



# INTO THE WORLD OF WORK

## News for Families and Supporters

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Number 36    **Our 2012 job placements have increased 12% over the previous year!**    Winter 2012

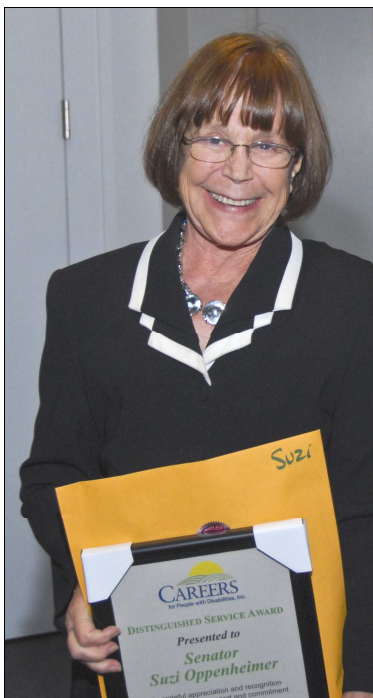
## CAREERS 25TH ANNUAL ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

For 25 years, CAREERS has helped individuals with disabilities get jobs and become independent, contributing members of society. On September 13<sup>th</sup>, over 200 people, including New York State Senator Suzi Oppenheimer and Assemblyman Robert Castelli, commemorated our momentous anniversary at PepsiCo World Headquarters in Purchase, New York.

CAREERS honored 213 clients celebrating employment anniversaries ranging up to 31 years, as well as the many businesses who provide jobs. "It always blows me away that so many clients have been employed for 10 or 20 years or longer," **Senator Oppenheimer** told the audience. "This is sustainability we don't even see in the non-disabled community today. And it's CAREERS' selectivity, care and support that has created this enviable record."

**PepsiCo EnAble**, an organizational committee within **PepsiCo**, hosted the event at PepsiCo's beautiful facilities, providing great food and refreshments. PepsiCo EnAble embraces inclusion for different abilities and all those that are caregivers. Other event sponsors included **Curry Automotive, Marianne & Patrick Brown, The Kitson Law Firm, ShopRite Supermarkets and Universal American.**

The Annual Anniversary Celebration enables clients to publicly celebrate another year of work and self-sufficiency. It provides the opportunity to recognize clients, employers and personal supporters who have gone above and beyond to ensure success during this past year. "To have been part of this journey has been one of the most important things I've done; it makes me proud," Oppenheimer said.



Senator Oppenheimer received a Distinguished Service Award from CAREERS for her consistent support of CAREERS and her 27 years of public service.



(left to right) CAREERS staff Nancy Burkley, Tina Cornish-Lauria, Serena Shea, Mary Filipponi, Rebecca Appleyard, and Marie O'Connor cutting the cake with Major Sponsor Sara Aldous.



### ***Into the World of Work***

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with Disabilities, Inc.

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

## **ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION SPECIAL AWARDS**

We are proud to honor the following clients and colleagues who have earned special recognition for outstanding support and representation of our program.

**Employee of the Year** Lyle Davidson was recognized by his Employment Specialist, Allison Scorca, as Employee of the Year for his 10 years of dedicated service to S&H Uniforms in White Plains. For Lyle, his work is not just a job. He truly loves the organization and the people he works with, and it shows.



**Employer of the Year** ShopRite provides a great work environment for the 14 CAREERS clients it currently employs, as well as the many other clients who have worked there over the years. (l to r) Carmel ShopRite Manager Mike Schoendorf, Thornwood Managers Peter Romero and Grace Richards, Peekskill Managers Lisa Hodgkinson and Cathy Grisanti, Bedford Hills HR Manager Diana Cardenas and Bedford Hills Manager Seth Wertz with CAREERS client **Scott Meyerson**.



### **Supervisor of the Year**

(l to r) **Chris Surovich**, Circulation and Tech Dept. Manager at the Ossining Public Library, has partnered with CAREERS since 2005. Chris received her award from Employment Specialist Blair Wilson and Peggy Toy, a CAREERS client who has worked at the library for 7 years.



### **Personal Achievement Awards**

Several individuals who demonstrated tremendous personal and professional growth during the year despite many challenges were honored for their perseverance and dedication.



**Michele Flores** (l) with her Employment Specialist Blair Wilson, celebrate that Michele has worked at Northern Westchester Hospital Center for over 20 years. A hard worker, considerate and helpful, she was recently nominated for a special hospital recognition award.

