

SUCCESS TRACKS

Monthly Newsletter - August 2021



Courtney Bredahl on the job and with her Manager Doug, and Assistant Manager Kayla

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THE EMPLOYEE AND EMPLOYER OF THE MONTH - COURTNEY BREDAHL AND JOANN FABRIC

by Doug Brennan

If you happen to be shopping the Joann Fabric on State Rd 436 in Altamonte Springs Florida you may run into Courtney Bredahl straightening out the aisles and stocking the shelves. Courtney came to us for an interview in November of 2020 and started working in early December.

Courtney has done an outstanding job learning about the importance of where items go in the store and how to properly recover the store so the customers get a great presentation when they shop. Courtney has a very important role in the store because this particular location ships out over 1000 online customer orders a day, and having a neatly organized store is critical in order for us to fill the orders.

Courtney is on time for all of her shifts, always greets everyone with a smile, and says good morning to everyone in the store. She will always come and find me if she has trouble answering a customer's question and also to let me know when she will be taking a break. Sometimes she will let me know over our radios that she will be going on break and it always makes me smile when she announces it. She will tell me the time and that she will be going on her 15-minute break and then "I'll get right back to it after."

Courtney has also made great relationships with many other stockers in the store as well as with the assistant store manager. She has come a long way since she first started in December and I look forward to continuing to watch her progress. It is very hard to find good loyal help these days and we are very proud to have Courtney on our Team. So next time you shop our location please keep an eye out for Courtney in the store and make sure you put everything back where it goes or she may get onto you about it!



Some End of June and July Facts for TVD

18 Cases Successfully
Closed

37 New Referrals

27 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

EMPLOYMENT SPECIALIST

by **Courtney Lape**

Once you go through VR and pick an Employment Services Provider, you may be wondering, what is next? When selecting The Vocation Depot, we will assign you an Employment Specialist within your area. It is essential that you have a good rapport with your Employment Specialist as they, and your VRC, will be your main points of contact while job searching. So what does an Employment Specialist do? Depending on your needs they offer a range of helpful services such as resume writing, mock interviews, job searching, and job applications. While the goal is to find you the right job, the overall process is in place to get you job-ready.

An employment Specialist can even help with accommodations or help you disclose your disability if you choose to do so. The best results are seen in cases where the Employment Specialist, and Client, are applying to jobs and job searching, so all of our Specialists teach the skills needed to successfully find the right job, while also undertaking the search themselves. After the right job is found, they also provide follow-up services to make sure the job is a good fit. They can help mediate issues on the job, or bring up any concerns you might have to the manager in an effort to resolve them. The goal of the Employment Specialist is to find you meaningful, successful work.

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

www.vocationdepot.org



MEET OUR CONDUCTORS

TONY FARINELLA - CEO OF THE VOCATION DEPOT

Tony Farinella is the co-founder and CEO of The Vocation Depot. His desire to help others has been at the forefront of his career. In addition, he most recently served as Regional Vice President for the East Region, Sunbelt Division for Signature Health Care prior to joining Premier Workforce Solutions as their COO.

Prior to joining Signature Healthcare, he held the position of Director of Transitional Care & Physician Services for Gulf Coast Health Care for 5 years. He supported 44 Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation Centers in Alabama, Florida, and Mississippi. His primary focus included analyzing local markets and developing post-acute care strategies with physicians, hospitals, managed care, and APM's. He leads the organization in teaching and understanding the changes that were occurring in the long-term care sector. In addition, he was the lead for GCHC's telehealth initiatives and supported the organization's development of four new communities. For most of his 25-year career in health care, he has been the administrator and senior administrator of various Skilled Nursing centers in south Florida, responsible for daily operations. These responsibilities included clinical care, regulatory compliance, human resources, fiduciary responsibilities, and many others. He has also served as an adjunct professor at Florida International University.

Tony possesses a Bachelor's and master's degree in health services administration. He is also a graduate of Dale Carnegie Training. In addition, he served in the United States Army and National Guard for six years, where he received numerous Meritorious Achievement Medals, along with a Good Conduct Medal. In 2010, he was recognized by the American College of Health Care Administrators as a leader in quality performance in the long-term care field. He is also an alumnus of the Florida Health Care Association's 2012 Leadership Program. Mr. Farinella also served on the Board for the Florida Licensed Professional Nurse Association and has been a guest speaker at the National Association of Professional Nurse Educators, local AARP Chapter, and the Dade County Health Symposium.

He has been an advocate for the elderly and disabled for the past 25 years. He was recognized by the State Attorney's Office for his dedication and service. He is also a proud father of two amazing children Marisa & Carson.

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more

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](#)

THE ON TRACK RESOURCE OF THE MONTH

<http://rehabworks.org/>

Since 1925, Florida Department of Education, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) is the state agency that helps people with physical and mental disabilities prepare for, get, advance in or keep a job.

On this website, you can find more information about programs offered, find locations of VR offices, and search through a Service Provider Choice Directory to help you make the most informed choice about which service provider to go with.

Also, be sure to check out the [FAQ](#) section and the [Customers](#) page for more info and guidance on the VR Process. There are some videos that may be helpful as well.

Who can use The Vocation Depot?

The Vocation Depot is open to everyone who goes through the Florida State VR or Ticket to Work system to receive services. Regardless of disability, age, race, gender, sexual orientation, or previous charges; we help anyone who is ready to work.

Does The Vocation Depot have a specialty?

The Vocation Depot strives to help anyone ready to work, but we do have strong connections and resources for Veterans and current Service Members. The Vocation Depot is a Disabled Veteran Operated Entity, and we have been awarded the HireVets award by the Department of Labor. We understand the difficulties Veterans and Service Members face when returning to the workforce, especially when returning with PTSD or other service-related disabilities. From Pre-Employment Training, which helps prepare one with skills for the workforce, to On the Job Training opportunities, which is paid work on a trial level to see which job is the right fit, we can make sure you feel secure when finding a job.

How do you pick The Vocation Depot as your service provider?

The Florida State VR and Ticket to Work system work on a customer's choice basis. For VR, just tell your VR Counselor which provider you would like your referral assigned to, ie. The Vocation Depot. For Ticket to Work, please call us for intake, 888-489-6466, and we can assign your ticket if you decide we feel like a comfortable fit.



As an organization that helps people with disabilities and Veterans change their lives by assisting them in finding employment, we know that many people struggle with anxiety, pain, and other debilitating issues. It's been shown that CBD products can alleviate some of these issues. For more info on a local (Tampa, FL) owned organization and the CBD products that they produce, visit:

[https://www.herowse.com/
?ref=TpaFL-CV](https://www.herowse.com/?ref=TpaFL-CV)

Vocational Evaluations

For more info on Vocational Evaluations or other services offered by The Vocation Depot, please visit our website or call:

www.vocationdepot.org

888-489-6466



Trying to determine your perfect career path? Our Vocational Evaluations assess your interests and strengths and offer long-term employment goals suited specifically to you.

During your evaluation, we will gather information about your current living situation, work history, interests, skills, and abilities. This will assist your Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor to create an Individual Employment Plan and job goal that is tailored to you.

What's more, all of our Vocational Evaluations can be done remotely in a virtual environment, so you can complete them from the comfort of your own home! Once we receive a referral from your Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor, we will reach out to you within 48 hours to schedule an appointment, complete the evaluation and get you on your way to finding the best employment opportunities. Ask your Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor on how we can continue to help after your evaluation with Resume building, job searching, and interview prep!

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.



The Vocation Depot
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>