

SPRING 2024



# ON THE HORIZON



EMHORIZONS



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EMPLOYMENT HORIZONS, INC.

## A RECIPE FOR SUCCESS *EH Launches A New Culinary Arts Program*

Six excited students kicked off Employment Horizons' new 10-week Culinary Arts Program on February 3, 2024. Chef Kaylee Wickersham guided the small group through culinary exercises to practice food safety protocols and refine their cooking techniques. Hands-on learning, lively classroom discussions, and cooking demonstrations accommodated the students' diverse learning styles.

Everyone contributed to the success of the daily dish, fostering a sense of teamwork and camaraderie among the students. On burger day, Dario Torres and Sean Quinlan worked together to chop potatoes for French fries, while Talha Rahim, Rebekah Reese, and Ben Jarmel measured and mixed ingredients for homemade burger buns. Then, each student prepared burgers with spices of their choosing. The day culminated with excited students ready to taste their hard work.

Sean Quinlan joined the inaugural cohort because his "dream is to open a restaurant," so he was delighted to get to live out that dream at Employment Horizons' very own pop-up restaurant. In the simulation restaurant, students showcased their new skills while enhancing their confidence and competence in the kitchen and during interactions with customers.

At the end of the program, students are eligible to take the ServSafe exam to earn a nationally recognized certification that opens doors to a world of employment opportunities within the food service industry. As the first cohort of Employment Horizons' Culinary Arts Program reached graduation, the aroma of success filled the air. With newfound culinary skills and a ServSafe certification in hand, graduates, like Sean Quinlan, are poised to turn their dreams into reality, one dish at a time.



Rebekah Reese (left) and Sean Quinlan (right) share laughs as they put together breakfast sandwiches.

SCAN ME



SUPPORT EH'S CULINARY ARTS PROGRAMS

*Join us for a Taste of Spring*

Wednesday, April 17, 2024, 6 pm-9 pm

## A MESSAGE FROM LISA MONTALBANO

With the arrival of spring and the vibrant hues blossoming around us, I am delighted to introduce an exciting addition to our array of programs aimed at empowering individuals and fostering their professional growth: the launch of our new 10-week Culinary Arts Program. This initiative is designed to equip our participants with essential culinary skills, opening doors to employment opportunities in the thriving food industry.

As part of our commitment to supporting our Culinary Arts programs and showcasing the talents of our participants, we're delighted to invite you to our upcoming Taste of Spring event. This culinary extravaganza serves as a platform to highlight the achievements of our aspiring chefs. Your participation in this event directly contributes to the success of these programs, enabling us to continue offering invaluable opportunities to those we serve.

In addition to these exciting developments, EH has been actively engaged in recent advocacy efforts, championing the rights and opportunities of individuals with disabilities in the workforce. Through our collective efforts, we are making strides toward a future where everyone can make informed choices about their employment.

I am deeply grateful for the unwavering support of our community, partners, and supporters. Together, we are transforming lives and creating brighter futures.

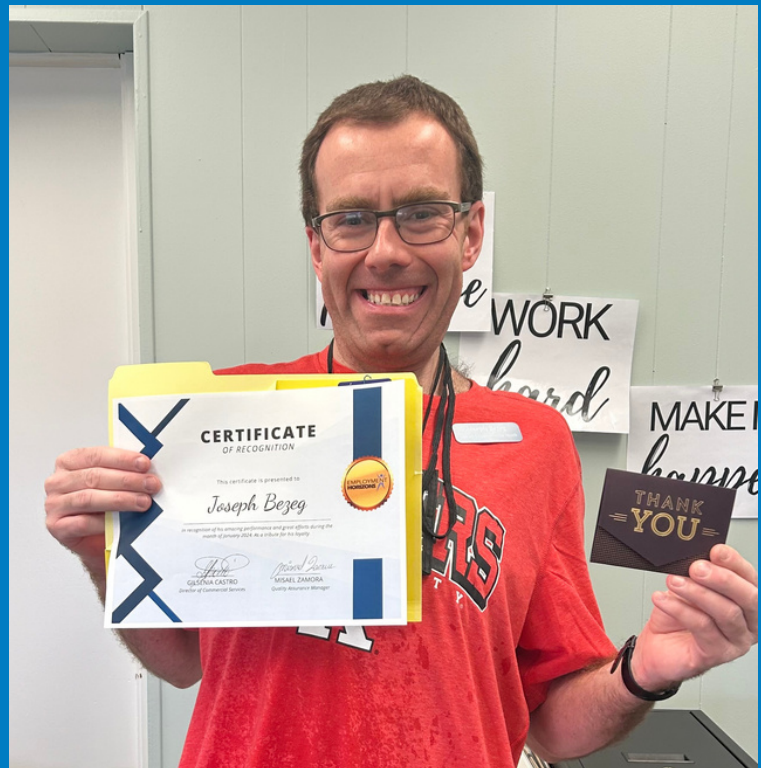


*Lisa Montalbano*

**LISA MONTALBANO**  
Chief Executive Officer

## TEE OFF AT OUR 18TH ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC

June 17, 2024  
Rockaway River  
Country Club



Joseph Bezeg receives a Certificate of Recognition for his hard work as a Cleaner at Picatinny Arsenal.

