



## *Special Commemorative Edition*

Dedicated to Connie Thrash McGoodwin, M.Ed.  
Executive Director 1981-2019



*Dale Rogers*  
TRAINING CENTER





*Be not forgetful  
to entertain strangers:  
for thereby some  
have entertained  
angels unawares.*

**HEBREWS 13:2**

King James Version

FAVORITE BIBLE VERSE OF DALE EVANS ROGERS

## FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT



*I've been involved with many Oklahoma nonprofits and with Dale Rogers Training Center (DRTC) since 1993. The unique partnership shared by the long-term administrative staff and Board of Directors has resulted in unparalleled accomplishments and success. This special edition publication allows us to share our amazing history, legacy, programs, innovations, and national recognitions with the community and the state of Oklahoma. I met the current executive director, Connie Thrash McGoodwin, when she was*

*-serving a 10-year appointment on the original MAPS board and have been familiar with her leadership role at DRTC from many different perspectives. I have watched her consistently put individuals with disabilities first – supporting them to have choices, learn skills, work in the community and earn \$5.2 million in wages each year! She has taken an agency with an annual \$85,000 budget in 1981 and transformed it into the largest nonprofit of its kind in Oklahoma. It now provides \$19.5 million worth of services to almost 1,000 people each year. It should come as no surprise that Connie would put that same level of caring and planning into her succession this December with Deborah Copeland, M.Ed. Deborah has held two management positions at DRTC; she and Connie want to ensure a seamless transition for the agency.*

*Connie credits the staff over the years and their many talents for supporting and improving the quality of so many lives. I also salute the many members of the Board of Directors for their willingness to take different paths and blaze new trails with Connie and her staff the last 40 years.*

***Trust and working closely with administration and key management has resulted in one of the most successful and self-sustaining nonprofits for people with disabilities in the Southwest.***

*What an amazing legacy!*

*Congratulations to all of you!*

*Allen Brown*

Allen Brown, NCARB

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## EMBRACE THE DIFFERENCE, HONOR THE LEGACY, LOOK TO THE FUTURE

The next time you are driving down Northwest 23rd Street, if you look north at the Utah Avenue stoplight, you will see our lovely campus and our home offices.

**Did you know you are looking at the most innovative and entrepreneurial community-based nonprofit in the state of Oklahoma?**

DRTC serves almost 1,000 teens and adults with disabilities a year on this campus and in our multiple locations across central Oklahoma. Just as important as being on the cutting edge of our field is honoring our wonderful legacy. In 1953, a daring group of parents who had children with disabilities had a collective dream to create a place their children would be welcome, safe and could grow at their own pace.

In the same year, Dale Evans Rogers, celebrity and wife of famed cowboy singer and actor Roy Rogers published an inspiring book called “Angel Unaware.” It was about the brief life of their daughter, Robin, who was born with Down syndrome and died before the age of two. The book sold millions of copies worldwide and opened the door for change. Their “school” was named Dale Rogers Training Center in her honor.



Connie Thrash McGoodwin reads to Lisa, 1982. Courtesy: The Oklahoman.

There were NO other schools or community programs available for that population in Oklahoma City.

We still honor Roy and Dale; they were the good guys who wore white hats and thought honesty was a virtue. We agree, greed is not okay and being mean spirited is still not cool or funny. For 67 years, DRTC has lived those values, embraced all differences, and ridden that trail honorably.

Our historic main campus at Northwest 23rd and Utah Avenue alone trains about 150 folks with disabilities and houses three businesses. People with disabilities at any of our multiple locations learn new skills and meet new friends, and equally important, enjoy the pride and self-sufficiency of work and paychecks.

Our on-campus production floors offer the

choices of learning fulfillment, creating trophies and awards, manufacturing products, mastering framing skills or producing items for our year-round gift shop — Robin’s Corner. When you step inside the DRTC Gift Shop on campus, you will feel transported to the 1950s by authentic Dale and Roy Rogers’ memorabilia, posters, and items manufactured by our workers. You are always welcome to stop by and look around.

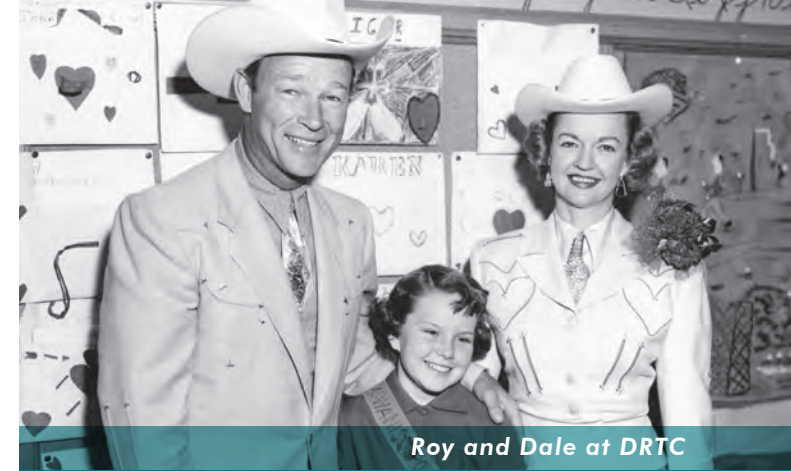
Our long list of awards and recognitions (see pages 26–27) reflects continued success toward our mission of training and employing people with disabilities. People with disabilities in DRTC’s programs earned more than \$5.2 million in wages this year. Approximately 91% of those we served are working in the community. At our federal contracts, 100% receive great wages and benefits.

