

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Vocational Services

Newsletter



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History of Vocational Rehabilitation Services at Rancho Los Amigos

The Rancho Crafters started in the late 1950's in the Rehabilitation Workshop where patients made different handcrafted projects. In the early 1960's the Rehabilitation Workshop became known as the Work Evaluation Center and the focus changed from production to work evaluation. In 1970, the program was expanded and the new facility was called the Work Preparation Center with emphasis on preparing people for work in the community.



Volunteer worker Clementino and client Leticia hand printing gift wrap paper.

Vocational Services has been part of the Occupational Therapy Department since the 1990's. The Vocational Continuum offers a variety of programs to help all Rancho patients return to their previous occupation or practice new work-related skills which may lead to other options of work. Our newest program is the Rancho Works

Enterprises which builds on our long tradition of helping patients get back to work or productive, meaningful activity. In this program, patients manufacture ceramic pottery, ornaments, jewelry, soap, greeting cards and other products that are sold in the Rancho Works Gifts Shop that is operated by individuals who have graduated from our programs.



"Rebuilding lives one skill at a time"



Dressing mannequins is just one of the many job responsibilities that Jasmin has while working at Gap.

Jasmin's Journey Back to Work

Jasmin was going to college and working at Macy's and the Gap when she suffered an intracerebral hemorrhage associated with arteriovenous malformation rupture two years ago. After completing her inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation at Rancho, she was referred to OT Vocational Services for a Functional Capacity Evaluation to identify her physical capacities for work. Jasmin also expressed a desire to return to college and participated in the Work Readiness Program where she explored her work skills, interests, and tolerances. While participating in this program, she identified a career goal to pursue a degree in Human Resources and also return to part-time retail work. After volunteering in the Rancho Works Gift Shop for three months, Jasmin has successfully returned to Gap as a part-time Sales Cashier. Jasmin says that volunteering in the gift shop has given her confidence and increased her stamina to return to work. She has plans to return to college next year to pursue a degree in Human Resources.

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