Employing Oklahoma

"I wake up every day saying, 'Hey, I'm going to do something important today. I'm going to change something in my business.' I actually love my job!"

-Michael Spencer,
Business Enterprise Manager

2011 Annual Report
Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services

Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services
3535 N.W. 58th Street, Suite 500
Oklahoma City, OK 73112

405.951.3400 Voice/TTY
800.845.8476 Toll Free Voice/TTY
info@okdrs.gov
www.okdrs.gov

DRS Pub. #S12-03, Date: March 2012
This publication is authorized by the Oklahoma Commission for Rehabilitation Services in accordance with state and federal regulations and printed by the B&S Quality Printing, Inc. at a cost of $2,575.00 for 1,000 copies. This publication is available on the DRS website. DRS offices may request copies via Compass. For additional copies, contact DRS Central Departmental Services at 405-951-3400 or 800-845-8476 toll free.

"I like what I do, folding shirts. I can't work on the machines, but I can do this."

-Nathan Lee Hartfield

Nathan Lee Hartfield received services from the Visual Services Division. In October 2010, Hartfield became employed. His job is folding, stacking and packaging printed tee shirts at IPGI in Oklahoma City.

He wanted to do this job, knowing that as his vision declines, he can still do the work. Hartfield is dedicated to his work and co-workers. He's been known to fold as many as 1,500 shirts in a day.

Hartfield talks to his Visual Services Counselor Joan Blake (right) using sign language.

He is deaf-blind.

Director
Michael O'Brien, Ed.D.

When you think of employment in Oklahoma, many will think of oil or farming, but at the Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services, we think of employment on a grander scale. For our clients in the Vocational Rehabilitation and Visual Services divisions, our goal is to help them find their choice of employment.

At the Oklahoma School for the Blind and the Oklahoma School for the Deaf, our goal is to provide a solid foundation for these future employees to work with.

> "Excellence happens on purpose.
> It is a personal choice."
>
> -Dir. Michael O'Brien, Ed.D.

The theme of this annual report, "Employing Oklahoma," mirrors the theme we have for our clients; cool jobs with great benefits for all. In the following pages you will read about our many accomplishments in the course of this past year.

I want to point out a few things that I am especially proud of. Each year, the federal oversight agency, Rehabilitation Services Administration, gives DRS our mandate for the next year. This year, the goal was 2,292 closures. That means helping 2,292 people with disabilities find and keep a job. DRS surpassed the RSA goal by 520 by closing 2,812 cases — more than 20 percent increase in closed cases over fiscal year 2010.

The DRS Vocational Rehabilitation Reimbursement Program was reimbursed $1.6 million on 92 claims. We are reimbursed dollar for dollar from the Social Security Administration when vocational rehabilitation services result in an individual maintaining wages high enough to become taxpayers and permanently leave the SSA Disability and Security Income Programs.

Through staff dedication and quality educational plans the Oklahoma School for the Blind and the Oklahoma School for the Deaf achieved outstanding 100 percent graduation rates.

DRS has contributed more than $3.4 million in supporting high school clients through our various Transition: School to Work programs, such as Tech-Now, Project SEARCH, Work Adjustment Training, School Work Study and summer programs.

Our Disability Determination Division made overall accurate decisions in 95.9 percent of the initial claims. They led the region with an initial allowance accuracy rate of 99.7 percent and ranked third in the nation in reconsideration accuracy at 98.9 percent. In other words, they rarely make mistakes.

DRS has implemented a servant leadership work environment in the last three years. It is a management philosophy in which a servant leader looks to the needs of employees and asks how he can help them to solve problems and promote personal development. I am especially proud of the work we have done in this area.

The past year has seen great strides for our clients and staff. We plan to carry this attitude into 2012 and do even better.

Michael O'Brien, Ed.D.
Director

Oklahoma Commission for Rehabilitation Services

The Oklahoma Commission for Rehabilitation Services meets monthly to discuss agency activities and plan for the future. Chair Commissioner Ray F. Kirk led the meetings and the commission through another successful year.

Kirk, from Muskogee, relies on his experience from 32 years as an insurance agent and his business as a rancher of a 580 acre spread. He was appointed to the commission by the president pro tempore of the State Senate.

