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### Upcoming Events

**May 28** -- Closed for Memorial Day

**June 4** -- Summer Youth Program Begins

**June 7** -- Lexington Legends Community Organization Night featuring OWL

**June 22** -- OWL Annual Picnic



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## Adams Passes Reins to New President, David Boggs

The past few months have been busy for Board members on the Search Committee and department heads as we completed the recruitment and selection process for our next President/CEO. OWL made a great choice in selecting David Boggs as my replacement! After officially retiring March 1, I have had the opportunity to work with David for introduction and orientation activities. He has an excellent background for this position. He is looking



*Retired President & CEO John Adams (left) with David Boggs, OWL's new President & CEO*

forward to building on the foundation of OWL's history and continuing to move OWL forward, further fulfilling our mission of serving individuals with barriers to employment so they can live more independent lives. As you have opportunity to meet and work with David, I am sure you will find him to be a great colleague.

**John Adams**  
*President/CEO . . . RETIRED!*

## New Program to Rehabilitate Ex-Offenders

Did you know that, on average, two-thirds of those released from jail or prison are arrested within three years, and half of them end up back in jail? Did you also know that Kentucky's inmate population has increased by more than 600 percent while the state's general population has increased about 25 percent.

We simply have to break the cycle if we expect the crime rate to continue to fall. And that means we have to help ex-offenders rebuild their lives, connect with their families, find meaningful employment and become productive members of society. And that is exactly what OWL's new Life Possibilities Program intends to do.

The mission of this cutting edge new program is to reduce recidivism and increase public safety by working with the ex-offender

who seeks life style changes by learning self-evaluation, feedback, personal planning while receiving educational services. This process starts at the time of incarceration and guides both the correctional programming and the transition back to the community. With self help tools and the learned ability to identify and remove one's own barriers the opportunity to sustain a new path becomes a reality. This new vision of a different self with daily practice becomes impetus to continue working effectively in many areas. With family and the community providing support, the ex-offender has practical help and incentive to become a contributing member of society.

The Life Possibilities Program and the Spiritual Growth Program, a community partner, have joined efforts in providing and

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## SEEC Grows Staff & Programs

Skill Enhancement & Employment Center (SEEC) has experienced growth both in staff and programs. Stacie Davis joined SEEC's staff as Administrative Coordinator, and Kevin Moore was hired as an Employment Counselor in November, 2006. Lindsey Mitchell, a student in the Master's Program in Special Education & Rehabilitation Counseling at UK was hired as a part-time staff member of SEEC in December, 2006. She was hired in another part-time capacity in March, 2007, making her full-time staff.

Elizabeth Lowe, a student from the Master's Program in Special Education & Rehabilitation Counseling at UK, worked in the Evaluation area at SEEC during the fall for her practicum. She left to start a new internship site as part of a treatment team in a hospital in Seattle, Washington. Lorraine Maw, from the Master's Program in Counseling & Pastoral Care from Asbury Seminary, also did her practicum with us this past fall in the Employment area. She has continued with a second practicum this spring, a new program counseling individuals with behavioral barriers that arise when seeking jobs.

In Program news SEEC was notified that the RFP for Safe Havens was accepted. This pilot program with the Kentucky Housing Corporation involves performing employment assessments on eligible individuals in the Bluegrass Area Development District. SEEC has already started to perform assessments in the surrounding

counties. SEEC's TANF contract has been submitted to the Cabinet for 2008 while work on the 2007 TANF contract continues. Referrals from the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation remain strong and varied for evaluation, site-based assessments, and placement.

Effective Placements in the Community (EPIC) the Project with Industry (federal grant) that SEEC obtained from the Department of Education is in its second year. Placements are being made at a steady pace with good wages and benefits. Anyone with a neurological disability in the 17 counties of the Bluegrass Area Development District is eligible for free placement in a job.

