

In This Issue

- OWL Center Gets Kudos from Consumers
- OWL Foundation Holding Second Annual Charity Golf Outing
- LMC Makes Strides in Tough Economy
- SEEC Boasts Two Satellite Offices

Upcoming Events

Charity Golf Outing
Monday, July 13, 2009
11 am - 6 pm

OWL 50th Anniversary Celebration
September, 2011
Details coming soon



650 Kennedy Road
Lexington, KY 40511
(859) 254-0576
Fax: (859) 254-0578
www.owlinc.net

OWL Foundation Gets New Director, and New Direction



OWL Foundation Director
Casie Stevens

It's an exciting time for the OWL Foundation -- its spring and progress is in the air! On January 12, the OWL Foundation brought on a new director, Casie Stevens. Casie quickly evolved into her position and began the fund-raising efforts. A business plan and a marketing plan were quickly put into place to help the Foundation stay on track for success. The Foundation will now oversee all marketing and

advertising activities. This will help to raise the brand awareness for OWL and all the underlying divisions. Plans have been put into action to develop a Community Outreach Program, Volunteer Program, Fund-raising events and the 2011 50th Anniversary Celebration. Already, the Foundation has been developing new relationships for future successes: Lexmark International

continued on page 2

Free Tax Preparation Offered to Low-Income Families

OWL proudly partnered with CKEEP and the IRS again this year to provide income tax preparation for low income individuals and families. This free service allows e-filing of tax returns provided by certified volunteers and we hope to help over 100 taxpayers and families at OWL alone. As of March 31, we have processed 71 returns at OWL with refunds exceeding \$113,000. The whole program has processed 1,463 returns in the Lexington community and the total amount refunded exceeds \$2,150,000. OWL has several employees who are volunteering their free time to help make this program successful. We are also pleased to have volunteers from the community who are assisting OWL in preparing returns. With the help of these dedicated volunteers, we are



helping many people get their income tax returns quickly without the cost of a paid preparer. This beneficial service is one that we are honored to take part in and yet another way OWL is helping to make this community better. ♦

Foundation continued from page 1

OWL Charity Golf Outing

When:
Monday, July 13, 2009
11 am - 6 pm

Where:
Greenbrier Country Club

Limited space available, secure your foursome or advertising sponsorship today!

CALL 254-0576

donated 80 LMC refurbished printers to the Foundation. To be good stewards of the gift, the Foundation partnered with local community agencies that were in need of printers. Agencies such as Tubby's Klubhouse, Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Bluegrass, Kentucky Association of Sexual Assault Programs, Liberty Place Recovery Center for Women, Kentucky Equal Justice Center, and Bluegrass Area Development District on Workforce Development.

The Foundation will be hosting a monthly luncheon on campus to help raise awareness of the programs and people we serve. Among the groups to be invited are: past & present Board members, Lexington Fayette Urban County Government officials, Kentucky Association of Manufacturers members, friends and family of OWL Alumni, University of Kentucky Panhellenic

Council and Interfraternity Council, Legal Leaders of Lexington, vendors, media and President's & CEO's of companies in the Greater Lexington Area.

The Foundation will kick off the fund-raising season with a reception for OWL employees. Light refreshments will be served, while introducing the fund-raising and marketing plan to the OWL team.

A date has been set for the 2009 OWL Foundation Golf Outing -- Monday, July 13. The Foundation will be seeking volunteers for event promotion, sponsorship solicitation and silent auction items.

If you are interested in learning more about the OWL Foundation, or want to be involved, please contact Casie Stevens at 859-254-0576 or cstevens@owlinc.net. ♦

OWL Center Making a Difference

"I just need a job" is usually the answer when someone is asked why they want to participate in services at the OWL Center. They report that they have been looking for work or trying to do a job without success. Barriers they often say are reasons why they have become discouraged from looking for work include:

- No appropriate jobs available
- Inadequate education/training/experience
- Inadequate job seeking skills including how to complete applications and resumes, how to find job openings and how to do well at interviews
- Need for accommodations due to medical reasons
- History of incarceration
- Family responsibilities
- Lack of transportation
- Fear of losing benefits
- Discouraged from working by family and friends

At the beginning of services, each participant completes an assessment with their employment consultant. This assessment allows them to look at the barriers they are experiencing and set a plan that allows them to reduce or eliminate these barriers. The plan might include completing a vocational evaluation, taking life management or job seeking classes, completing work assignments at LMC, and working with other community support agencies as well as working individually with their employment consultant. The employment consultant uses skills similar to life coaches, cheerleaders, and teachers to help the participant keep on the track toward reaching their employment goals.

For a participant to succeed, they have to be ready to work hard on their individual barriers, learn problem-solving strategies, and be willing to apply these strategies to develop a future that includes employment. Each month, we conduct follow-up to see how participants who have completed the program are doing and to see if they have any suggestions for us to improve our programs. The following are comments that we have recently received:

"OWL helped me get on the right track and establish a routine." Rhonda M.

"OWL helped me to believe that I had options." David P.

"OWL got me motivated to work again." Alisha H.

"OWL helped me to believe in myself." Mona S.

"OWL helped me by providing encouragement and emotional support." Sharon R.

"OWL helped me to regain my self confidence and assisting me in job searching. It's how I got my job." Craig W.

