX MALDONADO

by Cheryl Vincent

Determined and hard-working, Alex Maldonado joined the Walgreens REDI program. REDI is a 4-5 week, in-store retail and customer service skills training program. The program is designed for Walgreen's store managers to train registered community agency Job Coaches. Job Coaches then train the REDI externs using the REDI curriculum. REDI training covers competencies such as how to unload trucks, stock shelves, run a cash register, etc. Upon completion, REDI graduates are welcome to apply for positions within Walgreens.

Alex was warmly welcomed to the REDI Program at his local Walgreens store in the Plant City area by his manager, Matt. With the assistance of his Job Coach, Damaris Rosales, Alex eagerly started his training and did an outstanding job learning all the tasks of the Customer Service Associate. Alex graduated from the program and applied for a permanent position, in which he was immediately hired and has been working there since, doing a great job!

Since the program launched in 2012, more than 1,300 people with disabilities have completed REDI skills training in Walgreens stores across the nation. In the process, REDI participants have gained new skills and confidence. REDI graduates have told Walgreens the experience enabled them to build lives that otherwise might not have been possible simply because opportunities were not presented to them. Congratulations Alex!

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*Some End of
February Facts for
TVD*

4 Cases Successfully
Closed

22 New Referrals

7 People Were Placed in
Jobs

Vocational Evaluations are
now offered completely
remote.

We serve over 17 Counties
in Florida within Area's 3,
4, 5, and 7; with a team of
seven Employment
Specialists. [Click for Info.](#)

JUMP ON BOARD - TIPS TO HELP REACH YOUR DESTINATION BEFORE THE SEARCH

by Courtney Lape

Finding the right job can be difficult, but one surprising step can make the process a lot easier. Ask yourself, what kind of job am I looking for? Finding a job that fits YOU is a bigger undertaking than simply applying to as many jobs as possible. Below is a guide to help you visualize what the right job for you looks like.

Environment - Do you prefer to stand and walk around often, or do you focus better sat at a desk? Does your workstation need to be quiet, or do you work well with on-going noise? Would you perform better while working at home, or do you thrive when you have a building to call a workplace?

Pace - Are you typically laid back and prefer work that comes as it needs to be done? Or do you prefer to be proactive and constantly busy?

Managerial - Do you need someone who is always on top of what you do? Or are you very independent, only needing to speak to a higher-up when absolutely necessary? What is the best way for a higher-up to let you know you have done well?



MEET OUR CONDUCTORS

DAMARIS ROSALES

Damaris Rosales was born in Brooklyn, N.Y. in 1967. Damaris then graduated from John Jay College of Criminal Justice with a degree in Criminal Justice and Sociology. Damaris resides in Tampa, FL and is a single mother of two grown daughters and has four grandchildren. Damaris worked on Wall Street for many years and is also a 911 survivor. Damaris moved from New York to Springhill Florida in 2002 and landed employment with The Dawn Center of Domestic Violence, Sexual Violence, and Human Trafficking.

In 2004 Damaris was awarded The Hanna M. Robinson Employee of the year award for outstanding commitment and dedication to Women and Children of Violence. In 2007 Damaris moved to Fort Myers where she worked with Salvation Army for nine years in their Federal Halfway House as an Employment Specialist/ Web Patrol and House Arrest. Damaris also worked at Sunrise of Pasco County as a Sexual Violence Counselor and The Spring of Tampa Bay as an Economic Empowerment Advocate.

Damaris covers the Hillsborough area. Damaris is motivated and consistent in her job as an Employment Specialist and has a great track record of successful job placement.

**Click Below to
Find Us!**

FACEBOOK

LINKEDIN

WEBSITE

Do Your Benefits Immediately Stop If You Start Working?

**No, earning wages doesn't mean
your Social Security disability
benefits immediately stop.**
[Click Here to Learn More!](#)

Am I Eligible for VR Service?

**DO YOU: Receive Social Security
Disability Insurance (SSDI) or
Supplemental Security Income
(SSI) for a disability?**

OR

**DO YOU: Have a disability that
interferes with your ability to find
or keep a job?**

**IF YES to either, and your goal is to
become employed, it is presumed
that you are eligible.**

[Please Click Here
for More Info and
Guidance on the Process](#)

Learn more

THE ON TRACK RESOURCE OF THE MONTH

<https://www.eventbrite.com/>

Eventbrite is a global self-service ticketing platform for live experiences that allows anyone to create, share, find and attend events that fuel their passions and enrich their lives. From music festivals, marathons, conferences, community rallies, and fundraisers, to gaming competitions and air guitar contests. Their mission is to bring the world together through live experiences.

We at The Vocation Depot like to use this resource to find in-person and virtual Job Fairs. Most are free to attend but you do still have to claim a ticket to save your place in the event. There are also many events to improve and teach necessary job skills, so you really can't go wrong with a site visit!



CLICK FOR MORE

ETSY

FACEBOOK

EMAIL:

G2DESIGNS2017@GMAIL.COM



732-710-7547

SPONSOR OF THE MONTH

G2designs

GDesigns is a local family-owned business specializing in custom wood creations in Valrico, FL. Stacey Gardiner is the owner and creator of G2Designs and is passionate about her work and delivering quality products to her customers.

G2Designs has about 65 different custom wood creations, such as Tiered trays with wood cutouts that can be designed for any occasion, sport, or holiday. Other products offered are Baby Milestone Cards, Place Settings, New Home Ornaments, Sports Signs, Name Puzzles, Holiday Ornaments, and much, much more. Plus, everything and anything can be personalized!!

Check out all of G2Designs creations at their [Etsy shop](#) as well as on their [Facebook page](#).

For more information, you can also reach G2Designs at the email address and phone number listed.

Thank you for supporting small locally owned businesses!



INTERESTED IN BEING A SPONSOR OF THE MONTH?

With your help, The Vocation Depot can continue to be a leader in supporting People with Disabilities to find meaningful employment in our Florida communities.

In return, we are proud to offer recognition of your business in our monthly newsletters and on our website for a small donation of \$25.

Click below to become a Supporter

<https://www.vocationdepot.org/contact>

The Vocation Depot
is a
Disabled Veteran
Operated Entity

www.vocationdepot.org
888-489-6646

Thank you for your
support!