



# INTO THE WORLD OF WORK

News for Families and Supporters

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Number 34 **Our job retention rate has increased to 74% — despite the economy!** Fall 2010

## CAREERS 2010 ANNUAL ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Our Annual Anniversary Celebration, once again, offered a wonderful opportunity to recognize and reward clients' hard work and their outstanding contributions to Westchester and Putnam Counties' workforce. This very special event was held on June 30th at **PepsiCo World Headquarters** in Purchase where 213 clients, families, employers and award recipients gathered for refreshments and awards ceremony.

In addition to our major sponsor **PepsiCo**, who provided the venue and food for this year's event, sponsors included **Casper & Fischer, LLP; Curry Automotive; ShopRite Supermarkets; Universal American; and Verizon**. Tina Cornish-Lauria, CAREERS' Executive Director, stated "Our generous sponsors make it possible to host this event, and we are truly grateful to them for helping us acknowledge our clients and the many deserving people who support them throughout the year."

The awards ceremony followed a social hour enhanced by the **Philip James Orchestra**, who generously donated their services. During the ceremony, many award recipients stressed how important CAREERS is in the lives of individuals with disabilities. Adrienne Forbes, who along with her husband, Howard Forbes, received the award for Outstanding Parental Support said "Raising a child with disabilities is never easy, and we have always depended on the strength of family and friends, as well as CAREERS. Without the coaching component CAREERS has provided, my son Warren would not be where he is today."

CAREERS recognized the many people, companies and foundations that support us for their outstanding contributions to our agency. The following people and organizations received Awards of Appreciation: **Wachovia; Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins; Senator Suzi Oppenheimer; The Louise & Arde Bulova Fund; Senator Vincent Leibell; The Dyson Foundation; The Daniel Mielman Charitable Foundation; Hitachi Foundation & Hitachi Metals America; Hudson City Savings Bank; Hope for Youth Foundation; Diversified Investment Advisors; Sam's Club; Joshua Beser, Bingham McCutchen, LLP; and Irene Thompson.**



*Adrienne Forbes with her son Warren — one of CAREERS' most successful clients. Warren has worked for 21 years at the Westchester County Dept. of Corrections.*



*CAREERS' client Marc Cutri presents Irene Thompson with her Award of Appreciation for her 15 years of service on CAREERS' Board of Directors.*



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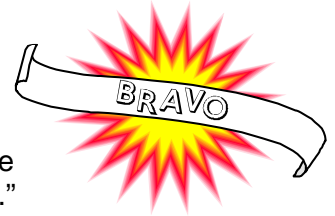
**Production Design**  
Tina Cornish-Lauria

**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.**

**\* \* BRAVO! \* \***

## **News of Achievements in the Workplace**

**Bravo to Naomi Card** – Naomi’s hours were increased at A&P, where she now works on Sunday – one of the busiest days at the deli. Tom, the store manager says “Naomi is my best employee.” She is friendly and helpful with the customers and well liked by her co-workers. [Way to Go Naomi!](#)



## **Words of Praise — Letters to CAREERS**

Dear Ms. Cornish-Lauria:

Employment Specialist Mary Filipponi’s work in supporting Andrea L. has been superior! Without Mary’s advocacy and assistance Andrea would not have become eligible to receive supportive employment services. I would like to express my gratitude to your agency for enabling me to work with Mary, who has been so dedicated – not only to Andrea – but to the other clients we have shared over the years.

Sincerely,

**Phyllis Wilson, LCSW-R – Advocates for the Disabled, Inc.**

Dear Rebecca and CAREERS:

Thanks so much to you and everyone at CAREERS. Pat really enjoyed the 10 years he spent at Pet Smart; it was a very positive experience. Again, thanks for your help through the years. We wish CAREERS continued success in the great work you all do.

Sincerely,

**Pat and Gerry Scalfaro, parents of Pasquale Scalfaro, CAREERS’ client since 1999**

Dear Ms. Cornish-Lauria:

It gave me great pleasure to receive your last newsletter and learn of your continued success and growth. Your leadership has enabled CAREERS to really make a difference in many people’s lives. Keep up the good work!

