



INTO THE WORLD OF WORK

News for Families and Supporters

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www.careersforpeoplewithdisabilities.org

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Special Annual Anniversary Celebration Edition

Fall 2009

CAREERS 2009 Annual Anniversary Celebration

CAREERS' Annual Anniversary Celebration is a wonderful opportunity to recognize the outstanding contributions individuals with disabilities make to the workforce throughout Westchester and Putnam Counties. It also provides the occasion to publicly recognize the many employers, businesses, foundations and individuals who support CAREERS and its clients. This year, over 250 clients, their employers and guests attended the June celebration at **PepsiCo World Headquarters** in Purchase.

This was the first year new client Bill Klein attended the annual celebration. "I was enthralled," Bill said. "The food was excellent. It was exciting to be with politicians in this wonderful place and to hear the stories of people who have overcome their difficulties. It was also a great place to network."

"Everyone enjoyed being able to see each other on such beautiful grounds," Executive Director Tina Cornish-Lauria said. "We are truly appreciative of PepsiCo's hospitality and generosity."

Besides PepsiCo, this year's event sponsors included **Casper & Fisher, LLP; ShopRite Supermarkets; Universal American; and Verizon**. "We are grateful to all our sponsors. Without them we would not be able to provide this much-anticipated event for our clients." Tina said.

Following the social hour, which was held outside overlooking part of the well-known PepsiCo sculpture gardens, Tina hosted the award presentations. Guest speakers included clients Robert and Robin Baldera and Paul Loomis. Giselle Robinson, mother of client Alanna Medlock, who works at Marshall's, also spoke: "CAREERS' staff provide me with peace of mind because they are successful advocates for my daughter," Mrs. Robinson told those who attended the celebration. "Knowing others are as concerned about and accept Alanna for who she is ensures that I get a good night's sleep."

"It was like a dream," Bill Klein said. "I haven't been to an event like that for years."



Guest speaker Paul Loomis (left) with Employment Specialists Jennifer Retacco and Al Cuadrado



CAREERS client, John Lefurgy (second from left) enjoyed the event with his family and friends



Alanna Medlock (right) with her Employment Specialist Rebecca Appleyard



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CAREERS is a non-profit organization that finds productive employment for individuals with disabilities by providing placement, on-the-job training, and ongoing support services.

AWARDS OF APPRECIATION



CAREERS
client John
Hannon
presents an
Award of
Appreciation to
Carmen Vega,
MasterCard
Worldwide

Employment Specialist, Al Cuadrado
(left) presenting an Award of Apprecia-
tion to Anthony Fontana, Costco



CAREERS is able to provide its services free of charge to hundreds of disabled clients each year because many individuals and organizations support us financially. The following people, companies and foundations were recognized at this year's Annual Anniversary Celebration for their outstanding support of our agency:

MasterCard Worldwide
Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins
Senator Vincent Liebell
The Louise & Arde Bulova Fund
Walmart
Costco
The J.M. McDonald Foundation
Diversified Investment Advisors
Philip Adimari



CAREERS client Tom Adimari
(left) presents his father Phil
Adimari (past Board of Directors
president) with an Award of
Appreciation

CAREERS STAYS STRONG DESPITE A WEAK ECONOMY!

The economy has been challenging for all of us — particularly for non-profits. However, I am happy to report that **CAREERS continues to be very successful and fiscally sound.**

People with disabilities are adversely affected more than most in a difficult economy. Our services are needed now more than ever, and it is imperative that we continue to fundraise throughout the year. **Every dollar we receive enables CAREERS to provide job placement and long-term employment services to every individual who needs our services.**

Be assured that **there is absolutely no "pork" in our budget.** CAREERS has once again earned the Better Business Bureau Accredited Charity Seal which is only given to charities that meet rigorous standards. We are truly dedicated to our mission and proud of our fiscal responsibility. The vast majority (85%) of your donations go directly toward providing services to disabled individuals while the rest goes towards other expenses such as administration and fundraising.

We can only provide services with your help. **Together, we can help individuals with disabilities become employed, stay employed and improve the quality of their lives.**

Special Tribute Donations:

Marci Mehler
From Roberta Mehler

Henry C. & Nancy E. McCants, Jr.
From Wayne Preston McCants

Robin Scheer
From S. Zachary Scheer

Jason Strilowich
From Mary Ann Kunert

Warren Family
The Wiston Family

TALENTED ARTIST BILL

KLEIN is a CAREERS client who recently drew a caricature of our Valhalla office staff as a way to thank us for our help. He drew the



caricature from the photo below – taken at our annual anniversary celebration. Bill has a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Pratt Institute, and creates wonderful portraits, caricatures, pet portraits, home renderings and flower paintings – all at a reasonable cost. You can see more of Bill's work or contact him for his services at www.bkstudio.org.