## RECOGNIZING EXCELLENCE *Joseph Bezeg Named Employee of the Month*

Joseph Bezeg has been working as a Cleaner at Picatinny Arsenal since 2004. His dedication recently impressed one of the managers at Picatinny Arsenal who said that Bezeg was “the hardest and most thorough worker” he had ever seen.

“He works tirelessly at his tasks and is as polite as can be. The results he obtains are amazing. I can always tell when he has been through my area as he takes the extra time to ensure things are done correctly. He’s a pleasure to work with.”

**-MANAGER AT PICATINNY ARSENAL**

Bezeg is an example to everyone at Employment Horizons and is the first Employee of the Month at EH’s Picatinny Arsenal location. Congrats Joseph!

## THE JOY OF WORK: INSIGHTS FROM EH'S FULFILLMENT CENTER

"All of my friends are here. The staff is friendly and they are always here to help you. It's like a big family!"



**James Tilghman,**  
EH Program Participant  
since 2006

"I like working here in the Fulfillment Center because I make money. I want to stay here because I have never worked in the community before. I have made friends here and I like working in culinary."



**Christine Moraski,**  
EH Program Participant  
since 2018

"I like being with friends and contributing to society through my work. When my wheelchair was broken, I couldn't go to work for 2 days and it made me depressed. Coming back to work helped my mental health and helped me keep my routine."



**Ali Peck,**  
EH Program Participant  
since 2013

"I like working here because I get to make friends. I also like doing different jobs to expand my skills."



**Valeria Turnbull,**  
EH Program Participant  
since 2021



## ADVOCACY UPDATE

Recently, Assemblyman Brian Bergen of District 26 and Assemblyman Michael Inganamort of District 24 visited Employment Horizons to learn about our programs. During their visits, they interacted with staff and learned about challenges faced by those with barriers to employment. Most importantly, program participants in the Fulfillment Center used the opportunity to advocate for themselves and their right to make informed decisions about their careers.

The visits highlighted Employment Horizons' innovative approaches to workforce development. Employment Horizons' discussions with the legislators centered on potential legislative measures to further support marginalized communities in the workforce.

The visits renewed the state legislators' commitment to advocating for the employment choice of all people with disabilities. Employment Horizons looks forward to continued collaboration with New Jersey legislators to ensure everyone has the freedom to make their own employment choices.



# EMPOWERING TOMORROW'S WORKFORCE

## *Sordoni Construction Builds Confidence in Young Adult Job Seekers*

Navigating job interviews can be challenging, especially for those facing barriers to employment. To combat the pre-interview jitters, Employment Horizons teamed up with Sordoni Construction to offer mock interviews for RISE program participants on March 11, 2024.

Sordoni Construction's Director of Human Resources, Tim Lorenzo, and Human Resources and Controls Specialist, Amanda Jacobs, provided a safe space for program participants to hone their interview skills and build their confidence. The feedback offered personalized guidance on areas for improvement and highlighted individual strengths. Participants emerged better equipped to navigate future interviews.

"Employment Horizons' mission is very close to my heart," said Lorenzo. "We are excited that Sordoni Construction can play a part in empowering individuals with disabilities to achieve their vocational goals."

At Employment Horizons, we are committed to supporting individuals with barriers to employment to achieve their fullest potential. Our partnership with Sordoni Construction exemplifies our dedication to providing comprehensive support and resources to our participants as they journey toward meaningful employment and independence.

We extend our gratitude to Sordoni Construction for their partnership and commitment to empowering individuals within our community. Together, we are making a difference in the lives of those we serve and building a more inclusive workforce for all.



Tim Lorenzo (left), Director of Human Resources at Sordoni Construction, shakes hands with David Sinchi (right) before their mock interview.



Harold Atienza (left) answers interview questions from Amanda Jacobs (right), an HR and Controls Specialist at Sordoni Construction.

## OUR MISSION

Employment Horizons is dedicated to assisting people with barriers to employment to achieve their individual vocational objectives and establish self-sufficiency in the community.

## CONTACT US

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## VISIT US



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