Fondly,

**Ina Grober, past staff member and donor**

Dear CAREERS:

Thank you for being the cornerstone of my life. And thanks to the many people I have met in my years with CAREERS and how they have helped me stay focused – especially Jennifer.

Sincerely,

**Paul Loomis, CAREERS’ client since 1995**

Dear CAREERS:

It was so nice of you to give me the Award of Appreciation. I have seen the great things the program has accomplished for our clients over the years and I am proud to be a part of such a wonderful organization.

Sincerely,

**Irene Thompson, CAREERS’ Board Member since 1995**

## **BBB Seal of Approval**

Once again, CAREERS has earned the Better Business Bureau’s Accredited Charity Seal for meeting the 20 rigorous Standards for Charity Accountability. Every dollar CAREERS receives enables us to get disabled individuals jobs and provide them with long-term support to keep their jobs.



## ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION SPECIAL AWARDS

*Each year, we honor our clients and colleagues who have earned special recognition for their outstanding support of our program. Here are the 2010 Special Award winners:*

### Employee of the Year

Michael Harley received the Employee of the Year Award for his excellent work at the Larchmont Library as a Librarian Assistant. Michael has worked at the library for 11 years, where he has shown much growth.



### Supervisor of the Year

Alex Quezada, Operations Manager for Crothall at the Westchester Medical Center, received the Supervisor of the Year Award. Alex has always gone above and beyond his job duties to help client Patty Polecek, according to Employment Specialist Christine Place, who presented him with the award.



### Personal Achievement Awards

Mike Magrone, Richard Duffield and Jimmy Perdick received Personal Achievement Awards to recognize the great progress they all have made both personally and professionally. (left to right) Mike Magrone accepts his award from his Employment Specialist Serena Shea. Employment Specialist Mary Filipponi presents Richard Duffield with his award. Award winner Jimmy Perdick was unable to attend the event.



### Employer Recognition Awards

(left to right) Tom McFall, Store Manager of Hannaford Supermarket in Carmel, accepted the Employer Recognition Award on behalf of Hannaford, and thanked client Jessica Ekback (center) for being an outstanding associate. Employment Specialist Serena Shea congratulated them.



Peter Tangredi (left) of the Tangredi & Associates Law Firm proudly accepted his Employer Recognition Award from client Damon Cook (who works as a file clerk at his firm) and Employment Specialist Jennifer Retacco.

### Outstanding Parental Support

Adrienne and Howard Forbes, the parents of client Warren Forbes, accepted the Outstanding Parental Support Award for their dedication to their son and to CAREERS. Howard has served on CAREERS' Board of Directors since 2005 and currently serves as Acting Treasurer.



### Outstanding Advocate

Mary Saffron, a special education teacher at Lincoln High School in Yonkers, received the Outstanding Advocate Award for her dedication and consistent support of CAREERS' client Demetrius Darby. Mary is involved in many aspects of Demetrius' life.



**Congratulations to the following individuals and their employers celebrating anniversaries in 2010,  
who we honored at our Annual Anniversary Celebration in June:**

**One Year Anniversary**

**Peter Auerbach**, Pathmark, Hartsdale  
**Kelly Bowden**, Stop & Shop, Yonkers  
**Isabel Bradley**, Little People Day Care, Mahopac  
**Lee Branch**, St. John's Riverside Hospital, Yonkers  
**Joe Cancel**, Stop & Shop, Yonkers  
**Joe Cuatt**, Hudson Valley Gateway Chamber of Commerce, Peekskill  
**William Dance**, Stop & Shop, Port Chester  
**Mariel Dennis**, Hudson Valley Community Svcs, Brewster  
**Derek Deinhardt**, Walmart, Fishkill  
**Richard Duffield**, Goodwill Industries, Baldwin Place  
**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  
**Kyle Kirshner**, Best Buy, Hartsdale  
**William Klein**, Stop & Shop, Dobbs Ferry  
**Paul Loomis**, Baker's, Yonkers  
**Clayon Lopez**, Target, Mt. Kisco  
**Kathleen Manton**, Best Friends, White Plains  
**Jim McDougal**, Occupations, Inc., West Middletown  
**Raymond Orteig**, Stop & Shop, Port Chester  
**Marica Pavlovic**, Stop & Shop, New Rochelle  
**Brittany Petersen**, Home Goods, Baldwin Place  
**Mary Lou Pullicino**, Stop & Shop, Port Chester  
**Debbie Roviezzo**, Panera Bread, Mohegan Lake  
**Ann Marie Simmons**, ShopRite, Croton-on-Hudson  
**James Sloat**, ShopRite, Peekskill  
**Jonathan Small**, D'Agostino's, Chappaqua  
**Alexa Stevelman**, Paul's Health Mart Pharmacy, South Salem  
**Victoria Vig**, Stop & Shop, Port Chester  
**Paolo Villon**, Stop & Shop, Port Chester  
**Michael Werner**, ShopRite, Peekskill  
**Peter Zorovich**, ShopRite, Thornwood

