



Fast Facts:

- 4,747 persons with disabilities achieved successful employment outcomes with the help of Vocational Rehabilitation
- 97% had significant disabilities
- \$48,247,056 was the annual increase in income from referral to closure for 4,686 employed people

Vocational Rehabilitation Success

Darrell Linneman owned and ran a successful construction business with 22 employees for 15 years in the Springfield area. In 2003, he **began having headaches that didn't go away.** Tests revealed he had a benign brain tumor called a Schwannoma. After surgery to remove the tumor, he experienced facial paralysis and weakness, memory loss, equilibrium issues and hearing problems.

After months of rehabilitation, Darrell learned to walk, talk and do math again. He wanted to work in spite of his limitations but was unable to return to his business. He was referred to Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) and Alternative Opportunities (AO) for assistance. Through their specialized brain injury program, VR and AO worked with Darrell to determine a new career path and supports he would need to successfully achieve his goals. Darrell decided to work in the insurance industry. AO then assisted him with supports such as studying for his insurance license exam, computer training to

enhance those skills and job placement.

After Darrell was hired by Stuart McCann, a Farmers Insurance provider, AO provided ongoing support to assist him with learning and keeping his job. He has worked there for almost 2 ½ years. His employer reports that Darrell is a model employee. He is knowledgeable on every insurance product, gives quotes, does customer tracking, billing and updates.

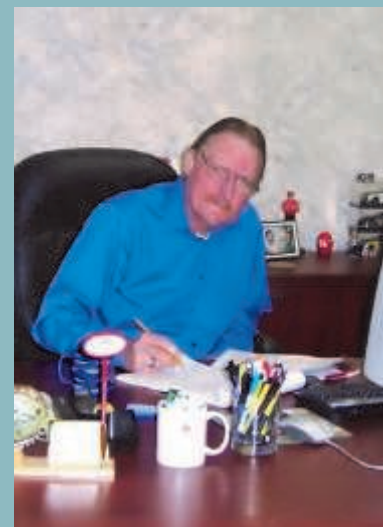
Stuart McCann of Farmer's partly contributes Darrell's success to the support and training he received from AO and VR early on in his employment. His employer stated that AO helped offset the costs of training and assisted Darrell with "almost everything he needed to be proficient at his job".

Thanks to Darrell's perseverance and the assistance of Vocational Rehabilitation and AO, Darrell is back to work.

Vocational Rehabilitation Assists Young People with Disabilities Transition to the Work of Work

Transition-age individuals with disabilities are ages 16 through 24. Vocational Rehabilitation assists these individuals either in or outside of the school setting to successfully prepare them for postsecondary education, integrated employment or vocational training.

- 1,556 transition-age consumers reached successful employment outcomes
- 64% of all transition-age consumers receiving VFR services achieved successful employment outcomes
- 360 school districts maintained cooperative work experience agreements with VR



Darrell Linneman at his job at **Farmer's Insurance office.**

Missouri Rehabilitation Association

- We are an organization of professional members across the state of Missouri working in the field of Vocational Rehabilitation .
- We serve people with disabilities.
- We work for private, not-for-profit organizations and state government agencies.
- We assist Missourians with disabilities return to work and become self sufficient.
- We believe in the value of work for all Missourians and that people with disabilities can work, want to work, want to pay taxes and contribute to the community.
- We believe the state of Missouri has the responsibility to provide services that empower Missourians with disabilities to contribute to the community through competitive employment and that, through their taxes, the cost for these services will be recovered many times over.

Missouri Rehabilitation
Association
243 NW Executive Way
Lee's Summit, MO 64081

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PROFIT
U.S. Postage Paid
Kansas City, MO
Permit #2393

Governmental Affairs Chair:
Joe Krueger
417.869.8911 ext. 218
jkrueger@aoinc.org
President: Barbara Myers
816.225.5889
mo.rehab@ymail.com

Missouri Rehabilitation Association Legislative Priorities

- Increase the competitive employment of individuals with disabilities and help reduce the dependency on state resources. In addition to core funding, **Missouri Vocational Rehabilitation needs \$520,00 General Revenue to fully capture the allowable monies at a federal 4 to 1 match rate.** This GR will bring in an additional \$1.9 million federal cost-of-living monies to maintain quality program and services that assist individuals with disabilities obtain competitive jobs.
- Implement community-based provider rate rebasing for both community living services and day habilitation programs.
- Strengthen brain injury services statewide. This would require an increase in funding within the Department of Health & Senior Services or Brain Injury Fund to provide greater access to services that assist individuals to return to living and working in their community and reduce custodial or institutional costs.
- Enhance services for individual with brain injuries through the implementation of a Brain Injury Waiver.
- Oppose any proposal to recreate home and community based services into managed care models.
- Advance initiatives that result in less state-operated Developmental Disability functions while creating efficiencies and enhancing quality of service within the developmental Disability Service System.
- Oppose Medicaid cuts that would threaten long-term or community-based services for people with Developmental Disabilities. Home and community-based supports and services contain institutional costs and help states moderate the growth of Medicaid spending.