In February 2009, the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that the unemployment rate of persons with a disability was 14 percent, compared with 8.7 percent for persons with no disability. As the National Disability Employment Awareness Month of 2003 states, "America Works Best When All Americans Work." Let's encourage our community to look for ways to continue to reduce barriers to employment to close this gap. ♦

Increased Screening Assessments Warrant NEW SEEC Satellite Operation

Skill Enhancement & Employment Center (SEEC) has undergone many changes over the last few months in operations.

SEEC has a TANF contract in which it does Screening Assessments for all individuals receiving K-TAP in the Southern Bluegrass counties of Kentucky. The Screening Assessments are composed of tools which indicate: depression, anxiety, substance abuse, learning problems, medical problems and indications of vocational interest and aptitudes. The Southern Bluegrass counties are: Fayette, Jessamine, Clark, Powell, Estill, Madison, Lincoln, Garrard, Boyle, and Mercer. In October, Jefferson County was added to SEEC's Screening Assessment operation with 2700 people on K-TAP in the Jefferson County area. This has proven to be quite a challenge and has required

establishing a satellite operation- in Jefferson County!

Evaluations at SEEC have more than doubled in number since last fall. Last winter Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors referred many people to the SEEC Evaluation Department but only a few people actually showed up. As a result SEEC Evaluation was producing fewer reports than it could. One Counselor asked if SEEC could return the reports more quickly. And so it did. Suddenly The Evaluation Department tripled in referrals and marketed a new way to make sure people would come to their appointments. It has proved quite successful!

Other areas such as TIP (transitioning to independence program) a TANF program, and Learning Strategies, a program for consumers of Vocational

Rehabilitation are going through further transitions as of this writing. OWL Center and SEEC are looking for further ways to work together so that future Rehabilitation programs and grants can be strong and creative for consumers, staff and those of you interested in OWL's future. ♦



Nonprofit Org
Paid
US Postage
Permit #608
Lexington KY

OUR MISSION
Provide a work-oriented
Community Rehabilitation
Program and related
services to individuals who
have barriers to
employment so they can
have the opportunity to
develop the skills and basic
work habits to reach their
vocational goals.



LMC Ups Efforts to Weather Tough Economic Storm

Without a doubt, the balance of 2009 into 2010 will be challenging at every level and will require us to leave no stone unturned in our efforts to gain new projects to support the work of OWL. Events in the fall of 2008 created a new business dynamic that could not have been anticipated given the robustness of the business environment that guided LMC's budget development in 2008. As a result of the changes in business levels, most of our customers adjusted their business plans to reflect lower volumes in demand for their goods and service. In response to these rapid changes, we adjusted our business plan to mirror those changes and accelerated our efforts to capture additional business from new and existing customers.

LMC's focus over the past 18 months has been to grow our markets in an effort to provide additional avenues of training for the clients we serve. We will continue to focus on growth and diversification in order to provide our clients with the opportunities to train for jobs that enable



them to develop the skills the current job market is demanding. New business opportunities have already occurred this year in manufacturing and services that will provide the resources to continue this process.

Our existing customers continue to support our programs with major launches of several new projects that have consumed a large part of the manufacturing space and supported the training of substantial

numbers of new clients. In support of these projects, we have gained UL approval as part of the project launch and undergone extensive audits by our customer's corporate quality departments. We will continue to work diligently to provide value-added services that support their efforts to navigate in a challenging business environment.

We are excited about the opportunities we see occurring in the Richmond and Berea areas as a result of the efforts of Cyndi Hall, our new marketing and contracts specialist, who is focusing her efforts in that area. She has opened the door to several major business opportunities that are in process and will provide additional work for clients in the region.

LMC and OWL are excited about the prospects for the remainder of the year and expect to see new opportunities arise as we expand our efforts to contact more and more businesses in Fayette and surrounding counties. ♦

From the President's Desk . . .



OWL President
David Boggs

not everyone will finish. At OWL we have been in a race for nearly fifty years – a race against barriers for employment created by mental, physical and other obstacles that hinder the individuals we serve. Our vision – to create a world without barriers to employment – simply states our desire and goal for the individual lives we touch. Since 1961, we have been fortunate to work with over 17,000 people. This vision cannot be accomplished without a

It was once said that any old horse could enter a race but only a thoroughbred can win. The race is only for the strongest of the strong and

committed mission: partnering with communities to educate and equip individuals with barriers to employment in reaching their vocational goals. We invite you to become an active part of our mission and join us in reaching our vision.

The current economic environment all businesses and industries are facing is having an impact at OWL. OWL's leadership was not caught off guard by this dilemma. We are striving to address the needs of today and build for tomorrow at the same time. As Gary Harpst quoted in his recent book, Six Disciplines Execution Revolution, "Knowing how to plan and execute, while overcoming 'today's surprises,' is the most foundational capability any organization can have." We have a solid strategy and will continue to execute until we reach our vision.

Simply by reading this newsletter you become a part of OWL's vision and mission. How you can assist? Volunteers are needed to assist with completing job applications, mentoring youth, computer room assistants, placement for employment, potential contracts to be used for job training, participation in our Annual Golf Outing for the OWL Foundation, or just by offering words of testimony to promote our services are just a few of the ways you can become engaged.

As always, thank you for your continued role in changing lives. We could not exist without you! We owe so much to this community and the founders who started this organization. One Lexington Junior League member recently told me, "This (OWL) has probably been the most successful program we have ever funded."