Vice Chair Commissioner Steve Shelton devotes his time to the agency while still working full-time as a senior application programmer and consultant with Fidelity National Information Services. Shelton has great empathy for our clients as a former client himself. He was appointed to the commission by the speaker of the State House of Representatives.

Ben C. White, Lawton resident, was appointed to the commission by the governor of the state of Oklahoma. Although he is retired now, White drew on his expertise as a hospital administrator and business owner to assist the agency in making sound decisions.

Left to Right: Director Michael O'Brien, Commissioner Lynda Collins, Commissioner Steve Shelton and Commissioner Ray Kirk.

This year, White retired after nine years of appreciated service, making way for the governor to appoint Mannford resident Lynda Collins to the position of commissioner.

A former DRS client, Collins worked her way up through the ranks of DRS to Vocational Rehabilitation administrator, retiring after 33 years in 2005. Her previous DRS positions included field service coordinator, program manager, vocational rehabilitation counselor and vocational rehabilitation evaluator.

Working directly with the commissioners is the agency Director Michael O'Brien, Ed.D. O'Brien leads approximately 985 employees. In state fiscal year 2011, O'Brien's staff assisted 87,514 Oklahomans with disabilities. He directs the agency which is comprised of six program divisions, Vocational Rehabilitation Division, Visual Services Division, Oklahoma School for the Blind, Oklahoma School for the Deaf, Disability Determination Division and Support Services. Each division has its own goals with the collective mission to open doors to opportunity for Oklahomans with disabilities.

Memories of a Successful Year

During fiscal year 2011, DRS employed all its resources in many successful ways. More than 2,800 DRS clients, people with disabilities, found gainful employment from Oct. 1, 2010 to Sept. 30, 2011, in spite of the downturn in job availability.

In today's world, the subject of jobs is one of the most talked about because it is a major concern for the general public. DRS shares that concern. The agency's main focus in the Vocational Rehabilitation and Visual Services divisions is to help Oklahomans with disabilities find employment.

Through a partnership with the agency's Transition: School to Work program, Metro Technology Centers' students developed marketable on-the-job skills as interns in the Project SEARCH™ employment training program at Chesapeake Energy Corporation, the first corporation not a medical facility to host the program in Oklahoma City.

This innovative program facilitates the learning process for young adults with disabilities who are clients of DRS by providing continuous feedback and application of new skills in a workplace environment. The goal of this inventive curriculum is to achieve and maintain permanent competitive employment in the community.

More than 550 Oklahomans attended the 17th People with Disabilities Awareness Day that featured 65 exhibits by disability programs, agencies and community partners. Legislative visits, exhibitors and an awards ceremony highlighted the event, including a keynote speech by Bill Lawson, Paralyzed Veterans of America national president.

DRS Programs Manager Jason Price was selected to write a chapter for a prestigious, national vocational rehabilitation publication that was edited and co-chaired by DRS Director Michael O'Brien, Ed.D.

Price wrote a portion of the book exploring the beneficial impact of work incentives that are expected to help

Oklahomans with disabilities become employed and self-sufficient, enabling them to leave the Social Security Disability rolls.

Oklahoma School for the Blind freshman Aubry Weatherly was the first OSB student ever to serve as a page for the state legislature. Senator Earl Garrison (D-Muskogee) invited Weatherly to be his page for one week, giving her full access to the Senate floor for tasks such as delivering documents and running errands.

Weatherly stayed in a local hotel with other pages, who assisted her in navigating the unfamiliar Capitol building when needed.

DDD hosted an Angel Tree party. The staff, along with Angel Tree Ministries, provided clothes, shoes, coats and gifts to children on behalf of incarcerated parents who sought assistance in providing Christmas for their children.

Artwork by Oklahoma School for the Deaf fourth grader Alejandra Crouch was selected by the World Awareness Children's Museum for an honorable mention in a national competition. OSD art teacher Loretta Stinson submitted Crouch's drawing to the 2011 Cray-Pas Colorful World Contest, which attracted thousands of entries. The World Awareness Children's Museum also chose Crouch's artwork for their ongoing International Youth Exchange Program.

The Oklahoma Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped held their annual Summer Reading Program. It is designed to encourage young readers to read for pleasure during their summer break. Each participant set a personal reading goal for a number of books or amount of time spent reading during June and July. Every reader who met the goal received a braille, audio or large print book to keep.

