

# 2006 *Annual Report*

*"The Rhode to Success"*



*Rhode Island Department of Human Services  
Office of Rehabilitation Services  
and the  
Rhode Island State Rehabilitation Council*

*Donald L. Carcieri  
Governor*



*Gary D. Alexander  
Acting Director*

## *The Mission of the Rhode Island Office of Rehabilitation Services is*

“To empower individuals with disabilities to choose, prepare for, obtain and maintain employment, economic self-sufficiency, independence and integration into society.”



### *Values*

We value the worth, dignity, rights, responsibilities, and empowerment of all person with disabilities in achieving their individualized goals.

We value staff who reflect pride and commitment to excellence in achieving our mission.

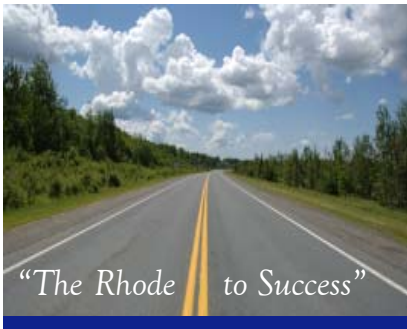
We value a management style that fosters responsibility and accountability while encouraging creativity, initiative, and leadership throughout the organization.

We value community support in achieving the agency's mission.

We value leadership which promotes clarity of purpose.

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## Message from the Acting Director Gary D. Alexander

It is my pleasure to provide you with the Annual Report for Federal Fiscal Year 2006 for the Rhode Island Department of Human Services, Office of Rehabilitation Services (ORS). ORS is charged with empowering Rhode Islanders with disabilities to obtain and maintain employment, economic self-sufficiency, independence and full integration into society. Vocational Rehabilitation Services, Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired and Disability Determination Services provide a myriad of resources and services which enhance the quality of life for Rhode Islanders with disabilities.



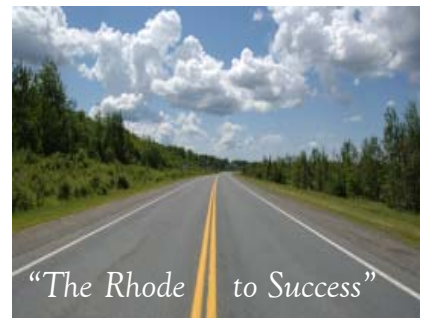
Younger individuals with disabilities and their families work with vocational rehabilitation counselors in order to make that important transition from school to post-secondary education and careers. The business and labor community depend on ORS for trained, job-ready applicants. Rhode Islanders applying for social security disability benefits get accurate and timely decisions. From Vision Screening for young children to independent living services for older individuals who are blind, Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired provides a comprehensive array of personalized services.

In FFY 2006 7,066 persons with disabilities were provided vocational rehabilitation, training and employment services. The Disability Determination Services adjudicated 12,465 claims for social security disability benefits.

We are proud of the partnerships that our staff has developed with our citizen advisory councils, our customers and the community, which has contributed so much to the quality of life for individuals with disabilities in Rhode Island.

# Message from the Administrator

## Raymond A. Carroll



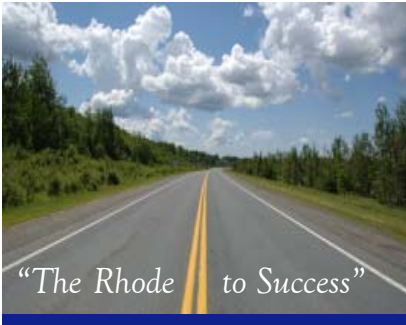
On behalf of the Office of Rehabilitation Services, I am pleased to present to you the 2006 Annual Report. The purpose of the Office of Rehabilitation Services is to provide customized and comprehensive services to individuals with disabilities that will maximize their quality of life, self reliance, and economic independence in the community.

We have included success stories that reflect the diversity of our customers and their needs. We want to describe the partnership between our staff and our customers that makes rehabilitation work.

The Vocational Rehabilitation Program increases revenue at all levels of government and decreases the burden of income maintenance programs. As persons with disabilities achieve an employment outcome, they become tax-paying citizens and more than pay back the cost of the program.

In 2006, ORS assisted 736 individuals with disabilities to obtain competitive employment. With an emphasis on serving individuals with the most significant disabilities, ORS is making a real difference in the lives of individuals with disabilities and their families. The accomplishments outlined in this annual report reflect favorably on the efforts of the staff who, by hard work and commitment, have continued a long tradition of serving Rhode Islanders with disabilities.

We are also indebted to the Rhode Island State Rehabilitation Council, Statewide Independent Living Council, Governor's Advisory Council for the Blind & Visually Impaired, State Committee of Blind Vendors, and Rhode Island Council on Assistive Technology, for their partnership and help in maximizing the potential of persons with disabilities. I also extend my appreciation to our hard-working and capable staff along with our many public and private partners.



## Message from the State Rehabilitation Council Chair J. David Sienko

As a member of the State Rehabilitation Council, I am proud to share with our constituents the 2006 Annual Report. This was another successful year for the Rhode Islanders with disabilities entering the workforce. The numbers alone speak volumes about the partnership between the Rhode Island Rehabilitation Council and the Office of Rehabilitation Services.

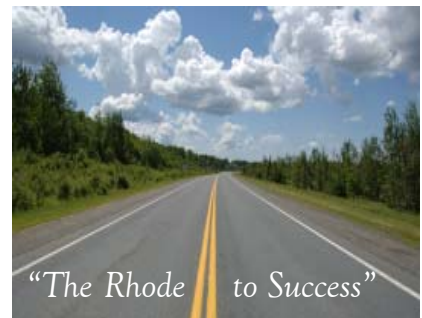


This partnership included Council involvement in the development of the strategic plan, the state plan and policies of the Office of Rehabilitation Services. Beyond this, the Council held its first annual strategic planning retreat. The retreat provided an opportunity for the Council to align its work more closely to the strategic plan of the agency and create goals for each of the Council's committees where the majority of the work is accomplished. Through the leadership of the committee chairs and staff from ORS, the Council's strategic plans will be implemented over the next year with progress reports provided at each of the full Council meetings. We are very excited about this development.

