



INTO THE WORLD OF WORK

News for Families and Supporters

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Number 37

Our 2013 job placements have increased 30% over last year!

Fall 2013

NEW "CULTIVATING DREAMS" PROGRAM LAUNCHED

Finding your place in the world can be difficult for anyone, but for adults with disabilities, it can be impossible to navigate alone. In order to help this underserved population find their niche, CAREERS launched **Cultivating Dreams**, a unique program that creates opportunities for disabled individuals to interact and contribute to the local community. It provides opportunities for a meaningful, productive and happy life for participants who have not been satisfied with traditional programs.

Cultivating Dreams provides participants with a sense of independence and self-reliance through diverse experiences. Tailored to their needs, interests and potential, the program creates opportunities to interact and contribute to the local community, with an emphasis on learning employment skills.

With a home base in Carmel, program participants utilize community resources and travel throughout the community to participate in activities that vary from food shopping to landscaping, with each activity treated as a teachable moment that can enhance an individual's daily life.

Laurie Cameron brought the Cultivating Dreams concept to CAREERS Executive Director **Tina Cornish-Lauria** when exploring options available for her son, Luke, who graduated from Westchester Exceptional Children's School last June. Developed with CAREERS support and resources, the program has become another stepping stone, which includes a focus on developing work skills for clients who would not normally qualify for supported work services.

"Cultivating Dreams is a concept born from the interests, talents and passions of young adults," Laurie explains. "With the proper support, participants can enjoy what we all want — a job with meaning and purpose as well as a social life. This program provides support within the realm of meaningful work,

continued education, independent living skills, recreation and above all — interaction within the community. For those challenged to find their place in the world, Cultivating Dreams is the great equalizer. Energized by the promise of what the day will bring, I have never known Luke to be this happy."



Cultivating Dreams participants Luke, Jack and Instructor Dave Duncan volunteering for the Putnam Humane Society.





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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.

Nick Simon celebrated his 10th year at Target in White Plains by receiving CAREERS highest honor. His Employment Specialist, **Jen Retacco**, presents him with the **Employee of the Year Award** for his outstanding work ethic and enthusiasm for his job.



Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Scarsdale received an award for the enthusiastic support that **Monsignor Ferry and Joanne Torme** have provided CAREERS client **Frank DeSimone** over the past 7 years. Frank and his Employment Specialist **Jen Retacco** honor them with our **Employer of the Year Award**.

Supervisor of the Year Award - Candice Sciarillo has been a tremendous advocate for the clients that work at Carmel Cinema, and goes beyond her responsibilities by troubleshooting issues and making sure all employees are treated fairly. Two CAREERS clients who both work at the Cinema (**James McDougal**, left and **Greg Mancini**, right) and Candice all show off their awards.



Personal Achievement Awards

All of our clients overcome obstacles to achieve great things. This year we highlighted the following achievements:

Nicholas Scarnati has mastered his job at Big Lots in Cortlandt and his enthusiasm and pleasant demeanor have made him a valued employee. His Employment Specialist, **Mary Filipponi** presents him with his **Personal Achievement Award**.



Eileen Morra came to CAREERS seven years ago interested in a career change and we found just the right job for her at Marshalls. This past year was difficult for Eileen, but she hasn't skipped a beat or missed a day on the job. For her dedication and perseverance, Eileen's Employment Specialist, **Rebecca Appleyard**, presents Eileen with her award.

Ellen Culhane has been at her job at the Gap in Mt. Kisco for 17 years, where she is known for her reliability, loyalty and refusal to give up. She doesn't let her physical difficulties stop her from trying anything and prides herself on working hard to remain strong. Her Employment Specialist, **Serena Shea**, proudly presents Ellen with her award.



Celebrating 26 years of CAREERS' Success

Successful clients, gracious employers and generous sponsors were all celebrated at CAREERS 26th Anniversary Celebration, sponsored by PepsiCo Enable and held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in White Plains.