The agency also held the DRS Education and Outreach Expo at the Oklahoma School for the Deaf. The Expo provided clients, staff and the general public with information about employment services, programs for children who are deaf or blind and technology specifically designed for people with disabilities. Through valued partnerships, DRS was able to provide professional training and information about various services and accessible technology available for those who have disabilities.

DRS' first Oklahoma WINGS Leadership Academy participants completed the program. Eleven applicants interested in exploring their potential for leadership were chosen to participate in the program. It is designed to provide vocational rehabilitation specialists and program field representatives exposure to skills such as innovative approaches to problem solving, personal and organizational accountability and empowerment. Participants committed to an 18-month curriculum with five learning sessions and year-long project team work.

Characteristics of Persons Rehabilitated in VR and VS Programs

	Total Persons Rehabilitated	w/Severe Disabilities Rehabilitated
Gender		
Male	1,494	1,227
Female	1,318	1,079
Race		
White	2,121	1,723
African American	398	338
Asian	22	21
American Indian or Alaska Native	367	303
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	8	5
Hispanic Ethnicity	87	64
*Clients may indicate up to six races/ethnicities.		
Age at Application		
Younger than 20	682	597
20 to 21	122	92
22 to 34	506	415
35 to 44	391	318
45-64	855	663
65 and older	256	221
Education Level at Application		
No formal schooling	11	11
Elementary education (Grades 1 through 8)	52	47
Secondary Education, no diploma (Grades 1 through 12)	741	645
Special education certificate of completion/diploma or in attendance	62	52
High school graduate or equivalency certificate (regular education students)	1,057	844
Post-secondary education, no degree	481	390
Associate degree or Vocational/Technical Certificate	194	149
Bachelor's degree	161	123
Master's degree or higher	53	45
Primary Disability		
Blind/Visual Impairment	371	323
Deaf/Hard of Hearing	356	226
Deaf-Blindness	6	6
Communicative Impairments	74	49
Orthopedic Impairment	397	342
Respiratory Impairments	49	32
General Physical Debilitation	87	66
Other Physical Impairments	314	250
Cognitive Impairments	634	544
Psychosocial Impairments	295	261
Other Mental Impairments	229	207

"First of all I have my kids. I want to support them. I don't want to be depending on someone else. I want to do it myself. I want to make my own money."

-Silvia Chavez

Silvia Chavez has received services from DRS starting in high school where she worked part-time jobs.

DRS counselor Renee Sansom (pictured right) encouraged Chavez to think beyond a part-time job and consider school and a career, which she did.

Chavez is a baker at Metro Technology Centers.

She has major depressive disorder and borderline intellectual functioning.

Julie Hildebrand is receiving services from Vocational Rehabilitation. She is graduating this May with a double major in international business and international economics.

(Below left) Hildebrand goes over paperwork with her counselor CJ Hurlbut. She began her rehabilitation services program four years ago and will complete the program in three more years when she attains her Juris Doctorate from Tulsa University.

"I don't want to take any type of handout. I work very hard and want to earn everything myself. My disability shouldn't be used as an excuse not to attain all I hope to attain in the workplace. When I am able to be self-sufficient I feel proud of who I am."

-Julie Hildebrand

"DRS has provided me with so much. Not only has DRS helped provide financial support for a career that would've otherwise been unobtainable, but they have also provided excellent guidance and support in all of my educational and community endeavors," Hildebrand said.

Her disability is a rare form of dwarfism called 3M syndrome that affects the shape of her vertebrae and other slender bones in her body.

Vocational Rehabilitation

The Vocational Rehabilitation Division is responsible for assisting more than 2,290 Oklahomans in finding employment in Federal Fiscal Year 2011. These Oklahomans have physical or mental disabilities.

The services clients receive from VR staff could include career counseling, vocational education and training, or medical services if it is determined it will help them find employment. They may also receive assistive technology and job placement coaching. VR counselors help clients find their own path to employment success and independence.

The clients who find gainful employment begin to support their local community and the state through paying income tax, as well as spending their earnings around town. Employment can bring an improved sense of self for clients and pride in being working members of society.

VR is exceptionally pleased with the DRS Vocational Rehabilitation Reimbursement Program this year. The program exceeded $1.6 million in revenue through Social Security Administration reimbursements on 92 individuals who maintained wages high enough to permanently leave the SSA's Disability and Supplemental Security Income programs.

