

HANDS IN ACTION

You'll find them outstretched, in search of new possibilities. Clasped, comforting one another. Moving, applying talent and dedication in a positive direction. Working, producing goods and services while generating self-esteem. Hundreds of hands that make a difference by showing each other the way. That's the heart of Babcock Center.

Founded in 1970, Babcock Center is a private, non-profit organization whose mission is to help men and women with mental retardation, autism, head and spinal cord injury and related lifelong disabilities reach their personal potential. Headquartered in Columbia, South Carolina, our program serves more than 1,100 people in the Midlands through residential care, job training and placement, and specialized rehabilitation and support activities in 105 locations. We are the largest non-profit agency in South Carolina serving adults in this capacity.

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BABCOCK CENTER

CONNECTING PEOPLE

TO THEIR POTENTIAL

BABCOCK CENTER



UPHOLDING EACH OTHER

We believe everyone has the right to achieve the greatest degree of independence possible, whether it's in choosing where and how to learn, live, work or have fun. We measure our success in helping adults who are developmentally disabled by the level of personal fulfillment each person achieves as a result of the services and support we provide.

Babcock programs are designed to help people tackle the things that are important to them: being close to family and friends; finding a job and earning money to support themselves; finding ways to get from place to place; staying healthy and safe; finding an affordable home and keeping it clean. It's the things many of us take for granted, but represent significant achievements for people who have special needs.

WORKING TOGETHER

Helping people find their place in the work force is a point of distinction for Babcock. We are recognized nationally as a model for our approach to education, jobs and life skills training. Our work force training and job placement program is centered in four key areas:

- **Job training centers.** Trainers at our nine centers teach job skills such as: sorting and packaging items for sale; preparing business mail; making wood products; storing business records; and

other practical jobs. We then contract these services with local businesses or sell our manufactured products in the marketplace. While individuals are paired with the training activity that best meets their needs, everyone is focused on the goal of gaining a job.

In addition to learning specific job skills, each person learns grooming and personal care skills, safety and manners for the workplace. Job training is also offered beyond the nine job training centers, at various sites throughout the community.

- **Traveling work teams.** Groups trained in specific skills provide a number of contracted services, such as grounds care, cleaning and delivery. For example, one traveling team maintains baseball fields through a contract with the Lexington County Park and Recreation Commission. Other work teams stay at one job site and provide specific services on an ongoing basis.
- **Job coaches.** These professionals help adults with disabilities find full or part-time jobs. They offer on-the-job training and help each worker develop relationships with coworkers and supervisors. Job coaches also teach practical skills such as preparing for a job interview or using public transit. As each person gains skill and confidence, coaching is reduced. Employers provide long-term support and supervision.

- **Specialized training for trauma patients.** We're also here for adults who are recovering from traumatic brain and spinal cord injury. Phoenix Services is a community-based program that gives these individuals the opportunity to develop new skills, leading to the possibility of a new job in our community. Life skills coaches help these adults improve their capacities in concentration, memory and movement. They also work with them to improve reading, writing and speech.

CREATING A HOME

Supporting a person's ability to live with dignity and independence is a guiding principle of ours. If adults with disabilities cannot live with their families or if they are returning to the community after living in an institution, Babcock professionals are available to help them find safe, comfortable homes.

Our agency offers a number of home environments to meet each person's preference and needs. Whenever possible, we encourage family and friends to provide natural support. If this support isn't already available, we help people build their own support networks as a step toward independence. Our housing options include:

- **Independent living.** Adults who can live on their own and manage their own homes may choose to receive

minimum support from the Babcock Center Supervised Living Program. Coordinators can arrange attendant care, health care, transportation or other support.

- **Assisted living.** Babcock offers apartment living with assisted care in more than 100 units at six locations. Single and shared units are available, and some units offer rental assistance from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). We also provide assisted care in more than 50 homes throughout the service areas. These homes are shared by three or four roommates. Caregivers are available around the clock at each Babcock residential site to offer supervision and help people master skills such as cleaning, cooking, planning balanced meals, sticking to a budget and paying bills.
- **Intermediate care.** These Babcock facilities provide intense 24-hour care, training and supervision. Facilities resemble homes and are located in neighborhoods. A large facility offers specialized care to adults who are in fragile health with multiple disabilities.

SUPPORTING SENIORS

Seniors with disabilities want the same outlets to new experiences as anyone else at that stage of life. That's why Babcock offers weekday activities and educational

programs at three senior adult centers. There, seniors can participate in activities such as crafts, music, exercise, sports, gardening and cooking, with specialized care for adults with autism or other disabilities.

Babcock seniors share activities with Council on Aging members in Lexington and Richland counties. Together, these groups may visit parks, libraries, shopping malls, restaurants, bowling alleys and theatres. They may also choose to work part-time or become volunteers.

PARTNERING WITH OTHERS

Babcock Center is primarily funded by the South Carolina Department of Disabilities and Special Needs (SCDDSN). The Richland/Lexington Disabilities and Special Needs (DSN) Board provides referrals and service coordination to Babcock. They are the entry point for DDSN-funded services in Richland and Lexington counties. For eligibility information, call the Richland/Lexington DDSN Board at 803.252.5179.

Babcock Center has been a leader in self-advocacy by encouraging people with disabilities to speak for themselves in order to protect their human rights. We were first in our state to offer a 24-hour consumer hotline to address health, safety and care concerns responsibly and responsibly. We also were first

to establish a Consumer/Family Advisory Council to monitor facilities and services, as well as a Community Education and Advocacy Committee. Parents and guardians of people supported by Babcock Center comprise both committees.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Given the volume of care and services Babcock provides, it is impossible to rely solely on governmental funding to ensure that our program continues to exceed standards while remaining fiscally sound. That's why the Babcock Center Foundation was formed in 1988: to mobilize community resources and raise funds to address critical needs when no other resources are available. The community has responded over the years with funds and volunteers that give us the additional resources needed to address specific personal needs, from purchasing eyeglasses and home decorations to making final arrangements.

But we cannot stop there. The needs are great, and we need your generosity each and every year to help us provide the level of quality care that people in our community deserve.

Please consider a gift to the Babcock Center Foundation. As our circle of support grows, so does our ability to connect people to their potential.