

A Big Thank You to Kessler Foundation & Summit Area Public Foundation

Jennifer McCroy is a familiar face around Employment Horizons. She began working in the agency program in January 2005, and for ten years had worked in the production department on almost every job that came through our doors. However, Jen expressed interest in trying something new. In 2015, she agreed to a trial in our Culinary Arts Training Program and loved it. Over the next few months, she gradually increased her schedule to 5 full days per week. The program taught her meal preparation, dish washing, mopping, customer service, cashiering, and money handling. As her confidence was building, she began working with her Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor, Shenell Mitchell, on developing other skills necessary to prepare for possible supported employment in the community.

Just as Jen was getting ready to work in the community, Employment Horizons received two very generous grant awards – one from the Kessler Foundation and another from the Summit Area Public Foundation. Both grants are being used to fund a project we have initiated to transition individuals from our agency program into supported, community employment. We hired a Community Transition Coordinator (CTC) in March 2019 who has been working with approximately twenty program participants involved in the production, culinary arts, and maintenance training departments. The CTC has developed, arranged, and facilitated many community-based work experiences for those individuals, including Jen McCroy, as a part of the transition project.

In August 2019, after many months of working with her counselor and the CTC, Jen's hard work paid off. She was offered a part-time cashiering position at Wegman's in Hanover Township. Jen now splits her time between Wegman's and Employment Horizons during the week, and still receives support services. When asked what she likes best about working in the community, Jen says it's the people. "My coworkers are all nice and I like meeting new people," said Jen. Jen can interact with her community, but still receive help when she needs it. She is happy to still work at Employment Horizons because she can still see her friends at Employment Horizons and meet with her counselor. Thanks to the generous funding from the Kessler and Summit Area Public Foundation and the supportive services provided by the Employment Horizons staff, Jennifer has had a successful transition into community employment.



Monday, June 22nd kicks off our "Fore" Ways of Giving Campaign. Details coming soon!



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Helpful Activity Provides an Essential Need

Employment Horizons program participant, Danny, along with his mother Loretta, are spending their days in quarantine creating masks for frontline medical staff. Their system-Danny folds pleats of fabric, cuts according to measurement, sorts and packs the masks. Loretta is a master seamstress and takes care of all the sewing. Danny attends work at Employment Horizons in our Fulfillment Center. His skills regularly contribute to the success of the projects that we complete for our partnering businesses.

Knowing her skill, a friend of Loretta's put them in touch with a dentist that practices in Madison who is leading one of the efforts to help. Danny and his mom have already made hundreds of masks that are delivered in batches to the Atlantic Health System for protection against the spread of COVID-19.

Danny's mother Loretta said, "We wanted to do something constructive with our time in quarantine that we could do together. It was important to me that the masks go to the healthcare workers who desperately need the equipment".





Spring always seems to bring with it a flurry of activity, a busier calendar, and fresh new ideas. Certainly, spring at Employment Horizons (EH) is no exception. This year however, the season is bringing a unique set of challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic. In this edition of our newsletter, you'll read not only about the wonderful accomplishments of program participants and staff over the past several months, but you'll also learn

more about how EH is weathering the current circumstances and what we have planned for the year when we're able to return to our normal operations.

Related to COVID-19, EH's main facility in Cedar Knolls has been closed since March 16th. The decision to close was made in conjunction with our local health department and the New Jersey Department of Labor. Despite this closure, staff have been keeping in touch with our clients in all of our programs and providing whatever services they can by phone or video. While much of our organization has been able to take shelter at home, our incredible janitorial team is still at work providing the high-quality cleaning needed to reduce the spread of COVID-19. These employees have been on the frontline of the pandemic and doing an absolutely incredible job. I'm very proud of the work they're doing in service to our government partners.