VR Clients Served

	Federal FY-2011
Clients Served	15,150
Program Applications	8,869
Employment Plans	5,801

SSA reimburses DRS for every dollar spent for their counseling and training services.

For young adults with disabilities, VR has the Transition: School to Work program that takes high school students and prepares them for the work world. Transition counselors provide advice and training that often include summer jobs or workshops that teach interview and resume writing.

The Deaf community benefits from our services through the VR process, but also through our QAST interpreter certification program. Not only do we help clients find work, we help by evaluating the proficiency of sign language interpreters for those who need them.

Division staff operate three career planning centers and coordinate services with eight tribal vocational rehabilitation programs.

To qualify for VR services, a person has a physical or mental disability that is a substantial barrier to employment and must be able to benefit from vocational rehabilitation services in ways that lead to finding and obtaining employment.

VR Clients Employed

	Federal FY-2011
Employment Outcomes	2,290
Average Yearly Earnings	$19,254
Average Cost of Services Per Client	$9,625
Average Taxes Paid	$2,888

AIM Center

The AIM Center maintains a central depository of braille and large print textbooks and other specialized instructional materials for loan to Oklahoma students who cannot use regular print.

The AIM Center also maintains the Federal Quota Registry of blind and visually impaired children. The registry is important because it draws federal funding to help states provide accessible instructional materials.

The program serves children in pre-kindergarten through 12th grade who attend public and private schools in Oklahoma, or receive services from SoonerStart.

Children who are eligible for this service are blind or visually impaired; have a physical disability that makes it difficult to use regular print books and school materials; or have a medically diagnosed learning disability that makes it difficult to use regular print.

VR and VS Clients Employed

Federal FY-2011

Employment Outcomes	2,812
Average Yearly Earnings	$18,426
Average Cost of Services Per Client	$9,642
Average Taxes Paid	$2,764

VR and VS Clients Served

Federal FY-2011

Clients Served	18,137
Program Applications	10,358
Employment Plans	6,867

Oklahoma Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped Services Circulation

State FY-2011

Library Patrons	5,154
Books Circulated Daily to Patrons	994
Books Received Weekly by Patrons	4,970
Daily Inquiries	150

Federal Quota Funds (Previous School Year)

State FY-2011

Children Eligible for Textbooks	760
Funding	$248,975

Accessible Instructional Materials (AIM) Center

State FY-2011

Children Served	1,126
Average Days for Child to Receive:	
In-house Book	1
Ordered Book - Braille	60
Ordered Book - Large Print	14
Total Books/Items in Collection	34,487
New Books Purchased - Braille	82
New Books Purchased - Large Print	204
Instructional Aids and Equipment *	524

*Books and instructional aids/equipment, such as talking globes and tactile maps are ordered during one fiscal/school year and received the next fiscal/school year.

"It's important for me to work because it gives me a sense of self sufficiency. It's also important to be able to support my family."

-Zach Lozier

Zach Lozier received services beginning in 2007 through 2011, during which DRS helped Lozier obtain his college degree and employment with the City of Tulsa in June 2011. He works on Lake Eucha in Jay, Okla. as a reservoir biologist where he does water testing and analysis, ensuring that when the water gets to Tulsa, it's clean and drinkable. His work site is in the middle of the lake.

Lozier's Visual Services Counselor Shelly Sparks (below left) visits with him at the lake.

He is blind in his right eye.

Michael Spencer is the Business Enterprise Manager of three government facilities. He has a snack bar, a sub shop, a prison vending machines route, along with other vending machines in the Tulsa area.

Spencer has been with BEP for ten years. Before that he worked in the shipping business. He credits his vision loss with finding his niche, serving people.

Prior to losing his vision, he played on two national championship football teams for the University of Oklahoma from 1973 to 1977. He carries that winning spirit into his business.

He has glaucoma.

"If you're smart enough to take a little facility, manage it well, be a customer-oriented person, you're not going to be Bill Gates, but you can make a living. And that's what BEP allows us, an opportunity to make a living without depending on government."

-Michael Spencer
Business Enterprise Manager

Visual Services

DRS' Visual Services provides services that make it possible for people who are blind, visually impaired or diabetic to reach their employment or life goals. Clients are provided the opportunity to become employed through the vocational rehabilitation process of career counseling, vocational education and training, medical services required to become employable, assistive technology geared to their specific needs and job placement.

