



# The Connect



## VIB associate recognized for more than his job!

|              |                  |
|--------------|------------------|
| Volume<br>10 | November<br>2012 |
|--------------|------------------|

FORT LEE, Va. (Oct. 25, 2012) -- Ft Lee Traveller

If the life of Devon “Von” Crew could be expressed with a work of art, it would probably be told with a 2-foot-by-3-foot, acrylic-on-canvas piece he completed and hasn’t yet named.

“It’s a cave,” he said. “You’re standing inside of it, and your view is outward.”

In the painting’s dark foreground, cracks in the ceiling allow rays of light to pass through. “You have stalactites hanging from the cave walls, and there’s a glister look to it,” added Crew.

A tinted, pink sky that Crew describes as a bit “misplaced in its color” lies at the center of tranquil-looking

background, complemented by side-lit mountains on the horizon.

“My interpretation of that scene is ‘escape,’” said the former post employee who recently transferred to Defense Supply Center-Richmond. “I literally, physically wanted to take my hand and that brush and those paints and create a scene for that escape.” The word “escape” in Crew’s vernacular is a metaphor for the acts of artful self-expression he en-

gaged himself in to counteract the negative emotions he sometimes felt.

“I grew up with a positive frame of mind but at the same time it was a negative outlook ... ,” he recalled. “I started trying to refuse God in all areas of my life, really. I started to blame him. In my heart, I needed that blame to be placed on something or someone or some being. I was enraged in different ways.”

The 22-year-old Crew grew up the third of

single-parent Richmond household. His mother, Deborah, he said, worked several jobs to support the family. His two older siblings – especially his brother, Antoine, nine years his senior – provided the guidance and support he needed to navigate his way through the various stages of youth, he added.

“We were typical kids growing up,” said Crew.

Crew, however, experienced something as a youngster that indicated to him that he wasn’t normal. One day, he spotted a man who was twisting balloons into various shapes and bolted toward him, hoping to snag one.

-To read the rest please view the remaining article in the Ft Lee Traveller, at [www.ftleetraveller.com](http://www.ftleetraveller.com)

Congrats Devon!



Devon Crew surrounded by his art work, during a recent art show. Devon is an associate at VIB Defense Supply Center in Richmond.



## Employee Appreciation and Recognition-(story by Pat Thomas)

If you visited VIB- Charlottesville on October 2<sup>nd</sup>, the first thing you might have noticed was the smell of summer. With hamburgers and hotdogs cooking on the grill and Corn Hole games set up, it seemed like any other summer picnic. But this was an official work day at the Charlottesville plant and the annual plant meeting that included everything from a luncheon to adaptive games to state mandated training on *Terrorism in the Workplace*.

Beginning at noon, the meeting started with a picnic luncheon with hamburgers and hotdogs provided by the VIB-C Employee Fund and lots of mouthwatering food made by the employees. Long tables were set out for staff from the plant, headquarters, and visitors from DBVI headquarters to sit and eat and enjoy the opportunity to get to know each other. At the end of the meal Commissioner Ray Hopkins and Deputy Commissioner Jim Meehan helped hand out awards and recognition certificates to the following employees:

The awards ceremony was followed by adaptive games such



Getting things right, with Andrea Wright !



Helen Coles presented 40 years service award by Commissioner Hopkins



Playing corn hole and having fun!

as Corn Hole, using bells in the holes, and Bop It! an auditory memory game, with music for those who just wanted to relax and get to know employees from other parts of DBVI/VIB. Once everyone had eaten it was time for the serious business of VIB.

The plant meeting included anticipated production schedules for October, birthday announcements, clarification on state policies, and an informative session on *Terrorism in the Workplace ( and in Your Life)* by Sharon Van Name, VIB Safety Officer. The it was back to work, making mattresses, safety vest and mops.

### Service Awards

David Wells- 35 years

Helen Coles- 40 years

### Certificate of Extraordinary Achievement:

Mark McCluney

David Wells

Peggy Parks

Doolie Bryant

### Outstanding Leadership ( Mentoring Program)

Peggy Parks

Bobby Williams

Shannon Wilder





## Getting the training needed-(story by Pat Thomas)

There's a lot of driving going on at VIB. Operators are moving products inside plants, loading and unloading trucks, and delivering cases of for items for sale at base supply stores. Thanks to a new VIB certification program, the driving is being done by skilled VIB employees who are also licensed forklift operators.

The Occupations Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requires that all forklift operators be trained and evaluated prior to operating a forklift. In the past, outside companies were used to perform the testing and certification process. VIB has developed an internal program, using 2 of its' own skilled employees, to train and certify VIB operators. This program is designed to save money while meeting the needs of VIB. It also allows for competent vision or hearing impaired employees to become certified forklift operators.

Employees who are interested in becoming certified forklift operator get their "learners permit" by practicing their driving skills under the supervision of a certified and experienced employee operator at the work site. The trainee receives an operators handbook to study that covers a variety of topics on operating

and maintaining a forklift in a safe manner. To become a certified forklift operator they must attend a training class that includes a video, safety discussion, and a written test. Once they have successfully passed the class they undergo practical training and are evaluated for safe operations and driving skills.