You will find each of the Council committee reports beginning on page 21 of the Annual Report. Of particular note this year, the Council has moved to create an ad hoc committee devoted to the issues of transportation. Through the Comprehensive Needs Assessment 2005, it became apparent that transportation remains a barrier for many Rhode Islanders with disabilities seeking employment. This diverse committee will engage the various constituents and agencies wrestling with the transportation dilemma and will offer policy recommendations. This too is an exciting development and responds directly to the needs of our constituents.

I thank the Council members for their commitment to our shared vision and the support of our Administrator, Raymond Carroll for his commitment to our partnership. I would also like to thank the committee chairs for keeping the work moving and our staff person, Nancy Baker for keeping us organized. Please join us for one of our Council meetings, they are open meetings and the dates and locations are posted on the ORS web site.

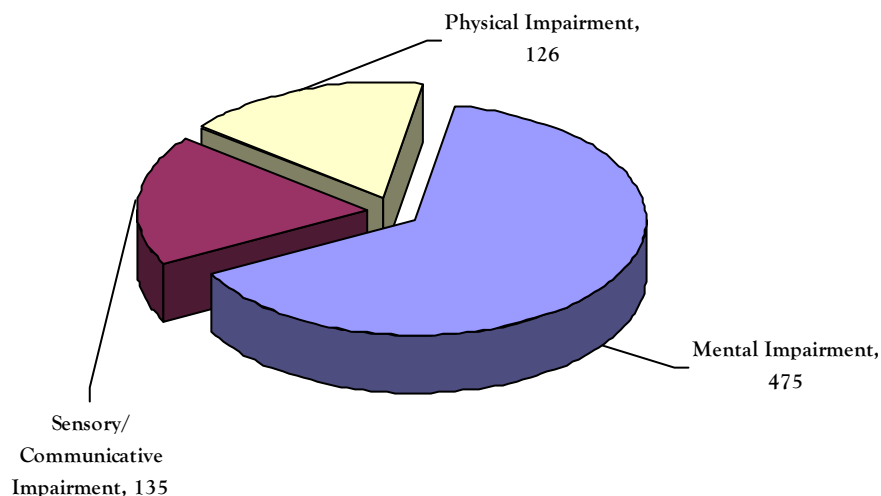
# State Rehabilitation Council Accomplishments



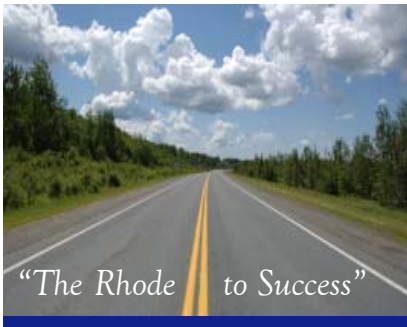
During 2006 the State Rehabilitation Council assisted the Office of Rehabilitation Services to achieve its mission. Some of the accomplishments and activities were:

- ◆ Participated in the development of the ORS strategic plan
- ◆ Chaired the 10th Annual Employer Honor Roll event which celebrates Rhode Island employers for excellence in hiring and supporting employees with disabilities
- ◆ Advised ORS on policies and procedures
- ◆ Policy and State Plan Committee contributed in revising one and creating two ORS policies
- ◆ Reviewed the Agency's 2006 accomplishments on the RSA Standards and Indicators

## Primary Disability of 736 Persons Successfully Employed







# Program Highlights

Federal Fiscal Year 2006  
October 1, 2005 - September 30, 2006

## 736 individuals were successfully employed

2,125 individuals applied for vocational rehabilitation services.

7,066 individuals with disabilities were provided vocational rehabilitation services.

1,465 individuals worked with a vocational rehabilitation counselor to develop a new Individualized Plan for Employment [IPE].

4,647 individuals received Counseling and Guidance Services from vocational rehabilitation counselors.

2,419 individuals received services purchased from vendors. Services ranged from evaluations, medical and psychological therapies, training, personal assistant services, job placement and training.

391 individuals received rehabilitation technology services to assist them to prepare for and to enter employment.

20,389 individuals received information from Assistive Technology Access Partnership (ATAP) Resource Centers about assistive technology and funding options.

5,042 individuals received AT training, demonstration, loans or assistance with recycled AT devices.

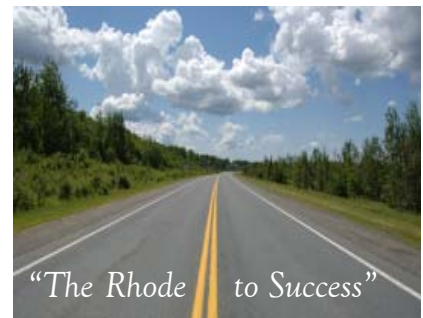
2,290 youth with disabilities from 14-21 have been provided transition services by 19 VR counselors

21 vending facilities were supported by the Business Enterprises Program (BEP) at Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired. BEP sales increased by 1.6% to \$1,806,958.

275 children, including 75 children age birth through three years old, received services from the Social Service unit.



**Program Highlights** (cont.)  
**Federal Fiscal Year 2006**  
**October 1, 2005 - September 30, 2006**



17,500 children were screened by the Vision Screening Program resulting in 543 children receiving necessary follow-up care thus reducing or eliminating the early impact of poor visual function.

720 elderly individuals who are blind or visually impaired received services from the Independent Living for Older Blind Program: 343 received low vision aids, 226 received rehabilitation teaching, 123 received mobility services and 453 received service coordination. 98.3% of this group reported that they feel more confident in their independent living, and 16.7% indicated they had considered nursing home placement prior to services, but were able to remain in their own homes.

42 children who are blind, visually impaired and multi-disabled attend Camp Mauchatea.

