

# Rowan Vocational Opportunities, Inc. Cabarrus Vocational Opportunities

## Autumn 2025 Newsletter

### Board of Directors

Jill Smith - President

Jeremy Carter

Roddy Cobb

Nancy Collins

Cynthia Hoffmann\*

Sidney Honeycutt

Ed Lanear

Erik Lipscomb

Beth Loney

Marla Miller

Chrissy Overman

Gina Pinyan

Kelly Smith

Mandy Thacker

Jeff Wetmore

\*Ex-officio

### Leadership Team

Gary Yelton - Executive Director/QP

Susan Brenner - CVO Qualified Professional

Ron Brown - Maintenance Supervisor

Tamara Chisholm - CVO Innovations Manager

Gary Elmore - Sales and Marketing Director/CVO Prod. Mgr./QP

Skip Kraft - CVO Director of Operations/QP

Adrienne Krug - RVO Qualified Professional

Tammy Lemmons - Finance/Human Resources Manager

Skye Richardson - CVO Assistant Production Manager

Robbi Russell - RVO Production Manager

Mark Schiemann - RVO Asst. Prod. Mgr./Asst. Sales & Marketing

Tara Seaford - RVO Innovations Manager

Carol Williams - RVO/CVO ADVP/LTCS Program Manager



*Newsletter Editor: Stephanie Lemmons*

## The Holiday Season

*By: Wilson R. Cherry*

As the holiday season approaches, the spirit of giving shines brighter than ever. At Rowan Vocational Opportunities, Inc. we are committed to ensuring that all of our consumers have a happy and joyful holiday season. This includes a festive dinner at both Thanksgiving and Christmas; as well as gifts to brighten their holiday spirit.

Your enduring support over the years has enabled us to help many individuals who would not be able to share the joy of the season without your donations.

We would greatly appreciate it if you would kindly considered making a donation or gift to assist with our Thanksgiving or Christmas dinners or to help purchase some of the toiletries or clothing items that we include in the consumers' gift bags. The list of items needed for the holiday season can be found on Amazon at: <https://www.Amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2QEYCMW2WASFK>

For additional information on donating, please contact Tammy Lemmons, Wilson R. Cherry or Gary Yelton at 704-633-6223.



## Generosity

*By: Tara Seaford*

With Christmas fast approaching, the Innovations Department at RVO will start their annual toy drive soon, collecting toys to give back to the community.

As talks of generosity arise, the department has two superstars that are making headlines. One consumer, Logan, has been working with Sgt. Bouk at the Salisbury Police Dept. on a project. His goal is to help police departments throughout the county raise awareness and be better prepared for encounters with people who have autism. He has already done several presentations at the SPD and has stickers and awareness bracelets available.

Another consumer, Dan, and his family recently teamed up with Southern City AME Zion Church in East Spencer to install new food pantries for the community. They delivered the food pantry box that his dad built and then Dan helped dig a hole and install the box.

The Innovations Department is very proud of both young men!



## Polar Express Makes Festive Return Visit

*By: Wilson R. Cherry*

Many area residents are anxiously anticipating the Annual Polar Express train experience held each year at the North Carolina Transportation Museum in Spencer.

The event is more than just a train ride; it recreates the magic of Chris Van Allsburg's beloved Polar Express story. The Transportation Museum presents an immersive real train ride, complete with character interactions, festive onboard activities, refreshments, and a heartwarming visit from Santa Claus.

This year consumers and staff at RVO and CVO are preparing 67,500 gift bags for event attendees.

From Candy Cane Lane to the North Pole, the event is always a great experience for the Holiday Season.



## Breast Cancer Awareness

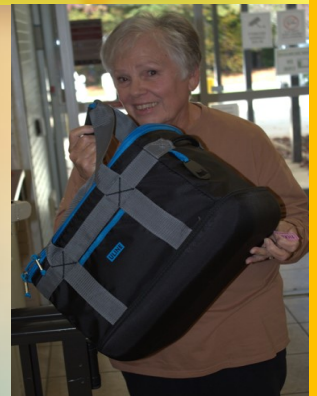
*By: Wilson R. Cherry*

October has been designated as Breast Cancer Awareness Month; a time to create awareness and recognize the millions of lives affected by breast cancer, as well as to reaffirm our commitment to equitable access to care and improved diagnosis and treatments.

