



REPLY TO ADDRESS INDICATED:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
SALEM, OREGON 97310

P.O. BOX 643
BEND, OREGON 97701

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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Dear Colleague,

I recently had the opportunity to visit the Specialized Training Program in Eugene, and its affiliate, Creative Opportunities, in Bend. Both are work activity centers for moderately, severely, and profoundly handicapped adults with I.Q.s from below 10 to 35.

The programs are quite impressive, and if you are near 1590 Williamette in Eugene, or 2055 N.E. 1st in Bend, I would encourage you to visit.

These two work activity centers deinstitutionalize, prevent institutionalization, and reduce the need for public assistance for their clients by teaching sophisticated technical assemblies and allowing workers to earn a non-trivial income.

Cost analyses comparing this program to the typical service model of institutionalization and/or "welfare" support should be available within a year. Initial figures look promising. In 1978-79, Creative Opportunities in Bend spent \$23,672 in state Mental Health dollars and generated \$7,621, or 24% of its total budget in production revenues. To date for 1979-80, state Mental Health dollars amount to \$20,736, and the program, by January, had already generated \$10,727, or 34% of its total budget in production revenue.

From its inception, Creative Opportunities has paid \$9,173 in wages to twelve handicapped adults, allowing these clients to become more self-reliant, financially and socially. In December, 562 aggregate hours were worked, while \$983 were earned in wages. The average hourly rate was \$1.75 per hour, \$1.17 more than the average hourly earnings of mildly handicapped adults according to a 1978 Department of Labor study.

Private enterprise has been especially cooperative. Component parts assembly for dialysis machines, occiloscopes, radar guns, chain saws, and Tektronix instruments is among the impressively productive activities for these severely handicapped adults whose I.Q.s range from below 10 to 35, as I said above.

These two programs are very impressive, from both human and financial perspectives. I am hopeful you will become acquainted with another Oregon effort to serve the less fortunate in a more responsible and less costly fashion.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

REPRESENTATIVE TOM THROOP
District 54

cc: The Honorable Victor Atiyeh
Mr. Leo Hegstrom