13,273 total cases were received by the Disability Determination Services.

12,465 claims were successfully processed by the Disability Determination Services.

9,205 initial claims were filed.

1,349 continuing disabilities review cases, including 135 face-to-face hearings.

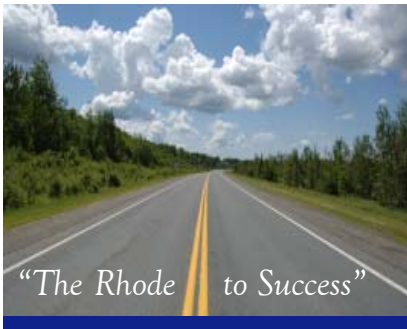
4,561 Consultative Examinations were purchased.

10,180 Medical Evidence of Record purchased.

\$1,532,508 Total Medical Costs with a Total Budget of \$7,097,523.

\$565.54 Cost per case

Production Per Work Year (PPWY) efficiency rate was 259.8. The national rate was 240.0. The performance accuracy rate for RI was 94.4 %. The net accuracy was 96.8%. The regulatory standard is 90.1%.



# Vocational Rehabilitation

## What We Do...

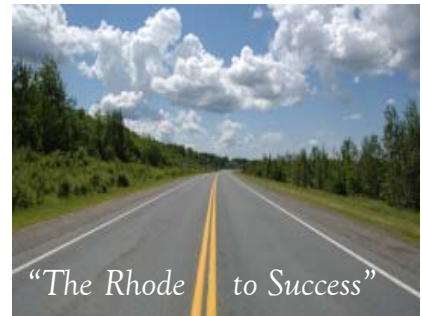
The Vocational Rehabilitation process consists of assisting an individual with a disability to assess his/her vocational abilities and to identify, coordinate and provide services needed to realize employment.

The partnership between each individual with a disability and their vocational rehabilitation counselor is a key component in the vocational rehabilitation process. The individual and his/her vocational rehabilitation counselor work together to develop an Employment Plan which will assist them to reach employment. Vocational rehabilitation services that may be included in an Employment Plan are:

- ◆ Counseling and Guidance to help plan vocational goals and services
- ◆ Transition Services from School to Career
- ◆ Rehabilitation Technology Services
- ◆ Assistive Technology Services
- ◆ Diagnostic Evaluations
- ◆ College or Vocational Training
- ◆ Job Development and Placement Services
- ◆ Vehicle Modifications
- ◆ Housing Modifications
- ◆ Post-Employment Services
- ◆ Other Goods and Services
- ◆ Job Training and Job Supports

## Deaf Services...

The Office of Rehabilitation Services helps individuals who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing obtain services to meet their needs, provides counseling and guidance to help plan vocational goals and services, and assists the individual to obtain employment. They serve as a resource to professionals, state agencies, community organizations, and the public providing information related to employment, training and accommodations for persons who have a hearing loss.



### **Independent Living Services...**

The Office of Rehabilitation Services purchases assessments and independent living services from the two Independent Living Centers, PARI and OSCIL, as part of preparing individuals with significant disabilities for employment.

### **The Rhode Island Learning Disabilities Project ...**

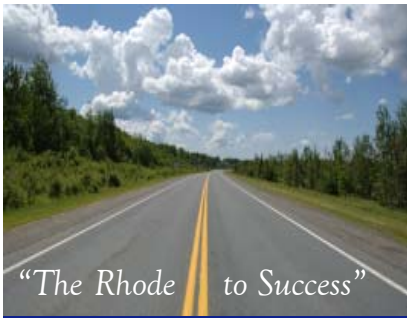
The LD Project is a unique Department of Human Services intra-agency initiative between the Office of Rehabilitation Services and the Family Independence Program (FIP). This collaborative relationship was created to help identify parents on cash assistance with learning disabilities, and to provide the necessary accommodations and vocational training programs in order for individuals to become independent and economically self-sufficient. During 2006, the nationally-recognized LD Project served **94** individuals and assisted **29** individuals with learning disabilities to reach their employment goals.

### **Supported Employment...**

Supported employment assists individuals with the most significant disabilities, who need ongoing supports, to choose, find and keep competitive employment in community integrated settings. After initial services by ORS, long term funding is provided through other funding sources.

### **Transition...**

The Office of Rehabilitation Services has a strong commitment to assist students with disabilities with transition planning to adult life. ORS counselors visit all school districts and work with families and students to plan services to help students reach career goals. ORS counselors provide technical assistance and information to school systems and work in partnership with the 5 Regional Educational Collaboratives and 2 Transition Academies to improve transition planning.



## Other Programs

### **Adaptive Telephone Equipment Loan (ATEL) Program...**

The ATEL Program loans telephone equipment to residents of the State of Rhode Island who have hearing, speech, or neuromuscular (unable to dial or hold a receiver) impairments and have a signed certificate of disability. Equipment is issued on a first-come, first-serve basis.

### **Assistive Technology Access Partnership (ATAP) ...**

The Office of Rehabilitation Services is the lead agency for the Rhode Island Assistive Technology Access Partnership (ATAP). ATAP is a statewide program funded under the Assistive Technology Act of 1998, which works to reduce or eliminate barriers that impede access to, and funding for, assistive technology devices and services for individuals with disabilities of all ages.

### **Home Modification Program...**

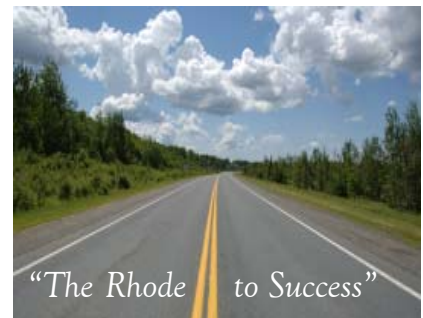
The Office of Rehabilitation Services administers federal and state independent living funds which provide home accessibility and adaptive equipment for individuals who are significantly disabled, to enable them to meet independent living goals in their homes and communities.

