



Mission: Empowering people with developmental disabilities through gainful employment opportunities.

The Partner Solution

We believe that SKCAC provides our participants, customers and stakeholders with unparalleled service and choice when it comes to employment training, placement and ongoing support services. So we want to share with you what is happening at SKCAC, who we are celebrating and the potential economic changes that may affect our participants and stakeholders through our quarterly newsletter. We hope you enjoy hearing about the good work and successes we are achieving on a daily basis here at SKCAC and you continue to find ways to support us with our Mission: "Empowering people with developmental disabilities through gainful employment opportunities." Please feel free to share your ideas, questions or experiences.

Message from our Production Manager:

SKCAC's Production Workers are the most consistent and reliable employees an employer could want! Their continued dedication and exhibited joy at being at work is amazing. Without them SKCAC would not have a mission. Please call me to discuss your packaging and assembly needs or please share my information with those you know who might need our services. Call Mary Hondl at 253-395-1240 Ext. 109 to discuss your packaging, and assembly needs.



HELP SKCAC WEATHER THE STORM. . . YOUR DONATIONS ARE VITAL TO US!

SKCAC Industries is a 501(c)3 Non-profit Corporation.

Donations can be made in a variety of ways:

- **United Way Campaign** – Write in designation – SKCAC Industries, 19731 Russell Rd. S. Kent, WA 98032-1117
- **Regence Employees Giving Campaign** – Write in designation to SKCAC Industries: Account Number 7533.
- **Combined Federal Campaign (CFC)** – Federal Employees designate to SKCAC Industries listed in the campaign book. The number for SKCAC is CFC number 69496; listed in the brochure under "Local Independent" section of the Charity List.

Our Website www.skcac.com has an updated donation section. We now accept **monetary contributions** on our website using the safety and security of **PayPal**. You will find the **donate** button on the left side of each web page on our site. It is easy to use! Just click on the donate button, fill in the type of donation or project you wish to support and the amount you want to give. PayPal accepts American Express, Visa, Master Card or Discover Debit or Credit.

Cash and checks directly to SKCAC Industries are also accepted and very much appreciated. Year-end statements for tax purposes will be provided. Some employers, such as Microsoft, will match your donations. Please check directly with your employer.

You may also wish to consider **in-kind donations** that give you the opportunity to provide your business or you as an individual the chance to partner with SKCAC in a direct service and potentially get some added market visibility.

Vehicle donation is another way you can help SKCAC continue its mission. Donating surplus vehicles, RV's or Boats may provide you a tax write off while providing dollars for services to SKCAC. Please visit our website, on the left side of home page select "Donate" and choose "Vehicle Donation" from the drop down box and follow the online instructions. You may also contact us directly to arrange for vehicle donations.

Our Donor Privacy Policy is included for you to review for your security and protection. **Check it out:** <http://www.skcac.com/donate.htm>

SKCAC News is compiled and distributed by Darlene Lang and Debbie Meyers.
To submit an article for consideration, please contact us at debbie@skcac.com

From the Executive Director

SKCAC Industries has been on a path to find new and better ways to serve our participants with developmental disabilities, our stakeholders, and our customers. This past year and what looks to be the next year or more has been very trying for everyone in order to maintain services with the devastating affect of the economic recession. We have taken some serious cost and service reductions in order to weather this economic storm that we know are not sustainable for the long-term health of the organization so we have continued to look for new ways to meet our participants' needs and fulfill our mission. We began this journey by expanding our services to include a comprehensive employment recruiting and placement service. What we have strived to achieve with these services are to provide the people we serve with a supportive, self empowering pathway to community employment by carefully matching the needs of the employers to the skills and desires of our participants. We've also added services to assist students transitioning from high school into community based employment and we've added the Sounders FC to our list of professional team sports that includes the Seattle Mariners and the Seattle Seahawks events where our participants can experience working with the community up close and personal as one of our game day janitorial work crew members. Our contract manufacturing business continues to provide training and employment for over 75 participants with developmental disabilities. We've actively worked to grow this business over the past four years and seen it increase by 16% a year even with the recession. We are continuously looking for new and innovative ways to build upon our skills and strengths and initiated the "Beyond 21 Green Jobs Initiative". This plan is based upon strategic partnerships and developing living wage jobs and career pathways. We've started with SKCAC converting over one million lbs. of newsprint waste into value added products for our customers and partners. We are working on embarking on the next phase of this program with a goal of creating over 300 jobs statewide. Watch us move forward and ask how you can help. The third part of our strategy is to reach out to our community and ask for their support with their contacts, financial and in-kind donations or volunteerism. We need everyone's help if we want to truly make a difference.

Mark Kantonen, Executive Director

Employment Highlights During Challenging Times

Even in these difficult economic times there are employment highlights for people with disabilities served by SKCAC. **Twelve people are working at SAFECO and QWEST Fields during this baseball, soccer and football season**, covering 81 Mariner games, 10 Seahawks games and 17+ Sounders FC games providing five workers with a supervisor at each game. All workers are paid minimum wage and they are gaining the skills needed for light custodial work.



