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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August , 2011

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CAREERS for People with Disabilities, Inc. Receives First-time Grant from the Community Foundation of Dutchess County

VALHALLA, New York – CAREERS for People with Disabilities, Inc. has received a \$5,000 grant to assist with its School-to-Work Transition Program for students with disabilities throughout Putnam County. The grant was given to the non-profit organization by the Community Foundation of Dutchess County, an affiliate of the Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley. The funding will help disabled high school students transition to the workforce by maximizing their ability to find and keep a job. This is one of the first grants the foundation has awarded in Putnam County.

“This funding will help students with disabilities in real need, who often face extraordinary challenges when seeking employment. Our transition program will enable them to become financially and socially independent after they graduate and truly integrate into and contribute to society,” said Tina Cornish-Lauria, Executive Director of CAREERS. “We are very grateful to Community Foundation of the Dutchess County for this support that significantly improves the quality of lives of individuals with disabilities living in Putnam County.”

CAREERS will use this funding for their School-to-Work Transition Program which bridges the gap between traditional education and entry into the workforce for students with disabilities to solve the chronic unemployment prevalent among disabled young people. Through the program, CAREERS conducts job readiness classes, completes individual needs and skills assessments, and teaches interviewing and job skills. This unique program often places students in internships so they can gain job experience that will eventually lead to long-term employment.

Last year, CAREERS launched an innovative program with the Carmel School District to provide services to disabled students, as well as training to teacher aides. This is the first time a program of this kind has been implemented and an agency like ours has collaborated so directly, and effectively, with a school district in Putnam County. CAREERS conducted outreach to all 5 local schools, received 35 student referrals, and placed 18 students in new jobs within Putnam County in 2010.

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 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. For more information, please visit www.careersforpeoplewithdisabilities.org.

About the Community Foundations

Established in 1969, Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley and its affiliates, Community Foundation of Dutchess County, Community Foundation of Ulster County and the Community Foundation of Putnam County administer more than 500 charitable funds established by donors who primarily live in Dutchess, Putnam and Ulster counties. Since the Foundation's inception, more than \$16 million in grants and scholarships have been awarded throughout the Hudson Valley and beyond. For more information about the community foundations, how you can establish a charitable fund or make a gift, call 845-452-3077 in Dutchess and Putnam or 845-338-2535 in Ulster or visit www.cfhvny.org.

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Left to right: Marie O'Connor, High School Transition Coordinator for Putnam County – CAREERS for People with Disabilities; Christina “Tina” Cornish-Lauria, Executive Director – CAREERS for People with Disabilities; Matt Marrone, Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley Trustee; Andrea L. Reynolds, President and CEO – Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley; Nevill Smythe, Vice President, Programs – Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley