



Media Contact: Toni Smith, Executive Director
(563) 382-8401
tsmith@thespectrumnetwork.org

THE SPECTRUM NETWORK FACT SHEET

Description: The Spectrum Network is a private, non-profit organization that serves persons with disabilities, mental illness, chemical dependency, or other barriers. The Spectrum Network creates customized solutions for people so they can live and work independently in the community.

History: The organization was founded in 1974 as an activity center for 13 clients in Decorah, Iowa. Over the past 35 years, it has grown to employ 40 staff members who serve 100 clients in 9 Iowa counties. Last year, it paid out over \$140,000 in client wages and \$955,000 in staff wages. It has an annual budget of over \$2.1 million.

Programs:

- Vocational Training—on-the-job training at The Spectrum Network locations
- Community Work Crews—on-site work teams that operate in 8 area businesses
- Employment Services—job placement and retention
- Supported Community Living—coaching on daily living skills
- Adult Day Services—activities and social opportunities for clients; respite for caregivers.

Operations: The Spectrum Network owns and runs three businesses that offer training opportunities for clients, while serving local communities:

- ReCompute, an operation in Decorah that recycles or reuses parts from discarded computers, printers and other electronics; ReCompute recycled over 200,000 pounds of material in the past year
- Spectrum Thrift Store in Cresco, Iowa
- Spectrum Recycling in Winneshiek and Howard Counties, which diverted over 3,600 tons of household material from landfills in the past year
- The Spectrum Network also fulfills contracts with Rockwell Collins and Gemini, Inc., for recycling and piece-rate work.

Demographics: Approximately 90% of clients live at home; 10% live in residential facilities. Clients range from 16 to 74 years old. 65% are between the ages of 40 and 50. Clients live in 9 counties, including Allamakee, Black Hawk, Chickasaw, Clayton, Delaware, Fayette, Howard, Wapello and Winneshiek.

Executive Director: Toni Smith, M.Ed., director of the organization since 2002.

Location: The Spectrum Network is headquartered at 607 Washington Street in Decorah, and has training sites in Decorah, Cresco and Freeport. Staff members travel widely to serve clients in northeast Iowa and beyond.