**Please read on, enjoy some of their success stories, our unique history and innovative businesses.**

Thank you Dale and Roy Jr. (Dusty) for trusting DRTC to keep Robin’s legacy alive the way Dale’s book kept parents’ hope for a better life for their sons and daughters alive; a hope that has been realized thanks to Dale Rogers Training Center and those like you who support us.

Connie Thrash McGoodwin, M.Ed.  
Executive Director since 1981

**DRTC is in the “quiet phase” before launching a capital building campaign to complete our campus. Donate online today and leave a lasting legacy.**



Roy and Dale at DRTC

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## DEREK BURTON

*“Dale Rogers Training Center gave me a chance to grow and to believe in myself.”*

In 1992, a young, single father of two small sons was in a precarious situation. Like most parents, he needed a job so he could support his children. The hitch? Derek Burton has limitations which affect his mobility and ability to stand. But not his spirit or determination.

He’d worked for a decade at Sears, and during his tenure there had earned his associate’s degree in computer science from Oklahoma City Community College. When Derek heard Sears was closing that store, he felt like a heavy weight had been placed on him. For three years, he desperately sought another job without any success.

That was until one day when his vocational rehabilitation counselor told him about a cashier position for a new Food Service contract set aside for Dale Rogers Training Center on Tinker Air Force Base through the

AbilityOne Program. This created a confluence of circumstances which led to the impossible becoming possible for a man whose biggest dream was to be able to send his sons to college.

“Dale Rogers Training Center gave me a chance to grow and to believe in myself. Many times, we don’t think we can survive or compete, but we can do more than just suffer with disability. At Dale Rogers Training Center, you become a part of the family, and it gives you confidence,” Burton says.

Today, some 25 years later, Derek and his two adult sons are thriving, and the dreams of this father have come true. Dakota, his eldest son, is now in veterinarian school, and younger son Dylan is completing his internship to become a pharmacist.

Cover feature photo: Isaiah Lottie works at Tinker Air Force Base.



### ABOUT DRTC’S WORK PROJECTS CONTRACTS

Dale Rogers Training Center holds federal contracts through AbilityOne to provide employment for people at Tinker Air Force Base, FAA Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center,

and downtown OKC at the federal building complex. DRTC employs more than 300 people at these locations; 75% of whom have a disability, are paid well above minimum wage and

receive a generous benefits package, in addition to professional growth opportunities. Employees provide custodial service at all locations, as well as food service at Tinker Air Force Base.

# JACKLYN McDANIEL

*“I’m just a hard-working person.”*

Jacklyn McDaniel is an energetic young woman and an enthusiastic grocery sacker at Crest Foods grocery store in Midwest City. She’s also a creative soul, an aspiring writer who spends her free time working on her Disney-inspired fiction project “Snow Rose and the Beast,” and an artist whose illustration was selected for the 2016 Dale Rogers Training Center (DRTC) holiday card.

“I started at Dale Rogers Training Center as a newbie. I didn’t know where to sit, I didn’t know anything. I sat at an empty table and here came Dustin. He asked, ‘Hey,

what’s your name?’ Then I began to learn, little by little. Dale Rogers Training Center helped me a lot. I like to work. Working inspires me to work!” Jacklyn says.

Jacklyn started in DRTC’s Vocational Services Program in 2015, then sought community employment via the agency’s Employment Services Program. She has worked at Crest since 2017 and is a valuable member of the team. Jacklyn now confidently earns her own paycheck, doing a job she loves, allowing her to help her parents with bills, which makes her extremely proud.

“I’m not going to spend my money on useless things. I like to help my parents.”

Jacklyn, like most of us, identifies with what she does for a living, and her work is meaningful. Theresa Flannery, Community Resources and Compliance Director for Dale Rogers Training Center, says that’s exactly as it should be. “Jacklyn is a very young woman. She’s being given the opportunity to think about her life beyond just living with her mom. DRTC gave her the opportunity to do paid work. Crest hired her, and that allows her to keep growing.”



## ABOUT THE EMPLOYMENT SERVICES PROGRAM

This innovative, award-winning service, initiated in 1988, supports people with disabilities to obtain community employment. An Employment Training Specialist (ETS) helps match individuals’ capabilities and skills with job openings in the area. Once a job has been offered, the ETS works alongside the

participant the first several days to learn the job, at no additional cost to the employer. As the participant becomes skilled at their job, the Employment Training Specialist fades direct supports, leaving a well-trained, reliable employee.





## EMILY STONE

*“I don’t know what we would have done without DRTC. Not so much for us, but for her.” – Genie Stone, parent*

Like many women, Emily Stone loves pretty clothes, sparkly jewels and spending time with her friends. “She’s extremely social, and that’s something people don’t always realize,” says her mother, Genie Stone. “She does not talk, but she does use her voice, for example if something makes her happy, she’ll squeal. That’s what I really want people to understand the most. She can understand you and carry on a conversation if you ask her yes or no questions.”