"CAREERS relies on the generosity of our sponsors to make our Anniversary event special every year.... we couldn't be here without them," began **Tina Cornish-Lauria**, CAREERS Executive Director, at the September 24th event. CAREERS honored 214 clients celebrating employment anniversaries as well as the corporate supporters and employers that assist us in providing job placement and training.



Paul Sheridan, representing PepsiCo Enable, receives an Award of Appreciation from CAREERS client Ben R.

PepsiCo Enable has served as a Premier Sponsor of the event for the past four years and hosted the event at the White Plains Crowne Plaza. The Standard in White Plains came on board in 2013 as a Premier Sponsor, thanks to the efforts of CAREERS Board member **Stan Kulesa**.

Curry Automotive, **Marianne and Patrick Brown**, ShopRite Supermarkets, and Universal American also returned to the event as Contributing Sponsors.



Tom Adimari, a CAREERS client celebrating nine years working for the Chappaqua School District, thanked CAREERS Board President Marianne Brown and husband Patrick for their support as contributing sponsors.



CAREERS Board member Stan Kulesa from The Standard accepts an Award of Appreciation from CAREERS client Shannon C.

Westchester County Joins Putnam in Hosting Disability Mentoring Day

Westchester and Putnam County residents with disabilities had the opportunity to work in a field that interested them as CAREERS collaborated with the Westchester County Office for the Disabled and ACCES-VR to bring National Disability Mentoring Day to our area on October 17th. This nationwide event connects nearly 16,500 job seekers with employers each year.



Westchester County Executive **Rob Astorino**, pictured with County staff **Michael Orth** (back row left) and **Tanya Martinez** (right) and participating mentees, **Jennifer Barry** from YAI and **Nathaniel Klein** from CAREERS, endorsed the event, which paired mentors from throughout Westchester County Departments with disabled individuals interested in learning what it takes to be successful on the job.

Westchester participants were affiliated with The Institute of Applied Human Dynamics, Young Adult Institute, CAREERS, WARC and ACCES-VR.

Westchester County Departments participating included Public Safety, Emergency Services, Community Mental Health, the Office for Women, among others.

Twenty-three Putnam residents received mentoring in county departments, with County Executive **Mary Ellen Odell** once again encouraging county staff to provide opportunities for disabled workers. Among those experiencing the workplace first-hand was Carmel High student **Andrew Wheelock**, pictured left with **Officer Martin** of the Putnam County Sheriff's Office. Other Putnam mentees included PARC and Putnam Family & Community Services clients.



Congratulations to the following individuals and their employers celebrating anniversaries in 2013, who we honored at our Annual Anniversary Celebration in September:

One Year Anniversary

Anne Marie Alongi, The Alcott School, Dobbs Ferry
Peter Auerbach, ShopRite, Scarsdale
Jennifer Auerhahn, C.A. Courtesy Demo Corp., Andover, PA
and Big Orange, Pawtucket, RI
John Connolly, Westchester Institute for Human
Development, Valhalla
Daniel Doherty, Lake Isle Country Club, Eastchester
Nwanyioma Ekpechan, Target, White Plains
C.J. Funches, T.J. Maxx, Hartsdale
Sarah Kim, Mercy College, Dobbs Ferry
Jennifer Lipton, Outback Steakhouse, White Plains
Natasha Malik, CVS, Hartsdale
Christopher Marcal, Lake Isle Country Club, Eastchester
James McDougal, Putnam County Movie Theater, Carmel
Jennifer Messineo, The Learning Garden, Yorktown Heights
Erik Olsen, Turco's Super Ranch, Yorktown Heights
Benjamin Rodell, Target, White Plains
Christopher Rodriguez, Curry Automotive, Peekskill
Nicholas Scarnati, Big Lots, Cortlandt
Jonathan Small, ShopRite, Bedford Hills
Jason Strilowich, Metro North Railroad (MTA), New York
***Tracy Tacinelli**, Retriever Payment Systems Inc., Valhalla
Erica Withus, ShopRite, Thornwood

