



INTO THE WORLD OF WORK

News for Families and Supporters

Charging Lives One Job At A Time

Number 47

Our programs and services are going strong!

Winter 2022

As businesses continue to reopen, demand for our services is greater than ever. Our supported work programs provide job skills training, placement and support for our clients with intellectual, developmental, learning, psychiatric, and/or physical disabilities while helping to fill essential positions in supermarkets, pharmacies, department stores, and many other local businesses. Our services are FREE to clients and their families. During 2021 we increased job placements by 50% and placed 37 students in paid internships.

Our Workforce Readiness, Placement and Training Program prepares clients, who are often isolated from the community due to socialization difficulties, for success in the workplace. We help individuals find a job that will match their interests and abilities, provide on-the-job training and on-going support for as long as it is needed – often times for many years. We also teach financial literacy skills so that they learn to budget and save the money they are now earning.

Our School-to-Work Transition Program helps high school students successfully transition from the familiar routines of a classroom to a demanding workplace. Students take part in site-based paid internships and receive personalized job skills training, including resume and cover letter preparation. Research shows that students with autism and other disabilities who take part in vocational training are more likely to remain successfully employed as adults.

Our Ambition In Motion community program continues to expand for individuals not ready for supported work. Program participants learn social skills while engaging in a wide array of activities such as volunteering at food banks, growing vegetables in the community garden and going on various outings that they plan.



Sheree has been with CAREERS for 18 years! She is just one of many clients that we support so they may keep their jobs until they retire!



New this year is our vocational program for seniors ages 55 and older (with and without disabilities) to help them return to – or sometimes enter – the job market. We teach workforce readiness skills, including resume and interview preparation, and help find jobs that match each person's abilities.

Our programs fill a critical need for people with disabilities who want to work. With job skills training and one-on-one support services, they can successfully become part of the world of work and maintain employment for the long-term. Going to work every day is life changing for each person with a disability!

Interested in our services? Contact **CAREERS Support Solutions**

400 Columbus Avenue, Suite 123 South, Valhalla, New York 10595 – residents of mid to lower Westchester County

102 Gleneida Avenue, Carmel New York 10512 – residents of upper Westchester, Putnam or Dutchess Counties

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CAREERS is a private non-profit that finds productive employment for individuals with disabilities. We provide on-the-job training and ongoing support services at no cost to our clients, their families or employers.

CAREERS SUCCESS STORIES

CAREERS 2021 Employee of the Year - Andrea Lenski

Each year CAREERS honors a client who has shown exceptional job performance. This year Andrea Lenski received this honor at our virtual Annual Anniversary Awards Celebration on November 17th. Andrea has been working at Goodwill Industries in Baldwin Place for 14 years. She has an excellent work ethic and she's consistently on time and has rarely taken a day off in all the years she's worked there. Her positive, can-do attitude is encouraging to both co-workers and customers.



Shoppers at Goodwill often stop to chat with Andrea as she stocks items on shelves and hangs up clothing. Adept in every department, Andrea especially enjoys putting housewares on display. Goodwill stores closed temporarily last year, reopening several months later. Andrea's years of outstanding effort paid off and she was among the employees rehired. This required her to learn new skills, and with the support of her CAREERS Employment Specialist, she can now add "cashier" to her list of accomplishments.

We are very proud of Andrea's flexibility and dedication, and honored to have her represent CAREERS as our Employee of the Year.

Ahmed Gonzales - Personal Achievement Award



Ahmed is an enthusiastic participant in our Ambition In Motion (AIM) program, from growing vegetables at Tilly Foster Farm to sorting items at the Kent Recycling Center. He has a speech impediment that at times has limited his ability to respond to others, but as he became more comfortable with his new friends and CAREERS staff, he has become much better at communicating and participating fully in activities. AIM expanded his opportunities and confidence level and after a few years in the program, he expressed an interest in working in an internship.

CAREERS found Ahmed that opportunity at CVS in Mahopac, and though anxious at first, with coaching and support from his CAREERS Employment Specialist and guidance from his supervisor Ricky Forbes, Ahmed settled into the position and began to learn new skills.