The VIB driving instructor is Rachel Payne. Ms Payne is the Lead Production Supervisor at the VIB plant in Charlottesville and is a forklift operator and trainer with over 15 years experience. Rachel puts each person through a series of test that include safety and driving skills, along with the proper use of a Forklift Operators Daily Checklist.

**"Safety is one of our main goals at all VIB locations" said Ms. Payne. "With people moving stock around the buildings where blind and sighted employees are, it very important that they know safety on the forklift. I want to make sure that every operator is aware of what's around them**

**and what to look for when loading and unloading truck. I want them to be safe as well as be aware of the safety of others. Always know where everything is and always Watch Behind you for people. Know your equipment and watch your speed."**

After the trainee has passed the classroom instruction and written test, and has been evaluated by Ms Payne, they are given a Qualified Forklift Driver certification that is good for 3 years. OSHA requires every operator attend a refresher training program and be reevaluated every 3 years. VIB can handle that too.



Dooley Bryant listens as Rachel Payne offers training tips on the forklift



## Surprise visit to Oceana VIB store-(story from Oceana store)

Recently, Oceana had a surprise visit from Commanding Officer, Captain Geis and Executive Officer, Captain Chope of Naval Air Station Oceana.

During their visit they toured the store and got to see the transformation of Oceana through the renovation collages. They commented on the outstanding jet murals that are painted on our walls. Captain

Chope commented on the merchandise we carry being the same office supplies they use everyday in the fleet.

They commended us on the work that we do here at Oceana. How very exciting it is to meet the very people we support everyday and we just wanted to share our excitement with you!



L-R: Captain Chope, Earl Chapman, Deborah Ambo-Crandell, Captain Geis, Laurie Guevara , Chervelle Amaker , and Davis Eley

## Labor Day Fund Raiser-(thoughts by Veronica Hayes)

MDA has been an organization that God has pressed on my heart for many years. I've been doing this now for the last 12 years, and have had a blast with it. It is not only a fund raiser for MDA, but it is also a reunion of loving friends. We get together, and we laugh, we talk, we catch up, and we do what we can to help MDA further their fight against muscular dystrophy.

I'll be attending a live broadcast of the MDA telethon in

the town of Secaucus New Jersey from Sunday, September 2, through Monday, Labor Day, September 3. Just like you do with VIB, we will be doing the same exact thing with MDA. A bunch of loving friends and I will be getting together to talk to people about MDA, and what the organization means to us, and try to encourage people to give to MDA. That's just the basic idea.

MDA gives so much love to those who suffer from muscular dystrophy; therefore, my dear friends in New Jersey and I are out to extend it just a little further. By doing so, we can help MDA live their motto. "Though you have muscular dystrophy, you'll never walk alone."

For more information contact VIB OCEANA (757)491-1847 or

[www.oceana@vibonline.org](mailto:www.oceana@vibonline.org)



# Open House to Celebrate the Retirement of our Plant Manager, Rick Bohrer

Virginia Industries for the Blind  
1535 High Street, Richmond, VA

Wednesday, November 14, 2012  
11:30 – 1:30



**Bid Rick farewell,  
check out our newly renovated facility, our  
products, and meet our new Manager,  
Van McPherson**

RSVP by November 9 to

[Doreen.Cadigan@dbvi.virginia.gov](mailto:Doreen.Cadigan@dbvi.virginia.gov) , (804) 325-8289 or

[Megan.OTOole@dbvi.virginia.gov](mailto:Megan.OTOole@dbvi.virginia.gov), (804) 325-8294





**VIB C**  
 1102 Monticello Rd  
 Charlottesville VA 22902  
 434-295-5168



**VIB R**  
 1535 High St  
 Richmond VA 23220  
 804-786-2056

## **EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

The Service Division is recruiting for the following:

Working under a service agreement at the Dept. of Taxation in the Richmond Court Debt Collections Office, the **Collections Representative** provides resolution of delinquent Court Debt accounts utilizing an integrated telecommunication and automated collections system. Research activities through the use of multiple databases requires excellent computer skills. Exceptional accuracy and attention to detail required. Good communication skills and able to work as a part of a team. Must pass security clearance. \$22,143 - \$28,283

**Contract Specialists** positions are available in the Richmond metro area and anticipated in northern Virginia in the fall. A security clearance is required prior to employment. Must be accepted into the NIB Contract Specialist training program and complete Defense Acquisition University on-line courses. An associate degree or comparable experience with extensive experience in MS Word, Excel, Power Point Outlook and Internet Explorer is required. \$ 34,078 – \$46,533

To be considered for these opportunities, submit a state application to VIB, R C Bohrer, 1535 High Street, Richmond, VA 23220.

[Catherina.hogg@dbvi.virginia.gov](mailto:Catherina.hogg@dbvi.virginia.gov)

## **Reaching a milestone-(story from Jamie Warner)**

**C**harlie Green started working for Virginia Industries for the Blind in 2002. He came to us after working for Blind Industries of Maryland for seven years.

Charlie was born locally in Prince George's County



Charlie Green presented with 10 year service award by Jamie Warner

where he grew up and attended High School. He was born with Albinism which affected his vision but Charlie never let that slow him down.

Charlie enjoys working on computers and home improvement in his spare time.

**[WWW.VIBONLINE.ORG](http://WWW.VIBONLINE.ORG)**