Emily, now 46, has been coming to DRTC for more than 20 years, and spends her days accomplishing tasks and socializing with friends she’s

known since grade school. With a little assistance, Emily and the rest of her friends in the Special Needs Program participate in paid work, learn job skills, exercise, enjoy leisure activities and take community field trips.

In grade school, Emily spent about a year in a mainstream program, but her mom said it didn’t work out that well. “She was maybe 10 or 11 when she and one other child spent time in a first-grade classroom, but it was more for socialization.”

When it came time to graduate, options for much beyond staying home with mom all day were few and far between. DRTC soon launched

its Special Needs Program, and Emily’s mom got her registered. Her schoolmates Patti, Jason, Kenny and Heath also joined the program and their community blossomed.

Genie’s voice wavers as she thinks back to those days. “I don’t know what we would have done without DRTC. Not so much for us, but for her. We were all just trying to care for our kids, and we’re all still taking care of our children. DRTC has been a lifesaver for us. I don’t think Emily would be 46 if she hadn’t had DRTC. She never wants to miss, she loves her friends, and it just would have been really rough to not have had that. It’s a lifesaver for us.”



### UNITED WAY

Dale Rogers Training Center has been a United Way partner agency since 1959. United Way helps provide impactful services for those at DRTC, including adult rehabilitation, Special Needs Program, Camp Tumbleweed, transportation, and extended care, which allows caregivers to drop

off and pick up their loved one at DRTC so they can work themselves. When you support United Way, you’re also helping local nonprofits like Dale Rogers Training Center advance their mission and serve the needs of those in the community. #LiveUnited



## LINDSEY NGUYEN

Lindsey Nguyen is a born multitasker. Now, she's sorting mail into cross sections, paying close attention to the details. "These are supposed to be by state and then by name," she says. Her nose and cheeks are peppered with freckles and her shiny hair bobs as she turns her head. At 34, Lindsey's experience with Dale Rogers Training Center has spanned more than a decade, beginning when she was in high

school at Westmoore. A job coach at the school helped Lindsey get into the School-to-Work program, which in turn led to her gaining valuable skills, and her job with DRTC. "Oh, yeah, I enjoy it. I'm an independent person. I'm always busy and hectic. If I need help I ask and get it. I get paid on the 15th and the 31st, and I save up my money, or I buy CDs and DVDs. I love Disney and Nickelodeon movies," she says.

*Lindsey and her parents were thrilled when she was announced outstanding performer statewide. (see pg 27)*



## VOCATIONAL SERVICES PROGRAM

Dale Rogers Training Center provides training and paid work opportunities through its Vocational Services Program. Participants stay engaged and develop valuable skills through various subcontracting jobs, as well as education on

self-advocacy, voting rights, and even how to cook. Well-trained staff assist participants by helping them reach their specific, work-related goals and increased independence.

## CRAIG PARR

Craig Parr is a tall, strapping young man with a smile as big as his heart.

At 18, Craig attends high school and is taking a course on small engine repair at Francis Tuttle. His relationship with DRTC began at Camp Tumbleweed, which he attended for three summers. Campers have fun, work on academic skills, enjoy crafts and take a variety of field trips. Craig's favorite? "Harkins Theatre," he says unequivocally. Equally unwavering is his popcorn

preference. "Salt and butter," he says.

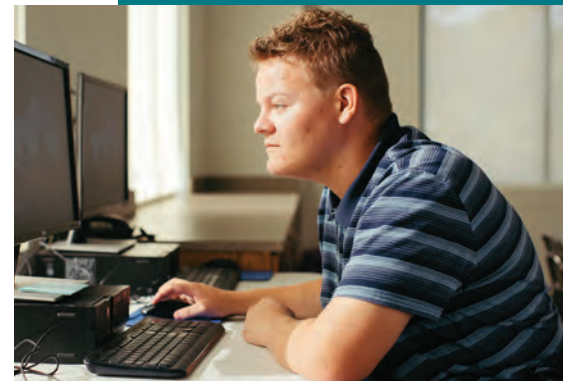
Craig also participated in DRTC's Transition School-To-Work program and is proud to announce that he's just gotten his learner's permit, which his mom acknowledges like all moms do, with a slightly nervous smile. "Craig's self-advocacy has really become stronger since he's been a part of DRTC," Teresa Anderson says. "He's made so many friends. He loves everyone, and he loves being here."

*"He's made so many friends. He loves everyone, and he loves being here."*  
— Teresa Anderson, parent

## TRANSITION SCHOOL-TO-WORK

DRTC aims to help high school juniors and seniors with disabilities on the path to successful employment through its Transition School-to-Work program. This innovative program serves 17 high schools in six districts in the Oklahoma

City Metro, providing students with a head start to employment after graduation. Students participate in job exploration at local businesses, developing both personal and work-related skills.





