

Supporting people with disabilities = A solid community

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The Chair

I want to tell you a story about a chair. The Chair started its journey in a workshop at the Oregon State Hospital, when there were programs that provided work and therapy for institutionalized people.

The Chair was purchased by Fairview Training Center and began its life of service. It may have been used in a class room, lunch room or in a cottage. During this time the chair witnessed so many things, happy moments and some sad times, but always doing its job of providing support.

When Fairview closed, the chair found its way to Rockwest and gave many years of service. There, after those many years of duty, was given a special job. Its legs were shortened to meet the needs of a man of short stature so that he could be comfortable while he worked. When this man retired due to health problems, the chair was sent to the dumpster.



One sunny afternoon I saw The Chair waiting for its final journey. I stood there looking at The Chair and realized I couldn't let it go, something about it called to me. I took The Chair home and began to change it for yet another role in its life.

The last person to use The Chair inspired me so. And I want to use this simple chair as an insight, an insight to people with disabilities. This story was told to me by Bob and the rest I learned from his records.

Bob was born in the early 50's in Oklahoma as one of a set of twins. Bob was born a dwarf and his brother was of normal size. Bob was part of a very large family that struggled to survive in tough economical times. He didn't fit in, in school because he was so very different. Bob's main support and source of comfort and love was his mother. She died when Bob was 8 years old; Bob's father had to now be both parents and provider. As was the case in those days Bob's father was encouraged to send Bob to a home for unwanted children, where he would get the care he needed. So, at the young age of 8 Bob went to live in the Home. Again he didn't fit in, teased and picked on by the other children and largely ignored by the adults who were to take care of him. Bob ran away from the Home when he was 14 and joined the circus. That's when life began for Bob.

He found his niche with the circus folks; he was no longer an oddity. He was accepted and welcomed into this exciting new life. He eventually became one of the circus clowns performing in the main ring doing the funny things that made the audience laugh, clap and cheer. He brought joy into peoples lives. For many years this was Bob's life, riding the circus train, performing in the big tent with the saw dust floor. During this time Bob met a woman, fell in love, married and became a father. This story does not have a happy ending. Bob's wife and son died and he was left alone to grieve and suffer his lose. Many years later Bob came to Rockwest to work as his health problems prevented him from working in the community. Most days were good days for Bob; he was cheerful and kind to others. His stories would enthrall us all with his

adventures. I never tired of hearing about his life. He is truly one of the most interesting people I have ever met.

So I painted and decorated The Chair to honor a life well lived. When you look at the bright colors think not of the sad ending of this story but rather of a life well lived with hardships, adventures and dreams realized. This is not the story of a person with a disability but the story of a person who overcame and lived life's adventures to the fullest.

When I or Craig ask you to consider using Rockwest's products and services we are not asking you to feel sorry for people with disabilities we are asking you to consider using our products and services that are done by a dedicated and hardworking workforce who wants to work, earn a paycheck and live their lives as productive members of our community.

Written by: [Cozette Cooper](#) 503-390-7355.

Coming Events

Client Employee Picnic.

January signals the kick off of our donation drive for the annual client employee picnic. Each year the client employees, their friends, staff, and family get together to celebrate their accomplishments and summer with a traditional cook out and dance party. This years picnic will be held on August 14 at Cascade Gateway Park and will be an all day event. This year's goal of \$1,000 will allow us to celebrate the clients accomplishments with awards, food, entertainment, games, and prizes. If you, your organization, or company would like to contribute to this very worthy cause by donating your time, entertainment, food, gifts, or prizes please visit our [donations page](#) or contact Will at 503-390-7355, or click [here](#) to send an email.

Join us in celebrating the accomplishments of these very unique, caring, and hard working individuals. Thank you for supporting people with disabilities.

Product News

Rockwest is constantly striving to improve its product line and respond to customer needs. Please take the time to review the new products and items listed below. All are now available in our online catalog.

- **New Products**

- [Cinch Pack](#). Simple yet effective, this cinch pack has a two-toned look that's unique. The tote bags can be found in Rockwest Textiles section of our web site.
- [Shopping Tote](#). Makes running errands a breeze.
- [Grocery Tote](#). An inexpensive way to help the environment!
- [Essential Tote](#). A handy, versatile tote at a tremendous value.
- [Patient Restraint Straps](#) Sometimes called Safety Strap Backboard Restraint Systems or Spider Straps, these straps are used by EMT's and Fire Departments to secure patients to backboards to immobilize injuries. These restraint systems are being made by our Industrial Sewing Department. Patient Restraint Straps can be found under EMT/Fire/Police in Rockwest Medical.
- [Burn Kits](#) Rockwest now offers burn kits in two different sizes (small and medium). You will find them listed under First Aid Kits. These kits will be assembled by our client employees. Burn Kits can be found under First Aid Kits in Rockwest Medical.
- [Document Holder](#) Can be used as a passport holder, for car insurance/registration documents or maintenance records.

