

# See the Person

Not the  
Disability



“ There are all forms of disabilities some are more visible than others. People with disabilities are hard workers, willing to please and want to be treated equally and fairly. ”

Vickie Baber-Dix



2010 Annual Report  
Oklahoma Department of  
Rehabilitation Services

—(Cover)Vickie Baber-Dix, DVR Rehabilitation Technician. Vickie has worked all her adult life. The last nine years have been with DRS.

She was born with a rare form of Muscular Dystrophy. It is a slow progressive disease that affects the muscles in the arms, legs and balance.



# Vickie Baber-Dix

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— (Right) Dan Shephard, DVS Assistive Technology Specialist. Dan went to work at 13 years old doing work a lot of grown men wouldn't do. DRS has been fortunate enough to have him working for us the last five years.

He has a visual impairment called Stargardt's Disease. It is a condition that causes a loss of central vision, or affects the way he sees color. This disease also alters the ability to focus on detail, such as print or facial features.

# Look around

When you stop and look around, you will find many people with disabilities working, shopping - doing their own thing. A disability does not mean life stops or even life is bad. In simple terms, a disability means that a person will have to do things differently.

Many of the most difficult barriers to employment for those who have disabilities disappear when decision-makers see the person and not the disability. When leaders and co-workers see “Bob in accounting” not “the blind guy in accounting,” so will the rest of the organization.

Thankfully, we live in an ever-changing technological world and many computer software and gadgets are minimizing the disability’s negative effects. Texting, the latest wonder of our time, allows the deaf to communicate on the run just like everyone else. Screen readers allow those who are blind to read and write computer documents with ease. Speech-to-text software gives people who have mobility impairments the ability to type. These are just a few of the improvements to technology in the last few years.

On the following pages, we introduce you to many awesome DRS employees who have a name and are critical to the successes of the agency.

“ Everyone needs to be able to do something, whether it’s a lot or only a little; it gives you a sense of self-worth, and it makes you feel human. ”

# Dan Shephard





# Director Michael O'Brien, Ed.D.

2010 was a great year for the Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services. I am truly proud of the hard work and performance of our staff. When we do good work, all Oklahomans benefit either through being a client and getting work, or a student receiving an education or a state resident whose local economy improves because those who were not working are now shopping and spending in their hometown.

In our vocational rehabilitation programs through our Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and our Division of Visual Services, we closed 2,292 cases — the best performance in more than four years. Each case is an Oklahoman who successfully found employment. Making this accomplishment even better is that we are in tough economic times. There are not that many jobs out there. Through networking and pushing, we prevailed and clients benefitted.

Our Disability Determination Division improved combined processing time by 21.5 days - going from 116.5 days in June down to 94.9 days in September. It is critical that this division does accurate and timely work because people with disabilities are waiting for Social Security benefits for living assistance. I am exceptionally proud of this division for being ranked second in the nation in accuracy.

I am so pleased that the Oklahoma School for the Blind and the Oklahoma School for the Deaf graduated every one of their senior class members - not every school can boast of a 100 percent graduation rate. Thanks to their specialized education, these students are well prepared for their next step in life whether it be post-secondary education or full time employment.

The DRS Education and Outreach Expo is an annual two-day public event that provides information about employment services, tailored programs for children who are deaf or blind and technology specifically designed for people with disabilities. We were very pleased with the success of the first year, but when we surpassed the numbers at the second Expo, we knew we were on to something good with more than 400 in attendance.

2010 was a great year, and we are looking forward to continued success in 2011.

Michael O'Brien, Ed.D.  
Director

# Oklahoma Commission for Rehabilitation Services

The Oklahoma Commission for Rehabilitation Services meets monthly to discuss agency activities and plan for the future. Chair, Commissioner Ben C. White, led the meetings and the commission through another successful year.

Lawton resident, White, was appointed to the commission by the Governor of the State of Oklahoma. Although he is retired now, White draws on his expertise as a hospital administrator and business owner to assist the agency in making sound decisions.

Vice Chair Commissioner Ray F. Kirk, from Muskogee, also pulls on his experience from his 32 years as an insurance agent and his business as a rancher of a 580 acre spread. Kirk was appointed to the commission by the President Pro Tempore of the State Senate.

Commissioner Steve Shelton devotes his time to the agency while still working full-time as a senior application programmer and consultant with Fidelity National Information Services. Shelton has great empathy for our clients as a former client himself. He was appointed to the commission by the Speaker of the State House of Representatives.

Working directly with the commissioners is the agency Director, Michael O'Brien, Ed.D. O'Brien leads DRS' 900 employees. In state fiscal year 2010, O'Brien's staff assisted 84,942 Oklahomans with disabilities. He directs the agency which is comprised of five program divisions, Vocational Rehabilitation Division, Visual Services Division, Oklahoma School for the Blind, Oklahoma School for the Deaf, Disability Determination Division and Support Services. Each division has its own goals with the collective mission to open doors to opportunity for Oklahomans with disabilities.



Left to Right: Commissioner Ray Kirk, Commissioner Steve Shelton, Commissioner Ben White and Director Michael O'Brien.