**Amy Maiorano** (l) is CAREERS' first student to be offered a paid job after participating in our High School Internship Program. "Amy is loved by the kids and the staff alike at *Over the Rainbow Learning Center*, and is very dependable," according to her Employment Specialist Marie O'Connor (r).







**Sandra Samuels (left)** with her Employment Specialist Marie O'Connor celebrate Sandra's Achievement Award for flourishing in her job and personal life this year. Sandra works at

Turco's, and credits Marie, CAREERS and Turco's for helping her develop pride in her work and financial security.

**Joey Sbarra** with one of his managers at A & P in Brewster. He received a Personal Achievement Award for developing great confidence in his job, enabling him to excel in his tasks and in his interactions with customers.



### Most Improved

**Kayla Noga** (left), pictured with her Employment Specialist Marielena Behnken, has come a long way in her job this year at Edible Arrangements in Carmel where she prepares intricate fruit baskets. She's so skilled that her co-workers come to her for advice on preparing arrangements.



### Outstanding Program Support

**Gwenn Canfield**, ACCES-VR's District Coordinator of Workforce Development and Business Relations (left) received an award for being an exceptional advocate for people with disabilities. Employment Specialist Jennifer Retacco (right) congratulates Gwenn for her dedication and support.



### Outstanding Parental Support

**Laurie Crimando** (left) received an award for outstanding support of her daughter Shannon, (right), both on and off the job. Laurie has gone beyond the normal expectations of a parent to ensure that Shannon is comfortable and sup-

ported while striving for new achievements. "I made a decision that I would not let my daughter's ability define who she is. But I'm not the hero, my daughter is," Laurie said.



Several special award recipients were unable to attend the Anniversary Celebration this year because of prior commitments. The following companies and individuals were recognized for their support of our program:

**Terri Petraro**, Turco's Front End Manager, was named [Supervisor of the Year](#) for her tremendous support of client Sandra Samuels as well as the many clients she has hired and trained over the years.

**Brian Varian**, Barnes & Noble Manager, has been extremely supportive and helpful teaching CAREERS client Shannon Crimando new job tasks and helping her build confidence on the job. For his support and exemplary management skills CAREERS honored him with a [Supervisor Recognition Award](#).

**Carmela Oliveri**, Assistant Director of Nutritional Services, received the [Outstanding Advocate Award](#) for working with client Michele Flores for 35 years! During that time she has provided Michele with support and advice at the Northern Westchester Hospital Center where they both work in the kitchen.

### Awards of Appreciation

CAREERS is able to provide its services free of charge because of the many individuals and organizations who contribute to us financially. This year, we recognized the following people, companies and foundations for their outstanding support of our agency. Our sincere thanks to these special organizations whose contributions enabled us to find jobs and provide ongoing support for hundreds of client in 2012:

- \* **BJ's Charitable Foundation**
- \* **Daniel Meilman Foundation**
- \* **Hitachi Metals America & Hitachi Foundation**
- \* **Hudson City Savings Bank**
- \* **IBM**
- \* **Max & Victoria Dreyfus Foundation**
- \* **Printing Solutions**

***Congratulations to the following individuals and their employers celebrating anniversaries in 2012, who we honored at our Annual Anniversary Celebration in September:***

**One Year Anniversary**

**Peter Auerbach**, ShopRite, White Plains  
**Isabel Bradley**, Over the Rainbow Learning Ctr, Brewster  
**Greg Brown**, Berger Hardware, Hawthorne  
**Marc Cutri**, Village Social, Mt. Kisco  
**Judy Danner**, Marshalls, Brewster  
**Joe Dalena**, Turco's Super Ranch, Yorktown Hts.  
**Eric David**, ShopRite, Thornwood  
**Derek Deinhardt**, Goodwill Industries, Wappinger Falls  
**Harold Fajardo**, Kohl's, Brewster  
**Edward Giannone**, Marshalls, Brewster  
**Anthony Gilmore**, Milton Elementary School, Rye  
**Ashley Hammond**, Over the Rainbow Learning Ctr, Brewster  
**Johnny Jiminez**, Esposito Builders, Peekskill  
**Richard Kaufman**, New York Sports Club, Dobbs Ferry  
**Jennifer Lipton**, New York Sports Club, Dobbs Ferry  
**Amy Maiorano**, Over the Rainbow Learning Ctr, Brewster  
**Danielle Nardi**, ShopRite, Thornwood  
**Kayla Noga**, Edible Arrangements, Carmel  
**Erik Olsen**, Wash 'n Dry, Cortlandt Manor  
**Danielle Roveto**, Over the Rainbow Learning Ctr, Brewster  
**Debbie Roviezzo**, Stop & Shop, Somers  
**Sandra Samuels**, Turco's Super Ranch, Yorktown Heights  
**William Seide**, Stop & Shop, Mamaroneck  
**Carmine Stignone**, ShopRite, Croton on Hudson