CAREERS Staff Are Working For YOU

"Success is not measured by what you accomplish but by the opposition you have encountered, and the courage with which you have maintained the struggle against overwhelming odds."

~ Orison Swett Marden



Bottom row (left to right) Communications & Outreach Coordinator Nancy Burkley, Employment Specialist Blair Wilson, Executive Director Tina Cornish-Lauria, Employment Specialists Marielena Behnken and Allison Hochberg, and Carmel Program Coordinator Rebecca Appleyard.

Top (left to right) Executive Secretary Kathy Shallo, Fiscal Manager Donna Cappelli, Employment Specialists Christine Place, Mary Filipponi and Al Cuadrado, Valhalla Program Coordinator Jennifer Retacco, Transition Coordinator Marie O'Connor, Employment Specialist Serena Shea, Secretary Linda Portsmouth and Employment Specialist Cassandra Monahan.

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION SPECIAL AWARDS

Each year, we honor those clients and colleagues who have earned special recognition for their outstanding support of our program. Here are the 2009 Special Award winners:



Employee of the Year

Damon Cook (left) was the 2009 Employee of the Year for his outstanding work at the law firm Tangredi & Associates, White Plains. Damon works there as a file clerk running business errands, which include going to the bank and courthouse several times a day. He does it all with a positive attitude, according to owner, Peter Tangredi (right).



Employer of the Year

Ron Forehand (right) President and CEO of The Hudson Valley Gateway Chamber of Commerce accepted the award on behalf of the Chamber. The Chamber has employed three CAREERS' clients over the years, including Joe Cuatt (center). Carmel Program Coordinator, Rebecca Appleyard, helped present the award.



Co-Worker of the Year

Isolene Arnold, team manager at Target, accepted the 2009 Co-Worker of the Year Award, as well as a hug by Wendell Vlachos. Isolene spent extra time and effort to help Wendell learn new job tasks this year, according to Blair Wilson, Wendell's Employment Specialist.



Supervisor of the Year

Jamie Smith, Store Manager at Stop & Shop, Port Chester, received the Supervisor of the Year Award for his record of hiring qualified CAREERS' clients and for readily making accommodations as needed. Last year alone, he hired a total of six CAREERS clients!

RAFFLE WINNER AND CAREERS WIN BIG

All it took for Deborah Helmke to make some money fast was to buy a CAREERS' 50/50 raffle ticket. Deborah's \$1,459 richer after winning this year's Anniversary Celebration raffle. The other half of the winnings benefits CAREERS' supported work program.

"It's great," Deborah said. "We've recently moved to Massachusetts, and I'm a knitter who wants to start a little business. I've put the money aside for that."

Thanks to everyone who purchased a raffle ticket. The proceeds enable us to offer our services free of charge to clients and employers.



Outstanding Program Support

Joseph Bravo, Executive Director (right) and Victor Clark, Program Coordinator (center), both of the Westchester Independent Living Center (WILC), received Awards for Outstanding Program Support. They collaborate regularly with CAREERS to comprehensively prepare individuals with disabilities for jobs. Client Jackie James (left) presented them with their Award.



Outstanding Parental Support

During the many years Craig Haviland (left) has been a CAREERS' client, Linda Haviland, his mother, has always been closely involved in helping him succeed. Her feedback and guidance has made his transition to the work world smooth and successful and helped him achieve his goals.



Going the Extra Mile Award

Jason Strilowich (center) received the Going the Extra Mile Award for his hard work at Hudson Valley Community Services-UCP removing snow in the early morning hours during one of the harshest winters in recent history. Jason's parents, John and Janet, are very proud of his accomplishments.



Outstanding Advocate Award

Virginia Reiser, service coordinator at Westchester Jewish Community Services (WJCS), received the Outstanding Advocate Award for her dedication to all her clients, especially CAREERS client John Lefurgy (center). Virginia is always quick to identify John's needs and the services to which he is entitled. She is also an outstanding case manager, according to Employment Specialist Al Cuadrado (left).



Personal Achievement Awards

Naomi Card, Jessica Ekback and Andrea Lenski received Personal Achievement Awards for the immense progress they have made – both personally and professionally. All three award winners have very strong work ethics and are reliable and loyal employees, family members and friends.