# Memories of a Successful Year



This year, DRS celebrated many outstanding accomplishments.

At the 16th Annual People with Disabilities Awareness Day held at the Oklahoma State Capitol, more than 440 exhibitors, volunteers, staff and guests attended.

Legislative visits, exhibitors and an awards ceremony highlighted the event, including a keynote speech by Jim Stovall, president of Narrative TV Network and an address by Lt. Gov. Jari Askins.

The Oklahoma School for the Deaf hosted Gallaudet University's Midwest Regional

Academic Bowl for deaf and hard of hearing students from 16 high schools in 11 states. Approximately 80 students participated in the quiz tournament, which is similar to those held by high schools and colleges throughout the country. This contest was slightly different, as questions were presented to contestants in American Sign Language, as well as in spoken and written English. And "Deaf Studies" was one of the question categories.

The Disability Determination Division (DDD) hosted an Angel Tree party. DDD, along with Angel Tree Ministries, provided clothes, shoes, coats and gifts to children on behalf of incarcerated parents who sought assistance in providing Christmas for their children.

Oklahoma School for the Blind sophomore, Andrew Williams, was one of only ten students in the nation accepted to the "Leading the Way: Rim to River 2010" program. This is an adventure of a lifetime that not only challenges the students physically with a trip to the Grand Canyon but also exposes them to science, service, leadership and culture. The program pairs up visually impaired or blind students with sighted students as guides where they must learn to work together.

The Oklahoma Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped held their annual Summer Reading Program. It is designed to encourage young readers to read for pleasure during their summer break. Each participant sets a personal reading goal for a number of books or amount of time spent reading during June and July. Every reader who met the goal received a braille, audio or large print book to keep.

When clients come to DRS, one of the first things they receive is the "Your Rights and Responsibilities" handbook. This is a valuable document that will assist them throughout their services. We have always provided this in the accessible formats, such as large print or braille, for our clients who are blind or visually impaired. Now



we proudly announce that we have it in American Sign Language (ASL) for our clients who are deaf. The 35 minute video with no audio is available to those whose first language is ASL, allowing for better understanding of the services they are about to receive.

The agency also held two DRS Education and Outreach Expos in federal fiscal year 2010, which this report is based on. The first one was held in October 2009 at the Oklahoma School for the Deaf in Sulphur and the second in August 2010 at the Oklahoma School for the Blind in Muskogee. The Expo provided clients, staff and the general public with information about employment services, programs for children who are deaf or blind and technology specifically designed for people with disabilities. Through valued partnerships, we were able to provide professional training and information about various services and accessible technology available for those who have disabilities.

DRS also began Oklahoma WINGS: Leadership Academy. Eleven participants interested in exploring their potential for leadership were chosen to participate in the program. It is designed to provide vocational rehabilitation specialists and program field representatives exposure to skills such as innovative approaches to problem solving and increase personal and organizational accountability and empowerment. Participants committed to an 18-month curriculum with five learning sessions and year-long project team work.



“ For me, I work to feel good about myself and to be able to make a difference. To sit at home and wait for a handout is easy enough, but I would rather work and be productive and earn the pay instead of having it given to me.

DRS has helped me know my rights and that I am able to be employed and that there are multiple and multitudes of advanced accommodations available to help me succeed in my career field. ”

—Alfred M. Huff, Management Services Division Administrative Network Administrator. He has worked for DRS for a year and half.

He is hearing impaired and wears a Cochlear Implant.

# Alfred M. Huff



# Characteristics of Persons Rehabilitated in VR and VS Programs

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Total Persons Rehabilitated</b>	<b>w/Severe Disabilities Rehabilitated</b>
Male .....	1153	973
Female .....	1139	956

## **Race**

White .....	1724	1444
African American.....	357	301
Asian.....	24	24
American Indian or Alaska Native .....	246	214
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander .....	7	6
Hispanic Ethnicity .....	78	65

\*Clients may indicate up to six races/ethnicities.

## **Age at Application**

Younger than 20 .....	601	535
20 to 21.....	107	89
22 to 34 .....	446	372
35 to 44 .....	331	275
45-64.....	680	550
65 and older .....	127	108

## **Education Level at Application**

No formal schooling .....	19	19
Elementary education (Grades 1 through 8) .....	58	54
Secondary Education, no diploma (Grades 1 through 12) .....	667	589
Special education certificate of completion/diploma or in attendance.....	43	36
High school graduate or Equivalency certificate (regular education students) .....	779	642
Post-secondary education, no degree .....	374	305
Associate degree or Vocational/Technical Certificate .....	195	157
Bachelor's degree .....	124	101
Master's degree or higher.....	33	26

## **Primary Disability**

Blind/Visual Impairment .....	392	351
Deaf/Hard of Hearing .....	231	140
Deaf-Blindness .....	5	5
Communicative Impairments.....	24	21
Orthopedic Impairment.....	350	296
Respiratory Impairments.....	46	32
General Physical Debilitation.....	84	60
Other Physical Impairments.....	234	184
Cognitive Impairments .....	503	458
Psychosocial Impairments.....	250	225
Other Mental Impairments.....	173	157

# Anna Henderson

“It is important for me to work. I need a purpose for getting out of bed everyday, and I want to contribute and help others.”