Two Year Anniversary

Isabel Bradley, Over the Rainbow Learning Center, Brewster
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
Nicole Gabel, ShopRite, Croton-on-Hudson
Anthony Gilmore, Milton Elementary School, Rye
***Johnny Jimenez**, Esposito Builders, Peekskill
Jennifer Lipton, New York Sports Club, Dobbs Ferry
Nary Lopuzzo, ShopRite, Croton on Hudson
Amy Maiorano, Over the Rainbow Learning Center, Brewster
Joe Mazzuco, Gamestop, Brewster
Danielle Nardi, ShopRite, Thornwood
Kayla Noga, Edible Arrangements, Carmel
Erik Olsen, Wash 'n Dry, Cortlandt Manor
Danielle Roveto, Over the Rainbow Learning Center, Brewster
Sandra Samuels, Turco's Super Ranch, Yorktown Hts.
William Seide, Stop & Shop, Mamaroneck
***Carmine Stingone**, ShopRite, Croton on Hudson

Three Year Anniversary

Robert Baldera, Stop & Shop, North White Plains
***Anthony Castaldo**, Target, Mt. Vernon
Shannon Crimardo, Barnes & Noble, White Plains
Daniel Doherty, Stop & Shop, Eastchester
***Vincent Giammarinaro**, ShopRite, New Rochelle
Monica Green, Stop & Shop, Port Chester
***William Harmon**, ShopRite, Scarsdale
***Katie Havaland**, Marshalls, Brewster
David Kokiadis, Stop & Shop, White Plains
Pamela Quintero, Westcop/Putnam Headstart, Brewster
***Ariel Rowland**, Empowerment Center, Mt. Vernon
Joe Sbarra, A & P, Brewster
***Will Smith**, New York Sports Club, Croton
Jonathan Terminello, Stop & Shop, Port Chester

Roxanne Williams, The Westchester News

Four 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
Clayon 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
***Paolo Villon**, Stop & Shop, Port Chester
Michael Werner, ShopRite, Peekskill
***Peter Zorovich**, ShopRite, Thornwood

Five Year Anniversary

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 Havaland, 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
Cynthia Wanamaker, Stop & Shop, New Rochelle

Six Year Anniversary

Chris Chipps, Rite Aid Pharmacy, Carmel
James Clarke, Putnam Hospital Center, Carmel
Camille Crea, Food Emporium, Eastchester
Mathew Delitta, Putnam Hospital Center, Carmel
Joseph Dolan, Take Care Health Systems, 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
Betty Robinson, Goodwill Industries, Somers
Angelo Tetro, Royal Bus Company, Somers
***Paolo Villon**, Take Care Health Systems, Armonk
Jeff VonBargen, Putnam Hospital Center, Carmel

Seven Year Anniversary

***Taryn Altamura**, Kendal-on-Hudson, Sleepy Hollow
***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**, United Cerebral Palsy, Patterson
***Tom Storms**, Mark Auto, Peekskill

Eight 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
Katherine Schoengood, Stop & Shop, Tarrytown
***Dorothy See**, Hudson Valley Community Services, Brewster
***Tom Storms**, Mark Auto, Peekskill
Rosalie Knapick, Stop & Shop, New Rochelle
***Brian Major**, VA Hudson Valley Health Care Svcs, Montrose
***Antonio Marinelli**, Crothall, 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

Nine Year Anniversary

Thomas Adimari, Aramark (Chappaqua School District)
Gunther Buddenbaum, Mahopac Library, Mahopac
Joann Gilleo, Home Depot, Cortlandt
***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

Ten 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

Eleven 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

Nary LoPuzzo, ShopRite, Croton
Linda Lubic, Stop & Shop, Somers
Greg Mancini, Carmel Cinema, Carmel

