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## NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 22, 2015

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### Putnam County welcomes Disability Mentoring Day participants

**Carmel, New York** ..... Putnam County residents with disabilities were given the opportunity to work at a job that interests them as **CAREERS for People with Disabilities, Inc. (CAREERS)** coordinated the fourth Disability Mentoring Day on October 21<sup>st</sup>. A collaboration with Putnam County Executive Mary Ellen Odell and County Departments, the event paired mentors from throughout the County with individuals with disabilities who were interested in learning about the skills needed to be successfully employed.

“Putnam’s fourth Disability Mentoring Day is a great time for individuals with disabilities and County employees to share their employment skills and interests,” remarked CAREERS Executive Director Tina Cornish-Lauria. “County Executive Odell and her staff always make our participants feel welcome and needed, and everyone comes away from the day having learned something,” Cornish-Lauria said.

CAREERS and PARC participants were matched with volunteer County mentors, based on the interests of each mentee. County departments included Office for Senior Resources, Finance, Consumer Affairs, Youth Bureau, IT, and Highway, among others. Participants worked side by side with mentors for several hours doing tasks including labeling mailings, landscaping, delivering mail and assisting with recreation activities for seniors.

Putnam and Westchester Counties are among hundreds of locations across the country participating in National Disability Mentoring Day on October 21<sup>st</sup>. The event connects over 20,000 students and job seekers with disabilities to thousands of employers nationwide each year. The theme was “My Disability is One Part of Who I Am”.

#### **About CAREERS for People with Disabilities, Inc.**

Since 1987, CAREERS has provided job placement and support services to people with disabilities in Westchester and Putnam Counties, and provided services to over 2,200 other disabled individuals. CAREERS’ mission is to insure that all disabled individuals find sustained, meaningful employment in the communities in which they live. We 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. For more information, please visit [www.careersforpeoplewithdisabilities.org](http://www.careersforpeoplewithdisabilities.org).

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