



INTO THE WORLD OF WORK

News for Families and Supporters

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www.careersforpeoplewithdisabilities.org

Number 31

Special Annual Anniversary Celebration Edition

Summer 2008

CAREERS 2008 Annual Anniversary Celebration

Two hundred and ten clients ecstatically celebrated their jobs and personal accomplishments at CAREERS Twelfth Annual Anniversary Celebration held in June. They have, after all, beaten the odds. A staggering 75% of people with disabilities in the United States are unemployed, but with the help of CAREERS, these clients have worked at satisfying jobs ranging from 1 to 27 years!

"We take this opportunity each year to recognize the outstanding contributions individuals with disabilities make in the workforce throughout Westchester and Putnam Counties, as well as recognizing the support local companies and foundations provide for needed services," said Tina Cornish-Lauria, Executive Director. Hundreds of clients, employers and guests gathered at the Crowne Plaza in White Plains on Wednesday, June 11th, to celebrate clients' employment anniversaries, as well as CAREERS 21st year as the most successful work program in the area.

"This is the Academy Awards of employment recognition," said Karen Warren, CAREERS board member and mother of CAREERS client Kate Warren. "It's a wonderful event and fantastic to see all the clients take such pride in their work, and the job coaches taking pride in their client's accomplishments."

Event sponsors included **American Progressive, Casper & Fischer LLP, John and Brenda Fareri, Shop Rite Supermarkets, United Martial Arts Centers, PepsiCo and Verizon.** "We are grateful to these generous organizations that have made it possible to host this popular event by providing donations that help defray the costs for this meaningful celebration," said Ms. Cornish-Lauria.

Following a buffet reception and social hour, Tina Cornish-Lauria hosted the award presentations, which included guest speakers **Robert Rainier**, father of client Kenneth Rainier, and **Lisa Tarricone**, Director of System Advocacy for Westchester Independent Living Center.

"I was very impressed," said a new client attending the event for the first time. He didn't want to be identified because some relatives aren't aware of his disability, but stated: "Seeing all these people celebrating work anniversaries makes me feel like there's hope."



Judy Cignarella (left) and Patty Agnano (right) celebrate 7 and 10 year anniversaries working at Old Navy in Cortlandt.



James Resnik (left) and brother Andrew (right) — both successful CAREERS clients — pause for a photo with their proud parents.



Mrs. And Mr. Hoch celebrate with their son Chris, who's worked 8 years at Mrs. Green's Natural Market in Yorktown.



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Published by
CAREERS for People
with Disabilities, Inc.

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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



Accepting an Award of Appreciation on behalf of the United Way of Westchester and Putnam is Chantel Raven, (left) Vice President of Research & Development. CAREERS Executive Director, Tina Cornish-Lauria (right), thanked the United Way for their years of significant financial support.

CAREERS success is a result of collaboration among many people and businesses. The following individuals and organizations received Awards of Appreciation at our Annual Anniversary Celebration for their outstanding financial support to our agency over the past year:

- Senator Vincent Leibell**
- United Way of Westchester and Putnam**
- The Louise and Arde Bulova Fund**
- Costco**
- Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins**
- The Max & Victoria Dreyfus Foundation**
- Diversified Investment Advisors**
- Hudson City Savings Bank**
- The Daniel Meilman Foundation**
- PepsiCo**

PepsiCo has been a corporate sponsor of this special event for many years. In addition, they also provided us with a grant this past year. Frank LoCastro (center), Manager of PepsiCo Corporate Health & Fitness, with CAREERS clients and PepsiCo employees Jan Parker (left) and Richard Pirro (right).



YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Financial contributions are needed for CAREERS to continue to help individuals with disabilities get jobs in the community. We rely on and need your continued support, and have enclosed a contribution envelope for your convenience.

Please keep in mind that in addition to general contributions, we gratefully accept and acknowledge all tax-deductible donations made "In tribute to . . .", "In honor of . . .", "In memory of . . .", "In lieu of flowers for . . .", etc.

Please remember to include CAREERS when giving generously on behalf of yourself and your loved ones. Thank You.

Special Tribute Donations:

Joe Dalena
from Loretta Dalena

Warren Forbes
from Abigail & Bob Kirsch

David R. Kerr
from Lois Sceppaquercia-Kerr

Michael Magrone
from Lynn A. Magrone

Marci Mehler
from Roberta Mehler

Kevin Nicholson
from Kevin & Verleta Nicholson

Verleta T. Nicholson
from Tanya Nicholson Miller

Jason Strilowich
from Mary Kunert

Kate Warren
from Jodi & Hal Levine

Donations in Honor of:

Warren Forbes
from Eric Forbes

Karen Warren
from The Wiston Family

Individual Commitment to a Group Effort

“Teamwork is the ability to work together toward a common vision. It is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results.”