VS Clients Served

	Federal FY-2011
Clients Served	2,987
Program Applications	1,489
Employment Plans	1,066

Many clients receive individualized living skills training to allow them to navigate their environments, operate computers, manage money and their household and much more.

Clients are eligible for the vocational rehabilitation program if their visual impairments make it difficult to work. They must be able to benefit from vocational rehabilitation services, which are required to prepare for and find jobs.

The Business Enterprise Program trains and assists people who are blind in establishing and operating food service businesses in public and private facilities across the state. BEP equips locations, provides initial inventory and offers on-going technical support to the licensed BEP manager.

Managers must complete vending facility training courses and must pay a percentage of net proceeds to DRS, which matches federal funds to support the program.

For our young adults with disabilities, we have the Transition: School to Work program that helps high school students prepare for the work world. Transition counselors provide advice and training that often include summer jobs or workshops that teach interview and resume writing.

The Older Blind Independent Living Services gives Oklahomans, 55 and older, the ability to remain independent after becoming visually impaired. The program teaches living skills with special magnifying equipment, talking gadgets and tips on staying safe when performing household duties.

The Oklahoma Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped is the source for talking books for those who cannot read the written word due to visual impairments or physical disabilities. The library mails thousands of free recorded books to patrons all across the state. The Accessible Instructional Material Center provides free braille textbooks and classroom materials to public school students.

VS Clients Employed

	Federal FY-2011
Employment Outcomes	522
Average Yearly Earnings	$14,797
Average Cost of Services Per Client	$9,702
Average Taxes Paid	$2,220

Disability Determination

The Disability Determination Division provides high quality, responsive service that meets, and often exceeds, Social Security, Oklahoma and community expectations and standards.

The staff at DDD work diligently and cooperatively to provide timely, accurate, well documented Social Security Disability Insurance and Supplemental Security Income determinations for the citizens of the state of Oklahoma and the nation. Accuracy, timeliness and expert opinions are critical in the evaluation of all disability claims.

For each disability claim, a team of paraprofessionals, disability reviewers and medical or psychological consultants, review each applicant's medical and vocational evidence. The team decides whether applicants qualify as disabled or blind based on medical and vocational evidence according to federal guidelines. Children may qualify for SSI benefits and are evaluated based on their ability to perform age appropriate activities as documented in their medical records.

DDD personnel know that each Social Security claim is a person needing benefits to live. Therefore, timeliness and accuracy are crucial. Staff receives quality training and mentoring that focuses on accuracy, security, consistency and efficiency.

Oklahoma continues to be a national resource as an Extended Service Team site. Oklahoma's EST is one of only four in the country that assists other states with their backlog of disability claims.

Performance

	Federal FY-2011
Budgeted Workload	80,589
Completed Workload	84,268
Processed Budgeted Workload	104.6%

	Federal FY-2011
Decision Accuracy Rate Oklahoma	95.9%
Decision Accuracy Rate National	95.5%
Processing Time (days)	91.3 days

The Disability Determination Division and the Southwest Association of Disability Examiners hosted the regional training conference in April. National Social Security Administration Commissioner Michael Astrue was the keynote speaker.

On June 1, 2011, Oklahoma launched the Oklahoma City Cooperative Disability Investigations Unit. The CDI program is a joint effort consisting of staff from DDD, SSA, Office of the Oklahoma Attorney General and Social Security Administration Office of Inspector General to effectively pool resources for the purpose of preventing fraud in Social Security's SSDI and SSI disability programs and related federal and state programs.

The mission of the CDI program is to obtain evidence of material fact sufficient to resolve questions of fraud or similar fault in disability programs. CDI Units investigate individual disability claims and identify third parties who facilitate disability fraud.

Claims and post-entitlement actions are referred to the CDI Units by DDD examiners and SSA field office personnel who suspect fraudulent activity based on suspicious behavior or other indicators of high risk for fraud or similar fault. The results of these investigations are presented to the DDD staff for their use in making timely and accurate disability determinations and to federal and state prosecutors for consideration of prosecution.

Since inception, the unit has opened 175 cases and saved $6.6 million dollars in SSA and non-SSA savings in Medicare and Medicaid.