**Employment Services**  
(See page 6): Lucas works at Grand Casino



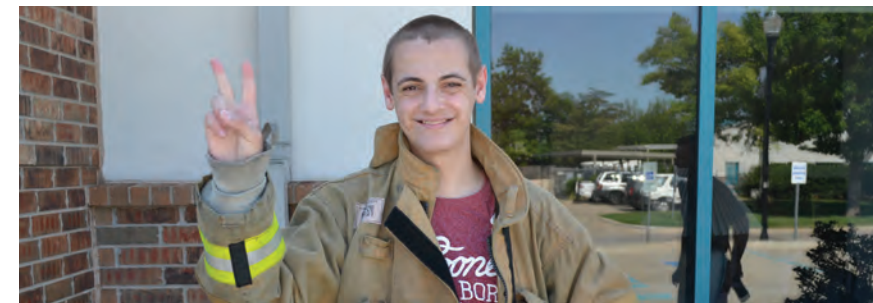
Ryan, far right, works at Sodexo in St. Anthony Hospital

## ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS



Camp Tumbleweed water day

**CAMP TUMBLEWEED**  
DRTC offers a quality summer day camp for teenagers and young adults (ages 14-21) with disabilities. Camp Tumbleweed offers an outside camp area nestled in the trees complete with teepee and mock campfire. In addition to having fun, campers maintain academic skills through creative and interactive activities. Arts & crafts and fun field trips are always part of the Camp Tumbleweed experience.



Fire station visits Camp Tumbleweed



**Special Needs** (See page 9): Jason enjoys the Sam Noble Museum



Patti loves the pumpkin patch

### MOBILE WORKFORCE

DRTC provides a Mobile Workforce designed for participants to gain experience and knowledge in all aspects of community employment. A crew of dedicated workers and a trained staff member engage in compensated vocational training while learning valuable work skills onsite at local

businesses. Training focuses on workplace guidelines, safety, and interaction with co-workers. Another aspect of the Mobile Workforce includes the opportunity to give back to the community by choosing to volunteer at locations like the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma, The Salvation Army, and others.



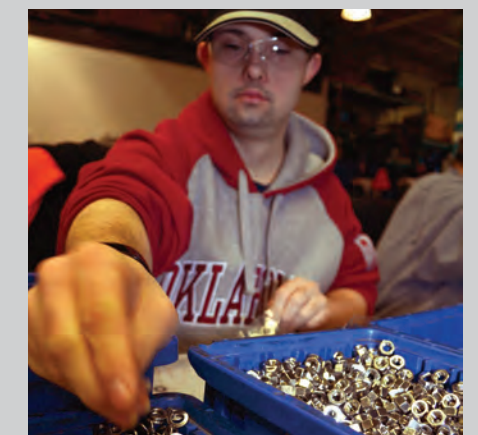
**Vocational Services**  
(See page 10): Joseph labeling products for Jasco



Kim working on fulfilling a large order



Virginia working at Digital Design with Mobile Workforce



Brandon working at Pelco with Mobile Workforce



# WORKING TOGETHER



A person need go no further than Ted talks given by people who have disabilities to think we are rapidly moving toward a disability-inclusive culture. In athletics, media, and higher

education, we see a wave of representation for adults and children with disabilities, but issues remain even in our own state. In Lawton, a national fast-food restaurant owner withdrew a dining room and bathroom attendant job offer to a man with an intellectual disability, because he had support (at no cost to the establishment) from a job coach. A lawsuit was filed and damages awarded. It's clear we still have issues to address.

With unemployment around 3.6% and employers scrambling to fill jobs, one might assume everyone would be open to a workforce that includes people with disabilities. Yet employers still hesitate to hire a student ready to transition from a special

education program into an entry-level job, an adult with an intellectual disability searching for a supportive work environment, or a person with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) graduating with a high-tech degree seeking a professional position. If the workplace is to be a reflection of the talents and capacities of our community, our workplace needs to include people with a wide-range of abilities.

DRTC encourages everyone to gain a well-informed perspective about the issues facing Oklahomans with a disability. It is crucial to understand the real effects and unintended consequences with shifts in policy and funding, which can mean the loss of valuable choices for people. Today, state and federal funding for programs continues to fall short of the actual cost for services, such as a school-to-work transitional programs for students, paid training for people with the most significant barriers to employment, and employment placement services. Proposed changes to set-asides in federal contracting, as well as calls to eliminate special minimum wage would actually cut jobs and paid training for people with significant disabilities, rather than protect them.

We can all be part of supporting more options for employment and protecting the choices people with disabilities and their families need and want. DRTC represents people who are perfectly qualified and capable of doing great work. In the words of Temple Grandin, author and professor of animal science who has ASD, "The world needs different kinds of minds to work together."

*Deborah Copeland, M.Ed., Deputy Director  
Former Administrator at DRTC  
Incoming Executive Director, January 2020*

## EMPLOYMENT

PEOPLE WHO DO NOT IDENTIFY AS HAVING A DISABILITY



PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES



*2017 Cornell University study found only 25% of working-age (21-64 years) people with disabilities in Oklahoma are employed full-time compared to 61% of people who do not identify as having a disability.*

# SHHH, SECRETS OF SUCCESS FOR NONPROFITS

People often ask how Dale Rogers Training Center (DRTC) can be doing so consistently well even in economies like this one. The cardinal rule would be to **always put your agency mission and the persons you serve FIRST!** Be specific in your mission because your agency can't be all things to all people, and retain its quality.

