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## NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**July 9, 2009**  
**102**

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### **CAREERS for People with Disabilities, Inc. Celebrates Thirteenth Annual Anniversary Celebration**

*(Valhalla, NY)* – Over 250 CAREERS’ clients, their employers and guests attended the **Thirteenth Annual Anniversary Celebration of CAREERS for People with Disabilities, Inc. (CAREERS)** on Tuesday, June 30, at PepsiCo World Headquarters in Purchase. This event recognizes outstanding individuals with disabilities, as well as organizations and individuals who support CAREERS’ mission of providing employment for people with disabilities throughout Westchester and Putnam Counties. Clients celebrated employment anniversaries – ranging from 1 to 28 years – and CAREERS celebrated its 22nd year as the most successful supported work program in the area.

“Each year we celebrate the successes of individuals with disabilities in Westchester and Putnam Counties who have overcome many obstacles to become and stay employed. Especially in this difficult economy and with a countywide unemployment rate above 8 percent, we are proud that 110 of our clients were placed in jobs last year and that less than 1 percent of our clients have been laid off in the past year,” said Tina Cornish-Lauria, Executive Director of CAREERS.

Award recipients included **Walmart**, who received an Award of Appreciation for a grant it has provided to help fund CAREERS’ Workforce Readiness, Placement and Training program. For their sincere compassion and generous contributions, other 2009 Award of Appreciation recipients included **The Louise and Arde Bulova Fund, Costco, Senator Vincent Liebell, Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins, MasterCard Worldwide, The J.M. McDonald Foundation, Diversified Investment Advisors** and **Philip Adimari**, past President of CAREERS’ Board of Directors.

The event was sponsored by **Casper & Fischer, LLP; ShopRite Supermarkets; Universal American; Verizon** and **PepsiCo**, who generously provided the venue, gift bags and some of the refreshments.

Guest speakers included Giselle Robinson, the mother of Alanna Medlock, a CAREERS’ client for six years, who is hearing impaired and works for Marshall’s in Cortlandt. “CAREERS services provide me with peace of mind because they are successful advocates for my daughter,” Mrs. Robinson said. “Knowing others are as concerned about and accept Alanna for who she is is my sleep insurance.”

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## CAREERS' Anniversary Celebration

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CAREERS' client **Damon Cook** received the **Employee of the Year Award** for his nine years of service as a file clerk at Tangredi & Associates Law Firm in White Plains. **Jamie Smith**, Store Manager at Stop & Shop in Port Chester received the **Supervisor of the Year Award** for hiring six CAREERS' clients in 2008, and **The Hudson Valley Gateway Chamber** received the **Employer of the Year Award** for providing opportunities for individuals with disabilities and supporting CAREERS' programs through the years.

Since 1987, CAREERS has provided job placement and support services to people with disabilities in Westchester and Putnam Counties and made **over 1,700 individual job placements and provided services to well over 6,000 people**. CAREERS' mission is to insure that all disabled individuals find sustained, meaningful employment in the communities in which they live. They work one-on-one with each client and employer to facilitate ongoing success in the workplace, and help those with disabilities reach their maximum level of self-support and self-reliance. All of CAREERS services are provided free of charge to clients and employers.

For additional information about how CAREERS helps disabled individuals, or employers in need of qualified help, contact CAREERS' Valhalla office, which serves central and lower Westchester, at 914-741-8500, or the Carmel office, which serves northern Westchester and Putnam Counties, at 845-225-8007.

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**CAREERS' 2008 Anniversary Celebration**  
**Photo Cut lines**  
**Photographer Marie Barcia-Marcy**

**George Oros Photo**

(l to r) County Legislator George Oros accepted an Award of Appreciation on behalf of Senator Vincent Leibell from CAREERS for People with Disabilities, Inc. Senator Leibell has supported CAREERS' programs for many years. Over 250 clients, employers and guests celebrated employment anniversaries of clients of CAREERS for People with Disabilities, Inc. at its 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Anniversary Celebration on June 30 at PepsiCo World Headquarters in Purchase.

**Damon Cook & Peter Tangredi Photo**

Over 250 clients, employers and guests celebrated employment anniversaries of clients of CAREERS for People with Disabilities, Inc. at its 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Anniversary Celebration on June 30 at PepsiCo World Headquarters in Purchase. (l to r) CAREERS' client Damon Cook, who works at Tangredi & Associates Law Firm in White Plains, received the Employee of the Year Award. CAREERS is a non-profit agency that provides job placement and support services to people with disabilities throughout Westchester and Putnam Counties.

**Rebecca & Alanna Medlock Photo**

(l to r) CAREERS Program Coordinator Rebecca Appleyard learned sign language so she could better help client Alanna Medlock, who is hearing impaired. Over 250 clients, employers and guests celebrated employment anniversaries of clients of CAREERS for People with Disabilities, Inc. at its 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Anniversary Celebration on June 30 at PepsiCo World Headquarters in Purchase. CAREERS is a non-profit agency that provides job placement and support services to people with disabilities throughout Westchester and Putnam Counties.

**Wendell Vlachos Photo**

Over 250 clients, employers and guests celebrated employment anniversaries of clients of CAREERS for People with Disabilities, Inc. at its 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Anniversary Celebration on June 30 at PepsiCo World Headquarters in Purchase (l to r) CAREERS' client Wendell Vlachos works with Isolene Arnold, team manager at Target in Mt. Kisco. Isolene received the Co-worker of the Year Award for all the extra time, support, and encouragement she gives Wendell on the job. CAREERS is a non-profit agency that provides job placement and support services to people with disabilities throughout Westchester and Putnam Counties.

**Jamie Smith Photo**

**Jamie Smith, Store Manager at Stop & Shop in Port Chester received the supervisor of the Year Award for his support of individuals with disabilities. CAREERS for People with Disabilities presented him with the award at its 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Anniversary Celebration on June 30 at PepsiCo World Headquarters in Purchase. CAREERS is a non-profit agency that provides job placement and support services to people with disabilities throughout Westchester and Putnam Counties.**