### **State PCA Program...**

The Office of Rehabilitation Services contracts with PARI Independent Living Center to be the fiscal agent for the State Personal Care Assistance program for individuals who are not eligible for Medicaid-funded waivers. Through this program **twenty** individuals are able to continue living in the community rather than a nursing home.

**Work Incentive Planning & Assistance on the Rhode to Independence** is a new cooperative agreement with the Social Security Administration and the Office of Rehabilitation Services. The goal of the project is to assist SSA beneficiaries with disabilities to succeed in their efforts to obtain or return to work. The project will emphasize return to work efforts by providing accurate information regarding work incentives planning, assistance and outreach services that are designed to encourage beneficiaries with disabilities to seek, maintain and regain employment.

# Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired (SBVI)



Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired (SBVI) offers a wide array of services to eligible individuals who are blind or visually impaired through its Vocational Rehabilitation Unit, Business Enterprises Program, and Social Services Program. The various services offered by these programs are designed to help individuals of all ages achieve independence at home, in the community, and in the workplace.

## **Vocational Rehabilitation Program...**

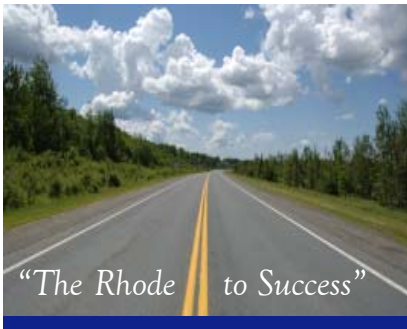
is a Federal/State Program created to assist people who are blind or visually impaired to obtain or maintain employment. Services provided include evaluation, orientation, mobility training, rehabilitation technology, guidance and counseling, career assessment, educational planning, vocational training, provision of adaptive equipment, job development, placement, and follow-up services.

## **Business Enterprises Program...**

is a Federal/State Program which establishes vending facilities in state, federal or private buildings for operation by persons who are legally blind. Licensed blind vendors operate vending facilities at 21 locations throughout the state and are assigned to these locations on the basis of their seniority within the program. Types of facilities range from small snack bars serving light snacks and beverages to larger food-service sites serving hot and cold entrees prepared on-site. All operate under the name of "Coffee Plus".

## **Social Services Program...**

Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired coordinates a federal comprehensive service program which focuses primarily on children from birth through age 14, elderly individuals, and individuals for whom a vocational goal is not feasible.



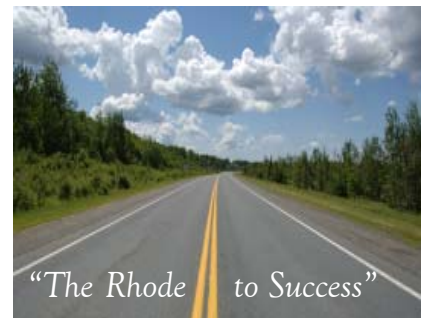
## Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired (continued)

- **Children's Case Management Services** include family casework, coordination with Early Intervention Programs, educational guidance, summer camp for youth, arrangement of ophthalmological and low vision evaluations, and information and referral to appropriate community programs.
- **Vision Screening Program** through Saving Sight RI which utilizes an MTI photoscreening device to take pictures of the child's eye without the child having to read an eye chart. Screenings are done in day care centers, nursery schools, public schools and other community locations.
- **Independent Living for Older Blind Program** provides case management services, along with ancillary services for mobility, and orientation, rehabilitation teaching for skills training in activities of daily living, management of low vision, provisions of adaptive equipment, and information and referral to support groups and appropriate community services.

### **Newsline...**

This is a comprehensive newspaper reading service available to individuals who are blind, visually impaired, or print handicapped, that is accessible through the use of any touch-tone telephone. Individuals can access more than 200 newspapers and magazines, including The Providence Journal, The New York Times, USA Today, The Wall Street Journal, and the AARP Monthly Newsletter.

# Disability Determination Services (DDS)

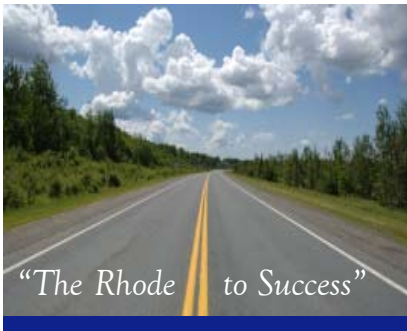


ORS administers the Disability Determination Services (DDS) for the Social Security Administration (SSA). This unit determines the medical eligibility of children and adults with disabilities applying for cash benefits who are Rhode Island residents who apply for Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and/or the Supplemental Security Income (SSI). Although the DDS is fully funded by the Federal government, the state agency is responsible for developing medical evidence and determining whether the claimant is or is not disabled or blind under the law.

The Rhode Island Disability Determination Services went to a fully electronic processing system in 2005, where SSA and DDS records are maintained in an electronic folder that is entirely paperless.

In 2006 the RI DDS continued with the transformation to a paperless environment and was one of six states nationally to implement a newly-structured adjudication system. This new model known as DSI (Disability Service Improvement) utilizes the innovations available in the electronic process while streamlining other aspects of adjudication and review. The final product will be a system which provides more accurate disability determinations within a less cumbersome timeframe. The new model is robust and undergoing constant revision. While Rhode Island is one of the states utilizing and perfecting the model, it's national rollout will be gradual, with full, nationwide implementation not expected until 2011.





## Recognizing Success

Name: Donovan Williams  
Occupation: Sales Representative  
Employer: Graphics Innovations  
Counselor: Margaret Koch

### Donovan - In His Own Words

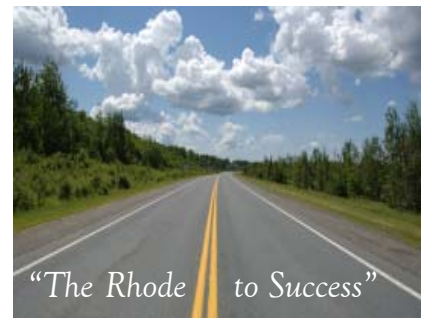
*“The work is a big part  
of it, you know”*

Donovan Williams went to a concert in 2003 and woke up from a coma blind 3 months later. He said, “The specialists don’t know why I am blind, whether it was the heat or the toxins in the Station fire. After I left the rehab hospital, I got a call from Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired. When we met at my home in Westerly, my counselor, Missy Koch, told me if I wanted to go back to work, I could.”

