



August 2026 Partner Awards

The State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) recognized two Corvallis businesses on Aug. 6, 2026, for their exceptional partnership with Vocational Rehabilitation (VR).

Chateau Home Furnishings and Fred Meyer are being recognized for opening doors for people with disabilities — not only through supportive hiring practices, but also by creating meaningful work experiences that help people explore careers and build confidence.

Chateau Home Furnishings

Ed Dasteur, owner of [Chateau Home Furnishings](#), has been part of the Corvallis community since the 1980s. The store on NW Ninth Street sells beds, mattresses, sofas, dining sets, couches, and home furnishings. It is known for the giant rocking chair out front.

"People take pictures of it every day," Dasteur said.

Over the past decade, Dasteur has hired five VR participants and currently has one on staff who handles the store's social media advertising and some light cleaning and furniture rearranging. Dasteur has also assisted about 15 others with career exploration in areas such as sales, computer work, and furniture assembly.

He is quick to provide accommodations when needed, said Jesse Taylor, owner of JBT Vocational Advocacy, who nominated Dasteur for the award. The current



employee hired through VR has lifting restrictions, which the store easily accommodates.

"He doesn't have to lift couches," Dasteur said. "It's up to him what he wants to lift."

Dasteur coordinates with Taylor to fill openings and host work experiences for people with disabilities who want to get job skills and explore what working is like. As a contracted vendor of the VR program, Taylor helps match VR participants and businesses looking to hire. He has seen first-hand Dasteur's commitment to helping VR participants get work experience.

"Ed Dasteur believes everybody deserves a chance," Taylor said. "He is kind and patient with our clientele through Vocational Rehabilitation and has provided jobs when he was able to."

Dasteur said supporting the community is important to him. "If anybody needs help, I don't hesitate. I even give furniture free to people who are totally broke."



Photo caption: Ed Dasteur, owner of Chateau Home Furnishings, stands inside his store with Jesse Taylor of JBT Vocational Advocacy.

Corvallis Fred Meyer

Fred Meyer's stated core values of honesty, integrity, respect, diversity, safety, and inclusion show through its actions: currently four people from the VR program work at the store on Kings Boulevard. They work in a mix of freight, parcel, customer service, and store readiness roles that help keep the location running smoothly throughout the day, said Tim McKay, Human Resources Assistant Store Leader.

"Fred Meyer has an ongoing dedication to our communities and a longstanding commitment to hiring adults with disabilities," McKay said.

These values also align with McKay's beliefs, which stem from the personal experience of having a family member with a disability.

"I learned from watching this family member. Let's not put any restrictions on someone and see what they can do," he said.

McKay said the best part of his job is hiring someone with raw potential and seeing them move up the job ladder. He puts into practice the philosophy of his father:

"The world doesn't owe you a living, but it does owe you an opportunity."

For example, he once hired a teenager with a disability who came in the store with his mother. The young man was looking for a new job with more hours. McKay immediately hired him, and soon promoted him.

"I put him on night crew, then put him on as a courtesy clerk. I'm always in dialogue and work on cross-training. Everybody deserves a chance," he said.

Taylor, of JBT Vocational Advocacy, nominated McKay for the award. He sees how McKay's leadership and commitment impact job seekers.

"Tim McKay has been an exceptional partner with Vocational Rehabilitation and my organization, providing a very kind, supportive, and professional service approach during each onboarding experience," Taylor said. "His communication, understanding, and acceptance of accommodations have far exceeded my expectations. He has shown time and time again that every individual deserves a fair shot at employment and success."



Photo caption: Jesse Taylor, owner of JBT Vocational Advocacy, stands with Tim McKay, Human Resources Assistant Store Leader for the Corvallis Fred Meyer.

About the State Rehabilitation Council

Oregon's [State Rehabilitation Council \(SRC\)](#) is an advisory partner to [Vocational Rehabilitation \(VR\)](#), which is a program under the Oregon Department of Human Services. The council is separate from VR. Its role is to listen to VR participants about their VR experience and advise the VR program on how to improve employment services for people with disabilities. Members are volunteers who are appointed by the Governor.

The full council meets every three months. Committees meet monthly. All meetings are open to everyone. Find information on the SRC website at orsrc.org.

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