

# 2024 Annual Report



## The Largest Participation of J.E.T. Students in WRC's History!

In 2024, Wiregrass Rehabilitation Center, Inc. welcomed the highest number of J.E.T. students in its history. Through a collaboration with Vocational Rehabilitation Services (VRS), WRC was able to offer a meaningful and impactful summer work program designed for junior and senior high school students. The Job Exploration Training program, known as "J.E.T.," is a three-week initiative that facilitates an easy transition from school to the workforce by allowing students to gain firsthand experience in businesses that interest them within the Wiregrass area. During the summer of 2024, the Program Services department, which oversees the J.E.T. program, hosted 86 students from Houston, Geneva, Coffee, Dale, and Henry counties. It was the largest J.E.T. student participation that WRC's Program Services division had ever seen. The program was divided into three sessions over nine weeks, during which students shared their employment interests and preferred work environments with WRC's Employment Specialists. These specialists then sought job opportunities that matched the students' interests, placing them in local businesses, organizations, and agencies for three weeks at a time. Throughout their employment, the J.E.T. students acquired valuable knowledge and experience in their chosen fields as well as earned an hourly wage for their work.

Upon completing their initial three-week program, they had the option to extend their experience for another three weeks or conclude their participation. Many opted to continue beyond the initial period, leading to a total of nine job opportunities being offered from nearly 60 businesses within the Wiregrass community. In 2024, the J.E.T. students collectively completed 1,467 workdays, providing support to numerous community partners. Following the highest participation rate in the program's history, WRC's Program Services division is looking forward to further growth in the upcoming 2025 season.





# ADULT DAY CARE LOCATIONS DOTHAN & ENTERPRISE

The 2024 fiscal year brought a wealth of experiences to WRC's Adult Day Care programs. They welcomed local churches and various organizations to enrich their program by hosting enjoyable activities for clients! During the summer, the Dothan Adult Day Care location hosted 20 middle and high school students from the local WIRED Christian Camp, while the Enterprise Adult Day Care location hosted students from the YES program at Enterprise High School. **Both locations provided services to clients in seven counties, enrolling an average of 66 clients: 57 funded by the state, 7 from SARCOA (Southern Alabama Regional Council on Aging), and 2 private pay clients, including six new enrollees. Remarkably, both locations achieved 100% compliance in all internal desk audits (Medicaid, SARCOA E&D Waiver, and the SARCOA ACT Waiver)!** In July 2024, the Dothan Adult Day Care location also welcomed Ive Jackson as their new Adult Day Care Assistant Manager.

**Activity Highlights:** Clients enjoyed numerous field trips, including Older Americans Day, Special Citizens Day at the 2023 National Peanut Festival, outings to local movie theaters, museums, bowling alleys, local parks and splash pads, as well as visits to local department and thrift stores.

## WRC FURNITURE GALLERY

WRC Furniture Gallery continues to enhance its sales and expand its customer base through outstanding customer service and high-quality standards. With affordable pricing and a wide array of furniture options, customers can enjoy the best deals tailored to their budgets! **In 2024, WRC Furniture Gallery successfully partnered with two new finance companies and introduced layaway opportunities.** Additionally, online sales have surged due to increased traffic on our website and Facebook page. This growth is largely credited to the invaluable support of Emily Grace Brunson, WRC's Community Relations Coordinator. WRC Furniture Gallery has also had the honor of hosting clients and consumers from WRC's Program Services division. With the assistance of clients, consumers, and J.E.T. students during the summer, WRC Furniture Gallery employees were able to enhance their training in customer service, warehouse storage, and time management skills.

### Here are some of WRC Furniture Gallery's top-selling items from 2024:

- Powered Lift Chairs, Powered Recliners, Powered Loveseats, and Powered Sofas
- Recliners
- Sectionals
- Dining Room Groups



Dothan Adult Day Care clients receiving manicures from WIRED Christian Camp students!



Dothan Adult Day Care & Enterprise Adult Day Care clients enjoying their time at Special Citizens Day at the National Peanut Festival!

