

CONNECTONE

JobOne Community News

Did You Know?

***Happening Now:
JobOne Annual Trash
Bag Fundraiser***

Each year, JobOne hosts a Trash Bag Fundraiser to benefit our Employee Assistance Fund. The drive ends **July 25th, 2017** – don't miss out! To learn more, [CLICK HERE](#)



SPOTLIGHT



Warren (right) with his JobOne Supervisor, Gina.

Warren has worked at JobOne for over 24 years. He has worked at Subcontracting, SDS, and most recently, transferred to Grandview Subcontracting, when he moved to the South Kansas City area.

While transitions like this are somewhat difficult for many of our employees, Warren has blossomed since coming to Grandview. He has made lots of friends, learned how to do new jobs, and has become quite the social butterfly since the transfer.

Warren greets every staff member each morning with an enthusiastic "good morning!" He states he loves the supervisors, especially Gina. Way to go, Warren!

@WORK Going Grassroots in D.C.

If you follow JobOne on social, you likely saw photos of our recent adventures in our nation's capital. JobOne administrators, Kelly Logan, VP of Human Resources, and Cristy Carpenter, Human Resources Director, traveled with JobOne employee, Helen Young to Washington, D.C. for SourceAmerica's 2017 Grassroots Advocacy Conference.

What is SourceAmerica?

SourceAmerica stems from the Federal AbilityOne Program, which provides employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities. In 1974, SourceAmerica was established to facilitate the program by connecting Federal procurement customers with 450 nonprofits, like JobOne, across the nation that supply products and services. SourceAmerica provides support for contract management, training, regulatory assistance, workforce development and much more for these nonprofits that serve individuals with disabilities.

What is the Grassroots Advocacy Conference?

SourceAmerica orchestrates this conference annually to present individuals with disabilities, family members, advocates, and nonprofit executives the opportunity have their voices heard by lawmakers on Capitol Hill.

Why is it Important?

Educating key members of Congress on the critical issues impacting the lives of individuals with disabilities is vital as they pass legislation that has serious life-altering consequences for this population. JobOne employee, Helen, who attended the conference is a prime example of how the advances in providing employment opportunities for adults with disabilities changed life for the better.

Helen's Story

Helen first came to JobOne in 2011 and has earned promotions to her current position as Janitor at the US Marine's IT Center. She was invited to attend the conference this year because of her success and the many challenges she has overcome. The adventure began the minute Helen, Kelly and Cristy boarded the airplane for D.C.; it was Helen's first flight - ever! The Southwest crew made fast friends with Helen, making her an honorary flight attendant and even letting her meet the Captain and view the cockpit once they landed.

Helen was very excited to travel and wanted to soak up all the local tourist attractions. She, Kelly and Cristy kept a busy schedule to work in sites while fulfilling the mission of the trip. Along the way, they enjoyed subway rides, toured museums, saw national monuments, and found themselves in the middle of a parade! Of everything, Helen was most excited to see the pandas at the zoo.

While they had a lot of fun, Helen knew the significance of her opportunity to speak with Congress members, and she took it very seriously. She wrote a letter so she would not forget what she wanted to say if she became nervous. [READ HELEN'S LETTER IN OUR BLOG POST HERE.](#)

Helen's message to lawmakers was powerful. It is a message and a story that so many others with disabilities have in common with Helen. By having a voice at the Grassroots Advocacy Conference, we are helping the individuals we serve be heard and take a stand for their best interests to live a life where they may reach their full potential.

Now Available! **2016 JobOne Annual Report**

(click to view)

Upcoming JobOne Meetings

JobOne Finance & Board Meeting

July 19-Grandview | 4:30p & 5:30p

Eitas Finance & Board Meeting -

July 25-Kansas City | 5:30p & 6p

JobOne Fund Development Committee Meeting -

July 28-Grandview | 12p

JobOne Leadership Meeting -

Aug 1-Independence | 9a

JobOne Management Meeting -

Aug 10-Grandview | 8:15a

JobOne Leadership Meeting -

Aug 15-Grandview | 10a

JobOne Marketing/Biz Dev Committee Meeting -

Aug 15-Lee's Summit | 12n

Eitas Property Committee & Planning/Services Committee Meetings -

Aug 16-Kansas City | 5p & 5:30p



Shining Stars Sponsorships Now Available!

Help us celebrate the accomplishments of the outstanding individuals that we serve. For information on our event in December, please email [Kelly Logan](mailto:kelly.logan@jobone.org).



Kelly, Helen and Cristy snapping a selfie in D.C.

The Human Side of WIOA

A recent article published by *The Virginian-Pilot* sheds light on how recent WIOA (Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act) legislation is negatively impacting a large population of workers with disabilities. While the legislation is intended to make advances in providing job opportunities for individuals with disabilities, the sweeping changes are, in fact, putting individuals with more severe disabilities out of work and limiting their options. In her article, author Elizabeth Simpson spotlights the effects of shuttering "workshop" environments for people who require a higher level of assistance.

Simpson features Chris Cook, an individual with an intellectual disability. Chris has been employed for 25 years with a "sheltered workshop" packaging facility similar to JobOne. Because of changes stemming from WIOA legislation, Chris' job has been eliminated, along with about 50 others in this one facility. Chris' mother worries this will affect him, saying he enjoys the daily structure, ability to socialize with co-workers, sense of value, and stability it brings to his life. His options for employment outside of a "workshop" environment are extremely limited due to the level of his disability.

JobOne employs a large population of individuals just like Chris. We are dedicated to continuing to provide choices for employment - including both "workshop", or facility-based and community-based jobs - to best serve individuals with varying levels of disabilities. We agree with the intent of WIOA, and that young workers who have never been in a "workshop" should have every opportunity to work in the community before being considered for facility-based employment. However, there needs to be a greater understanding that there are many steps along the path to community employment for several individuals and, for some, a workshop can be a good starting point. From our viewpoint, it seems cruel to shutter workshops in the manner that many states and agencies are choosing. These actions are leaving thousands of individuals and their parents/caregivers with little to no choice and taking away their ability to reach higher levels of self-sufficiency.

Your voice and support is important to help continue the services JobOne provides. [FOR WAYS YOU CAN SHOW YOUR SUPPORT, SEE OUR BLOG POST HERE.](#)

Aaron Martin
President & CEO



www.Job1One.org