Jason and John are as different as they can be, except for two very significant aspects: they both served their country in the military, and they both now work at Beacon. Actually, there is another similarity. Both their stories show how fragile the threads that hold a life together can be and just how thin the line between normal and needy really is.

Jason is 36. John is 52. Jason is from the West coast and John grew up in the East. John is single. Jason has a wife and 2 children. John was Navy. Jason was Army. Today, they both work on rivet assembly at Beacon trying to put their lives back together. But, at one time, John and Jason both saw a successful and fulfilling life ahead through a career in the military.

“I wish the Navy would have worked out for me.”

John Boland was born in New Jersey and grew up in Michigan and Illinois. After he graduated from high school, he worked in a restaurant and took some courses in junior college. At 29, John joined the Navy. Even though he was the second oldest man in his class and was sick most of the time in boot camp, he was awarded the company flag upon graduation for being an inspiration to the other guys. But after John was assigned to the Naval Submarine Base at Groton, CT, things started to unravel.
Growth that came from a Merger of Excellence!

It is hard to believe that four years have passed since the merger of Beacon Foundation and Tetra Corporation. By incorporating the strength of each organization Beacon Group has become stronger than either entity could have on its own. We combined Beacon Foundation’s name recognition, community integration with work sites, dedicated staff, and Value Village with Tetra’s business expertise, equally dedicated staff, and broad-based perspective in a variety of competitive work and job placements. The outcome was an organization which truly benefits each of the clients served in all of our programs and an organization that has grown into a leadership role for the state of Arizona in providing services to people with disabilities.

Beacon has experienced tremendous financial growth as a result of the synergy of the merger. When Beacon Foundation and Tetra Corporation merged the combined budget was $7 million, the just approved budget for 2007-2008 will be over $11 million! This growth in dollars has been the result of additional work contracts like the drug testing kits and the document destruction business and growth of existing contracts. In our rehabilitation area, we were able to obtain funding for an additional 60 clients who were not funded before, and were able to expand our existing rehabilitation services which resulted in additional clients as part of Beacon. Finally, our increased efforts in fund raising for our capital campaign and the growth in sales at Value Village have added substantial dollars to our budget.

Key to the overall success of the merger of the two organizations has been the Board of Directors. They have led the way with foresight and dedication to keeping the merger on the course to provide top quality services for each client while continuing to operate in a fiscally responsible way. Board members have worked tirelessly to combine all worksites under one roof to maximize opportunities for the clients we serve.

The four year efforts of Board members, management and staff have culminated in the ground breaking and start of construction of facilities at the Glenn location. The new and expanded work site will unite all employees and clients to provide even greater opportunities for people with disabilities in our community. We will be able to take the organization to the next level in the type and quality of services provided, and continue the fiscal growth of operations in a prudent and responsible manner.

We celebrate the success of the past four years and renew our pledge as staff, managers, and Board of Directors, to strive for excellence in all we do at Beacon!

IN MEMORIAM

Longtime Beacon client, Patty Gammon passed away on September 10th. Patty had just celebrated her 47th Birthday the day before. Patty lived with her sister Margaret and was close to her family. Her favorite things were Mickey Mouse, M&M’s and stuffed toys. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations be made to Beacon Group in Patty’s memory.

FOUR FAST FACTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage or Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The increase in the number of persons served by Beacon Group in Tucson last year.</td>
<td>164%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The percentage of agencies that refer clients to Beacon for services who rated our organization Very Good to Excellent.</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The percentage of Beacon clients in an annual survey who said they were extremely satisfied with services received.</td>
<td>99%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Steve King

8% The increase in the number of successful outside job placements last year.
Instead of sea-duty, John was put in an office, typing, mailing and working on computers — still a new technology in the mid ’80s. The fast pace and stress got to John who couldn’t meet the demands and eventually received a General Discharge. John really liked the Navy and did his best to make a career of it. “I wish the Navy would have worked out for me,” says John.

John next went to work in the mailroom of a giftware company where he was once “Employee of the Month.” But John’s sister, who lived in Tucson, AZ, invited John to come live with her and her husband where he could work for them taking care of their children and their home. Now, far removed from a life in the military he had dreamed of, any life at all was about to hang in the balance.

Walking across a street one day, John was hit by a truck. He remembers being put in an ambulance and telling God he “wasn’t ready to leave yet.” He had massive injuries and brain trauma. He fell into a coma. The doctor told his sister not to expect John to live. But, John did.

Once sufficiently recovered, Pima County Mental Health helped John find a group home to live in and recommended Beacon Group as a place to re-enter the workplace. “I’m happy I have a job again,” says John. “I’ve got a creative mind and I’d like to improve my situation. I can remember,” he adds, “I may not have been at the top, but I was doing something with my life.” John was elected the first President of the client’s Kiwanis Club at Beacon and has been working on a book of stories he hopes to have published.