In the beginning, Ms. Koch called me regularly about how I felt about returning to work. One day, she asked me what I was doing and I had to say, “Babysitting.” She asked me if I really wanted to do that. “Afterall”, she said, “I was an intelligent and talented young man. And I had to say, I love my kids, but babysitting was not really what I wanted to do.”

Ms. Koch introduced me to rehabilitation engineering and vocational rehabilitation. I became very aware of my options, especially through technology. I decided to go with rehabilitation and technology. The technology system designed for me is incredible. I began with the technology, and we worked out On-the-Job Training at my old, firm, Graphics Innovations. Graphics Innovations continued to pay for my health insurance during the time I recovered from injuries received the night of the Station Fire. My medical bills totaled around \$8 million.

The technology system that rehabilitation engineering developed includes a special desk and chair, but most importantly, an Intellitools keyboard that allows me to see to type. It has bright accessible overlays. I use two large, flat screen monitors, a headset, telephone keyset, and Zoomtext screen enlargement software with speech. I also



received technology training so that I coordinate and competently use all of this technology to perform my work.”

At the 2006 Employer Honor Roll Breakfast, Consumer Keynote speaker Donovan Williams told the audience, “I come from a creative family. I was a graphic artist at Graphics Innovations, and I went to RISD to do that job. That was my work prior to the Station Fire. So, three years later, here I am with the people who helped me get to this day, on this stage - Jim Larkin, owner of Graphics Innovations, Office of Rehabilitation Services and Lou Esposito, rehabilitation engineer.”



*D. Williams, M. Koch, R. Carroll, J. Larkin, L. Esposito*

My rehabilitation has worked so well, that my employer and ORS are supporting me to go even further in my career in sales. “The work is a big part of it, you know”, I told Ms. Koch.

When asked what the most important thing to me is today, I have to say, “Now, I just want to be a good father.” Thanks to Graphics Innovations, ORS, my family and friends, I am doing all I can and I am doing it well.”



## Recognizing Success

Name: Bobbi Jo Sirois, William Bourque, Donald Piccardi  
Occupation: Dining Room Staff  
Employer: Exeter Job Corp  
Counselor: Melanie Sbardella

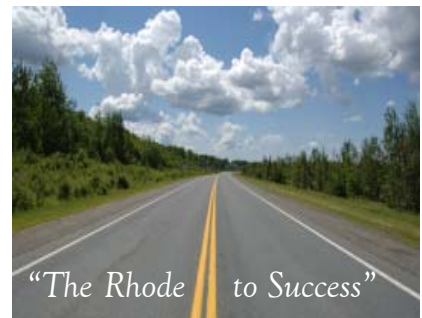
Bobbi Jo Sirois, William Bourque, Donald Piccardi are presently employed at Exeter Job Corp. This is an amazing group of people that work together to keep Exeter Job Corp's dining room and kitchen neat and tidy. Bobbi Jo, William, and Donald bring to their work their own individual strengths, and support each other as they work as a cohesive unit. Adeline LaPlante Center provides job coaching procured through Rhode Island Department of Developmental Disability (DDD) funds helping them to continue to grow.



Donald began his vocational process unsure of what he wanted to pursue in the world of work. He began working at Exeter Job Corp through the LaPlante Center to gain experience. With his strong work ethic and smiles, he has been a nice addition to the crew. He continues to focus on the dining area and dish room. Donald has the ability to work in a team and take direction with ease. He was assisted with supported employment services from ORS as well as guidance and counseling from his counselor.

William has a strong work history and brings strong work skills, the ability to get things done independently, and also the ability to train others. He has an amazing sense of self as well as a sense of humor. He worked with the Office of Rehabilitation Services for job development, job placement, and supported employment training. William drives himself to work and is able to identify his strengths and barriers. His counselor also worked with William on exploring ergonomic aids to increase his work productivity.





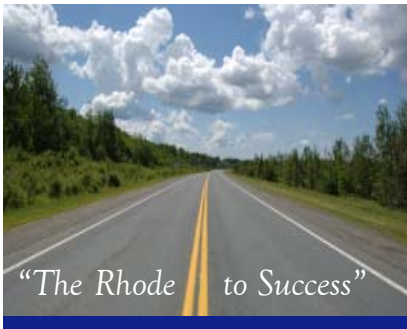
Bobbi Jo is an employee. She really is the glue that holds the team together. She has the ability to train others and also pick up on tasks easily. She was supported by our office with applying for DDD Services, getting involved with the LaPlante Center, supported employment services, and guidance and counseling. She is soft spoken but her work ethic and skills are secure and strong.

Each has brought a unique skill to form a tight knit group of workers. Exeter Job Corp has allowed the LaPlante Center to follow up, and they too have guided their employees in a positive manner. Their counselor has gone out to the facility a couple of times after they had been employed for a while. This counselor's observation is that they are an integral part of the cafeteria's work dynamics. They are also provided the same opportunities as far as skills training and support as the staff that are not supported by the LaPlante Center.

Without the drive of these individuals, the support of ORS and DDD, and the guidance of Exeter Job Corp, these individuals would not have found successful employment. Recently, Exeter Job Corp received an Employee Honor Roll Award from the State Rehabilitation Council and the ORS. This counselor is hoping that the Exeter Job Corp receives the Longevity Award in the future.