Left to right: Employment Specialist Marielena Behnken and Naomi Card; Employment Specialist Serena Shea and Jessica Ekback; Employment Specialist Mary Filipponi and Andrea Lenski



Congratulations to the following individuals and their employers celebrating anniversaries in 2009, who we honored at our Annual Anniversary Celebration in June:

One Year Anniversary

Kenny Austin, Plaza at Clover Lake, Carmel
Robert Baldera, White Plains Post Office
Robin Baldera, Stop & Shop, White Plains
***Andrew Basista**, T.G.I. Fridays, Tarrytown
Barbara Bellantoni, Stop & Shop, Yonkers
Erik Burstein, CVS, White Plains
Vicky Byrd, ShopRite, Croton-on-Hudson
Demetrius Darby, Stop & Shop, Yonkers
Noah Feld, Stop & Shop, Yonkers
Leonard Fiacco, Home Depot, Brewster
Laurie Finger, CVS, Yorktown
Richard Giamelli, Staples, Elmsford & White Plains
Thomas Gollogly, Advocates for the Disabled, Mt. Kisco
Craig Haviland, Walmart, Cortlandt
Robert Heller, Ossining Public Library
Jeffrey Hernandez, College of Mount St. Vincent, Riverdale
***Thomas Kalbfus**, Chappaqua Transportation
Alice Knebel, Westchester Medical Center, Valhalla
Cassandra Lanton, K-Mart, Yorktown
***Jennifer LaSorsa**, Briarcliff Manor School District
Jennifer Messineo, Little People Day Care, Mahopac
Robert Miller, Putnam Ridge Rehab/Skilled Nursing Center, Brewster
David Pagan, ShopRite, Thornwood
Carolyn Paperno, Accent on Learning, Briarcliff Manor
William Seide, Stop & Shop, New Rochelle
Alexa Stevelman, South Salem Library
Jeffrey Tambascio, Home Depot, Hawthorne
Cynthia Wanamaker, Stop & Shop, New Rochelle
Jessalyn Winter, Stop & Shop, Port Chester

Two Year Anniversary

***Tara Assenzio**, A & P, Yonkers
Rachel Behrendt, CVS, Ossining
Chris Chipps, Rite Aid Pharmacy, Carmel
James Clarke, Putnam Hospital Center, Carmel
Camille Crea, Food Emporium, Eastchester
Joseph Dalena, A & P, Cortlandt
Mathew Delitta, Putnam Hospital Center, Carmel
Joseph Dolan, ProFitness Health Solutions, Armonk
Peter Earley, Goodwill Industries, Somers
Jessica Ekback, Hannaford Supermarket, Carmel
***Jason Emery**, Photo File, Mt. Kisco
Laurie Finger, CVS, Somers
Melissa Gelso, CVS, Pelham Manor
***Cord Glantz**, Kilik Technology, Spring Valley
***Jeff Handelman**, Home Depot, Brewster
Cassandra Lanton, Kohl's, Cortlandt Manor
Andrea Lenski, Goodwill Industries, Somers
***Markel Little**, Stop & Shop, New Rochelle
Kenneth Lyons, Photo File, Mt. Kisco
Michael Magrone, Putnam Hospital Ctr, Carmel
Chris Maloney, A & P, Brewster
Erik Olsen, A & P, Yorktown Heights
Patricia Palmer, Stop & Shop, New Rochelle
Jimmy Perdick, Turco's, Yorktown Heights
Betty Robinson, Goodwill Industries, Somers
Jason Strilowich, UCP/Hudson Valley Community Services, Brewster
Angelo Tetro, Royal Bus Company, Somers

Paolo Villon, ProFitness Health Solutions, Armonk
Jeff VonBargen, Putnam Hospital Center, Carmel