**Hire persons whose skill sets are consistent with the written job requirements.** Look for professionals with: a proven history of success, who act the same whether being watched or not, and who believe in the mission.

**Finding the balance between board and staff can be complicated.** DRTC has amazing staff longevity for a nonprofit; the board has term limits of six years, then must sit out at least one full year. Regular and consistent evaluations based on staff work behavior are crucial legal documentation. Every time you hire and train a new person, the agency loses time and resources. Stable leadership is crucial, but so is embracing change. Know the difference between stable and stale.



**Take calculated risks and think outside the box.** When DRTC's strategic plan took the road less traveled with a nonprofit entrepreneurial business model, it was difficult. While it met our mission and paid clients minimum wage or above, we had to learn high level production, marketing, quality control, and distribution. Thankfully, today our awards,

framing, and subcontract businesses are thriving and many client paychecks have doubled.

**Let the professionals run the program,** but make sure the board is informed of the good, bad, and ugly. Boards should never feel guilty asking to eyeball documentation. The board should recruit new members based on expertise or experience the agency needs to round out the board. **Have good agency policies that everyone follows consistently.** Top management must model this behavior to the rest of the staff.

Don't let one person, whether it be the CEO, a board member or management staff, use the agency for their personal agenda. Take Conflict of Interest forms very seriously. **TRAITS NEEDED BY ALL: an open mind, flexibility and honesty.** Don't be greedy, but never accept "no" as final; it only means "not today."

These tips won't apply to all. While DRTC has never had lawsuits from families, we are not afraid to discharge staff who threaten the clients or anyone's safety.

We have a great board partnership, an amazing leadership team, and consistent financial stability (which is so much more fun than not making payroll). **None of the above was an accident.** It's OK to fail on occasion (ask me about Papa Murphy's sometime).

**THE IMPORTANT THING IS WHAT YOUR LEADERSHIP TEAM LEARNS FROM A MISTAKE AND WHAT IT DOES NEXT!**

*Tips from Connie Thrash McGoodwin, M.Ed.  
Executive Director of nonprofits in  
Oklahoma City and Dallas*



Awards division, 1985. Courtesy: The Oklahoman

## THE ROAD LESS TRAVELED

### How This Nonprofit Became Entrepreneurial

- ★ In the 1990s, costs were climbing, but the new state funding was not. Dale Rogers Training Center (DRTC) hit a plateau and could not sustain its quality of programs or its small trophy and awards business. A board member's son helped us set up this venture starting with acrylic items. DRTC applied for a 3% Small Business Loan for raw product and equipment.
- ★ DRTC did a small amount of picture framing, which it subbed out. The Wyman family, our middleman, decided to sell their small business in Moore. The caveat was if DRTC purchased it, they would remain with DRTC the first 30 days and teach staff the framing business. Framing is now on campus, and we have an excellent full-time Certified Picture Framer.



Screen printing

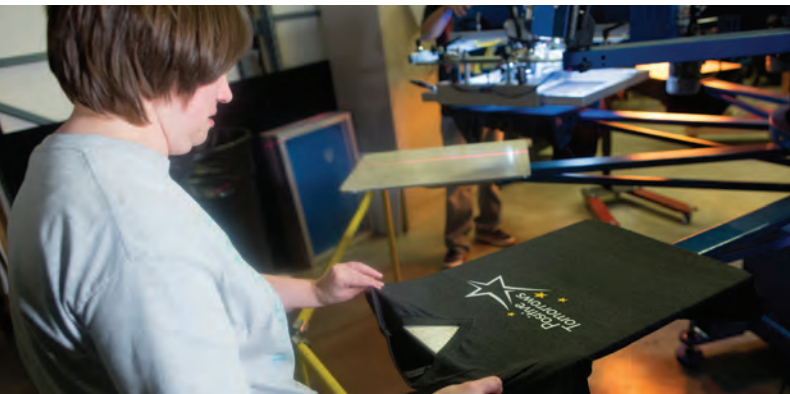
- ★ Georgianna Schmitz, a local collector, donated thousands of dollars of her Dale and Roy memorabilia, and the Rogers Family sent us the Robin's Corner display when they closed their Branson, Missouri, museum. A gift shop was born with client-packaged gifts including an annual holiday card. Due to a fluke, Dale Rogers Training Center bought hundreds of discounted spice bottles with orange or green lids. Partnering with Cedar Hills, a company in Edmond, this spun into the Prairie Spice line, which you can see in our catalog or online ([www.drctc.org](http://www.drctc.org)).
- ★ AbilityOne/SourceAmerica had federal contracts available at Tinker Air Force Base. It was a huge undertaking, but DRTC was desperate to diversify income. Dale Rogers Training Center obtained a Food Services Contract in 1993 and was subsequently sued unsuccessfully by the former contractor. Custodial was the next area of expertise—first Tinker Air Force Base, then downtown with the General Services Administration and the Federal Aviation Administration. Once DRTC hired professionals, the agency learned to manage these contracts that paid DRTC's workers great wages and full benefits (75% of all workers were required to be people with disabilities). DRTC received steady revenue as well. These contracts are now our primary source of revenue.