**Two Year Anniversary**

**Robert Baldera**, Stop & Shop, North White Plains  
**\*Stephen Bogucki**, Plaza at Clover Lake, Carmel  
**\*Anthony Castaldo**, Target, Mt. Vernon  
**Shannon Crimando**, Barnes & Noble, White Plains  
**Daniel Doherty**, Stop & Shop, Eastchester  
**\*Vincent Giammarinaro**, ShopRite, New Rochelle  
**Gerome Gooden**, K-Mart, Mahopac  
**Monica Green**, Stop & Shop, Port Chester  
**\*William Harmon**, ShopRite, Scarsdale  
**\*Katie Haviland**, Marshalls, Brewster  
**David Kokiadis**, Stop & Shop, White Plains  
**Pamela Quintero**, Westcop/Putnam Headstart, Brewster  
**\*Ariel Rowland**, Empowerment Center, Mt. Vernon  
**Joseph Sbarra**, A & P, Brewster  
**\*Will Smith**, New York Sports Club, Croton  
**Jonathan Terminello**, Stop & Shop, Port Chester  
**Mark Treulieb**, Patterson Auto Body, Patterson  
**Roxanne Williams**, The Westchester News

**Three Year Anniversary**

**Joe Cuatt**, Hudson Valley Gateway Chamber of Commerce, Peekskill  
**\*Matthew Findra**, ShopRite, Thornwood  
**John Fleming**, New York Sports Club, Carmel  
**\*Anthony Gilmore**, Rye High School, Rye  
**\*Charles Hunt**, Stop & Shop, Dobbs Ferry  
**\*Andrew Jackson**, Stop & Shop, Port Chester  
**Paul Loomis**, Baker's, Yonkers  
**Clayton Lopez**, Target, Mt. Kisco  
**\*Kathleen Manton**, Best Friends, White Plains  
**Raymond Orteig**, Stop & Shop, Port Chester  
**Mary Lou Pullicino**, Stop & Shop, Port Chester  
**James Sloat**, ShopRite, Peekskill  
**Victoria Vig**, Stop & Shop, Port Chester  
**\*Paolo Villon**, Stop & Shop, Port Chester

**Michael Werner**, ShopRite, Peekskill  
**\*Peter Zorovich**, ShopRite, Thornwood

**Four Year Anniversary**

**Kenny Austin**, Plaza at Clover Lake, Carmel  
**Robin Baldera**, Stop & Shop, White Plains  
**\*Andrew Basista**, T.G.I. Fridays, Tarrytown  
**Barbara Bellantoni**, Stop & Shop, Yonkers  
**Vicky Byrd**, ShopRite, Croton-on-Hudson  
**Demetrius Darby**, Stop & Shop, Yonkers  
**Laurie Finger**, CVS, Yorktown  
**Thomas Gollogly**, Advocates for the Disabled, Mt. Kisco  
**Craig Haviland**, Walmart, Cortlandt  
**\*Jeffrey Hernandez**, College of Mount St. Vincent, Riverdale  
**\*Thomas Kalbfus**, Chappaqua Transportation  
**Cassandra Lanton**, K-Mart, Yorktown  
**\*Jennifer LaSorsa**, Briarcliff Manor School District  
**Robert Miller**, Putnam Ridge Rehab & Skilled Nursing Center, Brewster  
**Carolyn Paperno**, Accent on Learning, Briarcliff Manor  
**Cynthia Wanamaker**, Stop & Shop, New Rochelle

**Five Year Anniversary**

**Chris Chipps**, Rite Aid Pharmacy, Carmel  
**James Clarke**, Putnam Hospital Center, Carmel  
**Camille Crea**, Food Emporium, Eastchester  
**Matthew Delitta**, Putnam Hospital Center, Carmel  
**Joseph Dolan**, Take Care Health Systems @ Swiss Re Health Club, Armonk  
**Peter Earley**, Goodwill Industries, Somers  
**Jessica Ekback**, Hannaford Supermarket, Carmel  
**\*Jason Emery**, Photo File, Mt. Kisco  
**Laurie Finger**, CVS, Somers  
**\*Cord Glantz**, Kilk Technology, Spring Valley  
**Chris Gleason**, Ossining Public Library, Ossining  
**\*Jeff Handelman**, Home Depot, Brewster  
**Andrea Lenski**, Goodwill Industries, Somers  
**Kenneth Lyons**, Photo File, Mt. Kisco  
**Michael Magrone**, Putnam Hospital Center, Carmel  
**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**, Take Care Health Systems @ MBIA Health Club, Armonk  
**Jeff VonBargen**, Putnam Hospital Center, Carmel

