

# Adults With Disabilities Receive Support 24/7

Antonieta Reyes

Job coaches or employment specialists provide adults with disabilities with around-the-clock advice.

“My job coach is someone who understands my point of view and sets steps to work out my options,” says **Swanzetta Moore**, one of many success stories for Leon County Schools Adult & Community Education.



Swanzetta Moore in her office at United Way.

“Swan is eager to learn and she has taken advantage of the opportunities given,” said **JoeAnn Frazier**, Employment Specialist.

JoeAnn has been working with Swanzetta for six years. Swan works at United Way as an Accounts Receivable Clerk. “I feel that I am blessed to be able to do this,” Swan says. She expresses that sometimes people expect them to fail because of their disability and other times supervisors and coworkers don’t know how to deal with adults with disabilities. Frazier states the importance of keeping the communication lines open with the employer. “They need to trust you and know that you are there to help them,” she adds.

**Veronica Sehart**, Adults with Disabilities Program Manager, explains how employment specialists work to enable adults with disabilities to work in areas where their skills and knowledge can expand while “allowing them to live independent lives and improve their quality of life.”

**Bernard Graham** has been an employment specialist for 17 years and summarizes his job in one single phrase, “we work to make a difference in their lives.” “The ultimate goal is to help them maintain their jobs, but we also want them to be able to solve problems by themselves and to become part of the work team,” he adds.

For more information please contact Veronica Sehart at (850) 922-5343 or email at [sehartv@ace-leon.org](mailto:sehartv@ace-leon.org). You can also visit the ACE (Adult and Community Education) website at [www.ACE-Leon.org](http://www.ACE-Leon.org).

Note: The Leon County School District is one of the recipients of DVR’s Adults with Disabilities Grant Program (AWD). If you would like more information about other AWD programs around the state, please contact Virginia Rhoden at [Virginia.Rhoden@vr.fldoe.org](mailto:Virginia.Rhoden@vr.fldoe.org). □

## Follow-up Counselor Training

Mike Brand

Any new job brings with it a surprise or two along the way and the job of Florida Vocational Rehabilitation counselor is certainly no exception. A group of counselors that began their job a few months ago found that some things were more difficult than they expected, some things easier, and other things just plain different. During a recent week in Tallahassee for some follow-up training, a couple of counselors shared such experiences.

For **Melanie Chernoff** of North Tampa, the biggest surprise was also a pleasant one: “I was impressed by the number of people that have

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Left to right: DVR Counselors attending follow-up training the week of June 11-15, 2007: Shannon Akerman, Rachel Ahumada, Jeff Whitehead, Patricia Harrison, Norm Taylor, Theresa Clark, Melanie Chernoff, Tara Mourino.