- ★ The big seller at DRTC in-house businesses today is promotional items and personalized items of all kinds—especially wearables. The new t-shirt screen printer is busy every day and the workers love it! **DRTC is now 87% self-sufficient with a goal of 100% sustainability. Revenue has exceeded expense over 10 years in a row. Sometimes you just have to take that calculated risk to move forward.**



Picture framing division, 2013.

# SUPPORT DRTC WITH YOUR PURCHASE



- Awards
- Custom trophies
- Wearables
- Spirit items
- Prairie Spices
- Greeting cards
- Picture framing
- Personalized gifts
- And more!

Visit us at 2501 N. Utah Ave. in OKC  
 Call us at 405-946-4489  
 Email [dalerogers@drtc.org](mailto:dalerogers@drtc.org)



# HOW DRTC CAN ASSIST YOU, YOUR BUSINESS & THE COMMUNITY!

- Provide dedicated workers and mobile work crews for your company
- Fundraising opportunities for your school or club
- Give exposure to companies that partner or volunteer with DRTC
- Show your school spirit with quality t-shirts and wearables for your school
- Employee awards & recognition for your staff, scouts, or sports team
- Framing for your home or office
- DRTC workers contribute to the tax base with their \$5.2 million wages
- Gift Shop can provide you a last minute gift, or personalized gifts of every kind
- Our workers have the option to volunteer with community nonprofits: Contact us with your need: 405-946-4489 ext. 1501

# WHAT YOU, YOUR BUSINESS AND THE COMMUNITY CAN DO TO SUPPORT DRTC!

- Make jobs available for people with disabilities who want to earn their own way
- Provide a transition school-to-work worksite for high school students
- Refer people with disabilities to DRTC Information & Referral: 405-946-4489 ext. 1501
- Volunteer with DRTC teens or adults
- Include DRTC in your Planned Giving: 405-946-4489 ext. 1404
- Engage with us on our Social Media, leave a testimonial on DRTC's customer service or quality
- Read our Quarterly Newsletters
- USE OUR CATALOGS, call or drop by or go online to [drtc.org](http://drtc.org)



## DONATE TO NEW BUILDING

**BUY OUR PRODUCTS and TELL FRIENDS, NEIGHBORS, RELATIVES ABOUT WHAT DRTC DOES AND THE SELECTION OF PRODUCTS IT PRODUCES!**

# The Oklahoma Connection

Dale and Roy married in 1947 at Flying L Ranch in Davis, Oklahoma.

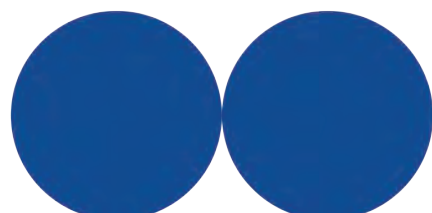
In 1976, Dale and Roy were inducted into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame in Oklahoma City.

Numerous members of the Rogers family have been to Oklahoma City for the 50th and 60th anniversaries of Dale Rogers Training Center. Roy Rogers Jr. and the High Riders gave a crowd-pleasing concert at DRTC in the summer of 2013.

Roy Jr., his son and grandson were all at DRTC's 60th anniversary in 2013. Jane Jayroe introduced them to the audience and asked Roy Jr. (Dusty) what he remembered about his sister Robin when he was young. He said his mom, Dale, warned the boys to be gentle with their little sister Robin. He said, "When Mom left the room we boys would get her down on the floor and 'wrassle' with her. She loved it."



Dale, Robin and Roy Rogers



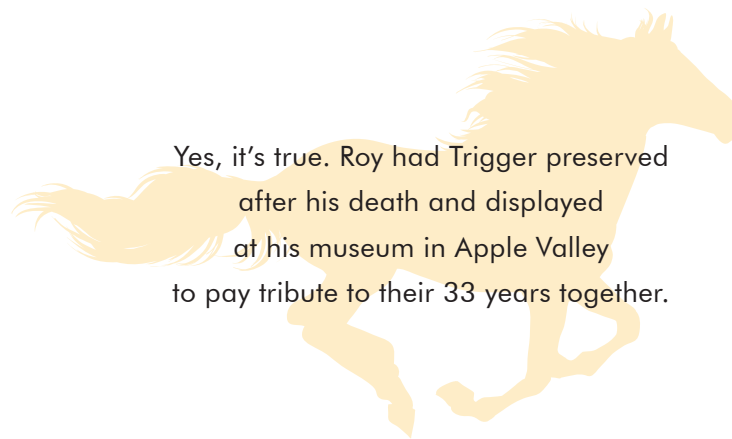
Dale was in 28 movies with Roy, but their relationship began to evolve during the filming of "Cowboy and the Señorita" (1944).



*There were more than 600 restaurants in the U.S. and Canada. When ordering, servers would ask, "For here or on the trail?"*

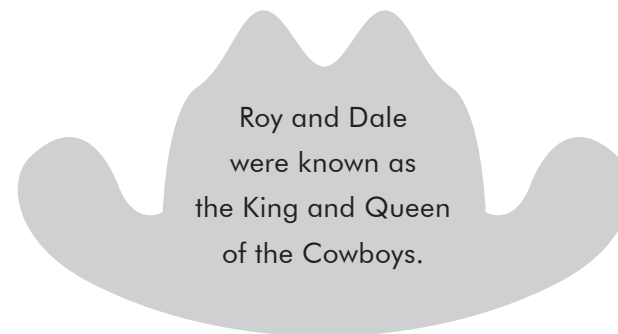


From cap pistols to PJs to full cowboy regalia, Dale and Roy's 400 plus merchandising items were second only to Walt Disney's.