**Two 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  
**Richard Giamelli**, Staples, Elmsford & White Plains  
**Thomas Gollogly**, Advocates for the Disabled, Mt. Kisco  
**Craig Haviland**, Walmart, Cortlandt  
**Robert Heller**, Ossining Public Library  
**\*Jeffrey Hernandez**, College of Mount St. Vincent, Riverdale  
**\*Thomas Kalbfus**, Chappaqua Transportation  
**Cassandra Lanton**, K-Mart, Yorktown  
**\*Jennifer LaSorsa**, Briarcliff Manor School District  
**Jennifer Messineo**, Little People Day Care, Mahopac  
**Robert Miller**, Putnam Ridge Rehab & Skilled Nursing Center, Brewster  
**Carolyn Paperno**, Accent on Learning, Briarcliff Manor  
**William Seide**, Stop & Shop, New Rochelle  
**Alexa Stevelman**, South Salem Library  
**Cynthia Wanamaker**, Stop & Shop, New Rochelle

**Jessalyn Winter**, Stop & Shop, Port Chester

**Three Year Anniversary**

**\*Tara Assenzio**, A & P, Yonkers  
**Chris Chipps**, Rite Aid Pharmacy, Carmel  
**James Clarke**, Putnam Hospital Center, Carmel  
**Camille Crea**, Food Emporium, Eastchester  
**Joseph Dalena**, A & P, Cortlandt  
**Mathew 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  
**Melissa Gelso**, CVS, Pelham Manor  
**\*Cord Glantz**, Kilk Technology, Spring Valley  
**Jeff Handelman**, Home Depot, Brewster  
**Cassandra Lanton**, Kohl's, Cortlandt Manor  
**Andrea Lenski**, Goodwill Industries, Somers  
**\*Markel Little**, Stop & Shop, New Rochelle  
**Kenneth Lyons**, Photo File, Mt. Kisco  
**Michael Magrone**, Putnam Hospital Center, Carmel  
**Chris Maloney**, A & P, Brewster  
**Erik Olsen**, A & P, Yorktown Heights  
**Patricia Palmer**, Stop & Shop, New Rochelle  
**Jimmy Perdick**, Turco's, Yorktown Heights  
**Betty Robinson**, Goodwill Industries, Somers  
**Jason Strilowich**, Hudson Valley Community Services, Brewster  
**Angelo Tetro**, Royal Bus Company, Somers  
**Paolo Villon**, Take Care Health Systems @MBIA, Armonk  
**Jeff VonBargen**, Putnam Hospital Center, Carmel

**Four 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  
**Laurie Finger**, CVS, Mahopac  
**Kenny Gonzalez**, CVS, Ossining  
**Peter Greenfield**, Kendal-on-Hudson, Sleepy Hollow  
**\*Jacqueline James**, Wal-Mart, White Plains  
**Christine Kruska**, CVS, White Plains  
**Eileen Morra**, Marshall's, Cortlandt  
**Joseph Morvillo**, St. Patrick's Church, Yorktown Heights  
**\*Brenda Nixon**, Kohl's, Port Chester  
**Karen Patrick**, Putnam Hospital Center, Carmel  
**\*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  
**\*Judith Stern**, Artic Ice, Mamaroneck  
**\*Tom Storms**, Mark Auto, Peekskill

**Five Year Anniversary**

**Maria Amy**, Putnam Ridge Rehab & Skilled Nursing Center, Brewster  
**\*Cynthia Anderson**, Pathmark, Mt. Vernon  
**Vincent Canzone**, Occupations, Inc., West Middletown  
**Naomi Card**, A & P, Carmel