The collective efforts of our staff over the past 21 years have made CAREERS the most successful supported work program in Westchester and Putnam Counties.



Bottom row (left to right) Secretary Linda Portsmouth, Program Coordinators Jennifer Retacco and Rebecca Appleyard, Employment Specialists Serena Shea, Allison Hochberg, and Marielena Behnken.

Top (left to right) Employment Specialist Al Cuadrado, Executive Secretary Kathy Shallo, Employment Specialist Christine Doyle, Transition Coordinator Marie O'Connor, Employment Specialist Cassandra Alicea, Executive Director Tina Cornish-Lauria, Employment Specialists Blair Wilson and Mary Filipponi, Fiscal Manager Donna Cappelli and Communications & Outreach Coordinator Nancy Burkley.

Anniversary Celebration Special Awards

Each year, we honor those clients and associates who have earned special recognition for their outstanding support and work during the year. The 2008 Anniversary Celebration Special Award winners include:



Employee of the Year

Marci Mehler (left) received the 2008 Employee of the Year Award for her outstanding work at the United Hebrew Geriatrics Center in New Rochelle where she has been a messenger for 15 years. Marci's Employment Specialist, Allison Hochberg (right), said that Marci is a responsible and hardworking employee, who often goes above and beyond her duties.



Best New Employer of the Year

Bryan Reilly (right) accepted the award on behalf of PhotoFile in Mount Kisco, which employs several CAREERS clients, including Victor Padilla (center). Blair Wilson, Victor's Employment Specialist, is on the left.



Supervisor of the Year

CAREERS Employment Specialist, Serena Shea (left) with CAREERS 2008 Supervisor of the Year, Laura Brunow (center) and CAREERS client James Clarke (right), whom Ms. Bruno supervises in the housekeeping department at Putnam Hospital Center in Carmel. Laura uses encouragement, support and praise to supervise James and four other CAREERS clients.



Employer of the Year

Stop & Shop received the 2008 Employer of the Year Award for outstanding support of CAREERS clients. Twenty-six clients currently work at various Stop & Shops throughout Westchester, with six at the New Rochelle store alone. CAREERS client Rosalie Knapick (left), who's worked at Stop & Shop for three years, accepted the award on their behalf, along with her Employment Specialist, Allison Hochberg.

Employer Advocate of the Year

Eddie Walsh

Outstanding Program Support

Dan O'Shea & Mark Ridgeway of VESID

Significant Other Award

Sari Gibson

Outstanding Advocate Award

Executive Director of Advocates for the Disabled, Miriam Kerstein (center left), received the 2008 Outstanding Advocate Award for her constant, untiring involvement with people with disabilities. CAREERS clients (left to right) Bill Hawkins, Ellen Culhane, and Tom Gollogly presented her with the award and praised her for her exceptional advocacy on their behalf.



Outstanding Parental Support

Karen Warren (center) received the Outstanding Parental Support Award for her involvement with her daughter, Kate (left) who is successfully employed through CAREERS supported work program. Karen's concern for the disabled extends beyond her daughter as she serves on our Board of Directors. Next to Kate is her father, Robert Warren, and sister, Rachel Warren.



Congratulations to all!

Personal Achievement Awards

Jennifer Messineo (right) was very proud to receive a Personal Achievement Award for her personal and professional progress throughout the year. As a single mom, she successfully juggles work with raising her daughter Allissa (left).



Angelina Ucci (left) also received a Personal Achievement Award for her accomplishments. Angelina, who has worked at Marshall's for over 18 years, celebrates with her Employment Specialist, Jennifer Retacco.

RAFFLE WINNER AND CAREERS WIN BIG

The next time a relative or friend asks you to buy a CAREERS raffle ticket, just say "yes." That's what raffle winner Michael Chisholm did when his wife's cousin, Employment Specialist Blair Wilson, asked him to buy a ticket at Easter dinner.

"I'm ecstatic to be \$1,500 richer," says Chisholm. The Audubon, New Jersey resident split \$3,000 in CAREERS Anniversary Celebrations' 50/50 Raffle. The other 50 percent benefits our supported work programs. **This is the highest jackpot in the 12 years our agency has organized this fundraiser.**

Thank you to everyone who purchased a raffle ticket. The proceeds enable CAREERS to offer its valuable services free of charge to clients and employers.