—Anna Henderson, Financial Services Division Administrative Technician II. She is a former DVR client and has been in the workforce more than 20 years.

She has Cerebral Palsy. Anna wants people to see her for who she is, not what she has.

# Vocational Rehabilitation

When Oklahomans who have physical or mental disabilities want to go to work, they come to us, Vocational Rehabilitation. Through the vocational rehabilitation services, the work place becomes open to those who have disabilities. Individuals with visual impairments receive the same services from DRS' Visual Services.

To qualify for services, a person has a physical or mental disability that is a substantial barrier to employment. He or she must be able to benefit from vocational rehabilitation services in ways that lead to finding and obtaining employment.

## VR Clients Served

Federal FY-2010

Clients Served .....	12,437
Program Applications .....	8,727
Employment Plans .....	5,531

Clients may receive career counseling, vocational education and training or medical services if it is determined it will help them find employment. They may also receive assistive technology and job placement coaching. Our counselors help clients find their own path to employment success and independence.

The clients who find gainful employment begin to support their local community and the state through paying income tax, as well as spending their earnings around town. Employment can bring an improved sense of self for clients and pride in being a working member of society.

## VR Clients Employed

Federal FY-2010

Employment Outcomes.....	1,794
Average Yearly Earnings.....	\$18,855
Average Cost of Services Per Client .....	\$8,346
Average Taxes Paid.....	\$2,828

For our young adults with disabilities, we have the Transition: School to Work program that takes high school students and prepares them for the work world. Transition counselors provide advice and training that often include summer jobs or workshops that teach interview and resume writing.

The deaf community benefits from our services through the VR process, but also through our interpreter certification program. Not only do

we help clients find work, we help by evaluating the proficiency of sign language interpreters for those who need them.

Division staff also operate three career planning centers and coordinate services with eight tribal vocational rehabilitation programs.

# Troy A. Kruger

“ It is important for me to work to keep my mind off the disability. I feel I can give other individuals the guidance and direction towards an employment outcome.

There is more ability in the word disability than dis. ”

— Troy A. Kruger, DVR Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist II. He is a former client of DVR and has been employed for the last six years.

Troy has Multiple Sclerosis. He feels more valuable when drawing a paycheck.



## VR and VS Clients Served

Federal FY-2010

Clients Served .....	15,195
Program Applications .....	10,294
Employment Plans .....	6,601

“ I choose to work because it is important for me to be a productive member of society. I need to set an example for my young daughter that blind people and people with disabilities can live normal lives.

Also, I am just like everyone else in our society who has to work to earn a living, not to mention giving Uncle Sam his share of the pie. ”

—Ani Severtsen, DVS Rehabilitation of the Blind Specialist and former VS client in Washington State. She has been a rehabilitation teacher for 13 years. Ani is legally blind.



## VR and VS Clients Employed

Federal FY-2010

Employment Outcomes.....	2,292
Average Yearly Earnings.....	\$18,002
Average Cost of Services Per Client .....	\$8,444
Average Taxes Paid.....	\$2,700

# Ani Severtsen

# Pam Holloway



“ Some people think if you have a disability you can't work. That is not true; if you have the right training and determination, you can work. ”

—Pam Holloway, DVS Rehabilitation of the Blind Specialist – specialty area Rehab Teacher and former DVS client. She has been working for more than two years.

She is legally blind with retinitis pigmentosa. Pam also receives assistance from Vanna, her guide dog.

# & Vanna

# Visual Services

Visual impairments do not have to prevent a person from working or living independently. DRS' Visual Services (VS) provides services that make it possible for people who are blind or visually impaired to reach their employment or life goals.

The vocational rehabilitation process in VS gives clients the opportunity to become employed through career counseling, vocational education and training, medical services required to become employable, assistive technology geared to their specific needs and job placement.

Many clients receive individualized skills training to allow them to navigate their environments, operate computers, manage money, dress themselves and much more.

Clients are eligible for the vocational rehabilitation program if their visual impairments make it difficult to work. They must be able to benefit from vocational rehabilitation services, which are required to prepare for and find jobs.

For our young adults with disabilities, we have the Transition: School to Work program that takes high school students and prepares them for the work world. Transition counselors provide advice and training that often include summer jobs or workshops that teach interview and resume writing.

The Older Blind Independent Living Services gives Oklahomans, 55 and older, the ability to remain independent after becoming visually impaired. The program teaches living skills with special magnifying equipment, talking gadgets and tips to staying safe when performing household duties.

The Oklahoma Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped is the source for talking books for those who cannot read the written word due to visual impairments or physical disabilities. The library mails thousands of free recorded books to patrons all across the state. The Accessible Instructional Material Center (AIM) provides free braille textbooks and classroom materials to public school students.

