

Biz Works Grant

This Micro Business manual was made possible through a start up grant awarded to STEPS (Structured Teaching Environments Promoting Success) in April 2007 by Valley Mountain Regional Center. STEPS is a consultation business focusing on providing visual supports/strategies to students and consumers.

STEPS is co-owned by Karen Honkala and Liz Zastrow. STEPS provides consultation to Regional Centers, Department of Rehabilitation, School Districts, consumers and their families focusing on employment and structured teaching strategies.

In San Joaquin County the community stakeholders had been convening a monthly Micro Business committee for the past four years which explored the current projects taking place in California. It is from this committee's diligent and forward thinking that inspired the Biz Works model.

The major goal of Biz Works was to take what the Micro Business committee had learned and put it into practice. The goal was to take five VMRC consumers taking them through the process of starting their own business. We were also examining what worked and where the challenges are in this employment option.

Thank You

We thank Mr. Richard Jacobs, Director of Valley Mountain Regional Center for being the leader. He has led the paradigm shift of moving his agency to focus on employment.

We thank Carmen Hill, Assistant Director for Case Management, VMRC for assisting us through this grant process and promoting our progress.

We thank Jirii Sakata, VMRC team leader and his transition team at VMRC for providing referrals and consumer follow-up.

Our Biz Works grant facilitators, Joni Kort, Paul Nussbaum, Sheri Whalen.

Dedication

We dedicate this work to the following consumers and their families for entering into the Biz Works program. It is from all of you that we learned how to make self employment work! We thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Business Name: Sarah Saks

Contact: www.sarah-works.com

Product: Various Saks

Phone: 209.373.3770

Thank you to Kathy Werner, Sarah's Mom, for all of her support of Sarah in her business endeavors. We had some fun burrito and coke dinners.

Business Name: KLD Errand Service

Contact: klderrands@yahoo.com

Product: Various Errands

Phone: 209.639.2776

House sitting

Dog walking

Grocery shopping

Support to senior citizens

Business Name: Di's Olympic Spring
angelkins@comcast.net

Contact:

Products: Gatorade, water, coke, ice pops

Greeting cards

Service: Shredding

Business Name: Life Without Limits

Contact: sharonjacobson1@aol.com

Product: Greeting Cards

Bookmarks

Calendars

Poetry

Frames

Personal Book

Business Name: Dysfunction Clothing

Contact: dysfunctionclothing@yahoo.com

Product: T-Shirts

Sweatshirts

Hats

Business Name: J's Snack Stop

Contact: Debra Wright/ADC North

Product: Vending Machine Snacks
931.1131

Phone: 209.473.3419 or

Kudos for ADC North and all of the support they gave to Jordan in opening his business. May their progressive and forward thinking lead the way!

Thank you to San Joaquin SELPA for housing his business.

Business Name: Computer Whisperer Contact:
kidwajagstang@comcast.net

Service: Computer Repair Phone: 209.577.4842

Business Name: Toby's Tye Dye

Product: Tye Dye Clothing

Phone: 209.369.4403 home or 209.351.2774 cell

T-Shirts for men and women

Children's clothing line

Special orders available

Toby and his family opened this business on their own. We promote his products.

Business Name: Paul's Handy Home Services Contact:
paulmarks@gmail.com

Service: General House Repair Phone: 209.469.7021

Painting

Electrical