The Epilepsy Support Group continues to meet at SEEC on the second Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. SEEC helped Epilepsy Kentuckiana host an Epilepsy Conference on November 18, 2006. Barbie Slevin and Malachy Bishop talked on Employment and Epilepsy at that conference. SEEC helped host a Conference on Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder on February 10 and SEEC will be helping the Brain Injury Association of Kentucky to host a conference on April 13, 2007 at Cardinal Hill. Ten middle school students from Lexington who were involved in Junior Achievement, job shadowed at SEEC in February to determine a future careers. It was fun and very interesting to have them at SEEC throughout the day! ♦

## Home Helpers/Direct Link Target Baby Boomers

The focus of Home Care is marketing to different neighborhoods and agencies that can use our companies' services. Our business is a "point of need" service and is a service that clients do not plan on needing until the need arises. Therefore, keeping our name in the public is foremost so they will think of Home Helpers first.

We are continuing the "Traveling Bingo Show," visiting retirement communities; Adult Day Care Centers, Hospitals, etc. Letters are being sent to residents focusing on care for "Baby Boomers" and their parents. Ads are being placed on public bulletin boards advertising for caregivers; which have been successful.

Lindsey Marler joined the Home Helpers team in September as an Administrative Assistant and her responsibilities include scheduling, payroll, marketing and occasionally, fill-in care giving.

Keep your eyes out for Home Helpers as we continue to grow. ♦

## OWL Center News Briefs

• We have updated our computer room! It now contains six new computers with full internet access. We are teaching internet job search classes and active resume classes. We are also in the process of offering online access to the GED. We have a practicum student, Heather Hensley, from Lindsey Wilson College, who will be the computer room facilitator at various times throughout the week.

• Myra Lyons has begun the Transition Program to assist individuals with transitioning from school to work, from teen years to adulthood. This program will help them with gaining maturity and learning about work and work expectations. It will also increase their basic work habits.

• We are offering an intensive, professional-style job placement service to individuals that might not need or be able to work in the production area at OWL. This service includes activities four days each week which will help consumers stay motivated, be accountable and keep on-track in their job searches. The consumers will also be able to provide peer support for each other (as well as receiving support from OWL Center Staff) throughout the job search process.

*Please contact Georgia Brownfield, OWL Center Director, or any OWL Center Staff, with any questions/referrals for any of our services. As always, also feel free to let us know if you have a need for some new type of service for your consumers.*

## Spotlight on Kim Clay, an OWL Center Success!

When Kim Clay was referred to the OWL Center for Transitional Employment Service, her ultimate goal was to obtain a job in the community. Her immediate goal was to work at OWL to have some income and a current work reference while receiving assistance with her job search. Kim, working closely with OWL Employment Consultant Jaye Forsythe, was very successful in her job search. She accepted a full-time job as a Financial Collector for CBS (Credit Bureau Systems) in September that pays \$10/hour plus commission.

When asked how her participation in the OWL Center Program helped her, she responded, "It gave me my confidence back."

She said the program helped her feel good about herself, increased her self-esteem, and the assistance she received from OWL



Kim Clay

helped her to stay motivated throughout her job search until the right job came along. "Jaye stayed in my corner and pushed me when I needed it," Kim said.

Kim highly recommends the services of OWL to other consumers and advises that they utilize the classes, tools and support that OWL provides to build the foundation necessary to obtain the best job possible. She also reminds consumers that the Center's staff is very good at providing the assistance and

guidance to help with job search, but the consumers themselves must ultimately be the driving force behind the process. Kim feels it was the combination of her efforts and the support that she received from OWL Center Staff that led her to the job that she has now held for six months.

Kim is a success story. Her motivation and hard work have enabled her to move into a place of her own. Now, her goal is to use her tax refund (and money from her savings) to purchase a car so she is not entirely dependent on public transportation. Kim now speaks to potential OWL consumers, giving them the perspective of a former consumer and motivating them to never give-up.

For these reasons, the OWL Center places our "spotlight" on Kim Clay. ♦

### Life Possibilities continued from Page 1

coordinating services for an effective transition back to the community. These pilot programs have joined efforts in creating the foundation for a jail program at the Fayette County Detention Center.