## VS Clients Served

Federal FY-2010

Clients Served .....	2,758
Program Applications .....	1,567
Employment Plans .....	1,070

## VS Clients Employed

Federal FY-2010

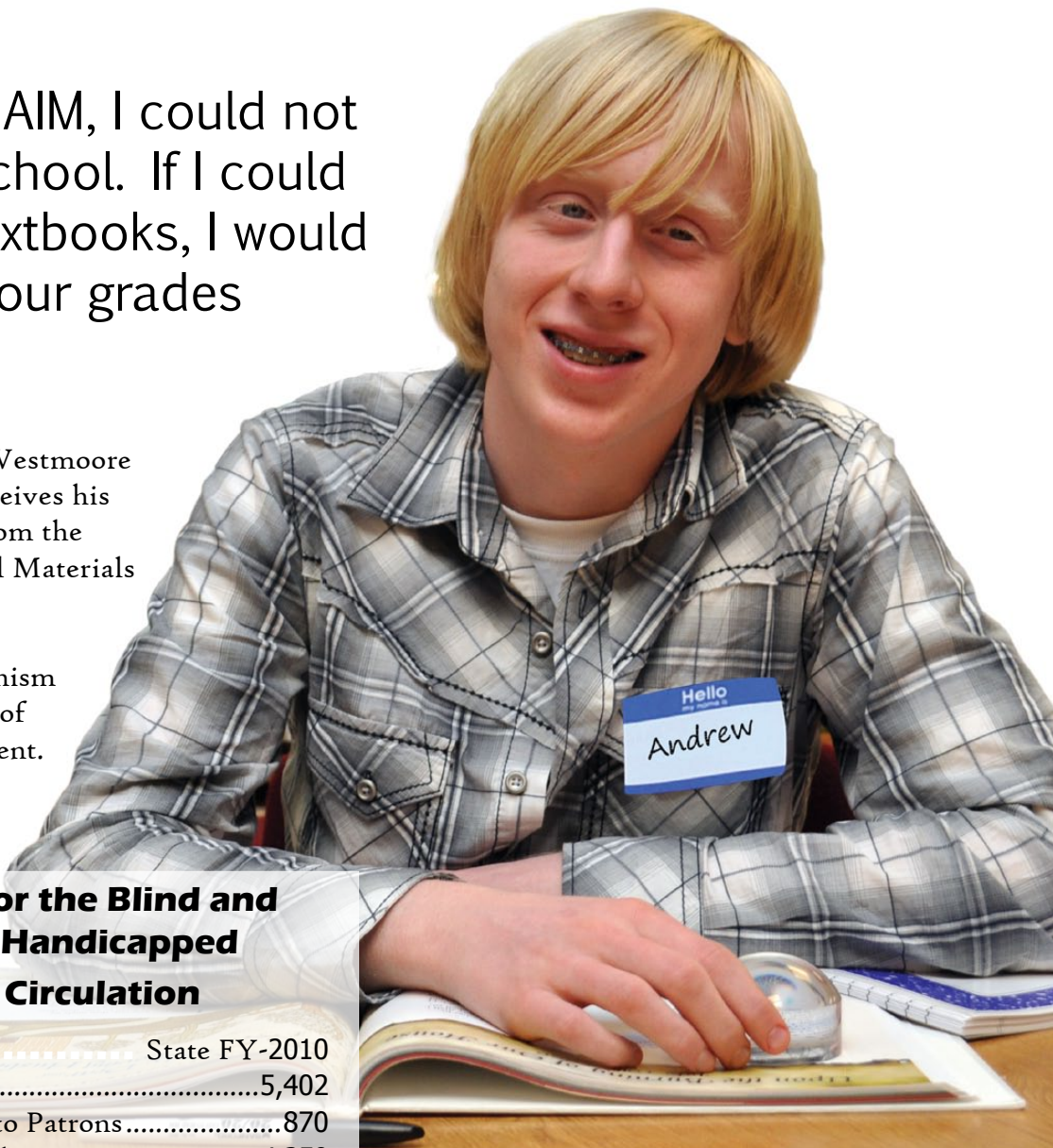
Employment Outcomes.....	498
Average Yearly Earnings.....	\$14,928
Average Cost of Services Per Client .....	\$8,796
Average Taxes Paid.....	\$2,239

# Andrew Williams

“ Without AIM, I could not succeed in School. If I could not get my textbooks, I would probably be four grades behind. ”

— Andrew Williams, Westmoore High School Junior, receives his large print textbooks from the Accessible Instructional Materials (AIM) Center.

He has low vision, Albinism and Nystagmus, a form of involuntary eye movement.



## OK Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped Services Circulation

	State FY-2010
Library Patrons.....	5,402
Books Circulated Daily to Patrons.....	870
Books Received Weekly by Patrons.....	4,350
Daily Inquiries.....	125

## Accessible Instructional Materials (AIM) Center

	State FY-2010
Children Served.....	893
Average Days for Child to Receive:	
In-house Book.....	1
Ordered Book - Braille.....	60
Ordered Book - Large Print.....	14
Total Books/Items in Collection.....	12,963
New Books Purchased - Braille.....	161
New Books Purchased - Large Print.....	648
Instructional Aids and Equipment *.....	1,038

\*Books and instructional aids/equipment, such as talking globes, tactile maps, etc., are ordered during one fiscal/school year and received the next fiscal/school year.