**Six Year Anniversary**

**\*Taryn Altamura**, Kendal-on-Hudson, Sleepy Hollow  
**Luke Campbell**, Rite Aid Pharmacy, Mt. Kisco  
**\*Michael Chianca**, Home Depot, Brewster  
**\*Samareh Dariani**, Chase Bank, Harrison  
**\*Faith DeJulio**, Comfort Keepers, Cortlandt Manor  
**Kenny Gonzalez**, CVS, Ossining  
**\*Jacqueline James**, Wal-Mart, White Plains  
**\*Christine Kruska**, CVS, White Plains  
**Eileen Morra**, Marshalls, Cortlandt  
**Joseph Morvillo**, St. Patrick's Church, Yorktown Heights  
**\*Shakiri Pitt**, Doral Arrowwood, Rye Brook  
**James Resnik**, Target, White Plains  
**\*Ariel Rowland**, CVS, Scarsdale



**Katherine Schoengood**, Stop & Shop, Tarrytown

**\*Dorothy See**, UCP - Hudson Valley Community Services, Brewster

**\*Tom Storms**, Mark Auto, Peekskill

### Seven Year Anniversary

**\*Cynthia Anderson**, Pathmark, Mt. Vernon

**Vincent Canzone**, Occupations, Inc., West Middletown

**\*Faith DeJulio**, Marshalls, Cortlandt

**Frank DeSimone**, Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Scarsdale

**Noah Feld**, Pathmark, Yonkers

**Sheree Ferguson**, Stop & Shop, Yonkers

**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 Ctr., Valhalla

**Jessica Melnick**, A & P, Mahopac

**\*Anthony Muia**, Town of Harrison

**\*Vicki Ong**, Carmel School District

**\*Martin Regan**, Katonah-Lewisboro School District

**\*Sheverlo Smith**, River Bay Corporation, Bronx

**Margaret Toy**, Ossining Public Library, Ossining

**Wendell Vlachos**, Target, Mt. Kisco

**Kate Warren**, Boys & Girls Club of Northern Westchester, Mt. Kisco

### Eight Year Anniversary

**Thomas Adimari**, Aramark (Chappaqua School District)

**Gunther Buddenbaum**, Mahopac Library, 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**, Northern Westchester Hospital, Mt. Kisco