\***Faith DeJulio**, Marshall's, Cortlandt  
**Frank DeSimone**, Immaculate Heart of Mary Church,  
 Scarsdale  
**Noah Feld**, Pathmark, Yonkers  
**Sheree Ferguson**, Stop & Shop, Yonkers  
**\*Donte Gatewood**, Pathmark, Hartsdale  
**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  
 Center, Valhalla  
**Jessica Melnick**, A & P, Mahopac  
**\*Anthony Muia**, Town of Harrison  
**\*Vicki Ong**, Carmel School District  
**\*Martin Regan**, Katonah-Lewisboro School District  
**Andrew Resnik**, Rudy's In-Flight Catering, White Plains  
**\*Sheverlo Smith**, River Bay Corporation, Bronx  
**Margaret Toy**, Ossining Public Library, Ossining  
**Wendell Vlachos**, Target, Mt. Kisco  
**Kate Warren**, Boys & Girls Club of N. West., Mt. Kisco

#### Six Year Anniversary

**Thomas Adimari**, Aramark (Chappaqua School District)  
**Gunther Buddenbaum**, Mahopac Library, Mahopac  
**\*Nicole Gabel**, A & P, 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**, N. Westchester Hospital, Mt. Kisco  
**Roxanne Williams**, NYS Office of Professional Discipline,  
 Port Chester

#### Seven Year Anniversary

**Frank Bologna**, Stop & Shop, Tarrytown  
**Marc Cutri**, Meetinghouse, Bedford Village  
**Ed Kennedy**, Stop & Shop, North White Plains  
**Patricia Lippoth**, Boys & Girls Club of Northern  
 Westchester, Mt. Kisco  
**Alanna Medlock**, Marshall's, Cortlandt  
**John Moglia**, Stop & Shop, Yonkers  
**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

#### Eight Year Anniversary

**\*Robert Aquilino**, Dunwoodie Golf Course, Yonkers  
**Kenny Austin**, Carmel Movie Theater, 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, Cortlandt  
**Linda Lubic**, Stop & Shop, Somers  
**Greg Mancini**, Carmel Movie Theater, Carmel

#### Nine 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  
**\*McClelland St. Cyr**, Babies 'R Us, Yonkers  
**Clifford Thoesen**, Stop & Shop, Dobbs Ferry

#### Ten Year Anniversary

**Judy Cignarella**, Old Navy/The Gap, Cortlandt  
**Damon Cook**, Tangredi & Associates, White Plains  
**\*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

#### Eleven 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  
**Pasquale Scalfaro**, Pet Smart, Cortlandt  
**Richard Valladares**, BOCES, Yorktown

#### Twelve Year Anniversary

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

#### Thirteen Year Anniversary

**Patricia Agnano**, Old Navy/The Gap, Cortlandt  
**George Endres**, Stop & Shop, North White Plains  
**Robin Holloway**, ShopRite, Bedford Hills  
**Vincent Migliaccio**, D'Agostino's, Rye Brook  
**Robin Scheer**, Stop & Shop, Mamaroneck

#### Fourteen Year Anniversary

\***Steven Carafa**, Westchester County Finance, White Plains  
**Peter Coupe**, Northern Westchester Hospital, Mt. Kisco  
**Ellen Culhane**, Gap, Mt. Kisco  
**Manuel Gonzalez**, Stop & Shop, Mamaroneck  
**Paul Loomis**, Radio Shack, Yonkers  
**James Marinelli**, Sears, Jefferson Valley  
**Marci Mehler**, United Hebrew Geriatrics Ctr, New Rochelle  
**Susan O'Donnell**, A & P, Mahopac

#### Fifteen Year Anniversary

**Milton Almodovar**, Nordstrom Cafe, White Plains  
**Susan Amico**, ShopRite, Bedford Hills

#### Sixteen Year Anniversary

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

#### Seventeen Year Anniversary

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

#### Eighteen Year Anniversary

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

*Continued from page 5*

**Twenty-Year Anniversary**

- \*Mary Karras, Stop & Shop, Ossining
- \*Roman Melnychuk, Marriott, Dobbs Ferry
- Angelina Ucci, Marshall's, Hartsdale