***Congratulations to the following individuals and their employers celebrating anniversaries in 2008,
who we honored at our Twelfth Annual Anniversary Celebration:***

One Year Anniversary

Tara Assenzio, A & P, Yonkers
Rachel Behrendt, CVS, Ossining
Cindy Braia, Edible Arrangements, Carmel
Chris Chipps, Rite Aid Pharmacy, Carmel
James Clarke, Putnam Hospital Center, Carmel
Camille Crea, Food Emporium, Eastchester
Joseph Dalena, A & P, Cortlandt
William Dance, Century Protective Services, White Plains
Mathew Delitta, Putnam Hospital Center, Carmel
Joseph Dolan, ProFitness Health Solutions, Armonk
Peter Earley, Goodwill Industries, Somers
Jessica Ekback, Hannaford Supermarket, Carmel
***Jason Emery**, PhotoFile, Mt. Kisco
Christine Falco, Genworth Financial, Tarrytown
Susan Felicione, Kohl's, Cortlandt Manor
Laurie Finger, CVS, Somers
Angela Fradella, Carmel School District, Patterson and
 Alicia Desio, Mahopac
Melissa Gelso, CVS, Pelham Manor
Cord Glantz, Kilk 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, PhotoFile, Mt. Kisco
Michael Magrone, Putnam Hospital Center, Carmel
Chris Maloney, A & P, Brewster
Jennifer Messineo, The Children's Imaginarium, Carmel
Alex Newman, Walmart, White Plains
Erik Olsen, A & P, Yorktown Heights
***Victor Padilla**, PhotoFile, Mt. Kisco
Patricia Palmer, Stop & Shop, New Rochelle
Latoya Parker, Goodwill Industries, Somers
Jimmy Perdick, Turco's, Yorktown Heights
Kenneth Rainier, Stop & Shop, New Rochelle
***Joanne Rescigno**, Women's Center, Mahopac and
 Arms Acres, Carmel
***Bruce Rescorl**, Genworth Financial, Tarrytown
Betty Robinson, Goodwill Industries, Somers
Jason Strilowich, United Cerebral Palsy, Patterson
Susan Suskind, Lois Bronz Center, White Plains
Angelo Tetro, Ambry Bus Company, Somers
Walter Thomas, Stop & Shop, North White Plains
Bernadette Tyson, Green Chimneys School, Brewster
Chris Venuti, Putnam Hospital Center, Carmel
Victoria Vig, CVS, White Plains
Paolo Villon, ProFitness Health Solutions, Armonk
Jeff VonBargen, Putnam Hospital Center, Carmel
Anthony Wallace, Hudson Valley Gateway Chamber, Peekskill

Two Year Anniversary

***Taryn Altamura**, Kendal-on-Hudson, Sleepy Hollow
Robert Baldera, Stop & Shop, White Plains
Robert Becker, Occupations, Inc., West Middletown
Tierra Beechum, CVS, Scarsdale
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
Christine Kruska, CVS, White Plains
***Dan Livulpi**, Putnam Hospital Center, Carmel
Darren Mathews, Goodwill Industries, Somers
Jim McDougal, Home Depot, Fishkill
Eileen Morra, Marshall's, Cortlandt
Joseph Morvillo, St. Patrick's Church, Yorktown Heights
***Brenda Nixon**, Kohl's, Port Chester
Kazumi Okura, Stop & Shop, Eastchester
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
Roxanne Williams, H & R Block, Mt. Vernon
Peter Zorovich, D'Agostino's, Chappaqua

Three Year Anniversary

Maria Amy, Putnam Ridge Rehab & Skilled Nursing Ctr, Brewster
***Cynthia Anderson**, Pathmark, Mt. Vernon
Grant Brokate, D'Agostino's, Cross River
Vincent Canzone, Occupations, Inc., West Middletown
Naomi Card, A & P, Carmel
***Faith DeJulio**, Marshall's, 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
***Vincent Giammarinaro**, Stop & Shop, N. White Plains
James Gulmi, ShopRite, Carmel
Erika Hall, Pathmark, Mt. Vernon
***Bethany Hart**, Le Collage Salon, Mt. Kisco
Sarah Kim, United Hebrew Geriatric Ctr, New Rochelle
Rosalie Knapick, Stop & Shop, New Rochelle
***Brian Major**, VA Hudson Valley Health Care Svcs, Montrose
Monique Mango, Stop & Shop, Yonkers
***Antonio Marinelli**, Crothall @ Westchester Medical Ctr, Valhalla
Jessica Melnick, A & P, Mohegan Lake
***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
Sheverlo Smith, River Bay Corporation, Bronx
Margaret Toy, Ossining Public Library, Ossining
Mark Treulieb, Pre-Cycled Commercial Printers, Brewster
Wendell Vlachos, Target, Mt. Kisco
Kate Warren, Boys & Girls Club of N. Westchester, Mt. Kisco