**Roxanne Williams**, NYS Office of Professional Discipline, Port Chester

### Nine Year Anniversary

**Frank Bologna**, Stop & Shop, Tarrytown

**Marc Cutri**, Meetinghouse, Bedford Village

**Ed Kennedy**, Stop & Shop, White Plains

**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

### Ten Year Anniversary

**\*Robert Aquilino**, Dunwoodie Golf Course, Yonkers

**Kenny Austin**, Carmel Cinema, Carmel

**Michael Danko**, Home Goods, Somers

**Lyle Davidson**, S & H Uniforms, White Plains

**\*James Holdridge**, Putnam County Dept. of Social Services, Carmel

**Nary LoPuzzo**, ShopRite, Croton

**Linda Lubic**, Stop & Shop, Somers

**Greg Mancini**, Carmel Cinema, Carmel

### Eleven Year Anniversary

**\*Michael Catania**, Food Emporium, Rye Brook

**\*Hope Ciota**, Somers School District, Somers

**Sheila Durkin**, Over the Rainbow Learning Center, Brewster

**Fred Jenkins**, Stop & Shop, Mamaroneck

**Peter Stanton**, Universal American, Rye Brook

**\*Clifford Thoesen**, Stop & Shop, Dobbs Ferry

### Twelve Year Anniversary

**Judy Cignarella**, Old Navy/The Gap, Cortlandt

**\*Michael Hayes**, Burke Rehabilitation Center, White Plains

**Kevin Nicholson**, Costco Wholesale, Yonkers

**\*Marcey Pietarinen**, Balducci's, Scarsdale

**\*Richard Pirro**, PepsiCo, Purchase

**\*Neil Scarpelli**, White Plains Hospital Center, White Plains

### Thirteen Year Anniversary

**\*Stephanie Girling**, O'Connor, McGuinness, Conte, Doyle & Oleson, White Plains

**John Hannon**, Wal-Mart, Cortlandt

**Michael Harley**, Larchmont Public Library, Larchmont

**Christopher Hoch**, Mrs. Green's Natural Market, Yorktown

### Fourteen Year Anniversary

**\*Keith Gogola**, Home Depot, Mohegan Lake

**\*Joshua Judin**, Leake & Watts, Yonkers

**Thomas McGowan**, Curry Automotive, Peekskill

**\*David Molnar**, White Plains Bus Company

### Fifteen Year Anniversary

**Patricia Agnano**, Old Navy/The Gap, Cortlandt

**Robin Holloway**, ShopRite, Bedford Hills

**Vincent Migliaccio**, D'Agostino's, Rye Brook

**Robin Scheer**, Stop & Shop, Mamaroneck

### Sixteen Year Anniversary

**\*Steven Carafa**, Westchester County Finance, White Plains

**Peter Coupe**, Northern Westchester Hospital, Mt. Kisco

**Ellen Culhane**, Gap, Mt. Kisco

**Paul Loomis**, Radio Shack, Yonkers

**James Marinelli**, Sears, Yorktown Heights

**Marci Mehler**, United Hebrew Geriatrics Ctr., New Rochelle

### Seventeen Year Anniversary

**Milton Almodovar**, Nordstrom Cafe, White Plains

**Susan Amico**, ShopRite, Bedford Hills

### Eighteen Year Anniversary

**Lisa Bernardo**, A & P, Harrison

**John Lefurgy**, A & P, Greenburgh

**Scott Meyerson**, ShopRite, Bedford Hills

### Nineteen Year Anniversary

**Thomas Culhane**, A & P, Cortlandt

**Bill Hawkins**, A & P, Mt. Kisco

**\*Scott Treco**, Flaghouse Inc., Hasbrouck Heights, NJ

### Twenty Year Anniversary

**Christopher Meyer**, Curry Automotive, Peekskill

**Jacqueline Newburg**, Whitson's Food Service, Peekskill

### Twenty-Two Year Anniversary

**\*Mary Karras**, Stop & Shop, Ossining

**\*Roman Melnychuk**, Marriott, Dobbs Ferry

**Angelina Ucci**, Marshalls, Hartsdale

*Continued on page 6*

*Continued from page 5*

**Twenty-Three Year Anniversary**

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

**Twenty-Five Year Anniversary**

\***Vincent Avesato**, City of Rye, Dept. of Public Works  
**Mark Nikitopoulos**, Van Cortlandt School, Croton-on-Hudson

**Twenty-Six Year Anniversary**

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

**Twenty-Eight Year Anniversary**

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

**Thirty-One Year Anniversary**

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

*\*Successfully Competitively Employed in the Community*



*Continued from page 3*

CAREERS' client Howard Forbes presents an Award of Appreciation to **Lynne Vaughan**, manager at the White Plains Office of **Hudson City Savings Bank**. Hudson City has provided needed funds for our Supported Work Program for several years.



**Brian Singer** (left) and **Nancy Pearson** accept an Appreciation Award from client John Lefurgy on behalf of **IBM** for a substantial grant. Brian and Nancy are both on CAREERS' Board of Directors and work for IBM.

**David Yawman** (left), Vice President and Treasurer of **Pro Bono Partnership** and a PespsiCo attorney, accepts an Appreciation Award on be-

half of **ProBono Partnership** from CAREERS client Wendell Vlachos. Pro Bono provides legal services to nonprofit organizations and has provided valuable advice and services to CAREERS on many projects over the years.



**SPECIAL TRIBUTE DONATIONS received:**

**Thomas Adimari**  
*From The Spiteri Family*

**Nancy Canetti**  
*From Marcia Gordon*

**In Memorium for Charles Davidson**  
*From Deborah Davidson*

**In Memorium for Sean Fitzgerald**  
*From Jan Michener*

**Danielle Killeen**  
*From William Killeen*

**In Memorium for Henry McCants, Jr.**  
*From Wayne Preston McCants*

**Joseph Morvillo**  
*From Nancy Vannucci*

**In Memorium for Cornelius O'Connor**  
*From Marilyn Lobbe*

**Jason Strilowich**  
*From John & Janet Strilowich*

**Scott Treco**  
*From Marilyn Lobbe  
&  
Jean Treco*

**Kate Warren**  
*From Dorothy Killeen*

***It's simple to make a donation and designate it as a gift for a memorial, anniversary, birthday, or any other occasion. You can either go to our website and make a secure donation using PayPal or mail in a donation.***

***THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY***



## **RAFFLE PROCEEDS BENEFIT WINNER AND CAREERS**

If one of your neighbors is selling raffle tickets – buy them! Xavier Sarrias is glad CAREERS' Valhalla Program Manager Jennifer Retacco knocked on his door and asked him to participate in our 25th Anniversary Celebration raffle.