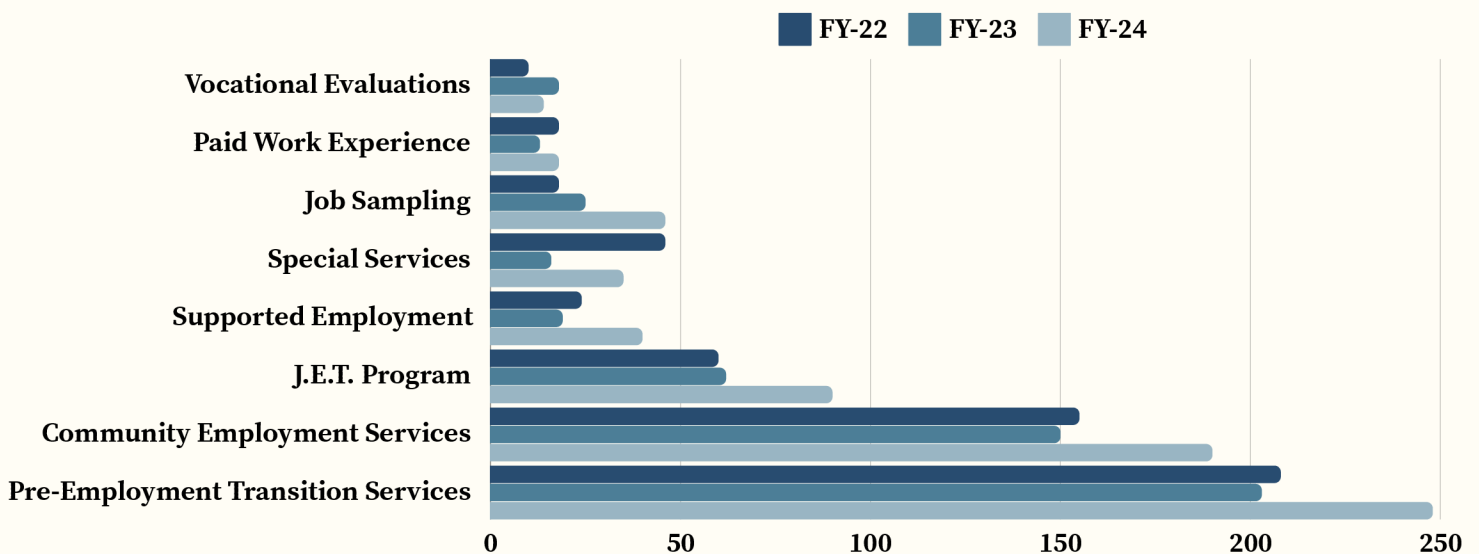
# PROGRAM SERVICES

The 2024 fiscal year was successful for Wiregrass Rehabilitation Center's Program Services, introducing innovative programs and expanding its service area. Increased referrals led to improved program quality and workforce enhancements, with plans to recruit an additional Employment Specialist for Covington, Conecuh, and Butler Counties. Collaboration with the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services (ADRS) has secured office space in Troy, Andalusia, and Enterprise for Employment Specialists. The staff is dedicated to excellent service, with ongoing training in supported employment and vocational evaluation. Program Services aims to explore additional programs in the 12 counties served and anticipates achieving a three-year accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) in summer 2025.

As a Community Rehabilitation Partner, Employment Specialists increased enrollments from 557 to 634 across twelve counties, with a demographic focus on youth (63% high school-aged). Seventy-three consumers engaged in work, training, and evaluation on campus, with 66 securing jobs for at least 90 days.

