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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 4, 2011

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CAREERS for People with Disabilities, Inc. Holds Annual Anniversary Celebration

(Valhalla, NY) – Two hundred (200) CAREERS' clients, their employers and guests attended the **Annual Anniversary Celebration of CAREERS for People with Disabilities, Inc. (CAREERS)** on Thursday, September 22nd at PepsiCo World Headquarters in Purchase. The event recognized 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 30 years – and CAREERS celebrated its twenty-fourth 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. In our 24 years of providing services we have placed 1,900 individuals with disabilities in jobs enabling them to achieve independence and the satisfaction of gainful employment. So far this year despite a still difficult economy, our job placements are up 27% over last year, and we have helped the majority of our clients avoid layoffs and retain their employment," said Tina Cornish-Lauria, Executive Director of CAREERS.

Award recipients included **The Community Foundation of Dutchess County**, who received an Award of Appreciation for a grant it provided to help fund CAREERS' School-to-Work Transition Program. For their sincere compassion and generous contributions, other 2011 Award of Appreciation recipients included **The Curreri Family Foundation, Costco, The Dyson Foundation, Hudson City Savings Bank, the J.M. McDonald Foundation, The United Way of Westchester & Putnam, and Wells Fargo.**

The event was sponsored by **Curry Automotive; Marianne & Patrick Brown; ShopRite Supermarkets; The Kitson Law Firm; Universal American; Verizon 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 joint advocates for inclusion and empowerment, PepsiCo EnAble is privileged to walk alongside Careers for People with Disabilities. Your customers - - our employees, are a key part of the overall architecture to our diverse talent and culture at PepsiCo", said PepsiCo representative Dr. Sara Aldaous.

CAREERS' client **Kevin Nicholson** received the **Employee of the Year Award** for his 11 years of service at Costco in Yonkers. **Tim Maloney** of Marshall's in Brewster received the **Supervisor of the Year Award** for his support in hiring CAREERS' clients, and **Stop & Shop** in Somers received the **Employer of the Year Award** for providing numerous opportunities for individuals with disabilities and its outstanding support of 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 1,900 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, or visit CAREERS new website at www.careersforpeoplewithdisabilities.org.

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(l to r) Susan Shefflein, Sr. VP of Community Impact and Mary Ann Luna, VP of Community Alliances for the United Way of Westchester & Putnam Counties received an Award of Appreciation from CAREERS for their ongoing support of programs that provide job training and placement for people with disabilities. CAREERS Program Coordinator Jennifer Retacco (r) oversees CAREERS Valhalla office.

