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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CAREERS for People with Disabilities Celebrates 25 Years of Providing Services

(Valhalla, NY) - CAREERS for People with Disabilities (CAREERS) celebrated its twenty-fifth year as the most successful supported work program in the area. Its Anniversary Celebration was held on Thursday, September 13th at the PepsiCo World Headquarters in Purchase where 210 guests attended. CAREERS recognized 213 of its clients and their employers celebrating anniversaries between 1 to 31 years, as well as outstanding individuals with disabilities, organizations and individuals who support CAREERS' mission of providing employment for people with disabilities throughout Westchester and Putnam Counties.

"This is a very special year for us as we celebrate 25 years of providing vital services to people with disabilities in Westchester and Putnam Counties," CAREERS Executive Director Tina Cornish-Lauria said. "Our services have enabled thousands of individuals with disabilities to obtain and maintain good jobs and become self-sufficient, contributing members of society. In this era of layoffs and unstable employment, many of our clients have had held their jobs for decades, which is overwhelming evidence of their abilities and dependability."

Award recipients included **Pro Bono Partnership**, who received an **Award of Appreciation** for the important legal services it has donated to CAREERS over the years. CAREERS also presented **Senator Suzi Oppenheimer** with a **Distinguished Service Award** for her many years of public service and her support of CAREERS and People with Disabilities. "Our government wants everyone to maximize their abilities, and that's what CAREERS has done for so many people," Senator Oppenheimer said.

For their sincere compassion and generous contributions, other 2012 Award of Appreciation recipients included **BJ's Charitable Foundation**, the **Daniel Meilman Foundation**, **Hitachi Foundation**, **Hudson City Savings Bank**, **IBM**, the **Max & Victoria Dreyfus Foundation** and **Printing Solutions**.

The event was sponsored by **Curry Automotive**, **Marianne & Patrick Brown**, **The Kitson Law Firm**, **Shop Rite Supermarkets**, and **PepsiCo Enable**, who generously provided the beautiful venue, refreshments and gift bags.

“PepsiCo EnAble is an organizational movement that embraces inclusion for different abilities and all those that are caregivers. As such, ‘it is fueled by the passion of our associates,’ and many find it extremely rewarding to integrate community into their work which truly brings to life our mantra of Performance with Purpose,” said PepsiCo representative Dr. Sara Aldaous.

CAREERS’ client **Lyle Davidson** received the **Employee of the Year Award** for his 10 years of service at S&H Uniforms in White Plains. **Terri Petraro**, manager of Turco’s in Yorktown, received the **Supervisor of the Year Award** for her support in hiring and training many CAREERS’ clients. **Shop Rite Supermarkets** received the **Employer of the Year Award** for providing numerous opportunities for individuals with disabilities to work in its many stores and its outstanding support of CAREERS’ programs through the years.

About CAREERS for People with Disabilities, Inc.

Since 1987, CAREERS has provided job placement and support services to thousands of people with disabilities throughout Westchester and Putnam Counties. 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 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. For more information, please visit www.careersforpeoplewithdisabilities.org.



CAREERS for People with Disabilities awarded Senator Suzi Oppenheimer with a Distinguished Service Award for her many years of public service and her support of the agency. Client Marc Cutri presented the award on behalf of CAREERS who was celebrating its 25th Anniversary Celebration. “Our government wants everyone to maximize their abilities, and that’s what CAREERS has done for so many people,” Senator Oppenheimer told the audience.