## Federal Quota Funds (Previous School Year)

	State FY-2010
Children Eligible for Textbooks .....	522
Funding .....	\$169,504

The State Department of Education provides supplemental funding annually for Braille Education materials. For FY08 and FY09 the funding amount was \$250,000.



“ Work gives me challenges and the opportunity to better myself and my situation. ”

— Diane Bowers, Administrative Officer for DVR. She is a former client of DVS and an OSB alumna, Class of 1973. She has been working consistently for the last 13 years.

She has Aniridia, a rare genetic disease. Although this disease can sometimes be associated with other conditions, the only symptoms Diane has are related to her eyes. She has absence of the iris which affects sensitivity to light, decreases visual acuity, and led to glaucoma 23 years ago.



# Diane Bowers

# Cathy Mahan

““ Having a hearing loss does not mean I am intellectually challenged. I do not like to sit around the house and watch TV all day, every day.

I also like the pay and benefits I receive when I work. ””

— Cathy Mahan, Social Security Disability Determination Specialist I at DDD. She is a former DVR client. She has worked all of her adult life because she likes to feel needed and be productive.

She has a congenital, bilateral, profound hearing loss. She has a cochlear implant in one ear with the expectation of getting an implant in the other ear in the near future.



# Disability Determination

The Disability Determination Division strives to provide timely, accurate, documented Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) determinations for Oklahomans and the nation.

DDD provides high quality, responsive service that meets, and often exceeds, Social Security, Oklahoma and community expectations and standards. They successfully serve customers with highly trained staff who make the right decision at the right time.

Disability examiners know that each Social Security claim is a person needing benefits to live. Therefore speed and accuracy are critical. This year, the division improved the combined processing time by 21.6 days, going from 116.5 days in June down to 94.9 days in September. DDD is also second in the nation with a cumulative quality at 98.5 percent, which means that their accuracy is great.

Another outstanding accomplishment was being selected to become a national resource creating an Extended Service Team (EST) site here in Oklahoma City. Oklahoma's EST is one of only four state agencies in the country that assists other states with their backlog of cases. Currently, this EST site employs 59 Oklahomans to work on California cases.

Our disability examiners and consulting physicians or psychologists review applicants' medical and vocational information and work as a team on the medical review process. They decide whether or not applicants qualify as disabled or blind based on medical evidence using federal guidelines. Here accuracy, speed and expert opinions are critical.

Children are evaluated based on their ability to perform age-appropriate activities and their medical evidence.

In 2001, DDD had 183 employees with a federal budget of \$14.7 million. In 2010, the division now has 357 employees with a federal budget of \$39 million. The expansion in staff is in response to DDD's commitment to provide quality service to Oklahoma and the surrounding states.

## Performance

Federal FY-2010

Budgeted Workload .....	70,300
Completed Workload .....	67,257
Processed Budgeted Workload.....	95.7%

Federal FY-2010

Decision Accuracy Rate Oklahoma.....	98.5%
Decision Accuracy Rate National.....	96.8%
Processing Time (days) .....	100

# Caity Mathews

“ Working is important for my own independence. Just because I have a disability doesn't mean I have to depend on people my whole life. I also want to prove to myself that I can do it and not let that get in my way. A little bit to prove to other people that we have a brain — we can do stuff. ”

— Caity Mathews, OSB Class of 2012. She wants to be a journalist or psychologist and won't let impaired vision stop her.



# Oklahoma School for the Blind

Students who attend the Oklahoma School for the Blind receive the education every young Oklahoman deserves. In addition, they receive specialized training that allows them to participate in the world after high school.

Even though OSB is located in Muskogee, its boundaries are statewide. Regardless of the student's hometown, the school bus will pick him or her up at no cost to the parents or guardians. Students who do not live close by and commute daily, live at the school during the week and return home on the weekend.

All state mandated education requirements are taught at OSB. The school offers a comprehensive curriculum of reading, language arts, mathematics, social studies, science, physical education, music and computer science for residential and day students.

Specialized instruction includes braille, orientation and mobility, optimum use of low vision, adaptive equipment and technology, and tactile graphic skills. This specialization is not readily available at every public school in the state.

OSB also has a Summer Enrichment Program for students who attend public schools during the regular school year but still need training specific to the visually impaired.

The school provides special events and activities to bring the public and students together. Each year, OSB hosts Future Shock where the high-school-aged students get to visit with workplace professionals and college recruiters to prepare the students for life after high school.

OSB provides thousands of free outreach services each year for students attending local public schools, their families and local school systems. Qualified staff offer free student evaluations, in-service training for teachers and recommendations for classroom modifications and special equipment that helps students reach their full potential.