Four Year Anniversary

Thomas Adimari, Aramark (Katonah-Lewisboro School District), Cross River
Gunther Buddenbaum, Mahopac Library, Mahopac
Joseph Cariddo, A & P, Carmel
Jackie Ferraro, Over the Rainbow Learning Ctr, Brewster
***Nicole Gabel**, A & P, Mahopac
Joann Gilleo, Home Depot, Cortlandt

Lee Holt, Stop & Shop, Tarrytown
 Carol Julian, Home Depot, Brewster
 Gino Lucadamo, Applebee's, Mt. Kisco
 Mary Lou Pullicino, Staples, Port Chester
 *Debra Roviezzo, Wellpoint, Inc., Yorktown
 *Walter Schwer, D'Agostino's, Rye Brook
 William Stavrides, Arms Acres, Carmel
 Michelle Vivenzio, Food Town, Cold Spring
 *Priscilla Waller, Food Emporium, Bronxville
 Timothy Wigfall, N. Westchester Hospital, Mt. Kisco
 Roxanne Williams, NYS Office of Professional Discipline, P. Chester

Five Year Anniversary

Frank Bologna, Stop & Shop, Tarrytown
 Joseph Cuatt, Home Depot, Cortlandt
 Marc Cutri, Meetinghouse Restaurant, Bedford
 Susan Golden, Marshall's, Cortlandt
 Ed Kennedy, Stop & Shop, White Plains
 Patricia Lippoth, Boys & Girls Club of N. Westchester, Mt. Kisco
 Alanna Medlock, Marshall's, 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 Home, Rye Brook
 *Walter Schwer, Kraft/Nabisco, Newburgh
 Nicky Simon, Target, White Plains
 *Karl Somers, Modell's, Pelham
 Michael Wright, Costco Wholesale, Yonkers

Six 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 Cty Dept. of Social Services, Carmel
 Nary LoPuzzo, ShopRite, Cortlandt
 Linda Lubic, Stop & Shop, Somers
 Greg Mancini, Carmel Movieplex 8, Carmel

Seven Year Anniversary

*Michael Catania, Food Emporium, Rye Brook
 *Hope Ciota, Somers School District, Somers
 Derek Deinhardt, Putnam Hospital Center, Carmel
 Sheila Durkin, Over The Rainbow Learning Ctr, Brewster
 Fred Jenkins, Stop & Shop, Mamaroneck
 Sara Milich, Croton Free Library, Croton-on-Hudson
 Peter Stanton, American Progressive, Rye Brook
 McClelland St. Cyr, Babies 'R Us, Yonkers
 Clifford Thoesen, Stop & Shop, Dobbs Ferry

Eight Year Anniversary

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

Nine Year Anniversary

*Stephanie Girling, O'Connor, McGuinness, Conte, Doyle & Olsen, White Plains
 John Hannon, Wal-Mart, Cortlandt
 Michael Harley, Larchmont Public Library, Larchmont
 Christopher Hoch, Mrs. Green's Natural Mkt, Yorktown
 *Martin Regan, CarQuest, Armonk

Pasquale Scalfaro, Pet Smart, Cortlandt
 Richard Valladares, BOCES, Yorktown

Ten 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, W. Plains

Eleven Year Anniversary

Patricia Agnano, Old Navy/The Gap, Cortlandt
 George Endres, Stop & Shop, North White Plains
 Calvin Harris, McDonald's, Mahopac
 Vincent Migliaccio, D'Agostino's, Rye Brook
 Robin Scheer, Stop & Shop, Mamaroneck

Twelve Year Anniversary

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

Thirteen Year Anniversary

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

Fourteen Year Anniversary

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

Fifteen Year Anniversary

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

Sixteen Year Anniversary

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

Eighteen Year Anniversary

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

Nineteen Year Anniversary

Michelle Flores, N. Westchester Hospital, Mt. Kisco
 Warren Forbes, Westchester Cty Dept. of Corrections, Valhalla

Twenty-One Year Anniversary

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

Twenty-Two Year Anniversary

*Mary Fitzgerald, Westchester County Dept. of Social Services, W. Plains

Twenty-Four Year Anniversary

Patty Polacek, Crothall, @ Westchester County Medical Center, Valhalla

Twenty-Seven Year Anniversary

*Gertrude Sherwood, Montefiore Hospital, Bronx

**Clients that have successfully graduated from our program to become competitively employed in the community.*

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



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