“I’m tired of doing the taking and now I want to give back”

Jason Miller started out in Long Beach, CA where he was adopted. His father was a Marine. His step-father was Air Force. After high school, he carried on in the family tradition and entered the Army. He really wanted to work on tanks.

After seven months, during a training exercise at Ft. Knox, KY, Jason suffered a severe knee injury and was eventually given a medical discharge. Jason is a very driven individual, but without the future in the military he had planned on, he struggled some. Jason sold furniture for awhile, worked in the Forest Service as a firefighter, then managed a retail store. He got married and had two children. He also went to college on and off.

In 2003, Jason moved his family to Tucson to be closer to his parents. By now, he was a stay-at-home dad. He began having mental health problems, was put on medication, and then hospitalized. His VA Case Manager recommended that he try vocational rehabilitation with a local agency such as Beacon. During his first visit, Jason knew this is where he wanted to work.

“I like what’s being done here,” says Jason. “It’s neat helping people sustain their own life.” Jason’s new attitude was reflected in his work performance. After just two weeks, he was offered a promotion. He knows he could get a job in the community or even work elsewhere within Beacon and make more money. But Jason wants to stay in the workshop with other clients. “I’m tired of doing the taking,” he says, “now I want to give back.”

Jason is applying for a staff position at Beacon and wants to go back to Pima College and finish his A.A. degree.

John Boland and John Miller never got the military life they had planned on. But, both are still fighting to “be all they can be” — everyday.
The Dignity of Work Building Campaign... A Family Affair!

As the new building addition starts to take shape, so does the public portion of the campaign to pay for it. With a goal of $2,000,000 and still just 57% of that pledged to date, we still have quite a bit of work to do in the fundraising campaign. One hundred percent of the Beacon Board has donated already. The staff has also stepped up. We have secured some generous leadership gifts from the Emerald Foundation, the Click Family and the Ross Foundation among others. We are also approaching companies and individuals we work with at Beacon for donations to the campaign.

There is a key group that we have not formally approach until now — the families. In the end, this campaign is very much about and for families.

Jim and Vicki Click said it very well in their campaign letter:

“…Our family has been helped by the Beacon Family. Thanks to Beacon, we have seen Vicki’s sister, Michelle, grow... learn... and find a job she loves... By helping these people build independent, productive lives, we’re really helping ourselves.”

Beacon Group is looking to their parents and extended families to find “100 Rays of Light” — donors who will pledge $400 a year over the next five years. That's only $33.33 a month each! Combined however, these 100 Rays of Light will raise $200,000 towards the overall goal. With the projected donations coming in this fall, this amount would put us “over the top” for the campaign.

Does $400 a year sound like too much? In Arizona, a married couple can receive a direct credit for that amount on their taxes ($200 for an individual). The actual cost to you would then be zero (please consult your tax advisor to verify)! You also can still deduct your gift on your federal income tax. You could pay by credit card (even automatic monthly deduction) and get points/miles on frequent flyer programs — and you still can claim the tax credit. Now does it sound like too much?

You can help us help your family and it may cost you nothing! For more information or make a donation, please call Patrick McCarthy, Beacon Director of Development, at (520) 622-4874 ext. 166.
As you can see, Beacon’s building expansion project is well under way. Right now, things are still pretty messy. We lost our back parking lot the first day. Then the outside lunch area. Then the loading dock. It was “out with the old” in the first week. It will take quite a bit longer for the “in with the new” portion.

Projected to take another eight months to complete, the expansion project will add another 34,000 square feet of production, warehouse, office, meeting and activity space to Beacon’s existing facility at Oracle and Glenn. With the sale of our Drachman facility, our new and expanded headquarters will now be home for:

- Approximately 250 clients with disabilities working and being served on-site daily
- Another 125 clients who will go out to 22 different community work sites
- Over 180 staff members
- More than 100 individuals who will be placed into full-time competitive employment with local businesses
- And about 135 families served through our Parenting Program.

The ability to have almost all of the clients we serve under one roof will provide a number of very real benefits. We will be able to offer more comprehensive and coordinated staff support, more variety and better paying jobs for all of our clients. We will also be better able to integrate and support all of the different programs we now conduct in different locations.

Consolidation will also provide a number of enhancements, not the least of which will be considerable cost savings in overhead expenses which can then be used for program support. Additionally, we will be able to increase our client base (by up to 50%), compete for better job contracts and increase our cost-efficiency as a service provider to local businesses.

When Beacon Group’s new facility construction has been completed, we’ll be able to help hundreds more people with disabilities and little hope of a future to say, “It actually is A Wonderful Life!”
Dee O’Neill’s association with Beacon Group began in 1990 when her 20 year old daughter, Jennifer, was referred to Beacon after her graduation from Saguaro High School. Jennifer was born with Down Syndrome and, although she was going to graduate from a mainstream high school, she needed specialized training to maximize her potential to live a semi-independent life.