## School Census

School Year-2009-2010

OSB Graduation Rate .....	100%
Residential Students.....	45
Day Students .....	60
Total Students Attending All or Part of the Year .....	105
Counties Served .....	38
Students with Multiple Disabilities .....	22
Teacher to Student Ratio.....	1 to 4
Direct Care Specialist to Student Ratio .....	1 to 6
Summer School Students .....	19
Days for Summer School .....	5

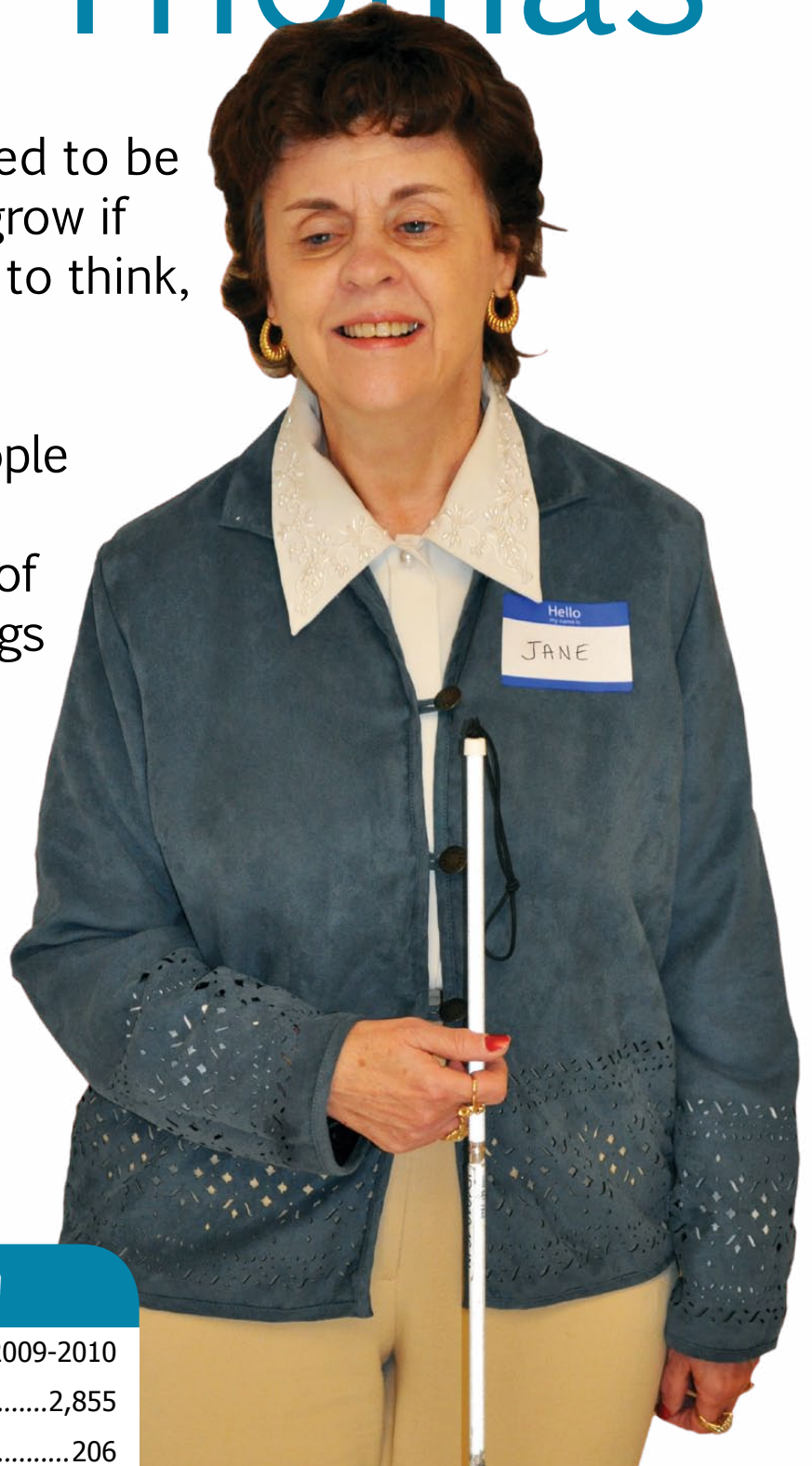
# Jane Thomas

“ I work because I need to be challenged. We do not grow if we are not challenged – to think, to be creative.

It’s also important for people with disabilities not to be isolated. Isolation is one of the most detrimental things to a person’s self esteem and mental health.”

— Jane Thomas, Social Worker, OSB Alumna, Class of 1971. She has been working for 34 years. She has a bachelors in sociology with an emphasis on family relations and child development from OSU and a master’s in social work from OU.

She is totally blind from retinopathy of prematurity.