Xavier walked away \$1,908 richer after buying a CAREERS 50/50 Raffle Ticket, and \$1,908 went to CAREERS to support its programs. "I feel so lucky – really lucky," said Xavier, who gave some of his winnings away to the needy. "It's money I didn't expect – it's always good to share."

Thanks to everyone who purchased raffle tickets – the proceeds enable us to share our services free of charge to those who need them.



**Assemblyman Robert Castelli** returned for the second year in a row to celebrate and honor our successful clients. ***"For 25 years CAREERS has provided dignity and great jobs for people in our community,"*** Assemblyman Castelli remarked, ***"Congratulations to them and CAREERS for their outstanding accomplishments."***

## **STAFF LONGEVITY CONTRIBUTES TO 25 YEARS OF SUCCESS**

The right mix of training, experience and compassion make the CAREERS' staff (shown below) incomparable. We have worked together for between one to twenty-one years and have placed, trained and supported over 2000 clients in jobs – helping them participate more fully in their communities. **Here's to celebrating 25 years of excellence!**



**Bottom row** (left to right) Employment Specialist Blair Wilson, Carmel Program Coordinator Rebecca Appleyard, Valhalla Program Coordinator Jennifer Retacco, Executive Director Tina Cornish-Lauria, Employment Specialist Lynn Newman, Fiscal Manager Donna Cappelli, Secretary Linda Portsmouth and Employment Specialist Mary Filipponi.

**Top row** (left to right) Communications and Outreach Coordinator Nancy Burkley, Employment Specialist Serena Shea, Employment Specialist Marielena Behnken, High School Transition Coordinator Marie O'Connor, Employment Specialist Mike Sullivan and Executive Secretary Kathy Shallo.

## YOU CAN MAKE A LIFE-CHANGING DIFFERENCE!

**Your gift is extremely important because it provides resources that make an immediate impact by helping us through these tough times.** We can only provide our unique services if we raise enough money to bridge the gap created by funding cuts from federal, state and county sources. **Each year, we receive less money for our programs, which means we need to fundraise more.** This year that means raising approximately \$150,000 just to meet our budget, which we've kept at the same level — without any salary or cost-of-living increases for the staff — for five years in a row. **Your tax-deductible donation will help us overcome this gap!!**

**Because 85% of our funding comes from state and local government, the recent recession and governmental cutbacks have hit us hard.** Some facts:

- ♦ 85% of our revenue goes directly towards paying for job training, placement and support.
- ♦ Only 13% of our revenue pays for general and administrative costs.
- ♦ On average, we provide services to 450 individuals with disabilities each year.
- ♦ So far this year we've placed over 100 people in new jobs – a significant increase over last year – despite the continued high unemployment rate throughout Westchester and Putnam Counties.
- ♦ Over the past 3 years we have helped record numbers of clients retain their jobs at unprecedented levels, in spite of an increase in the unemployment rate among the non-disabled population.

**Individual contributions are the most important source of our fundraising.** As we finish our 25<sup>th</sup> year as one of the most successful agencies in the area, we need your continued help and support to assure that we continue to place and maintain people with disabilities in jobs throughout Westchester and Putnam Counties.

What better gift this holiday than the chance to make a difference in your community? **Make a gift donation in the name of a friend or family member and we will let them know you've chosen to change the life of a person with disabilities in their honor.** Simply **mail your tax-deductible donation in the enclosed envelope or log onto our website at [www.careersforpeoplewithdisabilities.org](http://www.careersforpeoplewithdisabilities.org) and make a secure donation by clicking the "DONATE" button on the top of the home page.**



Marci celebrating 16 years at the United Hebrew Geriatrics Ctr.



Mary Lou has enjoyed her 3 years at Stop & Shop



Sandra is very happy to be celebrating her first year at Turco's



Kate and her supervisor celebrate 7 years at the Boys & Girls Club

**Your tax-deductible donation will make a world of difference by helping someone get a job. Thank you for your contribution!**

**Thank you!** 