



301 Broadway • Chelsea, MA 02150 • (617) 889-4860 • TTY (617) 884-4856

Success Story

TRAINING FOR EMPLOYMENT HANDIWORK SERVICES

Frank loves music and plays the accordion. Frank has been with Handiwork Services since 1993. Frank lives with mild to moderate mental retardation, and is 37 years old. He lives in a group home in the Boston area. He is a valued and dependable employee of Handiwork Services. Frank delivers mail to the post office and participates in daily trash collection. He works offsite on a janitorial crew that cleans North Suffolk's Training Center daily. Frank is also a member of the Meals on Wheels team of Chelsea, Revere and Winthrop Elder Services, delivering lunch to 40 elderly people in their homes in Chelsea and Revere. "Frank is very conscientious. He values the work he does. Its important to him to do a good job and for people to know he does a good job," said Carol O'Brien, Assistant Program Director.

Frank is one of the twenty-eight men and women with varying levels of mental retardation and physical challenges employed at Handiwork Services. Handiwork is an employment and training program supported by the Massachusetts Department of Mental Retardation and the Massachusetts Commission for the Blind. Handiwork places people like Frank in volunteer or paid employment positions in community businesses and organizations. Handiwork employees have experience in mailing, janitorial, vending, food services, newspaper delivery, and light carpentry work. Handiwork provides onsite mailing and office services which process first and third class mail outsourced by local businesses.

For example, Metropolitan Credit Union became a customer of Handiwork Services five years ago. Since then, Handiwork has branched out to provide temporary employees for mailing, office, and janitorial support at the Credit Union. Bob Harris, Vice President, Manager of Operations, reported, "They do an excellent job. The cost is very reasonable. The work they do for us is not only time consuming, but I just don't have the people to do it here." Handiwork assembles marketing packets that the Credit Union's Sales Team distribute to new members and people interested in mortgages or home equity loans.

HANDIWORK VOLUNTEER SITES

Bunker Hill Community College
East Pointe Skilled Nursing Care
and Rehabilitation, Inc.
Metropolitan Credit Union
Perkins School for the Blind
Salvation Army of Chelsea
Stop & Wash Laundromat
Winthrop Public Library

HANDIWORK SERVICES BUSINESS CUSTOMERS

Chelsea, Revere and Winthrop Elder Services, Inc.
Decision Resources, Inc.
Historic Boston
Mass Episcopal Clergy Association
Metropolitan Credit Union
North Bennett Street School
Our Lady of Grace High School
Pope John High School