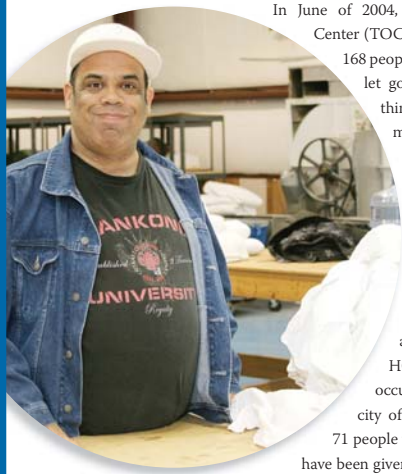


Chesapeake Service Systems (CSS) Announces Reaching the \$2,000,000 mark towards Project HOPE*!

*(Helping Others by Providing Empowerment)



In June of 2004, the Tidewater Occupational Center (TOC) in Suffolk closed. In one day, 168 people with mental retardation were let go from their jobs — the very thing that gave them value and made them feel like they fit into the world.

Employees of CSS attended the closing of TOC and saw the devastation on the faces of the workers with severe disabilities. Because of this crisis situation, CSS started a capital campaign (Project HOPE) and opened a new laundry occupational center in 2005 in the city of Portsmouth. Since that time, 71 people with developmental disabilities have been given employment opportunities at the new facility.

We have seen health and development dramatically improve for these individuals with mental retardation who are now working and living productive lives. The mother of one woman with mental retardation came up to Tom Swanston, Executive Director at CSS and said, "My daughter is 38 years old and for the first time in her life she spoke, because she is working at your facility." The changes in the people with developmental disabilities (mental retardation, cerebral palsy, autism and spina bifida) have been remarkable. People with the most severe developmental disabilities now produce over two million pounds of laundry a year. They are a valuable and productive part of our Hampton Roads economy. Given the proper supports and services that help them find purpose, people with mental retardation can have wonderful quality of life.

Photo above: Clarence Hawkins, a person with severe mental retardation worked at Tidewater Occupational Center for over 20 years. He has worked at CSS's laundry occupational center for over a year.

Over 40 businesses, foundations and organizations have shown that they care about people with developmental disabilities by donating to the new laundry occupational center. We send out the highest level of gratitude to all of them for their generous contributions. Chesapeake Service Systems wishes to especially thank the top three donors to the project:

- ⇒ City of Portsmouth (CDBG): \$240,000
- ⇒ The Beazley Foundation: \$110,000
- ⇒ Joan and Macon Brock: \$90,000*

*(Macon Brock, Chairman of Dollar Tree Stores, will donate \$90,000 to the project when CSS raises a \$90,000 match. Please contact CSS at 312-0456 if you want to help meet the challenge.)



Bill Davis, a person with autism and mental retardation worked at Tidewater Occupational Center for over 20 years. He has worked at CSS's laundry occupational center for 2 years.



People with mental retardation and other severe developmental disabilities are not mistakes. It is time that all people cherish them as a valuable part of human diversity.

We need your help to create more jobs for people with severe developmental disabilities in Hampton Roads. For a FREE DVD and to donate to this life-changing and life-affirming project, visit www.css-online.org or call 757-312-0456.



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