Three Year Anniversary

***Taryn Altamura**, Kendal-on-Hudson, Sleepy Hollow
Luke Campbell, Rite Aid Pharmacy, Mt. Kisco
***Anthony Castaldo**, Stop & Shop, Mt. Vernon
***Michael Chianca**, Home Depot, Brewster
***Samareh Dariani**, Chase Bank, Harrison
***Faith DeJulio**, Comfort Keepers, Cortlandt Manor
Laurie Finger, CVS, Mahopac
Kenny Gonzalez, CVS, Ossining
Peter Greenfield, Kendal-on-Hudson, Sleepy Hollow
Jacqueline James, Walmart, White Plains
Christine Kruska, CVS, White Plains
Darren Mathews, Goodwill Industries, Somers
Eileen Morra, Marshalls, Cortlandt
Joseph Morvillo, St. Patrick's Church, Yorktown Heights
***Brenda Nixon**, Kohl's, Port Chester
Karen Patrick, Putnam Hospital Center, Carmel
***Shakiri Pitt**, Doral Arrowwood, Rye Brook
James Resnik, Target, White Plains
Ariel Rowland, CVS, Scarsdale
Katherine Schoengood, Stop & Shop, Tarrytown
***Dorothy See**, United Cerebral Palsy, Patterson
***Judith Stern**, Artic Ice, Mamaroneck
***Tom Storms**, Mark Auto, Peekskill

Four Year Anniversary

Maria Amy, Putnam Ridge Rehab/Skilled Nursing Center, Brewster
***Cynthia Anderson**, Pathmark, Mt. Vernon
Vincent Canzone, Occupations, Inc., West Middletown
Naomi Card, A & P, Carmel
***Faith DeJulio**, Marshalls, Cortlandt
Frank DeSimone, Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Scarsdale
Christine Falco, Demonstrations, Inc., Yonkers
Noah Feld, Pathmark, Yonkers
Sheree Ferguson, Stop & Shop, Yonkers
Donte Gatewood, Pathmark, Hartsdale
James Gulmi, ShopRite, Carmel
***Erika Hall**, Pathmark, Mt. Vernon
***Bethany Hart**, Le Collage Salon, Mt. Kisco
Rosalie Knapick, Stop & Shop, New Rochelle
***Brian Major**, VA Hudson Valley Health Care Services, Montrose
***Antonio Marinelli**, Crothall @ Westchester Medical Center, Valhalla
Jessica Melnick, A & P, Mahopac
***Anthony Muia**, Town of Harrison
***Vicki Ong**, Carmel School District
***Martin Regan**, Katonah-Lewisboro School District
Andrew Resnik, Rudy's In-Flight Catering, White Plains
***Smith, Sheverlo**, River Bay Corporation, Bronx
Margaret Toy, Ossining Public Library, Ossining
Mark Treulieb, Pre-Cycled, Inc., Brewster
Wendell Vlachos, Target, Mt. Kisco
Kate Warren, Boys & Girls Club of Northern Westchester, Mt. Kisco

Five Year Anniversary

Thomas Adimari, Aramark (Chappaqua School District)
Gunther Buddenbaum, Mahopac Library, Mahopac
Jackie Ferraro, Over the Rainbow Learning Ctr, Brwster
***Nicole Gabel**, A & P, Mahopac
Joann Gilleo, Home Depot, Cortlandt
Lee Holt, Stop & Shop, Tarrytown
***Walter Schwer**, D'Agostino's, Rye Brook
William Stavrides, Arms Acres, Carmel
Michelle Vivenzio, Food Town, Cold Spring
Timothy Wigfall, N. Westchester Hospital, Mt. Kisco
Roxanne Williams, NYS Office of Professional Discipline, Port Chester

Six Year Anniversary

Frank Bologna, Stop & Shop, Tarrytown
Marc Cutri, Meetinghouse, Bedford Village
Ed Kennedy, Stop & Shop, White Plains
Patricia Lippoth, Boys & Girls Club of Northern Westchester, Mt. Kisco
Alanna Medlock, Marshalls, Cortlandt
John Moglia, Stop & Shop, Yonkers
Barbara Morgan, Stop & Shop, Ossining
Lisa Murphy, McDonald's, Ossining
Cindi Palermo, Target, White Plains
***Erica Rosario**, King Street Nursing Home, Rye Brook
***Walter Schwer**, Kraft/Nabisco, Newburgh
Nicky Simon, Target, White Plains
***Karl Somers**, Modell's, Pelham
Michael Wright, Costco Wholesale, Yonkers

Seven Year Anniversary

***Robert Aquilino**, Dunwoodie Golf Course, Yonkers
Kenny Austin, Carmel Movieplex 8, Carmel
Michael Danko, Home Goods, Somers
Lyle Davidson, S & H Uniforms, White Plains
***James Holdridge**, Putnam County Department of Social Services, Carmel
Nary LoPuzzo, ShopRite, Cortlandt
Linda Lubic, Stop & Shop, Somers
Greg Mancini, Carmel Movieplex 8, Carmel