Yes, it's true. Roy had Trigger preserved after his death and displayed at his museum in Apple Valley to pay tribute to their 33 years together.

*Dale wrote "Happy Trails" for their first 12 week trial television show in 1952.*



Roy and Dale were known as the King and Queen of the Cowboys.

## DALE & ROBIN

While the Rogers adopted or fostered many children, their only biological child Robin was born with Down syndrome. Born in 1950, she passed quietly from this life right before her 2nd birthday.

Part of Dale's healing process was to write a book about Robin's blessed role in the Rogers family. It was based on the bible verse Hebrews 13:2.

**Her book was huge to parents and families of children with developmental disabilities all over the globe. Those children had so often been hidden, ignored, and frequently institutionalized with no dreams for their future. Now they had hope.**

Artifacts from her book "Angel Unaware" were donated to DRTC.



More trivia on Roy Rogers can be found online at [drtc.org/rogers-trivia](http://drtc.org/rogers-trivia)

# HISTORY



Dale Evans Rogers at her namesake agency in 1967.

1953

Parents with young children with disabilities incorporated in 1953 and Dale Rogers Training Center was born. It grew from a school to a Vocational Training Center.



Comedian Jack Benny performed a fundraiser in 1956.

1960s



The new barn under construction in 1956, later decimated during a tornado in 1970. (Courtesy: The Oklahoman)

1970s



Eunice Kennedy Shriver, founder of Special Olympics, visiting in 1966.



DRTC expansion groundbreaking, 1984, creating more subcontracting opportunities.

Utah Ave. a dirt road

1985  
90 clients/students  
\$600,000 in services

1980s



Barry Switzer at Special Olympics, 1987.

Yard Crew program begins with OSBI and expands.

1981

54 clients/students  
\$90,000 in services  
No state funding for services for people with disabilities



Awards division born.

Former first lady Donna Nigh visiting DRTC, 1985. (Courtesy: The Oklahoman)



Supported Employment concept introduced, 1988.



Tinker AFB Food Service contract begins.



Individuals earn \$1 million in wages, 1995.



Kim presents an award to former Oklahoma first lady Donna Nigh, 1997.



**1995**  
340 clients served/employed  
\$4.1 million in services



Old Meek house demolished; new building completed, housing newly created Special Needs Program for people with multiple disabilities, 1997.



OETA documentary on DRTC wins OK Association of Broadcasters award, 2005.

Custodial contracts added at Tinker AFB, FAA and new federal complex.

Camp Tumbleweed is built.



Roy Jr. and Dustin Rogers at DRTC's 60th Anniversary, 2013.

Framing division added.

**2019**  
900 clients served/employed  
\$19.5 million in services  
Individuals earn \$5.2 million

# 2000s

**2000**  
929 clients served/employed  
\$13.8 million in services  
Individuals earn \$3.4 million



Rogers family donates Robin's Corner display from museum in Branson, MO., 2010.

11,000 sq. ft. building constructed for training & framing.

Individuals at DRTC provide quality control services on promotional items, 2016.

# 2019



DRTC begins screen printing.

# DRTC AWARDS SINCE 1992

## EXECUTIVE OF THE YEAR

**Connie Thrash McGoodwin**

February 1992

OKC Sales and Marketing

## GOLD PLATE AWARD

**Tinker Food Services**

1993 & 1995

International Air Force Award for Food Services



## NATIONAL EVELYNE VILLINES AWARD

**Jesse Linn Jr.**

November 1999

Awarded by NISH in Wash. D.C.

## WILLIAM USDANE AWARD

**Derek Burton**

April 2004

National Award—Tinker Air Force Base Food Service

## EXCELLENCE IN SANITATION AWARD

**Tinker Food Services**

March 2005

Our custodial team had the highest sanitation scores in 2005



## NATIONAL EVELYNE VILLINES AWARD

**Shelley Young**

April 2007

Awarded to a person with a disability who was able to use their training to advance within the workplace

## REGIONAL NISH AWARD

**Tinker Custodial**

April 2007

Outstanding Custodial Service

## BUSINESS OF THE YEAR DRTC

March 2008

From the Department of Rehabilitation Services for Employing People with Disabilities

## EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR

**Tinker Air Force Base**

December 2009

Given by the Mayor's Committee on Disability Concerns

## WORLD NEIGHBORS DIGNITY AWARD

2010

Agency award for giving dignity to people with disabilities, presented by Jane Jayroe

## MOST ADMIRED CEO AWARD

**Connie Thrash McGoodwin**

March 2014

Journal Record Award for Leadership

## BEST OF SHOW AWARD, OKLAHOMA STATE FAIR

**Carla Folks**

2016

Certified Picture Framer, DRTC

## 2016 VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION GOLD STAR AWARD

**DRTC**

December 2016

DRTC honored for outstanding placement of people with disabilities in contracts with Department of Rehabilitation Services