# Standards and Performance Indicators as of 9/30/06

## Standard 1 Employment Outcomes

### Indicator 1.1 - Number of Employment Outcomes

Federal Standard Equal to or greater than prior year

FY 2000	89 greater
FY 2001	90 fewer
FY 2002	32 greater
FY 2003	34 greater
FY 2004	30 greater
FY 2005	65 greater
FY 2006	36 greater

### Indicator 1.2 - Standard/Indicator - Employed vs those closed unsuccessfully after plan (Rehabilitation rate)

Federal Standard	55.8%
FY 2000	67.79%
FY 2001	80.09%
FY 2002	77.58%
FY 2003	59.31%
FY 2004	58.31%
FY 2005	64.28%
FY 2006	59.74%

### Indicator 1.3 - Competitively Employed (minimum wage or higher)

Federal Standard	72.6%
FY 2000	70.81%
FY 2001	62.88%
FY 2002	89.67%
FY 2003	94.88%
FY 2004	90.87%
FY 2005	90.57%
FY 2006	91.44%

### Indicator 1.4 - Competitively Employed (minimum wage or higher) who have a Significant Disability

Federal Standard	62.40%
FY 2000	98.68%
FY 2001	97.64%
FY 2002	98.24%
FY 2003	99.48%
FY 2004	100.00%
FY 2005	100.00%
FY 2006	100.00%

### Indicator 1.5 - Earnings Ratio of Minimum Wage or higher for ORS vs. State Average

Federal Standard	Ratio of .52
FY 2000	.53
FY 2001	.61
FY 2002	.55
FY 2003	.56
FY 2004	.555
FY 2005	.60
FY 2006	.55

### Indicator 1.6 - Self-Support (report own income at closure vs. own income at application)

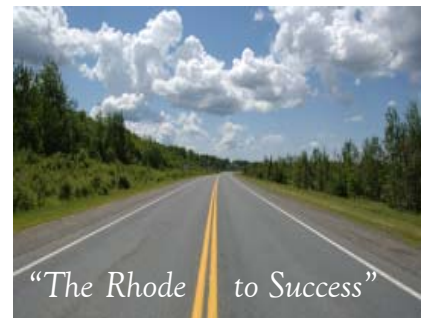
Federal Standard	53% mathematical difference
FY 2000	42.32%
FY 2001	41.43%
FY 2002	50.59%
FY 2003	59.23%
FY 2004	59.54%
FY 2005	58.83%
FY 2006	62.41%

## Standard 2 - Minority Ratio Equal Access to Services

Federal Standard Ratio of .80 for n=100+

FY 2000	.83	FY 2002	.87	FY 2004	.91	FY 2006	.94
FY 2001	.73	FY 2003	.86	FY 2005	.93		

# Building a Better Partnership in the Community



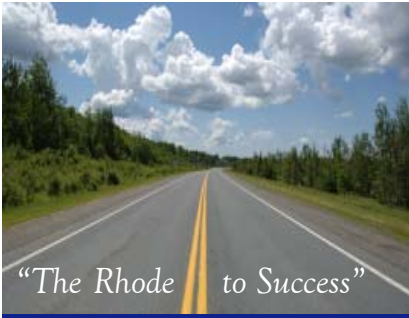
**State Rehabilitation Council** is a citizen advisory body appointed by the Governor. The Council is consumer-controlled in that a majority of its members are individuals with disabilities and not employed by the State VR Agency. Members represent agencies, organizations and other councils of and for individuals with disabilities in Rhode Island. The SRC in conjunction with the VR agency jointly conduct the comprehensive state-wide needs assessment of individuals with disabilities in Rhode Island, develop and agree to the state's annual goals and priorities in carrying out the VR program, and annually evaluate the state's performance relative to its goals and conducts customer satisfaction surveys. Together the SRC and the state VR agency partner to assure that individuals with disabilities receive appropriate, timely and effective VR services.

**Governor's Advisory Council for the Blind and Visually Impaired** is an advisory council appointed by the Governor that advises the SBVI regarding the programs provided by that agency; works collaboratively with the State Rehabilitation Council and the Statewide Independent Living Council; and provides oversight responsibility to the Independent Living Program for the Elderly Blind.

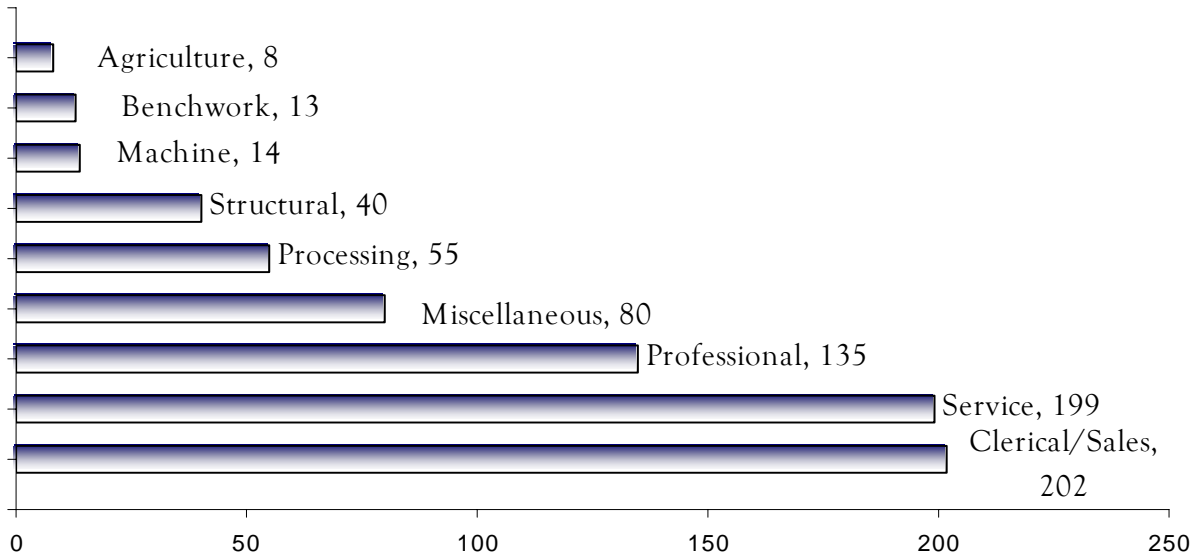
**RI Council on Assistive Technology (RICAT)** is the advisory body to the RI Assistive Technology program ATAP - the Assistive Technology Access Partnership - funded through the AT Act. RICAT is actively involved in legislative and other initiatives that will increase the access to assistive technology for Rhode Islanders.

