



INTO THE WORLD OF WORK

News for Families and Supporters

Charging Lives One Job At A Time

Number 48

Job placements are up 25% and internships up 20% over last year!

Winter 2022 - 2023

CAREERS provides workforce training & long-term support to people with disabilities Our programs are always **FREE** to clients, families and employers.

People with disabilities face unique hurdles when seeking employment. CAREERS helps individuals overcome these barriers and become gainfully employed. We provide comprehensive programs that are tailored to the needs of each person we serve. Our programs help individuals with learning, intellectual, developmental, psychiatric and/or physical disabilities every step of the way – with training in life and job skills, resume and interview preparation, job search and placement, on-the job training and long-term support.



Our **Workforce Readiness, Placement and Training program** prepares individuals with disabilities for the workplace by teaching soft skills like good communication and financial skills like budgeting. We help clients identify their abilities and interests to find a suitable job. Once hired, we provide on-the-job training and the long-term support they need to remain successfully employed.

High school students are taught life and job skills in our **School-to-Work Transition Program**, which helps students with disabilities bridge the gap from the classroom to the workplace. Students are placed in internships and receive the training and feedback necessary to help them reach their full potential. Students who plan to continue their education after high school can also receive assistance with college exploration and admission, registration, course selection and ongoing support through our **On Course for College** program. We help students access resources offered by their college, such as tutoring, etc.

Our **Ambition In Motion (AIM)** day habilitation without walls program helps adults with disabilities who are not yet ready for a supported work program develop the social, life and job skills needed for independent living. They plan outings and menus, shop and cook meals. Our AIM groups contribute to the community by volunteering and enjoying various recreational activities and social get-togethers.

Improving the lives of **seniors** (with and without disabilities) age 55 and older is one of our newest programs which helps them achieve, and maintain, successful employment. The program includes workforce readiness training, resume preparation, job placement and ongoing support.

We also have other programs to help our developmentally disabled clients achieve more independence via our Pathway to Employment and Community Prevocational programs which focus on person-centered planning and assessments to help individuals discover their strengths and interests by volunteering at local job sites. Personalized training activities focus on building strengths and developing confidence and self-esteem.

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

(914) 741-8500 or CAREERSforPeople@aol.com

www.CAREERSSupportSolutions.org



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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 2022 Employee of the Year - Noah Feld

Each year at our Annual Anniversary Celebration we recognize an exemplary client for their hard work and dedication. We were happy to name Noah Feld, a CAREERS client for 27 years, as the 2022 Employee of the Year. Noah helps create delicious cakes, pies, cookies and other treats in the bakery department – first at Pathmark and now at ShopRite in New Rochelle, where he has worked for the past 7 years. He is preparing for his dream of becoming a cake decorator one day. Over the years, Noah has kept this goal in mind as he mixes, stirs, bakes and decorates goodies for customers to enjoy. We are very proud of all that Noah has achieved and for his persistence and dedication to his jobs.



Angela Sforza - 2022 Shining Star Award

Angela Sforza (left) is a shining success story! She first came to CAREERS when she was in high school and after completing our Workforce Readiness classes, we placed her in a paid internship at S & H Uniform in White Plains. Angela worked on the sales floor and then took charge of displays. Her supervisors were so impressed with her superb work ethic and cheerful attitude that she was offered a paid job at the end of her internship! Angela worked at S & H for 6 years while we continued to provide on-the-job coaching.



While accepting her award at our 2022 Anniversary Celebration, Angela shared the following with all of us: *"Having a job taught me a lot about teamwork, learning how to communicate, being responsible, and being more social with other individuals as well as my fellow co-workers. Being a part of CAREERS has changed my life for the better. Thank you CAREERS for providing a positive message to individuals of all ages with special needs like myself that they can succeed in the corporate job world. My advice to others -- do not EVER let your disability define YOU because you are worth far more than that."*

CAREERS 2022 Retiree Award - Lyle Davidson

Lyle Davidson, a CAREERS client for 26 years, worked at S & H Uniform in White Plains for 19 years. As an essential worker, Lyle worked through the entire pandemic without hesitation and never missed a day. For Lyle, work was not just a job, he truly loved the people he worked with and his supervisors said that he showed true dedication, had a good attitude, and was never ever late for work! We are both happy and sad when one of our clients retires or graduates and we will all miss Lyle's wonderfully happy personality.



CAREERS OPENS A FUNDRAISING THRIFT SHOP TO BENEFIT OUR PROGRAMS

CAREERS Thrift Shop located just north of ShopRite at 208 Route 52 in Carmel has been a great success since it opened in April 2022. The shop is entirely staffed by volunteers and sells new and gently used clothing for men and women, jewelry, shoes, boots, handbags, housewares, and other items. It also gives some of our clients the opportunity to learn work skills by volunteering in the shop weekly.

All thrift shop sales and donations fund CAREERS supported work programs for people with learning, intellectual, developmental, psychiatric and/or physical disabilities and we were proud to honor our thrift shop volunteers at our Annual Anniversary Celebration.

Pictured on page 4 are some of our great volunteers. We are extremely grateful for our volunteers and the many community members who have been donating and/or buying thrift shop merchandise.