**Twenty-One Year Anniversary**

- Michele Flores, Northern Westchester Hospital, Mt. Kisco
- Warren Forbes, Westchester County Department of Corrections, Valhalla

**Twenty-Three Year Anniversary**

- \*Vincent Avesato, City of Rye, Dept. of Public Works
- \*Joseph Mazzari, McDonald's, Hartsdale
- Mark Nikitopoulos, Van Cortlandt School, Croton-on-Hudson

**Twenty-Four Year Anniversary**

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

**Twenty-Six Year Anniversary**

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

**Twenty-Nine Year Anniversary**

- \*Gertrude Sherwood, Montefiore Hospital, Bronx

***\*Successfully Competitively Employed In the Community***



**CAREERS Launches Expanded Website**

CAREERS newly revised website is useful to clients, employers, and the public alike. The extended site located at

[www.careersforpeoplewithdisabilities.org](http://www.careersforpeoplewithdisabilities.org) offers valuable information for disabled individuals seeking employment, as well as prospective employers, and describes CAREERS' services, programs, news and events. The site also includes information about the Americans with Disabilities Act and describes tax incentives available for employers who hire people with disabilities. The resources and links page offers a wealth of resources available to people with disabilities and their families, including national, state and local organizations that provide useful information.

CAREERS' Executive Director Tina Cornish-Lauria announced "We're thrilled to launch our expanded comprehensive website which makes it easy for people to access information about employment and the world of work. It provides resources for individuals with disabilities and enables supporters to easily make secure online donations."

**SPECIAL TRIBUTE DONATIONS TO:**

***Tom & Phil Adimari***

From Dina Adimari & Rich Kamerman

***Warren Forbes***

From June Frankel

***Paul Loomis***

From Thelma Solomon

***Henry C. & Nancy E. McCants, Jr.***

From Wayne Preston McCants

***Marci Mehler***

From Roberta Mehler

***Patty Polacek***

From Phyllis Polacek

***Robin Scheer***

From S. Zachary Scheer

***Jason Strilowich***

From John & Janet Strilowich  
From Mary Ann Kunert

***Scott Treco***

From Marilynn Lobbe

***Victoria Vig***

From Eleanor B. Mines

***Warren Family***

From the Wiston Family

***Michael Werner***

From Sharon & John Werner

**Donations in Honor of**

***In Honor of Kate Warren's 5-year Anniversary***

From Dana, Randy & Mia Wiston

***In Honor of my Brother Kevin A.H. Nicholson***

From Tanya Nicholson Miller

***Thank you all for your generosity***

**CAREERS NEEDS YOUR HELP!**

We rely on your continued and valued support to meet our mission of helping disabled individuals find and keep jobs. Enclosed is a contribution envelope for your use in helping us reach our goals. In addition, CAREERS gratefully accepts and acknowledges all tax-deductible donations made "In tribute to . . .," "In honor of . . .," "In memory of . . ." "In lieu of flowers for . . .," etc. Please remember to include CAREERS when giving generously on behalf of yourself and your loved ones. **Thank You!**



CAREERS was chosen as one of the best non-profits to work for in the nation when the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual People's Choice Best Non-Profit to Work for Awards were recently announced by Opportunity Knocks, a national online job site made up of over 22,000 organizations that focus exclusively on the non-profit community. CAREERS was named as one of five winners with an operating budget of \$1 to \$5 million. A total of fifteen winners were awarded based on three categories of operating budget size. "We are thrilled to be recognized nationally as a great place to work while providing services that improve the lives of so many," Executive Director Tina Cornish-Lauria said.

"The People's Choice Best Non-Profit to Work for Awards demonstrates how non-profit organizations can not only make a difference in the community, but also have an incredibly positive impact on the lives of the people that work for them," Karen Beavor, President/CEO of Opportunity Knocks said.

Several CAREERS employees made submissions during the nomination period. The CAREERS' submissions were particularly strong, according to Opportunity Knocks, and Executive Secretary Kathy Shallo's nomination in particular helped establish us as a forerunner. "CAREERS is extremely dedicated to its mission," Kathy, who has worked for the agency for 19 years, wrote. "CAREERS places the needs of its clients first and foremost, recognizing their abilities and guiding them to reach their fullest potential. CAREERS' administration constantly strives to obtain the best for its employees, as well as the agency. This is why I consider CAREERS for People with Disabilities, Inc. the best non-profit to work for."