## OSB Outreach Program

School Year-2009-2010

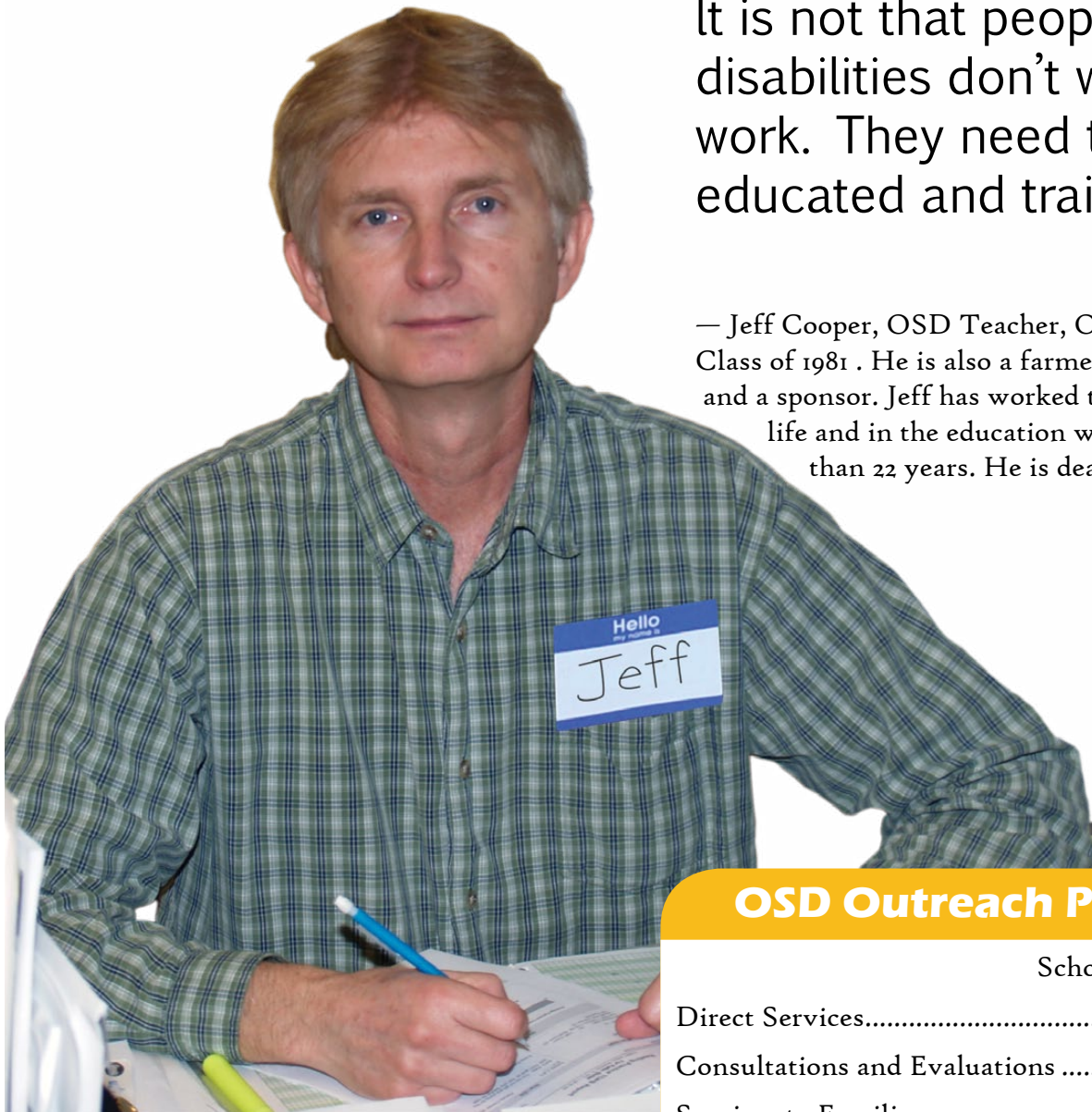
Direct Services.....	2,855
Consultations and Evaluations .....	206
Services to Families.....	138
Services to Schools .....	709
Services to Organizations.....	1,568

OSB  
Class of 1971

“ It’s important for me to work because I need money to make a living, have a good family home and a better family life.

It is not that people with disabilities don’t want to work. They need to be educated and trained.”

— Jeff Cooper, OSD Teacher, OSD Alumna, Class of 1981 . He is also a farmer, a volunteer and a sponsor. Jeff has worked the farm all his life and in the education world for more than 22 years. He is deaf.



### OSD Outreach Program

School Year-2009-2010

Direct Services.....	66,031*
Consultations and Evaluations .....	3,301
Services to Families.....	28,705
Services to Schools .....	28,749
Services to Organizations.....	5,274

\*Includes videos shipped to patrons nationwide by OSD’s National Accessible Learning Center.

OSD  
Class of 1981

# Jeff Cooper

# Austin McKenzie

““No matter hearing or deaf, there is nothing different about us. We can do anything we put our minds to!””



— Austin McKenzie, OSD Class of 2011  
He wants to go to Gallaudet University after graduation.

Austin is deaf. He is signing the word “work.” He plans on getting a good job after graduating college.

## Preschool Programs

	School Year-2009-2010
Satellite Preschool Programs.....	2
Students.....	30



# Oklahoma School for the Deaf

At the main campus in Sulphur, the Oklahoma School for the Deaf offers educational, vocational and campus life programs for residential and day students from infancy to 12th grade. Educational programs and support services address students' intellectual, physical, social and emotional needs through curriculum, extracurricular activities, transition programs, counseling, physical therapy and health services.

At OSD, students from all across the state, are able to attend school where everyone uses American Sign Language and are able to converse whether in the hall with friends or listening to a lecture. Students, who live too far to commute every day, stay at the school through the week and go home on the weekends free of charge. It is a fully accredited school that follows all the state mandated education requirements.