Seventeen years later, Jennifer continues her employment with Beacon Group working in our dry room assembling drug testing kits. In addition to finding successful long term employment and enjoying the bi-weekly paycheck she earns, Jennifer now does live independently in her own apartment among other special needs adults.

Dee’s association with Beacon Group has grown over the years, as well, and in 1994 at the request of a friend she became a Beacon Foundation and Tetra Corporation in 2003, a move that Dee continues to support. “The merger has been phenomenal; it’s the best thing that’s happened to the organization” she states with enthusiasm. “Beacon and Tetra were serving the same types of clients and competing for the same contracts to provide employment for our clients. Now we don’t have to do that.”

Dee also praises Beacon President, Steve King, stating that having him at the helm has been the best thing imaginable for Beacon Group. She’s also quick to note the need for parents and family of Beacon clients to support the organization at whatever level they can. Right now, the majority of contributions come from someone in the program. “The Dignity of Work capital campaign that’s going on now is a good example”, says Dee. “Our Board has contributed over $265,000, and even our staff has given over $15,000 to the campaign. What our families give, I’m sure will have a big impact on what the community at large will donate.”

Desert Quest — the Beacon Day Treatment program — went on vacation! They weren’t shut down, but they were out-of-town... in sunny California to be exact.

Beacon staff, some parents, and a total of twelve clients enjoyed a four-day excursion to Southern California that included visits to Disneyland, the Santa Monica Pier, and the Angels vs. Indians baseball game.

Desert Quest, an ongoing Beacon program organized in the early 1990s, provides direct training and support to eighteen individuals ranging from 21 to 72 years of age.
Earlier this year, Beacon’s good friend, Jim Click, sent over a copy of a letter he had received from one of his employees, Trish Logue. She works at Jim Click Ford where Beacon has one of its Community Work Sites. It seems a customer—who happens to have an adult child with Down Syndrome—had observed the Beacon crew busy at work there at the dealership. The customer asked Trish to “thank” Mr. Click for what he does to help people with disabilities. Here is Trish’s letter.

May 7, 2007

Mr. Click—

I had a nice lady stop by my office this morning and ask if I could get a message to you. With pen and pad in hand, here is what she wanted to relay to you.

She was traveling through Tucson when she encountered a problem with her motorhome. She brought it into the Jim Click Ford Service Department and the problem was promptly resolved. While waiting, she noticed the Beacon employees washing the cars. She told me that she is the mother of a 46-year-old Down Syndrome son who is employed by the Veterans Administration in Johnson City, TN. He has worked there for quite some time which has allowed him to live on his own and pay taxes instead of relying on the taxpayers to support him. She was quite proud of that and wanted to pass along to you that people do notice when employers do something of this magnitude. She asked me to tell you “thank you.” Her name is Judith from Tennessee.

Now I did what she requested, and I want to tell you that I, too, am also proud of what my employer does with the Beacon Group.

Trish Logue
Jim Click Ford

Trish has worked at Jim Click Ford since 1981. She says there has been a Beacon crew working there since she started (there are currently two crews of seven each found at the various Click dealerships).

“The Beacon crew does a fabulous job,” Trish continues. “They keep our cars clean so we can sell them. They’re an essential part of the sales process.”

Trish says the woman from Tennessee was so excited to see the Beacon crew working there because her son’s ability to work enabled him to live a full, independent life.

“It’s just like John, who works in our Detail Department,” adds Trish. “He used to work on the Beacon crew here and is now a full-time employee, and has been for 25 years.”
Having autism, Sam Edwards has always been socially anxious; preferring to spend time alone or with his family or a few close friends. Sam has always liked watching movies, music, comic books, and earning money. After many years in a Day Treatment Program, he decided to pursue the work option and participate in the Center Based Employment program at Beacon Group. Sam was referred by Chuey Jacobo from the Division of Developmental Disabilities. Sam worked on the rivet assembly contract and was an active participant in the Aktion Club, Beacon Group’s Kiwanis Club for persons with disabilities.

Within a very short period of time, it became apparent to everyone that Sam had both the desire and the potential to work successfully in the community. He consistently demonstrated excellent work habits and behaviors and was well-liked and respected by his co-workers and supervisors.

After only 4 months in the Center-Based Employment program, Sam was referred to Judith Spiel at the Rehabilitation Services Administration so that he could make a progressive move to the Evo A. DeConcini Federal Courthouse custodial crew where he and his co-workers are responsible for cleaning the largest office building in Tucson! Sam has been at the courthouse for a little more than a month and earns at a prevailing wage rate of $9.03/hour with a benefits package paid at a rate of $3.01/hour. Sam loves his job, especially vacuuming, and is focused on his ultimate goal of eventual competitive employment.