DDD is 100 percent federally funded. In 2001, DDD had 183 employees with a federal budget of $14.7 million. In 2011, the division grew to 326 employees with a federal budget of $39.1 million. The expansion in staff is in direct response to DDD's commitment to provide quality service to Oklahoma and the surrounding states.

"OSB's specialized services and opportunities lay the foundation for employment and success in life for our students. The economic impact of having all of Oklahoma's citizens with the knowledge and skills to be successful in life are essential for a vibrant and thriving state."

—OSB Superintendent James C. Adams

James C. Adams is the new superintendent for the Oklahoma School for the Blind beginning his tenure in July 2011.

Adams has 26 years of educational experience. He earned educational specialist, Master of Science and Bachelor of Science degrees from Arkansas State University with certifications in teacher of the visually impaired, principal and superintendent.

Oklahoma School for the Blind

Students who attend the Oklahoma School for the Blind receive the education every young Oklahoman deserves. More importantly, they receive specialized training that enhances their ability to learn and later become a valuable part of Oklahoma's workforce.

Students who are visually impaired or blind learn to excel at OSB because school staff expect the students to do so. All state-mandated education requirements are taught at OSB. The school offers a comprehensive curriculum of reading, language arts, mathematics, social studies, science, physical education, music and computer science for residential and day students.

Specialized instruction includes braille, orientation and mobility, optimum use of low vision, adaptive equipment and technology and tactile graphic skills. This specialization is not readily available at every public school in the state.

Even though OSB is located in Muskogee, its boundaries are statewide. Regardless of the hometown, the school bus will pick the student up at no cost to the parents or guardians. Students who do not live close by and commute daily, live at the school during the week and return home on the weekend.

OSB also has a Summer Enrichment Program for students who attend public schools during the regular school year, but still need training specific to the visually impaired.

The school provides special events and activities to bring the public and students together. Each year, OSB hosts Future Shock where the high-school-aged students get to visit with workplace professionals and college recruiters to prepare the students for life after high school.

OSB Outreach Program

School Year-2010-2011	
Direct Services	2,208
Consultations and Evaluations	151
Services to Families	304
Services to Schools	353
Services to Organizations	1,463

OSB provides thousands of free outreach service hours each year for students attending local public schools, their families and local school systems. Qualified staff offer free student evaluations, in-service training for teachers and recommendations for classroom modifications and special equipment that helps students reach their full potential.

School Census

School Year-2010-2011	
OSB Graduation Rate	100%
Residential Students	44
Day Students	54
Total Students Attending All or Part of the Year	98
Counties Served	36
Students with Multiple Disabilities	14
Teacher to Student Ratio	1 to 3
Direct Care Specialist to Student Ratio	1 to 4
Summer School Students	88
Days for Summer School	15

"There are no communication barriers and no feelings of isolation due to a hearing loss. A full continuum of educational opportunities exists at OSD that is not duplicated elsewhere in the state of Oklahoma."

—KaAnn Varner
OSD Superintendent

Surrounded by her students, KaAnn Varner is OSD's first Deaf female superintendent in the school's 105-year history.

Varner has worked at OSD since 1998 as a teacher, assistant principal and principal before assuming the superintendent position in August 2011. She earned a master's in administration from Southern Nazarene University.

She relates well with the students and understands their hopes and dreams because she too is Deaf.

Preschool Programs

School Year-2010-2011

Satellite Preschool Programs	2
Students	26

Oklahoma School for the Deaf

Oklahoma School for the Deaf is a public school with a Deaf specialty that can rival none other in the state. OSD educates students who are deaf or hard of hearing from any town in the state with the same curriculum and state-mandated requirements of all public schools.

OSD educates students using American Sign Language directly with them instead of through an interpreter. That means student and teacher interaction is direct and clear. Students interact with each other seamlessly because all the students learn ASL.

OSD offers students specialized courses designed to meet the students' unique communications needs and prepares them for life after graduation. This not only includes ASL training but also the use of other adaptive technology beneficial to students who are Deaf or hard of hearing.

Students who live close to the Sulphur campus can commute back and forth to school. Those from greater distances live at the school during the week and go home on the weekends free of charge. OSD serves students from infancy to 12th grade.

Students receive the full educational and social experiences that are available to most of Oklahoma's students. They perform in school programs and dramas. The have prom and homecoming for all sports. They compete with other schools on academic teams, sports teams and leadership programs.