The Spiritual Growth Program emphasizes tools for behavior change, not merely talk or God-talk. The inmate must demonstrate three changes while in the program: the development of an inner life, by study, meditation and completion of inventories asking for self-examination; the daily practice of positive behavior, listening, learning, and following a personal regime of regulated activity; each must be open to ongoing feedback from all others, learning to recognize the blind side and to deal with negative feelings constructively.

The Life Possibilities Program is presently serving 26 active participants and is presently applying for grants. If you would like more information or want to volunteer to become a trained mentor, please call Moe Mercier at 254-0576. ♦

## What's New at LMC

Lexington Manufacturing Center continues to grow with new operations recently added by Webasto and Trane. We have added three new processes for Webasto, and have five more approved to start within the next month. Trane work is expanding by the addition of six new kits which will begin production soon.

The Lexington Manufacturing Center, in cooperation with Christian Layman Corporation of Greensburg, PA, is in a pilot program building furniture to meet a regulatory requirement in West Virginia and Pennsylvania that specifies that every child should have a bed and dresser. The funding for this project will come from a grant and/or charitable contributions. If successful, LMC would continue to build headboards and dressers for this project.

In the third quarter of 2006 LMC earned another three year ISO 9001:2000 accreditation from our registrar QMI out of Cleveland, Ohio.

Frank Johnson will be leaving his position as Executive Director of Manufacturing soon. Frank came to OWL in October 2002 after retiring from Lexmark after 30 years of service. Under Frank's leadership, OWL renamed its production department Lexington Manufacturing Center (LMC); received ISO 9001:2000 accreditation; created a pay incentive program and a cost initiative program. Frank initiated Lean Manufacturing Training for LMC which taught employees cost, quality, process mapping, change and people management, absolutes and disciplines, and continuous improvement. Frank will be missed and OWL wishes him the best for his future.

Martin Shoemaker began his new assignment as Executive Director of Manufacturing on March 26, 2007. He will work with Frank Johnson as he transitions into his new responsibilities. ♦



David Boggs has been selected by OWL's Board of Directors to be the new President/CEO following John Adam's retirement. David comes to OWL with 27 years of Educational experience – 16 years teaching; 9 years administrative – the last five were spent as superintendent of Dawson Springs Independent School District.

David's passion to serve others in need is demonstrated by assisting Teen Challenge of Kentucky with headquarters in Louisville and the Nile Maternity Home in Versailles as a volunteer grant writer and consultant. He is also involved with the community by serving on Kentucky's Office of Faith-Based Initiatives 2007

## From the President's Desk . . .

Conference Planning Committee in Frankfort. He will be co-presenting at the conference with Bonnie Cook the Executive Director for the Kentucky Psychiatric Association two workshops on faith-based grant writing. David also participates with the Kentucky Interagency for Chronic Homelessness Committee through the Kentucky Housing Corporation.

He initiated the establishment of a satellite YMCA Center in Dawson Springs; acquired funding through a grant for a Truancy Prevention Program that has been recognized as a model by the Kentucky State Board of Education; created the Judson Jenkins Learning Center for adult education classes; and served on the Madisonville KCTCS P-16 Council.

David served on the Kentucky Department of Education State and Regional Taskforce as a committee member for Closing the Achievement Gap for Deaf/Hard of Hearing and Blind/Visually Impaired students. He was active on the school District Racism and Diversity Committee to



ensure equity for everyone applying for a job and implementing non-discrimination policies as well as worked with various gender and racial groups within the community, state and school district.

One of David's first duties for OWL was to hire a replacement for Frank Johnson who is retiring as Executive Director of Manufacturing. According to David, "It is imperative for our new Executive Director for Manufacturing to continue to build on our manufacturing processes using our ISO 9001:2000 principles and our solid foundation. David is excited about the possibility of expanding OWL's satellite operations in surrounding counties where there is a need for our services. He is anticipating that OWL will continue to expand their current programs as well as incorporate new programs into each area allowing us to continue to build capacity. Our focus will remain on meeting the vision and mission of OWL in helping people with barriers to employment.