- [Pet Crate Cuddler](#) Designed for the interior of pet crates or can be used separately as a floor pad for your pet.
- [Personalized Fleece Blanket](#) 54" x 60" Fleece with surged border edges. Company Logo or your name at no additional cost. Plastic storage bag available.
- [EPK - Emergency Preparedness Kit](#) Deluxe (1650 cubic inches) backpack. Weight 6.430 lbs. Light weight and functional. Designed and stocked to meet basic needs with a 2 person, 3 day emergency supplies. 3 large compartments provide extra room for items you wish to add to your kit.
- [Travel Kit](#) Personal first aid kit. weight 0.694 lbs. personal, light weight and functional. Soft Pigskin PVC Leather pouch with velcro on the back - can be mounted almost anywhere. Soft pouch can be personalized with embroidery to meet your needs.

- **New Items Online**

- [Microshield Keychain](#) A handy way to always be prepared.
- [Microshield Swivel Keychain with Gloves.](#) Convenience and protection that's always available.
- [Fire/EMT/Police Section.](#) Rockwest has added a new Fire/EMT/Police section to its web site in order to locate in one area items of interest to these professions.
- [Bacitracin Ointment, 144 ct.](#) Bacitracin Ointment is used to help to prevent infection in minor cuts, scrapes, burns, and infections.
- [Sani-Cloth Disposable Hard Surface Cleaner](#) Sold by package. Germicidal, pre-moistened disposable wipes for surface disinfection.
- [Sani-Cloth Disposable Hard Surface Cleaner](#) Sold each. Germicidal, pre-moistened disposable wipes for surface disinfection.
- [Burn Sheet 60" x 90"](#) Provides emergency first aid for burn victims.
- [Cervical Collar Bag](#) Used to store cervical collars but can also be used as an EMT softbag or as a First Responder bag.
- [Splint, Inflatable, Full Leg](#) Inflatable air splint, hart, orally inflatable, transparent vinyl allows for x-rays, zipper closure aids easy application and removal, full leg.
- [Splint, Inflatable, Full Arm](#) Inflatable air splint, orally inflatable, allows for e-rays, zipper closure, full arm.
- [First Aid Booklet](#) American Medical Association First Aid Guide.
- [Waterproof Blanket 60" x 90"](#) Insulated and waterproof emergency blanket.
- [Aspirin 325mg](#) "25 packets of 2 tablets (50 total tablets) per unit.

Business News

- [New Services Added.](#) Rockwest has added product labeling and design service for our customers. This added service has been purchased by Tag Bag, a California based company. The labeling and design service combined with our packaging service presents a complete packaging solution for companies, allowing Rockwest to process the project from assembly through retail ready product. This allows companies to save money and time by expediting product readiness.
- [Tag Bags.](#) Collaborating with a California based company. Rockwest is now making, assembling, packaging and labeling a pet product called a Tag Bag. The Tag Bag is for the upwardly mobile dog in your life. Each Tag Bag has a secure velcro closure that allows you to hide and silence unsightly tags and they are great for storing an extra waste bag - just in case.
- [New Sale Page Now Available.](#) Discontinued, overstocked, and liquidation items reduced in price for quick sale! Items listed on this page are not part of the State of Oregon contract and will range from office supplies and used equipment, to medical supplies and textiles. Check this page often for the best deals on quality items.
- [Wondering What Rockwest Can Do For You?](#) Rockwest has two Marketing Specialists that are interested in coming to your place of business and presenting information about Rockwest products and services. To schedule a presentation, contact Cozette [Cooper](#) or Craig [Wagner](#) or call 503.390.7355.

- [Take a Tour of Rockwest.](#) Have you been wondering what we do here at Rockwest? Tours can be scheduled with Cozette Cooper. This will give you the opportunity to see first hand all of the fine work Rockwest is offering and how this could meet your business needs. Call Cozette today to schedule your tour! 503.390.7355

In Recognition

In recognition of their support for adults with intellectual and physical disabilities and Rockwest Training Company, Inc.; we acknowledge the following individuals, companies and organizations for their contributions to our mission, the advancement of our community, and the enrichment of lives.



Industrial Finishes, Salem, Oregon. Solutions for a Cleaner World. Industrial Finishes & Systems provides Finishing Solutions to the Automotive Collision, Recreation Vehicle, Panel and Cabinet markets. A privately held company doing business in 33 states and Canada since 1958. [Visit our web site!](#)

Valentines Special!

**Save
15%**

For our customers that use this special newsletter coupon, we will offer a 15% discount off of all screen printing, embroidery or pet related products. This coupon must be printed and presented in person. This coupon is transferrable, so please share the offer with friends and family.

Offer Expires: March 31, 2009

This coupon has no cash value!

New Directions

Rockwest is always looking in new directions for products and services to serve you better!

Rockwest is constantly striving to improve itself in order to serve you better. Over the next few weeks and months we anticipate making available for sale through our online catalog the new items listed below. Please check your newsletter each month for new and exciting products and services.

- [Shoe Covers](#) Tyvek Shoe Covers, 200 per case and sold by case.
- [Clear Plastic Transport Bag](#) Plastic Transport Bag.

Product Watch: In addition to the above listed items Rockwest is working on the following items:

- Rockwest is currently negotiating for the right to provide portable defibrillators to city, county, state and federal agencies within the State of Oregon and private sector.
- Dog Training Vest/Cape. Used for specialty training of working dogs or by pets.
- Specialty use leash for Working Dogs designed to meet the needs of trainers and people with disabilities.

- Hose/Hydrant Wrench Bag.

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