

# SUCCESS TRACKS

Monthly Newsletter - October 2021

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**Helen Bradford and her set up for working from home**

## THE EMPLOYEE AND EMPLOYER OF THE MONTH - **HELEN BRADFORD**

**by Wendy Ginsburg**

Helen works for TTEC as an at-home customer service representative. She assists banking customers with financial issues and also answers a variety of banking questions with kindness and efficiency. Helen works full-time at home, and she has enjoyed having the ability to do a job where she is most comfortable. Helen says she loves her job, even when she has to de-escalate angry customers; she is always able to reassure the customers that their needs will be met and works with them to find a solution to the variety of issues they may have.

Helen has been working for TTEC for 4+ months and has been happy with her Employment there. Her managers have told her that she has been doing an excellent job and they are happy to have her as part of her team!

We congratulate Helen for her success at TTEC and her hard work. We are very happy that Helen, with the help of her Employment Specialist, Wendy, were able to find a great company to work for and provided the accommodations that allows her to be successful. Congratulations to Helen!



*Some End of August  
and September  
Facts for TVD*

51 New Customers

25 People Were Placed in  
Jobs

30 Cases Successfully  
Closed

Statewide Comprehensive  
Vocational Evaluations  
available and offered  
remotely!

We serve over 17 Counties  
in Florida within Area's 3,  
4, 5, and 7

## JUMP ON BOARD - TIPS TO HELP REACH YOUR DESTINATION

### WHAT IS OJT?

by Courtney Lape

OJT is an On The Job Training Opportunity, where an Employer mentors a person with a disability to help them develop skills in the workplace. OJT is very beneficial for those who have never had a job or for someone who has a large gap between employment as it is work experience you are able to put on your resume. OJT is a fully paid position; you are guaranteed to make at least minimum wage, and you can work as many hours as you would like up to a maximum of 40 hours per week. An OJT experience can also be for youth customers under the age of 21 who are still in school; it is then called WBLE or a Work-Based Learning Experience.

The Vocation Depot is partnered with the Walgreens REDI (Retail Employees with Disabilities Initiative) program, meaning we can quickly place someone in an OJT at Walgreens locations throughout Florida. We also have many connections within the community, which will help us find a perfect fit for your job goal. You will be paid on a bi-weekly basis and always have the support of your Employment Specialist as well. OJT is also a great way to experience a job before deciding if that career path or job goal is right for you. If you are interested in participating in an OJT, please talk with your Voc Rehab Counselor or your Employment Specialist so that we can help you find an OJT that is right for you.



## MEET OUR CONDUCTORS

### STEVETTE THOMAS - EMPLOYMENT SPECIALIST

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

**[www.vocationdepot.org](http://www.vocationdepot.org)**

Stevette Thomas was born and raised in Brevard county Florida. Stevette graduated from the University of South Florida with a degree in Psychology. Stevette has been an employment specialist for two years with experience in leading resource initiatives for both adults and youth to change their circumstances to a path of growth and economic stability through employment. Stevette has a heart of service and a track record of placing customers in successful careers. Stevette enjoys traveling; most of her traveling has been within the national boundaries only, but she is interested in exploring and traveling to other nations as well. She loves to search for new recipes and enjoys preparing meals from scratch, she also enjoys taking long walks with her dog during the fall at the park. Stevette provides Employment Services for The Vocation Depot in Pinellas, Pasco and Hillsborough counties.



## **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.nod.org/>

If you have started a job and feel that the company lacks disability awareness or proper accessibility, please feel free to share this resource with your company.

The National Organization on Disability (NOD) increases employment opportunities for Americans with disabilities. Their programs and services enable companies to realize the competitive advantages of hiring people with disabilities. NOD provides services for companies such as awareness training, hiring support, and digital accessibility. NOD also has an Employment Tracker, an assessment that benchmarks a company's performance in disability and veterans inclusion.

## Who can use The Vocation Depot?

The Vocation Depot is available to anyone who goes through the State of Florida Vocational Rehabilitation program or through the Social Security Administration via the Ticket to Work program to receive Employment 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?

Selecting an Employment Services Provider is up to you, the customer! When working with the State of Florida Vocational Rehabilitation program and you are ready to select a provider, let your Counselor know you want to work with The Vocation Depot. For the Ticket to Work program/SSA, give us a call at 888-489-6466 for ticket assignment. Should you want to find out more about us, please visit [www.vocationdepot.org](http://www.vocationdepot.org) or give us a call at any time and we will answer any questions you may have



The Vocation Depot was founded to help people with disabilities and Veterans change their lives by assisting them in finding employment opportunities. We also recognize 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, please visit HERO at:

<https://www.herowse.com/?ref=TpaFL-CV>

Disclosure: This post contains affiliate links, and I receive a commission if you visit a link and buy something on my recommendation. We may earn money or products from the companies mentioned in this post.

## Veteran Services



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

**[www.vocationdepot.org](http://www.vocationdepot.org)**

**888-489-6466**

**THANK YOU TO THOSE  
THAT HAVE SERVED OUR  
COUNTRY**

The Vocation Depot is an approved Employment Services Provider of the Florida Dep't of Education, Vocational Rehabilitation (VR). We offer a variety of services to assist youth or adults with disabilities obtain and maintain competitive employment. We match the individual's interest and skills with Employers to find a meaningful career.

Our goal (and passion) is to offer the same services to our Veterans; those that have been out and need to seek immediate employment as well as those that are currently transitioning out and seeking civilian employment opportunities.

We are partnering with Veterans organizations to broaden our reach for those that need assistance. For More information on Eligibility and working with VR and The Vocation Depot, please call or email us at 888-489-6466 or [info@vocationdepot.org](mailto:info@vocationdepot.org)

## The Vocation Depot has Launched a New Website!

We have re-designed our website,  
and we invite you to visit!

Check us out at:

[www.vocationdepot.org](http://www.vocationdepot.org)

### We are Social!

[Facebook](#)

[Linkedin](#)

[Twitter](#)

[Website](#)

Before you go....

Check out our latest Services  
Flyer as well, and feel free to  
share it!

[Click Here for the  
2021 Services Flyer](#)



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](http://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://vocationdepot.org/support-us/>