

Summer 2007

Northern Lights



Environmental Stewardship • Educational Training • Economic Opportunities

LEAP: Students learn and teach during their month-long work study at ReCycle North

Six young men and women, ages 16 to 19, participated in the LEAP (“Learn, Earn, and Prosper”) program designed especially for youth who have visual impairments. The students worked daily at ReCycle North in the Office, Appliance Repair, Household Goods Store, Building Materials Center, and Computer Repair departments. The youth trainees were treated like staff and put right to work. In this hands-on learning environment, they learned how to advocate for what they needed to be successful. While the students gained experience in work, life, and independent living skills, they also taught the staff at ReCycle North about overcoming challenges, the benefits of loving your job, and what tasks can be completed successfully with a little determination and the right tools.



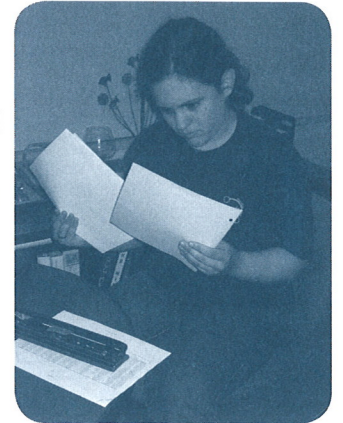
Brett Hess works in the large appliance department, cleaning up a donated air conditioner for resale at the Household Goods Store.

As one student said, “Any visually impaired person can do anything a sighted person can do.” That was proven time and again during this project.

The LEAP program is a joint venture of ReCycle North, Division for the Blind and Visually Impaired, the Vermont Youth

Conservation Corps, Linking Learning to Life, VABVI, and the Gibney Family Foundation, which funds the program and was a real catalyst in bringing the parties together. The success of this first program has all the project partners committed to offering it again next year and perhaps increasing the number of participants.

The LEAP program is a natural extension of ReCycle North’s Apprentice-style and Career Start training programs and our mission’s objectives of environmental stewardship, educational training, and economic opportunities. We look forward to continuing this program and have much to gain from working with our partners and students in LEAP.



VYCC student, Becca Camp-Allen helps process vouchers in ReCycle North’s administrative office.

For more information on ReCycle North’s training programs; Apprentice style, Work Experience, or YouthBuild, contact Debbie Shelden at dshelden@recyclenorth.org or 658-4143 X26