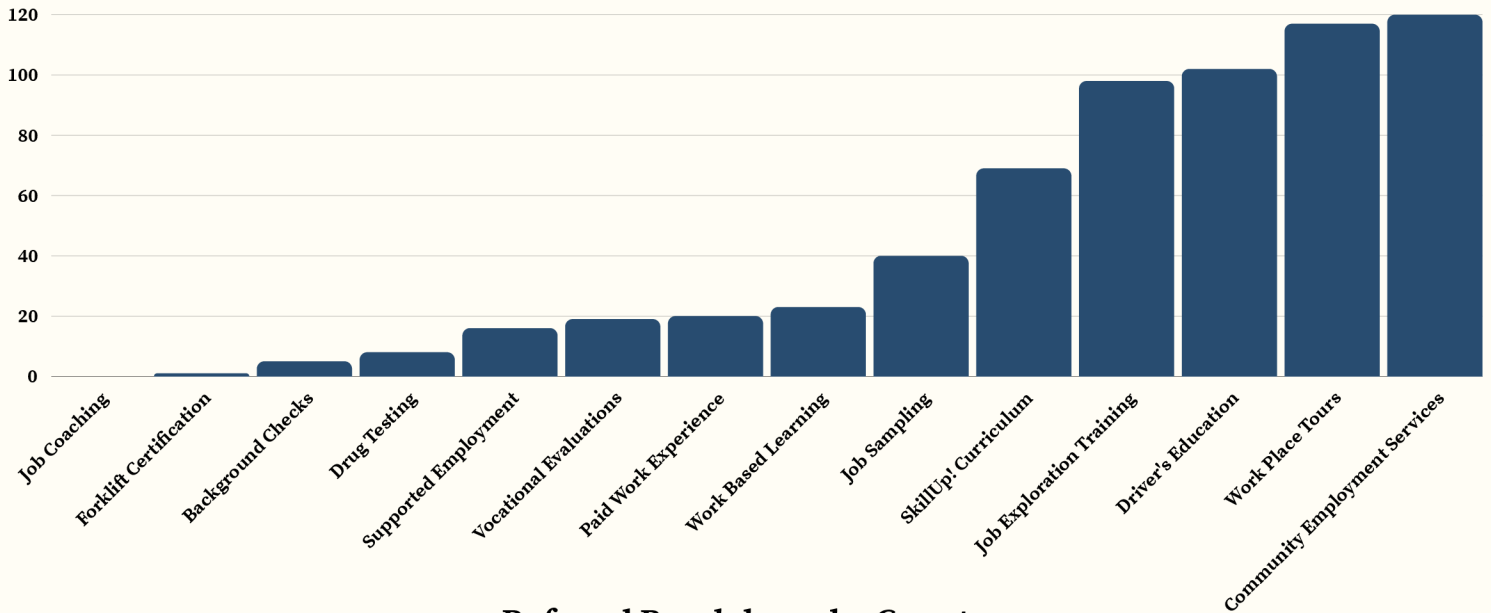
The Job Exploration Training (JET) program, in collaboration with VRS, provided 86 11th and 12th graders with valuable work experience at local businesses, resulting in nine job offers and significant community contributions. Looking ahead to 2025, WRC is focusing on sustainable growth, innovation, and efficiency through strategic planning and collaboration across departments. The finance team is analyzing trends to align the budget with goals, while leadership promotes a culture of inclusion and skill development. This proactive approach fosters excitement and optimism for a successful future.