We also have new employers, **Dynamic Family Services, Lake Wilderness Golf**

Course, Washington Patrol Services, Fred Meyer and Safeway hiring job seekers supported by SKCAC. It is also very satisfying to see the on-going commitment employers have to their employees with disabilities, by keeping people working even during these tough times. On not such a high note four people have been laid off from their jobs but one person was placed at Safeway and the others are actively job seeking with the support of SKCAC.

I am also encouraged that we continue to have packaging and assembly contracts to keep the training and work opportunities going for 70+ individuals. We are confident that customers who have been slow will return to us just as soon as things pick up in their businesses.

*I would like to personally thank the staff, participants, family members, Board of Directors, employers, customers, funders, and all who help to make SKCAC successful. We are meeting a needed and valued service in our community and should all be proud of the accomplishments of SKCAC Industries and Employment Services. Also a big **Thank You** for the donations, job leads, and talking about SKCAC services to your friends, co-workers and neighbors . . .*

– **Debbie Meyers Associate Director/Program Services**



Flu Season

We are encouraging all staff and participants to wash hands and use hand sanitizers as well as other flu prevention recommendations. We have provided training for hand washing and appropriate ways to cover your cough (sleeve rather than hand) and are encouraging people to **stay home if they have a fever or flu symptoms**. It is important for everyone to be diligent in the efforts to prevent the flu this season and minimize the risk of spreading the flu.

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Spotlight on Staff, Participants, Board Members

Staff: Frances Botello, Production Supervisor

Frances has worked for SKCAC Industries since 2000. She is loved by all who work with her. She is bilingual in Spanish as well. Frances is married and has 3 daughters, 4 granddaughters and 2 grandsons. Frances lives in Auburn.



Thank you Frances for your caring hard work!

Participant: Karen Lindholm, Prod. Worker/Participant

Karen has participated in the SKCAC packaging and assembly program since 1972. Karen enjoys her cat, Queenie, and living in her own apartment (without a roommate) in Federal Way.



Thank you Karen for your strong work ethic!

Board Member: Chris King, President

Chris has served on the SKCAC Board since 1990. Chris is married with 3 children and 8 grandchildren. Chris has a strong commitment to community service and the all the participants in our program. She has frequently helped sponsor community dances and other community activities in their behalf.

Thank you and Acknowledgement

Employment Sites:

Duke's Chowder House – Kent Station; **Dunn Lumber**– Normandy Park; **IKEA** – Renton; **Safeway** – White Center; **Fred Meyer** – Burien; **Dynamic Family Services** – Kent; **Evergreen Power Products** – Auburn; **Lake Wilderness Golf Course** – Maple Valley; **Washington Patrol Services** – Kent; **Aramark Services** – Safeco Field Seattle.



Work Assessment and Volunteer Sites:

WAEYC – Kent; Northwest Harvest – Kent; City of Kent, Parks and Recreation – Kent; Kona Kai – Kent.

Funding Sources: Training and Employment Services are funded by the following state and local agencies: State of Washington, Division of Developmental Disabilities and Division of Vocational Rehabilitation; King County Developmental Disabilities Section; Federal Way, Enumclaw and Tahoma School Districts.

Packaging and Assembly Customers:

Pioneer Packaging, LSG Sky Chef, CVG Trim Systems, Red Dot Corp., American Fiber, Fastenal, Port Plastics, Packaging Specialties, Advent Print Resources, Central Trading, Tharco, Beawest Fasteners, Lorraine Torrence Designs, Nova Pak, Sawbones, Enviro Energy, Woodland Park Zoo.

Thank You!

Flood Risk Plan

The SKCAC facility is in the Green River flood risk area for potential flooding related to the Howard Hanson Dam. The potential risk for the SKCAC facility is inches to 3 feet of water and we would have at least 7 hours before the water would reach the SKCAC facility from the time the water is released from the dam. We have also been informed that the Corps of Engineers would likely give 3 days notice of the need to release water from the dam. Additional risk would be to the power, water, sewer and phone lines so it is important for all of us in the South King County area to be prepared especially with individuals who depend on us to be prepared for them. Please refer to this website for information related to flooding: <http://www.kingcounty.gov/safety/FloodPlan.aspx>

SKCAC has been in contact with Veolia Transportation (ACCESS); it is their policy in an emergency situation such as weather, flooding, etc., to provide return trips to all they deliver. The concern is that many of the SKCAC workers live South of SKCAC and there may be limited ways to travel south from SKCAC so many workers would need to be taken to shelters or other locations if, by the slim chance, there would be flooding during the work day. For this reason and safety in general, it is important for workers/participants to have identification, including address and contact numbers, with them on a daily basis. This is also important for the people we support in jobs in the community and should be confirmed by residential providers when people leave for work each day. There have been a variety of suggested ways to help people have and keep their information with them, please contact Debbie Meyers if you need help.

In the event of severe flooding, the SKCAC facility will be closed.

ACCESS Transportation will be notified and rides will be cancelled. We may have difficulty reaching workers/participants by phone and may not be able to leave an automated message on the SKCAC phone. Questions - Please call Debbie Meyers 253-395-1240 Ext. 4

The SKCAC facility will be closed for the following upcoming holidays:

Thurs. & Fri., Nov.26 & 27, 2009 – Thanksgiving

Thurs. & Fri., Dec. 24 & 25, 2009 – Christmas

Friday, January 1, 2010 – New Years Day

