

SUCCESS TRACKS

Monthly Newsletter - May 2021



Dylon Howell, Middle - GM Frank, Far Right

THE EMPLOYEE AND EMPLOYER OF THE MONTH - **DYLON HOWELL & APPLEBEE'S**

by **Kevin LaJeunesse**

There is no one more deserving for this month's Employer / Employee of the Month than Applebee's in Lakeland (230 Artega Dr, Lakeland, FL 33809), where they've taken "it takes a village" to heart every day when Dylon comes to work. The first day that he put on his uniform and name tag, he was so proud! When asked what he enjoys most about his job, he states, "I like to prep the broccoli, putting them into bags, I put the labels on them and put them in the cooler," and listen to music while I'm doing this. When it comes to his co-workers, he says, "We're like a big family"! Dylon's managers and all the Applebee's team couldn't agree more!

Tiffany, one of his managers, said, "Working with Dylon has been a true blessing to our store. To watch how far he has come in just a few short months is impressive. Dylon is very diligent and continues to impress me every day. He has changed the mindset of many employees, and they appreciate his contribution, no matter how minor. Dylon comes to work every day with a positive attitude and seems genuinely happy to be with Applebee's. When he first started, we were not sure what to expect. He was brought in to prep a single time-consuming item. Since then, he has moved to prepping multiple items, helping his Apple Buddies with their tasks, and becoming a real asset. He sets the bar for what I expect out of an employee. He's always willing to learn new things and take on new tasks. He does everything to the best of his ability, follows procedures, and does everything with a light heart and a smile. No matter what we ask him to do, he does it with care and optimism."

Congratulations to Dylon and all the Applebee's team, who have given Dylon a life-changing opportunity for a long-term successful career!

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*Some End of April
Facts for TVD*

9 Cases Successfully
Closed

20 New Referrals

13 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 and One OJT
Specialist. [Click for Info.](#)

JUMP ON BOARD - TIPS TO HELP REACH YOUR DESTINATION

RIGHT FIT

by Courtney Lape

A common roadblock for people job searching is deciding what job is the right fit. Since a job is a big commitment, you want to go into the job search with some idea of where your skills and interests lie. The best way to do this is first to make a list of every skill you can confidently perform. This may be social skills, such as good at making conversation or always being willing to help others. Perhaps you have good analytical skills; you can easily pick out mistakes in a spreadsheet or problem-solve issues that come up in day-to-day life. Maybe you have great memory or directional skills. Any skill you can think of can be applied to certain jobs, which is a great way to narrow your job search.

Next, think about what interests you; this can come from hobbies, past job experience, your favorite thing to do when you have downtime. Try to decide where your passion lies, and look for jobs that have something to do with that passion. A great resource is <https://www.jobhero.com/job-description> which gives tons of job categories and narrows it down to job titles with descriptions, so you have an idea of what keywords to use in your job search. This resource is also a great way to make sure your skills and qualifications match up with the job title you want to look for.



MEET OUR CONDUCTORS

CASSARA TULLOH - DISCOVERY SPECIALIST

Hi, I'm Cassara Tulloh. I live in Plant City with my husband and our daughter, who is almost two. Before becoming a Discovery Specialist, I received a Bachelor of Science in Communication Sciences and Disorders from USF. From there, I went on and received my Masters of Science in Professional Counseling.

While going to school, I worked as a VPK teacher and interned at Zoey's Journey, a rehabilitation center for homeless women and women incarcerated due to substance abuse. At Zoey's, I performed individual, group, and career counseling. I helped with resumes, job searches, interview prep, and much more.

From there, I became an Employment Specialist, with The Vocation Depot, for about two years. While job coaching, I furthered my education and became certified in Discovery. Now, I work as a Discovery Specialist with The Vocation Depot while helping my parents grow their seasonal food concession business that has been in our family for over 30 years.

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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.sourceabled.com/job-seekers>

The Vocation Depot is now proudly registered as a Support Provider with the SourceAble network.

About SourceAble:

The SourceAble program is designed to provide job seekers with unique abilities with rewarding and meaningful careers. At the heart of SourceAble is a collaborative program driven by partnerships. It provides job coaching and job readiness training while qualifying candidates for jobs matching their unique skills and abilities. Program partners conduct workplace assessments while raising awareness and providing consultation and training on disability inclusion.

The SourceAble team has over 100 years of experience across multiple domains, which has led to strong ties to disability support agencies, suppliers, and advocacy groups at both local and national levels. This team of experts at SourceAble has also demonstrated significant expertise in talent acquisition for large corporations. As a result of these compelling differentiators, disability-friendly businesses have partnered with SourceAble to identify and engage with qualified, uniquely-abled talent.

WELCOME NEW TVD EMPLOYEES!

New OJT Specialist Teri Jones

-Melbourne

Teri Jones has vast experience in Management, Recruiting, and Providing Training to Adults & Students, those with and without disabilities, as well as Veterans. Teri is also an Army Retiree. Teri, along with Employment Specialists Keith Howell and Renee Simmons, are working to implement an OJT program in Brevard County that will provide multiple OJT opportunities for Adults and Youth that need work experience with the potential to be hired on at the end of training. We look forward to expanding this program in the near future! Welcome, Teri!

New Employment Specialist Terri Mermis

-Melbourne

Terri Mermis joined the team as our 3rd Employment Specialist for the Melbourne area. Terri has many years of experience working with People with Disabilities in Job Development and Employment Specialist roles and has led other Non-Profits in the area, such as Helping Seniors of Brevard and the National Exchange Club Yellow Umbrella in Palm Bay. Welcome, Terri!

New Employment Specialist Duane Anderson

-Pasco/Pinellas counties

Duane Anderson has many years of experience in Community Outreach, specifically with homeless/disabled Veterans in Pasco county as well as throughout Florida. Additionally, he has served in Director level positions in the private school admissions space, as well as experience in recruiting and career guidance and development. He will be assuming Mary Kreamer's caseload. Welcome, Duane!

**Too view our active
Employment
Specialists, areas, and
services; please go to
our website linked
below:**

www.vocationdepot.org

SPONSOR OF THE MONTH



407-914-5383



Ttunstallrealtor
@gmail.com



Hi, I am Tangy Tunstall and I am a Central Florida Realtor (Born and raised) with EXP Realty. I work with First Time Home Buyers, Veterans, traditional sales, credit repair, and rent-to-own programs. I meet with each client and assess their needs individually so I am sure to find the right home for everyone.

Also, if clients need assistance with selling their home and buying a new home, (even out of state), I have teams throughout the US that can assist with this transition and make this process as smooth as possible.



Please click The Amazon Smile Logo below to shop Amazon using The Vocation Depot Smile Link.

This link will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to The Vocation Depot without charging you extra.



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is a
Disabled Veteran
Operated Entity

www.vocationdepot.org
888-489-6646

Thank you for your
support!



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>