


[HOME](#) [ABOUT US](#) [CENTERS](#) [CWI](#) [Programs](#) [Products + Services](#)[CRE](#) [CYDE](#) [PROGRAMS + SERVICES](#) [ADVANCED SEARCH](#) [CONTACT](#) 

# BayStateWorks

[Overview](#)[Contacts](#)[Projects](#)[Success Stories](#)[Promising Practices](#)[→ News and Happenings](#)[Results](#)

## News and Happenings

All of the BayStateWorks projects are off and running. Education and training classes are operating in all of the projects, and partnerships are meeting. To celebrate these activities, we would like to highlight some of our happenings.

Vinfen is an employer partner for the Boston Private Industry Council's Human Service – Direct Care project. Our thanks to Vinfen and the Boston PIC for this great success story!

### Direct Care Workforce Initiative: Vinfen Offers Jobs to First Graduates



Graduates who completed the 10-week pre-employment training program and partners of the Metro Boston Human Services/Direct Care Workforce Initiative join for a group photo at the Goodwill Industries headquarters on June 10. (Click on picture to see a larger version)

Last June, the first group of 10 students completed the Direct Care Workforce pre-employment training program and received job offers at various Vinfen locations. Newly graduated Helen Brown now works as a residential counselor at Vinfen's Pleasant St. program in Dorchester, Mass. "I am so glad that this door opened for me," says Brown, "because I have a passion for helping people and making a difference in the lives of others." Jennifer Dutra, who is the training instructor for the pre-employment program at Goodwill, salutes the initiative. "It was a wonderful experience," she recalls, "everyone bonded as co-workers, and I think they will do well on the job."

Launched in 2004, this Metro Boston Human Services/Direct Care Workforce Initiative is designed to answer the critical need for qualified workers in the human services field. "Vinfen has more than 100 vacancies for direct care workers but is typically unable to hire 75 percent of all applicants due to low literacy, math, and English language skills," says President Gary W. Lamson. "With this outstanding program, adults who would normally not have a chance for employment can get a rewarding job in human services while organizations like ours can build teams with motivated trained professionals."

Funded through the Commonwealth's BayStateWorks Initiative, with support

from the Legislature and the Department of Workforce Development, the project is composed of two specific training programs: a 10-week pre-employment training and a 26-week incumbent worker program aimed at facilitating career growth for direct care professionals. Both were developed by a partnership composed of Vinfen Corporation, Goodwill, Boston Career Link, Metro North Regional Employment Board (REB), Boston Private Industry Council (PIC), Bunker Hill Community College, WorkSource Partners, and Boston Housing Authority.

"There are a lot of variables to make a training program successful, but first and foremost the management staff has to lead and support the initiative. We work with management teams across many workforce programs and in terms of leadership and support, this program is off the charts!" says Neil Silverston, president of WorkSource Partners. "Our team has been incredibly impressed by the commitment to individual growth from the people running your programs. They made it happen."

Three more groups of 10 are expected to complete the pre-employment training program and Vinfen is committed to hiring every graduate.

### Berkshire



Berkshire BayStateWorks students and instructors pictured as the first class takes the final exam to become certified as CISCO Certified Network Associates (CCNA). Students are from GE Advanced Materials, Specialty Materials, Comalli Electric, North Adams Regional Hospital, Williams College, and Adams/Cheshire Regional School District. (click on pictures to see a larger version)

### Action Inc. of Gloucester

The Action, Inc., of Gloucester recently launched its Health Care Industry Program, designed to train Clinical Medical Assistants.



Enjoying their Action, Inc., classes are (left to right) Annette Parco, Misty Amero, and Laurie Grace. (click on small picture to see a larger version)

In three 30-week training cycles, the project will provide entry-level skills for individuals to climb the healthcare career ladder. The curriculum will include industry-specific contextualized basic skills, hands-on skills, and patient care experience. In the "doctor's office" classroom, students will have the opportunity to work in a simulated "real-life" environment. Life-skills and career readiness are included.

For information on this BayStateWorks project, contact:

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