Here at RVO and CVO many staff and consumers are dressing in pink in support of the fight against this dreaded disease.

Jane Brown, Administrative Assistant, has put forth an outstanding effort in coordinating a wide array of exciting and valuable items to be raffled as a part of the fundraiser. In addition, she graciously took the time to bake and provide several desserts for the fundraiser.

RVO would like to thank everyone who participated in this year's fundraiser. The grand total raised for 2025 was \$3,049. "Kudos" to Jane for spearheading the agency's campaign.



## Halloween Shaker's Dance

*By: Wilson R. Cherry*

The air of excitement ran rampant as Rowan Vocational Opportunities, Inc. hosted the annual Halloween Shaker's Dance at the newly renovated Rowan Community Center.

A wide array of spooky, sensational costumes were worn as people enjoyed the music of DJ Ted and had an abundance of food and drinks.

While dancing and dining highlighted the evening, the real excitement came during the annual costume contest where prizes were awarded.

At the end of the evening guests leaving were given fun goody bags to take home and enjoy.



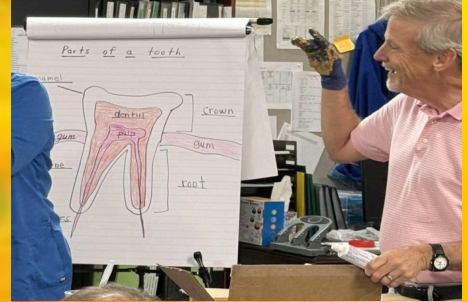


## Dental Hygiene

By: Tamara Chisholm

This past month was Personal Presentation month at CVO. The first week's focus was on dental care with discussions on types of teeth, parts of teeth, and proper care.

A fun illustration or experiment always makes information easier to understand. One illustration included a visit from "Dr. C" as Michael Brooks demonstrated proper brushing and flossing techniques with the help of a gloved hand and some peanut butter!



All consumers received a toothbrush and floss to take home.

In addition, the consumers conducted the Egg and Coke Experiment. This experiment is meant to demonstrate the harmful effects of sugary, acidic drinks on teeth as the eggshell's calcium is like tooth enamel.

An egg was placed in four different cups, each filled with Coke, toothpaste and vinegar, vinegar, and mouthwash respectively.

The results showed that the vinegar dissolved the egg's hard shell, leaving only the soft, flexible membrane. The toothpaste and vinegar were supposed to show why we brush our teeth, but somehow that part of the experiment failed and the eggshell dissolved, crushing when picked up.

The egg in mouthwash was protected by fluoride and remained hard due to that protection. The Coke stained the egg that was in it.



## EMS

By: Tamara Chisholm

The Innovations Department at CVO participated in several field trips this fall in connection with different monthly topics. One such topic has been Community Leaders.

In addition to visiting the fire and police departments, they toured the EMS station. In preparation of the upcoming trip to the EMS station, the group discussed various health topics and the effects of not being healthy, i.e., strokes and/or heart attacks.

After talking about blood pressure and the importance of staying healthy, consumers were given the opportunity to demonstrate how they would assist while waiting for professional assistance to arrive and were able to learn important CPR skills.





## New Staff Spotlight



Ron Brown joins RVO's Leadership team as the new Maintenance Supervisor. He comes to RVO with 40 years of experience in the maintenance field.

Jeff Burton, who works as a DSP in the Production Department, enjoys working with youth and the disabled population. He finds getting to see the clients accomplish their goals a blessing.



Chereka Cherry recently joined the Production team as a DSP. She has been in the mental health and intellectual disabilities field since 1994.

Savanah Hatley has brought communication skills and a teamwork mentality with her as she joins RVO's Production Department as a Model Worker.



Mariesa Johnson came to RVO with five years of DSP experience. She has since been a great asset to the Innovations Department. Her outgoing personality has made for an enjoyable work experience.

Sabrina Phillips joins RVO's Production team as a DSP. She brings experience working with this population from RHA.