## Services Performed by Program Services

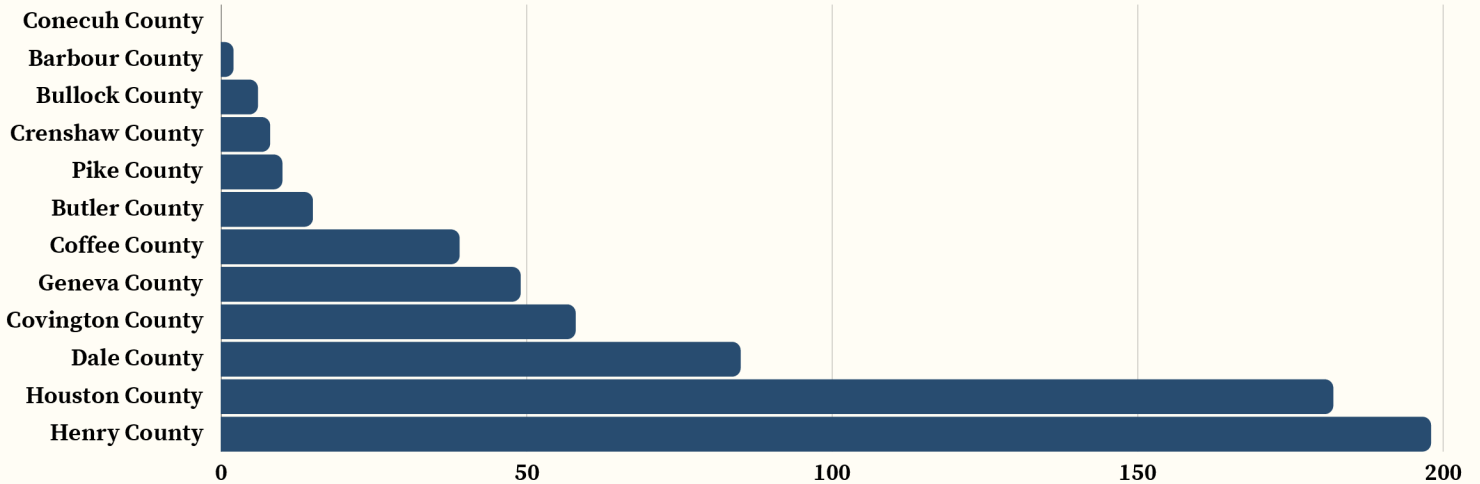


# PROGRAM SERVICES

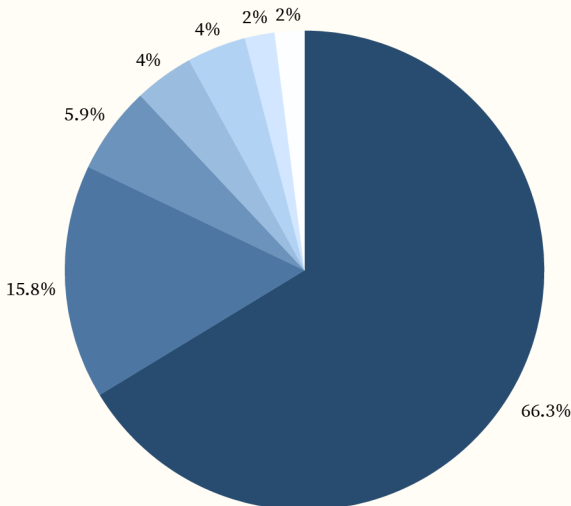
## Referral Breakdown by Service:



## Referral Breakdown by County:



## Referral Breakdown by Disability:



### Key:

- Specific Learning Disabilities (66.3%)
- Cognitive Impairments (15.8%)
- Autism Spectrum Disorders (5.9%)
- Neurological Disorders (4%)
- Psychiatric Disorders (4%)
- Physiological Disorders (2%)
- Musculoskeletal Disorders (2%)



# ASSURED DATA DESTRUCTION

In 2024, WRC's Assured Data Destruction (ADD) division shredded over one million pounds of paper and gained 57 new clients, expanding to 16 additional locations. They hosted four community shred events, shredding nearly 5,000 pounds at no cost. ADD also shredded over 35,000 pounds of personal documents from their Work Services Building warehouse. **Wiregrass Medical Center was recognized as the 2024 Environmental Partner of the Year, collaborating to shred over 40,000 pounds of paper, conserving resources and reducing waste.** ADD values this partnership and is committed to environmental stewardship and information security.

## INDUSTRIAL SERVICES

### **Michelin Department:**

- On average, produced around 65,000 feet of barrier material (which is essential in the tire manufacturing process) monthly, totaling approximately 780,000 feet for 2024.

### **Pallets Department:**

- Constructed and delivered an average of 1,250 pallets each month, resulting in over 15,000 pallets shipped throughout 2024.

### **Janitorial Department:**

- Throughout the Dothan Dragon's soccer season, WRC's Janitorial department was contracted to clean Rip Hewes Stadium after their games. Additionally, they were contracted during the fall football season to handle post-game clean-up.

### **Dunbarton Department:**

- Manufactured close to 150,000 hardware bags and 160,000 track pieces.

