

Roy Matheson Visits The Donley Center



(L. to R. Harriet Connor, RN, Director; Roy Matheson; Courtney Crone, OTR/L @ The Donley Center (in the work hardening area)

Roy Matheson, Founder and President of Matheson – Roy has trained thousands of allied health professionals across the globe. Roy and his brother, Dr. Leonard Matheson, were pioneers in the development of work evaluation training. He has assembled a team of practitioners and trainers who share his vision of a safe workplace manned by workers whose physical abilities match those of the job.

With 25 years in occupational rehabilitation and an in-depth study of the intention and legal foundation of Title I of the ADA behind him, Roy has become a thought leader in the application of the law to the management of workplace disability, hiring, absence, stay-at-work, and return-to-work issues.

Mr. Matheson visited The Dr. John E. Donley Rehabilitation Center in January 2014 to tour our facility, meet, and update our staff on the latest thinking and trends in the workers' compensation arena as it relates to rehabilitation and testing. This was facilitated by our own Courtney Crone, OTR/L. The Donley Center staff were then treated to an extended question-and-answer period related to those topics over lunch.

Several years ago, Roy's brother Dr. Leonard Matheson was the keynote speaker at the Annual New England Workers' Compensation Education Conference in Newport, RI. During that conference, Dr. Matheson also made himself available for a tour of our facility, meeting our staff, and providing questions and answers about the dynamics of work hardening.

These two men, considered by many to be the foundational fathers of rehabilitative medicine in the workers' compensation arena, have been instrumental in the creation and success of The Donley Center. Over 25 years ago, our own William Cesare, Ph.D., CPE, CWCE had been a student of the Mathesons and brought the principles and practices of the Mathesons back to Rhode Island, making The Donley Center what Roy Matheson termed this week as "One of the two premiere workers' compensation rehabilitation facilities in North America" – the other being in British Columbia, Canada.

It has been truly exciting to be validated as a facility by two such highly respected leaders in our field. We want to thank both of the Mathesons for their ongoing contribution to the quality of physical rehabilitation available to every injured worker in the state of Rhode Island.