

History and Mission

PROFILE

Commitment and Hard Work

*The successful growth of
PHC is rooted in the
individual commitments
and efforts of our
workforce.*

*Our theme,
"Beyond Limitations,"
happens when
individuals go beyond
societal imposed
limitations, continually
improving work
performance and
delivering value to our
customers. Our continual
improvement is anchored
in quality checks of
activities and processes
and on-going training,
while honoring the work
accommodations for
diverse disabilities.*



BEYOND LIMITATIONS™

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Throughout our 55-year history, Portland Habilitation Center's (PHC) efforts have been directed toward increasing independence for people with disabilities.

PHC began in 1950 when Mr. and Mrs. Fred Stevens sold their service station to purchase a three-story house in southeast Portland. This structure, formerly the Multnomah County Juvenile Girls Home, was re-named the Portland Children's Center. In 1951, the Stevens, joined by several other families, formed a non-profit Oregon corporation to provide educational opportunities for mentally retarded children who had been denied entrance into public schools.

By 1959, the Center had established itself as the statewide leader in educational programming for mentally retarded children. In the mid-1960s, increased efforts were directed toward providing vocational training and employment for the school's graduates.

In the early 1970s, the Center's efforts were directed toward the full integration of children with disabilities into the public school system. That goal was reached in 1973, and the Portland Children's Center was renamed Portland Habilitation Center to reflect the new direction -- vocational training and employment for adults with disabilities.

Our janitorial and landscape divisions and our workshop continued to expand during the ensuing decades. Our janitorial business, however, experienced the largest growth so that by 1990 PHC maintained all of downtown Portland's federal office buildings, Portland State University and Oregon Health Sciences University educational facilities. During the 1990s, the janitorial business continued its rapid growth with additional contracts with the State of Oregon, Washington County, City of Portland and Port of Portland. In 2002, we won the Portland Public Schools contract and essentially doubled our janitorial staff. The landscape department significantly expanded its customer base to include

various political subdivisions of the state. Also, this department started to perform installation and renovation work in addition to maintenance contracts.

Our workshop business grew beyond the capacity of the space being leased and a new 75,000 square foot facility was built to keep up with the growth. Also, the '90s were a time when PHC experimented with new businesses at the request of existing customers. Clerical services were started in 1992.

In keeping with the PHC mission of providing training, employment and services to individuals with disabilities, housing development was begun through the 1999 acquisition of 245 HUD-subsidized apartment units in Portland, The Dalles, and Albany. In 2001, 129 units were added in the Portland metropolitan area, with another 32 in Vancouver, Washington added in early 2002. An additional 77 units were added in 2003, 16 of which were renovated through a HUD 811 program for low income people with disabilities.

Today, PHC has earned a premium reputation in each of its businesses. In the process, our workforce of hundreds of people with disabilities is provided the living wages and benefits needed to move beyond limitations.

The organization is strong financially, with minimal debt tied to some rental housing, and fully in charge of its destiny. PHC will continue to expand and improve services with dual goals of guaranteeing future employment for people with disabilities and providing affordable housing.

A talented and committed team of leadership at all levels of the organization, from the Board of Directors to managers and supervisors will make these choices in the years to come, and the results will be worthy.