

Bluegrass Regional Recycling Corporation Bluegrass Career Development Center "Career Development with Significance"

The Bluegrass Regional Recycling Corporation (BRRC) has a unique career development program that changes the lives of its participants. The BRRC is a 501-C-3 corporation that uses

recyclable materials as the resource for an on-the-job training activity for the poor and incarcerated population of society. All recipients of the program are encouraged to advance through a series of job skills that qualify for "certified" personal and professional achievements. Hope is fostered as experience is gained: the confidence to succeed is developed and enhanced. The end result is an expectation of decent job placement when leaving the program and the BRRC is dedicated to that destiny.

The BRRC opened its first Career Development Center for the housing of correctional residents who are on their way towards a new beginning in life. The eighty-eight bed facility was designed and built by the BRRC to meet the requirements of the Kentucky Department of Corrections (DOC) and received its contract from the DOC in June 2008. The facility is conveniently located on land where the BRRC has established its training center which processes materials for various county and city government recycling affiliates and local community partners. The residents are introduced into the working environment at the adjacent training facility as they earn certifications in the recycling and manufacturing related industry. The earnings from their labor attribute to the monies that are sent back to the local governments participating in this cooperative marketing exercise which has returned more than \$34.4 million from marketed materials in 25 years as a nonprofit venture.

The Bluegrass Career Development Center (BCDC) has developed its internal programming from years of experience in understanding the needs of the men who have come from incarceration and transitioning back into society. The staff is working 24/7 with the residents as they work to provide the necessary services to properly develop the opportunities for growth back into the community. As the men progress through the recycling and manufacturing training operations, they graduate into jobs that are assisting the needs of the local governments and nonprofit organizations of the area. The men are assessed as to their talents and resumes are drafted for the residents in preparation for job interviews with new partners that desire to participate in this "on-the-job" training program.

In 2009 the BRRC established the BRRC Career Development Program, a Kentucky State Board for Proprietary Education licensed resident proprietary school. The correctional residents are offered courses with certifications in areas such as Recycling and Materials Managements, Culinary Arts, Commercial Drivers' License Class-A Permits, Bobcat and Forklift Training, and OSHA 10 General Industry. The Kentucky Department of Corrections Educational Division has approved the school's programming and awards graduates of the program with meritorious/educational good time credit that may reduce their sentence by up to ninety (90) days for each course completed.

The BRRC's Career Development Program is dedicated to encouragement of the poor and humble in spirit so as to realize God's call on their lives to be creative, active members of society, prepared to live in dignity while contributing their unique gifts to their community.

For more information contact Michael A. Mills, Executive Director at 859-626-9117.