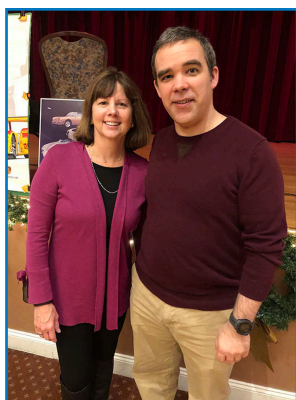
In addition to managing our response to COVID-19, this is the time of year that EH reviews various measures of performance from the previous year and rolls out our goals for the current year. When it comes to 2019, I'm excited to share that our

programs, once again, achieved some most impressive results. Across all programs, we served 475 individuals with disabilities. This continues a steady increase in clients over the past five years. Our Career Development Services placed 66 program participants in new jobs, with more than half of them at new employers working with EH for the first time. Our Fulfillment Center provided work for an average 123 clients each month while our Vocational Rehabilitation Services team engaged record numbers of program participants in self-advocacy and skills groups. Transition and Vocational Evaluation Services served 30 individuals including students from six different school districts, and our Commercial Services and Culinary programs continue to grow, serving more program participants and new customers.

In 2020, we hope to open our Culinary Arts Training Program to be available to individuals beyond those working in our Fulfillment Center by expanding our services beyond the lunch hour. We are also starting a program of continuing education and professional development that will be available to both Employment Horizons team members as well as employees from other non-profit and government partners.

As always, we are humbled to have your support. Please do not hesitate to reach out to anyone on the staff with questions, ideas, or feedback. We appreciate your patience and support particularly as we all navigate the current COVID-19 situation. I look forward to seeing everyone back at EH and our events once it is safe to do so. I hope everyone is doing well and staying healthy!

Porsche Club Event Brings Big Support



For the fifth year in a row, Employment Horizons teamed up with the Northern New Jersey Region Porsche Club of America for their annual Porsche Club Tricky Tray held just before the Holidays.

Auction items filled the room as did the guest list, rounding out at over 100 attendees! Porsche memorabilia were hot ticket items as well as jewelry, restaurant gift cards and experiences like "Drive a Porsche for the Weekend".

For the second year, the event took place at the Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey, located in Whippany. Our own Café Horizons catered the event complete with a delicious buffet of baked ziti, meatballs, salad and of course, their fresh baked cookies.

The event was a huge success and the NNJRPCA raised over \$17,000 to benefit Employment Horizons! Thank you so much to the organization, all the attendees, and Hubert & Linda King for organizing this fantastic event. We've so enjoyed working together over these past five years and wish you continued success in support of the charities of your choice. We hope to partner again in the future!

Employment Horizons is interested in partnering with additional civic organizations, church groups or special interest groups. Please contact Lisa Montalbano, Director of Development, at 973-538-8822, ext. 212 or lmontalbano@ehorizons.org, to create a meaningful partnership!



“Spirits” Were High



Employment Horizons celebrated another successful year at our Annual Recognition Dinner held on October 17, 2019. The event, held at Brooklake Country Club, included cocktail hour, dinner, a silent auction, basket auction as well as the much anticipated 50-50 raffle. Congratulations to our 50-50 winner, Cindy Van Sickles!

The Honorary Chair, James Gowen, Vice President, Global Supply Chain Operations

and Chief Sustainability Officer for Verizon kicked off the night by stating how Employment Horizons is the only fulfillment organization staffed by people with disabilities that Verizon partners with around the world. Other Honorees included Pet Goods as Employer of the Year; Verizon as Corporate Commitment Award; and Eamon Loughran who received our Make a Difference Award.

Chris Stier received the President's award which recognizes a program participant's successful transition from Employment Horizons' facility-based program to community job placement. Chris has solidified himself as an integral member of the Toyota of Morristown team since 2012 starting as a Valet, being promoted to a Lube Tech.

Alek Rodriguez received the William Huber Achievement Award which recognizes an individual whose outstanding accomplishments serve as an inspiration for all who strive to find employment and acceptance in the local community. Alek has been employed at Sea Breeze in Towaco since 2012.

Milestone anniversaries were celebrated by Employment Horizons' staff members Sharon Ferraiuolo and Maria Shatynski – 5 years; Dilcia Yela – 15 years; and John Fishinger – 20 years.



Strike to Perfection



It was another “strike” at our 2019 Bowl-A-Thon! Everyone enjoyed a fun afternoon of bowling, pizza, cookies catered by Café Horizons, and of course, candy!

