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## NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **CAREERS for People with Disabilities, Inc. Holds Annual Anniversary Celebration**

*(Valhalla, NY)* – Over 200 CAREERS’ clients, their employers and guests attended the **Annual Anniversary Celebration of CAREERS for People with Disabilities, Inc. (CAREERS)** on Wednesday, June 30, 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 29 years – and CAREERS celebrated its twenty-third 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. This year the event is especially meaningful as our nation celebrates the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) on July 26. This landmark legislation guarantees equal opportunity for individuals with disabilities in many areas, including employment. We are pleased to have been a part of providing opportunities for individuals with disabilities by placing close to 100 disabled individuals in jobs this past year, despite a difficult economy and 1,800 people in jobs during our 23 years of providing services,” said Tina Cornish-Lauria, Executive Director of CAREERS.

Award recipients included **The Dyson Foundation**, 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 2010 Award of Appreciation recipients included **Wachovia, Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Senator Suzi Oppenheimer, The Louise & Arde Bulova Fund, Senator Vincent Leibell, The Daniel Mielman Charitable Foundation, Hitachi Foundation and Hitachi Metals America, Hudson City Savings Bank, Hope for Youth Foundation, Diversified Investment Advisors, Sam’s Club, Joshua Beser of Bingham McCutchen, LLP, and Irene Thompson**, who has served on CAREERS’ Board of Directors for 15 years.

The event was sponsored by **Casper & Fischer, LLP; Curry Automotive; ShopRite Supermarkets; Universal American; Verizon** and **PepsiCo**, who generously provided the beautiful venue overlooking its sculpture garden and refreshments.

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## CAREERS' Anniversary Celebration

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CAREERS' client **Michael Harley** received the **Employee of the Year Award** for his 11 years of service as a librarian assistant at the Larchmont Public Library. **Alex Quezada of Crothall at the Westchester Medical Center** received the **Supervisor of the Year Award** for support of client Patty Polecek, who has worked at the Medical Center for 26 years, and **Curry Automotive** 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 1,800 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](http://www.careersforpeoplewithdisabilities.org).

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