**RI Statewide Independent Living Council (RISILC)** jointly develops and submits, in conjunction with the ORS, the State Plan for Independent Living Services and Centers for Independent Living. They also monitor, review and evaluate the implementation of the State Plan.

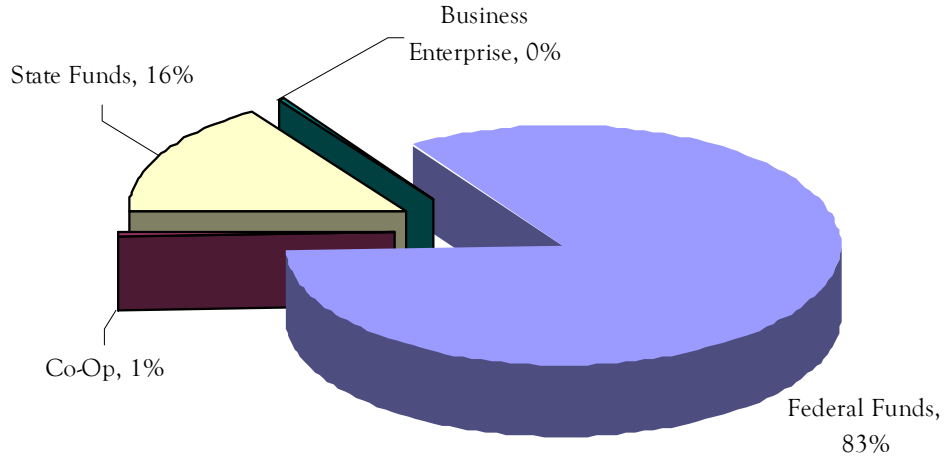
**State Committee of Blind Vendors** is composed of representatives elected from among all licensed blind vendors within the state. The Committee participates actively in carrying out all of the program management responsibilities.



# Occupations of 736 Persons Successfully Employed



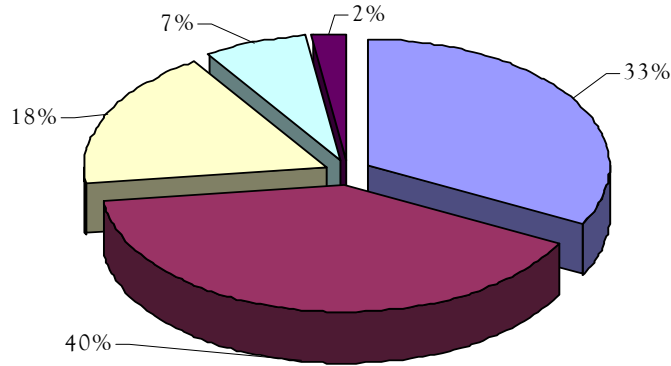
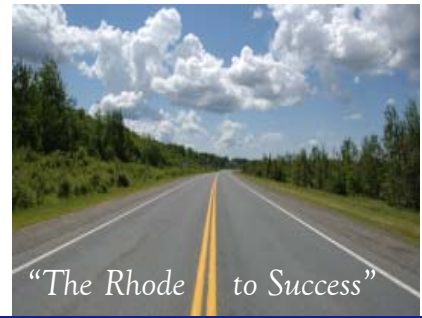
## ORS Funding Streams Fiscal Year 2007 Budget \$24,754,753





# Hourly Income of 736 Persons Successfully Employed\*

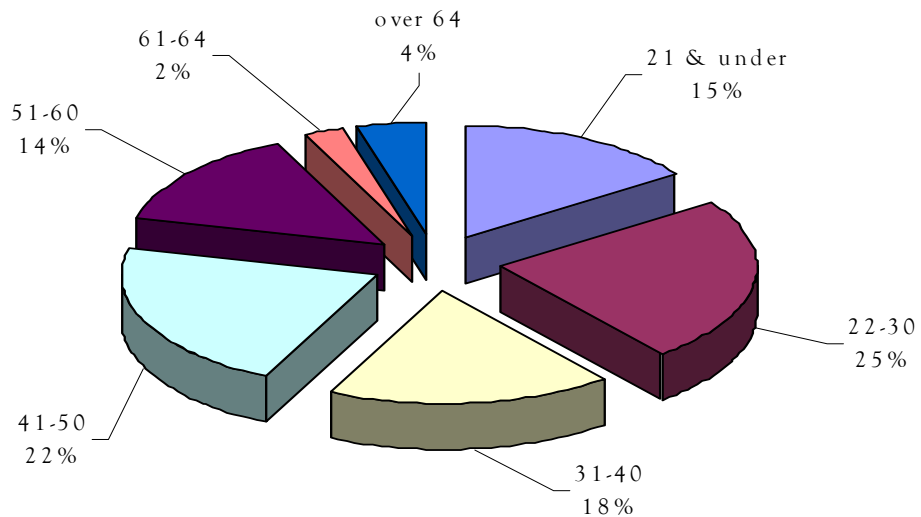
\*does not include homemakers

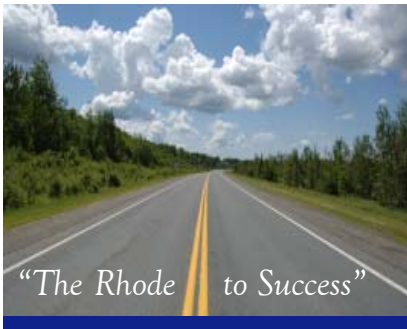


■ Under \$7.50 ■ \$7.51 - \$10.00 ■ \$10.01 - \$15.00 ■ \$15.01 - \$25.00 ■ Over \$25.00



# Age Groups of 736 Persons Successfully Employed





## State Rehabilitation Council Committees

### **Nominating & Leadership Development**

**Co-Chairs: Janice Belasco and Domenic DiOrio, Jr.**

The past year for the Nominating & Leadership Development Committee was most successful in presenting six new members to the Council. Several meetings were held during the course of the year in pursuit of accomplishing our goals established by the Federal Regulations as to composition and leadership.