School Census

School Year-2010-2011

OSD Graduation Rate	100%
Residential Students	87
Day Students	55
Total Students Attending All or Part of the Year	142
Counties Served	66
Students with Multiple Disabilities	24
Teacher to Student Ratio	1 to 6
Direct Care Specialist to Student Ratio	1 to 9
Summer School Students	70
Days for Summer School	10

OSD's mighty Indians football team has missed being the Great Plains Schools for the Deaf Champions two years in a row by earning second place in the nation. With such outstanding success in the past, it is expected to win a championship in the near future.

OSD has an expanded educational reach with two satellite preschools strategically placed throughout the state, one at the University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond and one at the University of Arts and Sciences of Oklahoma in Chickasha. These satellite preschools help to keep children at home during their early childhood years and provide the needed education in communication that is critical for the young students.

The school is also active in the community, which includes adults who are Deaf or hard of hearing. The Equipment Distribution Program provides adaptive equipment for telephone and communication access for those of any age. Also, the Hearing Aid Program for Senior Adults provides assistance for those needing hearing aids who meet eligibility guidelines.

OSD hosted a number of events geared to the Deaf community as a whole or to foster a better understanding of the Deaf and hard of hearing.

OSD Outreach Program

School Year-2010-2011

Direct Services	65,172*
Consultations and Evaluations	2,999
Services to Families	25,164
Services to Schools	30,217
Services to Organizations	6,792

*Includes videos shipped to patrons nationwide by OSD's National Accessible Learning Center.

Department of Rehabilitation Services
2011 Actual Expenditures

	DVR/DVS	OSB	OSD	DDD	Support Services	Total
State	$12,954,000	$6,356,000	$8,164,000		$2,152,000	$29,626,000
Federal	55,721,000	278,000	454,000	$36,128,000	5,175,000	97,756,000
Other	574,000	55,000	970,000*			1,599,000
Total	69,249,000	6,689,000	9,588,000	36,128,000	7,327,000	128,981,000

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation / Division of Visual Services -The majority of funding for these programs are eligible for a federal/state match of 78.7 percent / 21.3 percent. DVS' Oklahoma Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped receives 100% state funding.

Oklahoma School for the Blind - The majority of funding for this program is state appropriations.

*Oklahoma School for the Deaf - The majority of the Other funding goes to the Equipment Distribution Program, which provides telecommunications and other equipment to Deaf, hard of hearing, deaf-blind and severely speech impaired individuals.

Disability Determination Division - This program is 100 percent federally-funded.

Support Services - DRS utilizes an indirect cost rate as the standardized method for individual programs to pay a fair share of support service (general administration) costs.

*Statistical information based on *State Fiscal Year 2011*

Special Thanks

This year, we asked clients if they would help tell our story. We were pleased when they said yes. They are living proof that people with disabilities want to be a productive and employed member of society.

It is our hope that this publication will help show the world that people with disabilities have the same desires as ordinary people. Special thanks to all our volunteers who shared a little bit of themselves to make this a special annual report.

"I want to work. I don't want to stay at home all day and get bored. I like my workers and meeting customers. I enjoy helping people. "

-Donte' Ricard

Donte' Ricard (above) fist bumps with the store manager, Robert Cannon, who he likes very much. (Left) He talks with his DRS Counselor Glen Baisley.

He received DRS services from 2009 through 2011, while he worked with a job coach and training from Goodwill to help with his skills.

Ricard's job is to round up shopping carts, keep the parking lot clean and help customers when needed. He has earned the honor of employee of the month. He has worked for this Neighborhood Walmart for two of the 12 years he has been employed.

He had an early diagnosis of mild developmental disabilities.

"All I wanted was someone to give me a chance. I don't want free money. If I can work for it, I am not going to take a hand out. I'm not the type. It's not in my blood."

-Shawn Sewell

Shawn Sewell received vocational rehabilitation services after a four-wheeler accident cost him a foot.

DRS paid for Sewell's prosthesis and helped him get a job. Now, he works for a company that builds million dollar water and lube trucks for the oil industry.

This country boy has been in the workforce since he was 15 years old. He won't let his amputation stop him from making his way in this world.

Below Sewell talks with his VR counselor Karen Fowler.

He has a below-knee amputation.