Tyler Williams joined RVO's Production Department as a Model Worker with two years of previous production experience. He enjoys working with those with the clients and appreciates that every day brings something new.

Alicia Witherspoon has joined RVO's Production Department. She has been in this field as a DSP for several years and has brought that experience with her.



Skye Richardson returned to CVO as an experienced DSP. She worked on the Production floor as a DSP before being promoted to Asst. Production Manager. Skye has transitioned into this role seamlessly.



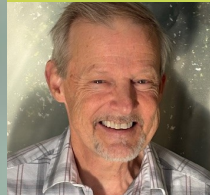
Alisha Drake works as a DSP in the Innovations Department bringing a gentle spirit to CVO.

Tiffany Head recently joined the Production staff at CVO working as a spirited DSP.



Tyler Honeycutt, with his placid personality, has fit right in as a Production floor DSP.

The last to join CVO, Tara Johnson, works as a 1:1 DSP in the Innovations Department.



Mike Brooks has been a great asset at CVO, filling in as a PRN DSP since his retirement from teaching in the Cabarrus County school system.

Stephanie Lemmons was an intern at RVO for several years before being hired as the new part-time File Clerk. Having worked closely with the previous File Clerk, she brings with her knowledge and experience.



## Service Providers Face Funding Cuts

*By: Wilson R. Cherry*

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services has announced a 3% rate reduction for service provider reimbursements that began on October 1, 2025. This will have a significant impact on service providers, parents, caretakers, and consumers alike.

According to Gary Yelton, Executive Director at Rowan Vocational Opportunities, Inc., "We will continue to provide quality service and the utmost care for our consumers and staff."

Currently, the North Carolina State Legislature has not adopted or approved a budget for the upcoming two years.



## RVO Provides Confidential & Convenient Shredding

*By: Wilson R. Cherry*

If you want to have peace of mind and confidence that your shredding will be done quickly and securely, contact Ted Oglesby at Rowan Vocational Opportunities, Inc. (704-633-6223) to schedule one time or regular pickups.

Your documents can be picked up and securely handled and transported to be destroyed by using cross-cut technology that guarantees total destruction.

If you prefer to bring your documents in to be shredded, hours of operation are from 9:00 AM until 2:00 PM, Monday through Friday.

Rates are 50¢ per pound for businesses and people under 60 or 25¢ per pound for seniors and military veterans.



### Mission Statement

Rowan Vocational Opportunities, Inc. provides opportunity and training for adults with disabilities to develop work habits and skills leading to employment.

Rowan Vocational Opportunities, Inc. also provides these consumers with daily living skills to increase independent functioning at home and in the community and in a diverse and inclusive environment.



Rowan Vocational Opportunities, Inc.

2728 Old Concord Rd.

Salisbury, NC 28146

(704) 633-6223

[www.rowanvocopp.org](http://www.rowanvocopp.org)

**Rowan Vocational  
Opportunities, Inc.**



**Rowan - Cabarrus**

### Calendar of Events

**November 11, 2025 - Veterans Day Holiday  
(Closed)**

**November 27-28, 2025 - Thanksgiving Holidays  
(Closed)**

**December 24-26, 2025 - Christmas Holidays  
(Closed)**

**January 1, 2026 - New Year's Day Holiday  
(Closed)**

**January 19, 2026 - Martin Luther King Jr.  
Day Holiday (Closed)**

**April 3, 2026 - Good Friday Holiday (Closed)**

**May 25, 2026 - Memorial Day Holiday  
(Closed)**

**June 19, 2026 - Juneteenth Holiday (Closed)**

**July 3, 2026 - Independence Day Holiday  
(Closed)**

**September 7, 2026 - Labor Day Holiday  
(Closed)**

**November 11, 2026 - Veterans Day Holiday  
(Closed)**

**November 26-27, 2026 - Thanksgiving Holidays  
(Closed)**

**December 24-25 & 28 - Christmas Holidays  
(Closed)**

Cabarrus Vocational Opportunities

107 Commercial Park Dr. SW

Concord, NC 28072

(704) 793-1314

[www.cabarrusvocopp.org](http://www.cabarrusvocopp.org)