Thank you to our Title Sponsors – ADP Management Services, Matthijssen, Inc., Paycom, and Rubenstein Properties! We are so appreciative of your generous support of Employment Horizons and our mission.

Special thanks to all of our volunteers who helped make the event so special! With the support of this year's sponsors Adams Addressing, Back to Basic Wellness, Paylocity, ShopRite, Smith-Sondy Asphalt Construction, The Rose House, and Joanne and Walter Touchette, as well as our many donors, we raised over \$8,500.

This year's costume contest winners included Maryann Maguire (Scariest), Lauren Rosenberg (Most Creative), and Christine Fischera (Most Colorful).

Holiday Celebrations



In December, we had our annual client Holiday party that included games, arts and crafts, dance contests, as well as performances by our very own EH Bell Choir! The day was filled with fun, laughter, and the amazing feeling of everyone being together to ring in the holidays! A special thank you to our volunteers from the Villa Restaurant Group! We continue to be beyond grateful for their support throughout the past several years! We look forward to our future client parties this year!





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CEDAR KNOLLS, NJ 07927

Online giving

is the most convenient way
to support Employment Horizons.

Visit www.ehorizons.org to make a
tax-deductible donation.

All major credit cards are accepted.
95 cents of every dollar donated goes
directly to programs and services that
provide job training and placement to
people with disabilities and
other special needs.

Get Social With Us!



Special Events 2020

A Virtual Taste of Summer

Showcasing a variety of participants
including Cafe Horizons'
very own, Chef Kaylee!

Follow our social media platforms
to participate!

Annual Recognition Dinner

October 15, 2020

Halloween Bowl-A-Thon

October 25, 2020

Postponed

Family Fun Night

Choose Your Decade Dance Party!

New date to be announced

For additional information go to
www.ehorizons.org
#EHStrong

Self Advocacy by Matthew Nevins



Early last year, I had the opportunity to advocate on my own behalf. I had a very serious seizure and wanted to use Hackensack University Medical Center for treatment. (I have a rare health issue and my specialist is on staff there.) However, state law required I be taken to the closest hospital which was not Hackensack. When I was discharged from the hospital, I wrote to Senator Stephen Sweeney, President of the State of Senate, who is the parent of a special needs' child, explaining what had occurred. Within a couple of weeks an aide from Senator Sweeney's staff called to get more information. He told me they would look into the applicable state law to see if it should be changed. Although the law wasn't changed, I was proud of myself for taking the initiative to self-advocate.

The Book Bin Guy

COVID-19 has shut down most operations in our country including Employment Horizons' offices in Cedar Knolls. Still, there are many who risk their own safety and continue to go to work everyday to do their jobs. We hear about our hospital workers, doctors and nurses, our food store clerks, these are the obvious, but what about all the others? Truck drivers, delivery people and what about the person who still comes to EH to empty our book bin? In April, at the height of the epidemic, we happened upon a gentleman, kindly referred to as, "The Book Bin Guy". He was emptying our bin and collecting the many books that were left next to the bin in boxes. These were boxes of books that could not fit into the bin because it was filled to the top. Not only did he take all the books, but he also broke down all the cardboard boxes, disposing of them in our dumpster before he left. With our building being closed these empty boxes may have sat there until EH reopened. He went above and beyond, and we truly appreciate his kind gesture! It turns out "The Book Bin Guy" has a name. Thank you Ben!



"Fore" Ways of Giving Begins June 22nd



As you probably know, our Annual Golf Classic scheduled for Monday, June 22nd was cancelled to respect social distancing due to COVID-19. Keeping the theme "in play", we developed a "Fore" Ways of Giving Campaign. Help us jump start our re-opening! From the comforts of your own home we will offer an array of opportunities to get our families, donors and sponsors involved! You don't need to be a golf enthusiast to be a part of this exciting event! Opportunities to get involved will range from making a donation, becoming a volunteer or even something as simple as introducing us to your friends or co-workers that may have an interest to become our partner. Watch for our kick-off letter in the mail and our social media platforms to participate. Be sure to mark your calendars for the week of June 22nd!