Ahmed has mastered many tasks, including stock work and checking expiration dates and now expresses his thoughts and ideas clearly and with confidence. He is hard-working, respectful and has a great sense of humor. CVS staff appreciates his efforts and recently offered him a paid position! Ahmed has come a long way and we are very proud of his growth!

CAREERS COMMUNITY PREVOCATIONAL PROGRAM

Anthony and Steven Silvagni are brothers who want to work. The fact that they are both on the autism spectrum presents special challenges. That's where CAREERS Prevocational and Ambition In Motion (AIM) programs make the difference in their lives.

Prevocational services provide the opportunity for individuals to participate in activities to learn skills and build on their strengths to overcome barriers to employment. These services assist individuals who want to work, but need extra help to develop the skills required to be successful in the workplace. The main focus is participation in unpaid work experiences with 100% job coaching from an Employment Specialist.

Steven participated in CAREERS AIM program, where he enjoyed volunteering, socializing with his peers and going to the mall. After graduating high school, his brother Anthony joined AIM, where they both learn social skills and work-related skills in their community.

Both young men showed an interest in working so CAREERS staff set up internships at CVS for them where they learn retail skills including facing products/organizing shelves, stocking inventory and checking expiration dates. They have done so well that they are also learning to use the bar code scanner, and truly enjoy being part of a team. They also continue to participate in our AIM program 2 days a week, socializing with their friends, staying active, and volunteering at Second Chance Foods and Kent Recycling Center and enjoying community activities.

If you have a family member, or know someone who may be interested in our Prevocational and/or AIM programs, please call Rebecca Appleyard at (845) 225-8007 X101 or email rappleyard@careersfp.org.



CAREERS 2021 Entrepreneur Award Cassandra Lanton



Pet Love pet sitting is CAREERS client Cassandra Lanton's labor of love -- for animals! With a lot of hard work and support from her CAREERS Employment Specialist, Cassie made her dream of being an entrepreneur come true by starting her own business taking care of pets in her community. A long-time CAREERS client, Cassie used both work skills and soft "people" skills that she learned through our Workforce Readiness, Placement and Training Program to grow her business. She was ready to take the next step and become a business owner!

Being her own boss and spending her day with dogs and cats has made this the perfect opportunity for Cassie. Last year's COVID lockdown was tough on business, as customers stayed home and didn't need pet-sitting but Cassie stuck it out and business is on the upswing this year. Cassie loves giving the animals she cares for the highest standard of care, and we are extremely proud of her employment success!

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2021 ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION HONOREES



Employee of the Year
Andrea Lenski



Employer of the Year
Kevin Ross
S & H Uniform



Supervisor of the Year
Liz Reyes
Immaculate Heart of Mary Church



**Outstanding Program
Support Award**
Ricky Forbes - Mahopac CVS



**CAREERS
Change Award**
Terri Cohen



**Outstanding Parental
Support Award**
Denise Voelker
with nephew Freddy Acker



Shining Star Award
Chris Hoch



Entrepreneur Award
Cassandra Lanton
Owner of "Pet Love"



Customer Service Award
Derek Deinhardt

Retirement Honorees
Stephanie Girling and Joann Gilleo



Award of Appreciation
Gina Manzino



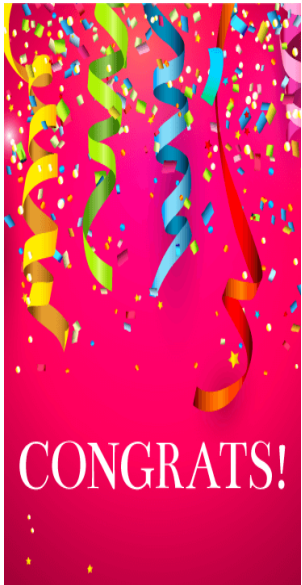
Personal Achievement Awards
Ahmed Gonzales and Lukas Guzman



Award of Appreciation
Field Hall Foundation
*Patti Horvath, John Ahearn
& Donna Haskel*



Staff Years of Service Awards
Kathy Shallo - 30 years
Rebecca Appleyard - 25 years
Jennifer Retacco - 25 years



CAREERS 34TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Many thanks to the generous and loyal sponsors of our November 2021 event:

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A BIG Thanks to our Sponsors!