## School Census

School Year-2009-2010

OSB Graduation Rate .....	100%
Residential Students.....	88
Day Students .....	53
Total Students Attending All or Part of the Year .....	141
Counties Served .....	66
Students with Multiple Disabilities .....	24
Teacher to Student Ratio.....	1 to 6
Direct Care Specialist to Student Ratio .....	1 to 9
Summer School Students .....	70
Days for Summer School .....	10

Specialized courses designed to meet the students' unique communication needs and prepare them for life after graduation. For a child who is deaf or hard of hearing, the value of OSD comes with its offering of specific skills training, including American Sign Language (ASL) and use of adaptive technology. Students may receive remediation or skills reinforcement. Staff work effectively with students who have varying degrees of hearing loss using the child's preferred communication method.

OSD has an expanded educational reach with two satellite preschools strategically placed throughout the state, one at the University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond and one at the University of Arts and Sciences of Oklahoma in Chickasha. These satellite preschools help to keep children at home during their early childhood years. These satellites provide the needed education in communication that is critical for the young students and not readily available in the

public school arena. They also serve as lab schools for the speech and hearing departments and deaf education at the universities.

The National Accessible Learning Center, operated through OSD in collaboration with the Oklahoma School for the Blind, houses and distributes 70,000 educational videos specially formatted for students who are deaf or hard of hearing, with captioning. For students who are blind or visually impaired, the videos have descriptive narrative. This center is the only educational video library of its kind in the United States.

The school is also active in the community, which includes adults who are deaf or hard of hearing. The Equipment Distribution Program provides adaptive equipment for telephone and communication access for those of any age. Also, the Hearing Aid Program for Senior Adults provides assistance for those needing hearing aids who meet eligibility guidelines.

# Department of Rehabilitation Services 2010 Actual Expenditures

	DVR/DVS	OSB	OSD	DDD	Support Services	Total
State	12,474,000	6,695,000	7,893,000		1,799,000	28,861,000
Federal	43,363,000	159,000	479,000	30,771,000	4,908,000	79,680,000
Other	575,000	30,000	946,000*			1,551,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>56,412,000</b>	<b>6,884,000</b>	<b>9,318,000</b>	<b>30,771,000</b>	<b>6,707,000</b>	<b>110,092,000</b>

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) / Division of Visual Services (DVS) -The majority of funding for these programs are eligible for a federal/state match of 78.7 percent / 21.3 percent. DVS' Oklahoma Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (OLBPH) receives 100% state funding.

\*Oklahoma School for the Deaf (OSD) - The majority of the Other funding goes to the Equipment Distribution Program, which provides telecommunications and other equipment to deaf, hard of hearing, deaf-blind and severely speech impaired individuals.

Support Services - DRS utilizes an indirect cost rate as the standardized method for individual programs to pay a fair share of support service (general administration) costs.

\*Statistical information based on *State Fiscal Year 2010*

## A New Look For Agency As DRS Renews Its Vision

The agency's trademark DRS got a new look this year. For more than a decade the logo served as the brand for DRS, but the time was right for a fresh new look.



In these tough economic times it was difficult to decide whether to make the change or to wait for the economy to improve. The decision was made to make best use of agency resources by incorporating the new logo on new projects and use up current materials with the old logo.

When the older materials run out of stock and need reprinting, a new design incorporating the new logo will be printed.

The agency's website began sporting the new logo immediately. The new logo represents the agency's willingness to update and incorporate new things to serve Oklahomans better.

# Special Thanks

This year, we were pleased when DRS employees volunteered to help tell the story that people who have disabilities desire to be productive and employed members of society. You may notice that everyone has a name tag on. We wanted to emphasize the fact that they all have names, not the name of their disability. Everyone volunteered, no one was forced or pressured to be a part of this publication. In fact, we had more volunteers than space.

It is our hope that this publication will help show the world that people with disabilities have the same desires of ordinary people. Special thanks to all our volunteers who shared a little bit of themselves to make this a special annual report.



“ I see that many people with disabilities who are receiving Social Security benefits and are hesitant to go to work because they are afraid of losing their benefits. I was once surviving on SSI benefits. Thanks to DRS and a full time job, I no longer need SSI benefits. Life has never been better! ”

—Kristen Garrison, DVR Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist and former DVR client. Kristen began services in the Transition program in high school.

Cerebral Palsy leaves her 100% dependent on a wheelchair for mobility. Working is important to her because she wants to make a difference in the lives of others just as DRS has made a difference in her own life.

# Kristen Garrison

# Treva Kirtley

“The main reason I work is because of pride, work ethics, and simply put, because I can work.

People with disabilities can work and they usually make the best employees if given a chance.

Disabilities are not always inherited at birth. It only takes a few seconds for someone's life to change and become disabled. ”

—Treva Kirtley, Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist II. She is a former client of DVR. She has been in the workforce more than 34 years.

At the age of 19, Treva fell off a house. The injuries she sustained was a massive Traumatic Brain Injury with massive blood clot (left side of skull), three fractured vertebrae, fractured right wrist and dried blood on her right ear drum. At age 45, she tripped and fell and shattered her right rotator cuff, which required four surgeries over four years that left her with limited use of her right arm.