## HALL OF HONOR

**Connie Thrash McGoodwin**

2017

Northwest Oklahoma City Chamber Outstanding Citizen of the Year

## FINANCIAL STEWARD AWARD

**Lillian Hobbs**

April 2017

Journal Record—Outstanding Chief Financial Officer

## EXCELLENCE IN MANAGEMENT AWARD FOR THE SOUTH CENTRAL REGION

**Connie Thrash McGoodwin**

May 2017

NCSE Outstanding Performance and Leadership

## ACHIEVERS UNDER 40

**James Helm**

May 2017

Journal Record

## PASEO ARTS FESTIVAL

**Brian Landreth**

May 2017

Featured Artist

## OK-APSE

**Vivian Naegeli, Lorri Elston, St. Ann's Retirement Center**

June 2017

Outstanding Employment Training Specialists for the Year

## EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR DRTC

October 2017

Awarded for outstanding achievements in enhancing employment, from the OKC Mayor's Committee on Disability Concerns

## 2017 KELLER-SULLIVAN AWARD

**AMP-300 Facility Services (FAA Contract)—National Award**

October 2017

Honoring an employee who goes above and beyond to achieve unique hiring, promotion or advancement

## STATE USE: OUTSTANDING PERFORMER AWARD (OMES)

**Lindsey Nguyen OKDRS**

March 2018

State use honoring the top worker in Oklahoma

## SURVEYS & ACCREDITATIONS



## COMMISSION ON ACCREDITATION OF REHAB FACILITIES (CARF)

**Highest level of Worldwide Accreditation**

Since 2011—3 year awards



## CLEANING INDUSTRIAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (CIMS) CERTIFICATION

October 2014

This national certification by a 3rd party audit develops efficiency processes and best practices for cleaning services

**100+ GOVERNOR'S AWARDS ON DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT WINNERS—BOTH PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES AND OUTSTANDING EMPLOYERS.**

**95-100% SCORES ON ANNUAL DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SURVEYS SINCE THE 1990s.**

**TRADEMARK ON "EMBRACING THE DIFFERENCE" 2018**

Remains with agency for 99 years



# WORK, FUN, CHOICES



TOP LEFT Nehemiah; TOP RIGHT Ronnie sands an acrylic award, 1993. Courtesy: The Oklahoman.  
 BOTTOM LEFT 35th Anniversary celebration, 1988; BOTTOM RIGHT Shon & Kermit

TOP LEFT Lady Liberty, 2008; TOP RIGHT Kim and Angie  
 BOTTOM LEFT Lt. Gov. Mary Fallin, Lt. Gen. Richard Burpee, Jane Jayroe, Connie Thrash McGoodwin at DRTC's 50th Anniversary Celebration; BOTTOM RIGHT Timothy





TOP LEFT Heather; TOP RIGHT Leticia  
BOTTOM LEFT Dale; BOTTOM RIGHT Julie

TOP LEFT Gary; TOP RIGHT St. Patrick's Day, 2005  
BOTTOM LEFT Afshin; BOTTOM RIGHT Abby, Nekia, Terry

1981

2019

Friends,

None of the myriad of accomplishments at Dale Rogers Training Center (DRTC) were achieved by me or any one person. Our success has been achieved together in partnership, mutual collaboration, cooperation, and respect.

Who gets lucky enough to help take a small floundering community agency with a big heart and make it into an award-winning, nationally-recognized entity? From a dairy barn on a gravel road to a true Oklahoma success story, DRTC's lovely campus always welcomes friends, visitors, and customers.

I feel good about Dale Rogers Training Center's future with Deborah Copeland at the helm starting in January 2020. You'll be hearing a lot about Deborah, her career, and her goals for DRTC as she works with the Board of Directors to take the agency to the next level. I know the Board will support her as much as they have trusted and partnered with me for almost 40 years.

Remember: the journey and the process can be as important as the goals. I'll be at DRTC part-time through June 2020 working on special projects and documenting four decades of agency history for the next generation.

My heart is full of thanks and gratitude to those who have supported DRTC and me personally on this great journey. HOW LUCKY AM I to have had the honor of serving this amazing agency!

Always Part of the Dale Rogers Family,



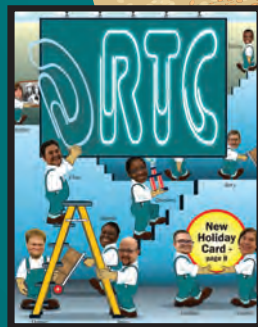
Connie

Read Connie's full historical resignation letter online at [drtc.org/connie-resignation](http://drtc.org/connie-resignation)

Read Connie's "After the Closets Are Clean" article—her last "From the Director"—online at [drtc.org/after-the-closets-are-clean](http://drtc.org/after-the-closets-are-clean)



It's how you ride the trail that counts!  
- Dale Evans Rogers



# HAPPY TRAILS TO YOU ALL!

*"Each one of us is the culmination of the life choices we have made."  
Unknown*

*Friend Jennifer*

P.S. - I hope you'll consider leaving a lasting legacy for Dale Rogers Training Center. Please donate online at [DRTC.org/donate-form](http://DRTC.org/donate-form).





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Special thanks to Deborah Copeland, M.Ed. and James Helm for their major contributions to this publication.