We opted to have our Annual Anniversary Celebration virtually again last November due to continued issues with Covid. We were very pleased to gain some new sponsors and were proud to acknowledge so many of our clients and loyal supporters. If you did not have a chance to see our online event held on November 17th, you can watch it at your convenience at: <https://careers.onlinegalas.org>. You can also flip through the pages of our virtual journal and see our generous supporters and impressive listing of our many clients and how many years they have all been working.

AMBITION IN MOTION (AIM) COMMUNITY DAY PROGRAM

Having fun, staying safe, and learning along the way -- that's what our AIM program participants accomplished in 2021. Designed for adults with disabilities not yet ready for a supported work program, the men and women in our AIM program learn life and job skills while enjoying their community.

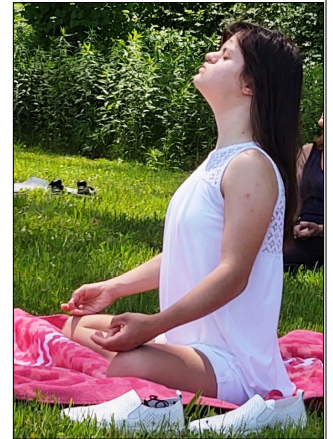
Regular sorting volunteers at Kent Recycling Center, our men's group also pick crops at Hilltop Farms and collect food donated by Trader Joe's and deliver all to Second Chance Foods. They also assist the Putnam Community Action Program (CAP) by picking up food donations and delivering them to Fred's Pantry in Peekskill. In addition, they volunteer at the Lakeview Community Church in Lake Carmel to help keep the facility clean and safe.



Our ladies group packs, labels and occasionally prepares food at Second Chance Foods and learn computer skills at the Patterson Library. They also enjoy going to the mall -- an opportunity for learning many life skills, including budgeting, organizing a list, picking quality items and paying for purchases.



There's also always time for fun! Our men's group attend Hudson Valley Renegades baseball games, work out at Gold's Gym weekly, play basketball, football and have cookouts. The ladies group bowl, attend yoga classes and in nice weather walk in area parks. These fun activities establish important healthy habits and promote social skills and self-confidence. For some special outings and activities, both AIM groups participate together, enhancing their interpersonal skills and forging new friendships.



Both groups enjoy being active participants in their community. They learn life skills such as food shopping, doing laundry and staying healthy, as well as other independent living skills.

Our AIM program is individually tailored to meet each client's needs and interests and, like all of CAREERS programs, is offered at **no cost to the client or their families**. Regular, flexible day scheduling and transportation to the program may be available.

Know someone who might benefit from our Ambition In Motion program? Call Rebecca Appleyard at (845) 225-8007 X101 or email rappleyard@careersfp.org.



MANY THANKS TO OUR 2021 CORPORATE & FOUNDATION SUPPORTERS



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Our corporate and foundation supporters help us provide job training and placement services to individuals with disabilities who want to work, always at no cost to them, their families or employers.

Your contributions help make the world a better place for people with disabilities.

Just like you and I, people with disabilities want to work and be part of their community. CAREERS' specialized programs help participants master the skills needed to get, and keep, a meaningful job and create a sense of purpose. When you make a donation, your gift enables us to provide the services that empower people with disabilities to live productive, meaningful lives.

All donations to CAREERS are tax-deductible by law. Please make checks out to: "CAREERS Support Solutions" and mail to 400 Columbus Avenue, Suite 123 South, Valhalla, NY 10595.



GIVING
IS NOT JUST ABOUT
MAKING A DONATION.
IT'S ABOUT
MAKING A
DIFFERENCE.