Eight Year Anniversary

***Michael Catania**, Food Emporium, Rye Brook
***Hope Ciota**, Somers School District, Somers
Sheila Durkin, Over The Rainbow Learning Ctr, Brwster
Fred Jenkins, Stop & Shop, Mamaroneck
Peter Stanton, American Progressive, Rye Brook
***McClelland St. Cyr**, Babies 'R Us, Yonkers
Clifford Thoesen, Stop & Shop, Dobbs Ferry

Nine Year Anniversary

Judy Cignarella, Old Navy/The Gap, Cortlandt
Damon Cook, Tangredi & Associates, White Plains
***Michael Hayes**, Burke Rehabilitation Center, W. Plains
Kevin Nicholson, Costco Wholesale, Yonkers
***Richard Pirro**, PepsiCo, Purchase
***Neil Scarpelli**, White Plains Hospital Center

Ten Year Anniversary

***Stephanie Girling**, O'Connor, McGuinness, Conte, Doyle & Olsen, White Plains
John Hannon, Walmart, Cortlandt
Michael Harley, Larchmont Public Library, Larchmont
Christopher Hoch, Mrs. Green's Natural Market, Yorktown
Pasquale Scalfaro, Pet Smart, Cortlandt

Richard Valladares, BOCES, Yorktown

Eleven Year Anniversary

***Keith Gogola**, Home Depot, Mohegan Lake
***Joshua Judin**, Leake & Watts, Yonkers
Thomas McGowan, Curry Auto Group, Peekskill
***David Molnar**, White Plains Bus Company

Twelve Year Anniversary

Patricia Agnano, Old Navy/The Gap, Cortlandt
George Endres, Stop & Shop, North White Plains
Robin Halloway, ShopRite, Bedford Hills
Vincent Migliaccio, D'Agostino's, Rye Brook
Robin Scheer, Stop & Shop, Mamaroneck

Thirteen Year Anniversary

***Steven Carafa**, Westchester County Finance, W. Plains
Peter Coupe, Northern Westchester Hospital, Mt. Kisco
Ellen Culhane, Gap, Mt. Kisco
Manuel Gonzalez, Stop & Shop, Mamaroneck
***Jeffrey Jackson**, Gannett Suburban Newspapers, White Plains
Paul Loomis, Radio Shack, Yonkers
James Marinelli, Sears, Jefferson Valley
Marci Mehler, United Hebrew Geriatrics Ctr, N. Rochelle
Susan O'Donnell, A & P, Mahopac

Fourteen Year Anniversary

Milton Almodovar, Nordstrom Cafe, White Plains
Susan Amico, ShopRite, Bedford Hills

Fifteen Year Anniversary

Lisa Bernardo, Food Emporium, Harrison
John Lefurgy, A & P, Greenburgh
Scott Meyerson, ShopRite, Bedford Hills

Sixteen Year Anniversary

Thomas Culhane, A & P, Cortlandt
Bill Hawkins, A & P, Mt. Kisco
***Scott Treco**, Flaghouse Inc., Hasbrouck Heights, NJ

Seventeen Year Anniversary

Christopher Meyer, Curry Auto Group, Peekskill
Jacqueline Newburg, Whitson's Food Service, Peekskill

Nineteen Year Anniversary

***Mary Karras**, Stop & Shop, Ossining
***Roman Melnychuk**, Marriott, Dobbs Ferry
Angelina Ucci, Marshalls, Hartsdale

Twenty Year Anniversary

Michele Flores, N. Westchester Hospital, Mt. Kisco
Warren Forbes, Westchester County Dept. of Corrections, Valhalla

Twenty-Two Year Anniversary

***Vincent Avesato**, City of Rye, Dept. of Public Works
***Joseph Mazzari**, McDonald's, Hartsdale
Mark Nikitopoulos, Van Cortlandt School, Croton-on-Hudson

Twenty-Three Year Anniversary

***Mary Fitzgerald**, West. Co. Dept. Social Svcs., W. Plns

Twenty-Five Year Anniversary

Patty Polacek, Crothall at Westchester County Medical Center, Valhalla

Twenty-Eight Year Anniversary

***Gertrude Sherwood**, Montefiore Hospital, Bronx

**Successfully Competitively Employed in the Community*

CAREERS CLIENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES, FRIENDS, EMPLOYERS, AND SUPPORTERS ENJOY A SPECIAL AFTERNOON TOGETHER...



Thank you for your contribution to our supported work program!
Your contribution is tax-deductible to the limit allowed by law.