

Date: December 22, 2003
From: Yavapai Exceptional Industries
Re: Tricity Business News
Contact: Brad Newman, Executive Director, 445-0991

PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

YEI! Celebrates 30 Years of Service!

Remember 1974? Gas lines, Prescott College moving out of their original location and the subsequent launching of Embry Riddle University's Prescott Campus? That was the same year that a Board of Directors was formed to create and oversee the Yavapai Rehabilitation Center, which was incorporated on January 2, 1974 in order to render individuals with disabilities as much independence as their condition would allow.

The project was an outgrowth of the CUNY Day School for Handicapped Children, which has today evolved into the Prescott Child Development Center. When the challenge of providing services to both youngsters and young adults became too much for one organization, the Board authorized the creation of a separate, free-standing service for adults with disabilities so that they, too, could participate in the local economy through meaningful work experiences, and therefore find their place as members of the community as well.

The Yavapai Rehabilitation Center was first located at the Kelly Moving and Storage Building on the corner of Granite and Willis Streets. Within six years the YRC had raised enough funds to acquire the current facility on North Washington Avenue.

With the move to North Washington, the YRC was able to employ 45 people a day attended the program, which offered job training and placement, as well as social integration opportunities.

In 1986, the YRC expanded to accommodate the ever-increasing population, now more than 65 participants daily, in partnership with the Prescott Charities, Inc. organization.

By 1992, the need to extend services to the rapidly growing Prescott Valley became apparent. With the donation from the Fain family, Antelope Point Industries was established. Initially 15 individuals attended the Prescott Valley site.

Within four years, in 1996, and once more partnering with Russ Rusing's Prescott Charities organization, all debts on the expanding suite of programs had been paid off, a testament to local support for neighbors with disabilities.

In keeping with trends in service for people with disabilities, and in order to better reflect the complete range of services and practices offered by the nationally recognized organization, the name of the program was changed that same year (1996) from Yavapai Rehabilitation Center to Yavapai Exceptional Industries (YEI!).

Today, still in partnership with Prescott Charities, YEI! is looking to expand its service to include a residential component tucked in the hills on top of the north end of Washington Avenue, and has plans to establish an additional production facility in the vicinity of the AirPark.

YEI!'s program of "developmental employment," which includes its award-winning "Community Contribution Corps," (community volunteer placements) has been continually accredited at the highest level of service by the National Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities since 1978.

Today, as staff of 30 full and part-time exceptional people assist over 150 individuals at the two locations, but remains one of the business community's best

kept secrets. Providing an affordable out sourcing solution to both area and more distant manufacturing plants, YEI! production fulfill a variety of contracts in such areas as product packaging, mail room services, adobe brick construction and outdoor furniture production.

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YEI! Fact List

Shipping & Handling Capabilities

- Production Capability & Capacity Both Sites:
 - Antelope Point Industries (Prescott Valley): 6,600 sq ft.
 - Yavapai Exceptional Industries (Prescott): 14,000 sq ft.
- Production Sales:
 - 1974 – \$3,800
 - 1992 – \$161,016.60
 - 1993 – \$222,721.00
- Equipment and Operations:
 - Forklifts, 3
- Storage: 25,000 sq. ft.

Customers

- Sturm, Ruger
- Caradon Better Built
- Yavapai Tribal Gaming
- Armadillo Wax Works
- Orion
- Spas Parts Plus
- Inspirational Decor

Awards Received

- Employer of the Year, Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities, 1998
- Commitment to Excellence Award & Provider of the Year Award, Department of Economic Security Division of Developmental disabilities, 1998
- John P. Harris Humanitarian of the Year Award, 1999 (Bradley J. Newman)
- Best Practice Award, Arizona Department of Economic Security, Division of Developmental Disabilities, 2000 (YEI! Volunteer Corps)