The Committee submitted their Slate of Officers for approval by the membership for the next year. In addition, the Slate of Officers and new membership names, as well as members entering their second three-year terms were all submitted to the Governor for official appointments.

As a result of the strategic planning initiative, the Committee will develop a plan of action to contact minorities and corporate leaders in the Rhode Island community, churches, civic groups, colleges, social service agencies etc., in furthering the fulfillment of the Federal Guidelines. In addition, a Guest Speaker In-Service Program will be developed to inform and educate the Council in specific issues dealing with disabilities.

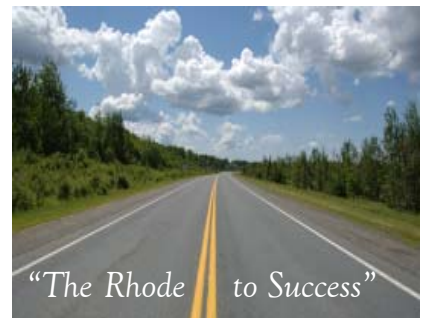
This new effort will be integrated into our strategic planning process to work towards successfully accomplishing our 2007 goals.

### **Employment**

**Chairperson: Domenic DiOrio Jr.**

**Vice Chairperson: Susan Donovan**

The Employment Committee has been examining the Comprehensive Needs Assessment that was completed last year, in accordance with the Rehabilitation Act mandate. This document, in conjunction with our State Performance Plan, has been the catalyst for the strategic planning and development of a Marketing Plan. The



Employment Committee's Marketing Plan is currently being developed and is expected to reach completion by January 2007. This plan is intended to help support and increase capacity in the area of Job Development for the agency.

The committee also participated in a strategic planning retreat with ORS and council members. Details of a marketing plan and long-term goals were identified as well as linkages to other committees on the Council.

Members of the committee also took part in the planning and organizing of the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Employer Honor Roll. The event recognizes employers of individuals with disabilities, who have successfully hired, integrated, promoted, and supported persons with disabilities in their organization.



*Back: S. Florio, R. Carroll, E. Costa, L. Massimino, A. Leclerc, L. Deschenes, V. Rossi, J. Drew,  
A. LaPlante (Guest), N. Baker, R. Racine, S. Brunero  
Front: S. Donovan, M. Dorinsville, C. Sansonetti, J. Ferreira, M. Hoye, D. Sienko, G. Levine,  
J. Belasco, D. Diorio, J. Giroux*



## **Quality Assurance**

**Chairperson: Robin M. Dolan**

2006 has been a year of transition for the Quality Assurance Committee; we are looking potentially to combine committees to increase our effectiveness. Our charge is to monitor the effectiveness of the products and services being offered by the Office of Rehabilitation Services both on a Regional and Local basis.

We are looking at the Standards and Indicators and interfacing the outcomes of Consumers looking to potentially identify the unserved or underserved population. Every three (3) years there is a Statewide Consumer Satisfaction survey of individuals with disabilities that is reviewed to determine the effectiveness of services being offered and utilized.

During 2006 all Standards and Indicators were passed.

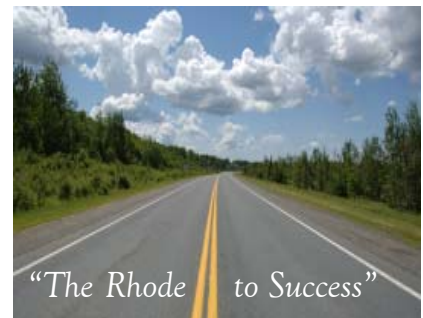
## **State Plan & Policy**

**Chairperson: Joseph Ferreira**

The SRC State Plan and Policy Committee continued to evolve this year with the addition of new members Gary Levine Esq., and Edward Costa joining Chairperson Joseph Ferreira, and Catherine Sansonetti, Esq. The committee continued to review and comment on state policies being developed including: Services to Family Members 115.19, Other Goods and Services 115.39, and Reader Services, 118.4. All of the policies were vetted through the Administrative Procedures Act.

Additionally, the State Plan and Policy Committee assists with the review of, and development of the State Plan updates and attachments. The designated state unit regularly consults with the SRC regarding the development, implementation and revision of state policies and procedures of general applicability pertaining to the provision of vocational rehabilitation services.

# 2006 State Rehabilitation Council Members



Chairperson, J. David Sienko

Vice-Chair, Joseph Ferreira

Secretary, Margaret Hoye

Janice Belasco

Rocco Bruno

Edward Costa

Domenic DiOrio

Robin Dolan

Susan Donovan

Judith L. Drew

Steven Florio

Jeanne M. Giroux

Elizabeth Graves

Anne LeClerc

Gary J. Levine

Lucille Massemينو

Catherine Sansonetti

Rev. Robert A. Shaldone

Linda L. Deschenes, Ex-Officio

Raymond Carroll, Ex-Officio

Nancy Baker, Staff Assistant

DHS does not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, color, national origina, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, age, religion or sex in acceptance for or provision of services, employment or treatment in its educational and other programs and actitivities.

For further information about this policy, contact:  
the Community Relations Liaison Office, (401) 462-2130  
or TDD (hearing impaired( 401) 462-6239.



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Office of Rehabilitation Services  
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401.272.8090 (Spanish)  
[www.ors.ri.go](http://www.ors.ri.go)

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choose, find and keep employment”*

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calling Sharon DiPinto at 401.421.7005 ext. 318.