HOURS:
M, T, Th & Sat
11 - 3

W & F 11 - 4

Questions?
(845) 249-5390

SPECIAL TRIBUTE DONATIONS

Longtime CAREERS board member Howard Forbes passed away in July 2022. He was a dentist in Yorktown Heights, served on CAREERS Board of Directors since 2005, and was our Treasurer from 2010 to 2013. He was a wonderful person and will be greatly missed by all. Many thanks to Howard's family and friends who made donations to our programs in Howard's memory:

*Mona Aronstam
Edward Colker & Elaine Galen
Nancy Delahunt
Judith Ellison
Carol Feldman
Mona Finkelberg
Eric Forbes
Stephen Gerstman, DDS
Jeanne Gold
Carole Greenberg
Pam and Barker Harrison
Miriam Klein*

*Louise Kleinbaum
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Deborah Pomeranz
Lee Reichman
Lucy Rosen
Ann Scolnick
Sherry and Steven Swier
Marilyn and Vincent Tropiano*



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

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2022 ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION HONOREES



Employee of the Year
Noah Feld
Job Coach Allegra Palevich



Employer of the Year
Uncle Giuseppe's Marketplace
Yorktown
(left to right) Yaselyn Lavanda
Job Coach Violetta Bertuzzi
Client/Employee William Paget



Supervisor of the Year
Claudia Pavone
ShopRite Bedford



Outstanding Program Support Award
Afya Foundation
Asia Matatov (right)
Program Coordinator Jen Retacco
Client/Intern Madison Higgs



Forever In Our Hearts Award
Howard Forbes
CAREERS Executive Director
Tina Cornish-Lauria



Outstanding Community Support Award
Martha Elder (left)
Second Chance Foods
Job Coach Violetta Bertuzzi
Client/Volunteer Victoria Faley



Shining Star Award
Angela Sforza (left)
Job Coach Allison Scorca

Outstanding Volunteer Awards CAREERS Thrift Shop Volunteers
Jayne Dwyer, Regina Spain, Pat Gallagher, Sarah Hawkins, Olivia Pompi, Sherrill Doar, Thel Simon, Alex McManus, Eva Donnadio, Toni Von Elm, Helen DelGrosso, Mindy Conciatori, Kathleen Koran, Donna Donato and Janice Burton



Volunteers
(left to right):
Jayne Dwyer,
Regina Spain,
Pat Gallagher,
Olivia Pompi
Sarah Hawkins

Retirement Honoree
Lyle Davidson



Award of Appreciation
Senator Peter Harckham
CAREERS Executive Director
Tina Cornish-Lauria



Rock Star Award
Harpal Arora (left)
Community Instructor
Dan Ramirez



Personal Achievement Awards
Stephen Barker, Ben Rodell and Debra Ann Schnepf



Stephen with his
Job Coach Allison Scorca



Ben (right) with PepsiCo
sponsor Paul Sheridan



Debra Ann (left) with her
Job Coach Sandra Lauth



CAREERS 35TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Many thanks to the generous and loyal sponsors of our October 2022 event:

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THANK YOU TO
OUR GENEROUS
SPONSORS!

We were delighted to hold our Annual Anniversary Celebration in person for the first time in two years! We welcomed loyal sponsors and new ones. We are especially grateful to PepsiCo EnAble for being our Premier Sponsor for the 18th year! If you weren't able to attend our celebration, you can see our slideshows highlighting our clients at work and award recipients on our website at:

www.careerssupportolutions.org/news-events/2022-anniversary-celebration/

AMBITION IN MOTION (AIM) COMMUNITY DAY PROGRAM

Our Ambition In Motion (AIM) program participants were out and about in 2022, returning to a full schedule of volunteering, outdoor activities and social get-togethers. **AIM is our program for adults with intellectual, emotional and developmental disabilities who are not yet ready for a supported work program.** It is tailored to the needs, interests and abilities of each client, and focuses on developing life and job skills in a small group setting. AIM participants learn skills needed for independent living while taking part in fun activities and socializing with their peers.



Our AIM groups pitched in to help feed hungry neighbors throughout Putnam County by volunteering for Second Chance Foods where they sorted and labeled food donations, helped prepare meals and packaged them for delivery. We were proud to present Martha Elder and Second Chance Foods with our Outstanding Community Support Award at our Annual Anniversary Celebration. It wasn't all work and no play for our women's group. They enjoyed lots of fun activities, including bowling, long walks in the park, trips to the mall and many other fun and educational activities.

Our men's group had many memorable outings too. They hiked, played outdoor checkers, visited the Chuang Yen Monastery in Carmel, the Harvest Moon Farm and Orchard in North Salem, among many other venues and adventures they enjoyed.

Both groups got together for summer barbeques, Hudson Valley Renegades baseball games, dressing up for Halloween fun and decking the halls for Christmas. On one beautiful summer day, the group explored the charming shops in Cold Spring before the guys treated everyone to ice cream with money they saved from bottle refunds. The AIM groups also go to grocery stores and malls to practice life skills like budgeting and food shopping that are needed for independent living.

Like all CAREERS programs, AIM is offered at no cost to clients and their families. Regular, flexible week-day schedules and transportation are available.

For more information on the Ambition In Motion (AIM) program, contact Rebecca Appleyard at (845) 225-8007 x101 or email rappleyard@careersfp.org.



MANY THANKS TO OUR 2022 CORPORATE & FOUNDATION SUPPORTERS



**J. M. McDonald
Foundation**



Bulova Stetson Fund
John & Dorothy Caples Fund
Alice & Cortland Knipe Foundation

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.

All contributions truly improve the lives of people with disabilities.

Going to work each day helps individuals with disabilities avoid isolation and depression, but they often need training and ongoing support to achieve sustained employment. All donations help us provide the personalized programs our clients need to become productive, successful members of their community.

All donations to CAREERS are tax-deductible by law. Please make checks out, and mail to:
CAREERS Support Solutions - 400 Columbus Avenue, Suite 123 South, Valhalla, NY 10595
or make a secure donation on our website at: www.careersupportsolutions.org/giving-funding/donate-today/