## STERLING EVENT SERVICES

WRC's Sterling Events Services Full-Service Catering division achieved remarkable success in 2024, serving over 50,000 meals and baking and packaging more than 47,000 cookies. In November and December of 2024, the Sterling Events catering team is preparing for numerous events to be held both on and off WRC's campus.

## PURCHASED TRANSPORTATION

WRC highlights the significance of work, particularly the transportation to and from the workplace. WRC's Purchased Transportation division is crucial for ensuring job satisfaction. With five drivers and five vehicles, these drivers cover around 280,000 miles annually across five counties. In the 2023-2024 fiscal year, the Purchased Transportation drivers completed nearly 18,400 trips to transport WRC consumers, clients, employees, and J.E.T. students to and from work each day.

## THE R.E.A.L. PROJECT

In the 2023-2024 fiscal year, the R.E.A.L. Project received 1,524 donated medical devices and loaned out 1,366 items for free, saving customers over \$349,899.97 on equipment they would have otherwise purchased new.

## LAUNDRY SERVICES

In 2024, WRC's laundry department processed over 1 million pounds of healthcare linen and renewed TRSA's (Textile Rental Services Association) Hygienically Clean Laundry certification. Director David Casey is currently working towards the Registered Laundry & Linen Director certification. After a successful TRSA audit, WRC is certified until 2027. Additionally, WRC added a new contract and launched a pre-wash line with a nationwide linen vendor.

### **Federal Contracts:**

During the 2023-2024 fiscal year, WRC secured four new contracts for Veteran Affairs (VA) Healthcare Laundry and one contract for a Navy Base, resulting in approximately 5.3 million pounds of healthcare linen processed. These contracts are based in Illinois and Wisconsin. To facilitate these contracts, WRC plans to hire an additional 20 employees with disabilities, along with the required leadership roles and support staff.

## ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

WRC's Lawn Care and Litter Services division has been dedicated to serving the Wiregrass community. The Lawn & Landscaping teams diligently worked to enhance the beauty of Dothan's cemeteries, city properties, and local businesses. Meanwhile, WRC's Litter Services contributed to maintaining the cleanliness of Dothan by collecting over 70 tons of debris and trash from the city's main roadways in 2024.

## FY 2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Watson Downs**  
2025 Board Chairman

**Rosemary McKibben**  
2025 Vice-Chairman

**Sheila Azar**  
2025 Chairman-Elect

**Ryan Hendrix**  
2025 Board Treasurer

**Cliff Mendheim**  
Secretary

**Josh Chapman**  
2024 Board Chairman

**Tom West**  
Advisory Member

**Forrest Register**  
Advisory Member

**Glenn Spivey**

**Turner Townsend**

## A WORD FROM OUR OUTGOING CHAIRMAN

“Although we encountered numerous challenges this year, WRC has triumphed and will continue to thrive! This success is a result of our committed 12-member board of directors, staff, and employees. I am thankful to WRC for allowing me the opportunity to serve and for another prosperous fiscal year. Here’s to a flourishing 2025!”

**Josh Chapman**  
2024 Board Chairman

## AWARD RECIPIENTS

**Alabama Consumer of the Year Award**  
Anthony Beacham

**Student of the Year Award**  
Mason Taylor

**Student of the Year Award**  
Harmony Jones

**Employee of the Year Award**  
Sherry Grubbs

**Federal Contract Employee of the Year Award**  
Tyrell Foster

**Community Partner of the Year Award**  
Westside Terrace Healthcare

**Environmental Partner of the Year Award**  
Wiregrass Medical Center

**Executive Director’s Award**  
George Jones

### Years of Service Award Recipients:

#### 5 Years of Service:

Tyrell Foster  
Tierra Hollis  
David Casey  
Zwightlyn Simmons  
Richard Grimsley

#### 10 Years of Service:

Jeffrey Sellers  
Marquies Lockett  
Tameka Cobb  
Catherine Mallard

#### 15 Years of Service:

Donald Smith  
Sherry Grubbs  
Michelle Turner  
Jerry Williams  
Lerwana McClinden

#### 20 Years or More of Service:

**20 Years of Service** - Stephanie Smith  
**25 Years of Service** - Gaylord Quam