Twelve 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

Thirteen 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

Fourteen 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

Fifteen Year Anniversary

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

Sixteen 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

Seventeen Year Anniversary

***Steven Carafa**, Westchester County Finance, White Plains
Ellen Culhane, Gap, Mt. Kisco
James Marinelli, Sears, Yorktown Heights
Marci Mehler, United Hebrew Geriatrics Center, New
 Rochelle

Eighteen Year Anniversary

Susan Amico, ShopRite, Bedford Hills

Nineteen Year Anniversary

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

Twenty Year Anniversary

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

Twenty-One Year Anniversary

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

Twenty-Three Year Anniversary

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

Twenty-Four Year Anniversary

Michele Flores, Northern Westchester Hospital, Mt. Kisco

Continued from Page 5

Warren Forbes, Westchester County Dept. of Corrections

Twenty-Six Year Anniversary

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

Twenty-Seven Year Anniversary

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

Twenty-Nine Year Anniversary

Patty Polacek, Crothall, Valhalla

Thirty-Two Year Anniversary

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

**Successfully Competitively Employed in the Community*

Continued from Page 2

Outstanding Program Support

Greg Lau, Case Manager and Transition Coordinator for the City School District of New Rochelle, received this award for his support of Project Search and advocacy for the best interests of students. Employment Specialist Jen Retacco thanks Greg for his valuable insights that help us place students in appropriate jobs.



Barry Creighton of the A & P in Greenburgh was named **Co-Worker of the Year** for his longstanding support of **John Lefurgy** (standing with two of his brothers), a CAREERS client and A & P employee for 19 years. Because Barry was unable to attend the Anniversary Awards, John accepted on Barry's behalf.

SPECIAL TRIBUTE DONATIONS

Tom Adimari

From Mr. and Mrs. John Gregory

Karen Brown

*From Doug Brown
and*

Robert J. Sanfilippo, D.C.

Marianne Brown

*From Douglas Brown
and*

John and Shelly Hogan

Howard Forbes

*From Dorothy and Kenneth Finger
and
Carol N. Goldberg
and
Andrea Torres
and
Daniel Weiss and Selma Lee Weiss*

Howard and Adrienne Forbes

From Miriam Klein

Warren Forbes

*From Linda Bonavist
and
Dr. and Mrs. Stephen Gerstman
and
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Dr. Rosalind W. Rothman
and
Mei Yee Lau-Samuel & Victor Samuel*

William Harmon

From Valerie Harmon

Luke Howlett

From Joy Jacoby

In Memory of Diane Lavelle

From Edward Lavelle

Susan Lauer

From Mr. and Mrs. Paul Lauer

In Memory of Frank and Phyllis Stanish

From Katherine M. Stanish

Scott Treco

*From Mel and Cheryl Treco
and
Jean and Robert Treco, Sr.*

In Memory of Carol Ullman

From Jack Ullman

Kate Warren

*From Joe Dias
and
Joann and Gregg Popkin
and
Ruth A. Sinnott*

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



CAREERS 26th Anniversary Celebration



County Execs to Congresspersons praised CAREERS at our annual celebration in September, with proclamations from Putnam County Executive **Mary Ellen Odell** and Westchester County Executive **Rob Astorino**. Congresswoman **Nita Lowey** sent greetings to all in attendance, while State Assemblyman **Tom Abinanti** thanked and congratulated CAREERS clients, supporters and staff during the program.



Putnam County Transportation Manager **Vinny Tamagna**, (photo far left), thanked CAREERS Board member **Howard Forbes** for his efforts, while State Assemblyman **David Buchwald** (photo top right), was on hand to greet guests including CAREERS client **Tom Gollogly** and his brother. State Senator **Andrea Stewart-Cousins**, (pictured bottom right), enjoyed meeting CAREERS client **Marci Mehler** and speaking with CAREERS Executive Director **Tina Cornish-Lauria** to learn more about our programs.