## CAREERS' STAYS STRONG DESPITE ECONOMY

CAREERS has maintained the strong fiscal and professional integrity it has established over its 23-year history. The recession has created significant challenges for non-profits, many of whom have experienced decreasing funding and contributions but at the same time have an increase in clients and demand for services. "A lot of non-profits have had to borrow money to keep afloat," Executive Director Tina Cornish-Lauria said. "But we've worked hard to keep costs in check and to meet our fundraising goals even in this difficult economy. This has enabled us to continue to meet our budget and maintain robust fiscal strength."

CAREERS continues its track record as the most successful supported work program in Westchester and Putnam Counties. During a time when many Americans are giving up looking for a job, **we expect to provide services to over 400 individuals with disabilities and place close to 100 people in new jobs this year.** Equally important during this recession, **we provide much needed ongoing job support services to our clients who are already employed – helping them avoid layoffs and retain their employment. Less than 1% of our clients lost their jobs over the past year!** In the midst of one of our country's highest unemployment rates, **our clients' job retention rate is still the highest rate in our history!**

*Joe Cuatt (1 yr.), Alanna Medlock (7 yrs.), Rebecca Appleyard (CAREERS Employment Specialist), Eileen Morra (4 yrs.), Jackie Newburg (18 yrs.), Tom Culhane (17 yrs.), Joann Gilleo (6 yrs.).*



*Richard Pirro celebrated his 10th anniversary at PepsiCo, Purchase — with boss Frank Lo Castro.*

*Celebrating  
Longevity  
on the Job*



## NEW WORKFORCE READINESS PROGRAM PREPARES CLIENTS

CAREERS' newest endeavor – our Workforce Readiness, Placement and Training Program – has proven to be highly effective in preparing our clients to enter and stay in the workforce. “We realized there was a need to expand our services to help prepare our clients before they started the process of looking for a job,” Executive Director Tina Cornish-Lauria said. “Our newest program has proven to be invaluable in developing job preparation and financial skills for our clients. **This program is a great skills and confidence builder for people with disabilities who want to work, and many people in the program have already gotten jobs.**”

Clive Williams attended the first session last fall, and credits the course with vastly improving his skills. “Interviewing was really hard for me to do,” Clive said. “But, I’ve learned from everyone here and have become a lot more comfortable. Now I know what to say when I go on an interview.”

The curriculum and classes are constructed to provide practical information the clients then discuss and practice together. Most people have spent their adult lives in the workforce developing job skills through practice. However, people with disabilities usually don’t get that opportunity, so the chance to practice in a work-like setting with other people is essential to each client’s success. “We support and

help each person improve their interviewing and interpersonal relationships with others by practicing until they know and are comfortable with the appropriate ways to act in various situations,” Program Coordinator Allison Scorca, who helped develop the program, said. “This is crucial in helping them be successful obtaining and keeping a job.”



*Jennifer Retacco & Allison Scorca (back center) developed and co-facilitate the Workforce Readiness Program. “There really is strength in numbers,” says Jennifer. “The Job Club members motivate one another and help each other develop the skills and the confidence to go out and land a job.”*

Seed money was provided by a \$25,000 grant from Walmart and by a three-year grant from the United Way of Westchester and Putnam. Client Jimmy McKinney says the program is very “affirming” and anticipates getting a job soon. “I really feel I can accomplish that goal now,” Jimmy said.



*Job Club members Shannon Rodgers (left) and David Kokiadis practicing interviewing skills with each other.*

### Join CAREERS Workforce Readiness Job Club and Learn How to:

- Create an effective resume
- Practice interviewing skills
- Develop good references
- Work effectively with co-workers and supervisors
- Pass pre-employment personality questionnaires
- Dress for success
- Work effectively with co-workers and supervisors
- Save, budget & invest wisely

**Classes are held weekly in each of our offices, except on holidays.**

**Call the Valhalla Office at (914) 741-8500 or the Carmel Office at (845) 225-8007 to register.**

***Thank you for your contribution to our supported work program!  
Your contribution is tax-deductible to the limit allowed by law.***