

## **The Haven Newsletter Article Spring 2014**

### **Vocational/Achievement Assistance at The Haven**

Comprehensive vocational assistance for our guests is now available. Last year, Doug Owens, a goals and vocational development consultant began volunteering at the Haven. Doug brought his career achievement skill set and 25 years of experience working privately and as a partner with the Virginia Department of Aging and Rehabilitative Services to The Haven. He implemented an educational program designed to meet the employment and achievement aspirations of our Haven guests. Doug's prescriptive skills program goes beyond the traditional application filing, resume and cover letters and works to improve self esteem, form good psychological habits and develop strong self marketing skills. By building long term relationships and forming a supportive accepting atmosphere the program communicates to people the idea that they deserve to work, they can with effort win and offers an experiential common sense training plan for reaching goals. They are taught about pleasant assertiveness, building rapport with business people, proper telephone prospecting, how to develop a vocational network, using "I want to work cards", interviewing techniques, becoming a constant learner and the importance of persistence. Most importantly, they develop understanding and skills in dealing with anxiety, rejection and failure which are critical to real world success. Haven guest have been very responsive, motivated and appreciative. Doug reports that he finds his volunteer experience rewarding because he enjoys seeing guests gain skills, confidence and begin to change their vocational situation. He is thankful for the innovative Haven environment and especially the talented support team who everyday work to make The Haven so great. For more information on what Doug is doing and Haven Restaurant Certification Educational initiative visit [www.letsgrownow.com](http://www.letsgrownow.com).

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