Annual Anniversary Celebration Awards of Appreciation

Providing our services free of charge is the cornerstone of our commitment to our clients and their families. We rely on corporate support to bridge the gap between government funding and our program needs. This year, we honored the following organizations for their ongoing support of our growing programs:

- * **BJ's Charitable Foundation**
- * **Costco**
- * **Hitachi Metals America & Hitachi Foundation**
- * **H.O.P.E. for Youth Foundation**
- * **Hudson City Savings Bank**
- * **TD Bank**
- * **The United Way of Westchester and Putnam**
- * **Wells Fargo**

Aleida Frederico, Senior VP Government Banking for TD Bank, accepts thanks from CAREERS Advisory Board Member Ann Tucker.



MANY THANKS TO ALL OUR CORPORATE AND FOUNDATION SUPPORTERS!

CAREERS and PROJECT SEARCH

CAREERS has been contracted by New Rochelle City School District to assist students in finding a place in their community. As part of a newly established Project Search Program with the high school, CAREERS Employment Specialists are creating jobs, placing students in internships, and providing job coaching to both students and school personnel, with the ultimate goal that students learn the skills and gain experience needed so that they may find long-term, paying jobs in the future. Students have also been placed in internships at United Hebrew Geriatrics Center of New Rochelle, working in the recreation area, transportation and kitchen.

The Gaels Rice program at Iona College offers similar support to disabled students, who attend two college credit classes as well as a class with CAREERS Employment Specialist **Damon Ragin**, who teaches them life skills, time management, budgeting and other skills needed to succeed in an internship arranged on campus. So far, students are excited about the new program; they enjoy keeping busy and learning new things.

Proud of our Partnership in United Way's "Teach Me to Fish...Work Skills for Life" Initiative

The United Way of Westchester and Putnam has been a friend to CAREERS for many years and we have counted on them for ongoing financial assistance crucial to our growth and success.

For the past three years, we have been the beneficiary of a grant as part of the United Way Initiative, "Teach Me to Fish...Work Skills for Life". This program helps families become financially stable by providing personalized counseling and support to help eliminate barriers to employment, such as proper attire, interviewing skills, job skills, and financial education including budgeting, banking and getting out of debt. The goals of our Workforce Readiness, Placement and Training program parallel this initiative, making CAREERS and The United Way true partners as we provide this vital service to the community.



United Way of Westchester and Putnam's Susan Schefflein, (left), Senior VP of Community Impact and Mary Ann Luna, VP for Community Alliance (right) receive an Award of Appreciation for their ongoing support from CAREERS Program and Transition Coordinator Jennifer Retacco.

Mary Ann Luna, center, thanks CAREERS clients Robin and Robert Baldera for sharing their inspiring success stories at a recent United Way Board retreat.

Your donations change many lives and make a huge difference to the people we serve

So far this year, with your support, we have:

- ◆ Placed over 115 individuals in new jobs
- ◆ Placed over 20 individuals in internships
- ◆ Maintained a job retention rate of 75% -- an all time agency high!
- ◆ Provided mentoring opportunities for 33 disabled individuals in Westchester and Putnam Counties as we brought "National Disability Mentoring Day" to our area

Corporate, Foundation and individual donations help fill the gap between government funding and our vital program costs. Please visit our website:

www.CAREERSforPeoplewithDisabilities.org

for more information or make a tax-deductible donation by clicking the "Donate" button at the top of each page.

In addition, please like us on Facebook at:

<https://www.facebook.com/CareersforPeople>.



Carmel High Student Asiah M. was mentored by Pat Sheehy at the Putnam County Office for the Aging during Disability Mentoring Day.



CAREERS Employment Specialist Alicia Lehra with one of her clients, Vinnie Migliaccio — a 16 year employee of D'Agostino Market.