



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COARC Expands Abilities One Person at a Time, Time after Time

Mellenville, New York (February 25, 2008) Over the past two years COARC has expanded working opportunities for individuals experiencing disabilities. The goal of COARC's Work Services is to maximize each person's ability and opportunity for meaningful employment, and to ensure that each individual is leading the fullest, most independent life possible.

Columbia Work Link, located at 409 Warren Street in Hudson, is a division of COARC that connects area employers who seek skilled employees with individuals that COARC supports who are looking for jobs. Columbia Work Link's program of employment training, on-site training and skills assessment ensures that individuals and employers both achieve success in job placements. This service is free to employers. Some businesses that have benefited by hiring workers through Columbia Work Link are Price Chopper, Kaz, Traditions, Pizza Hut, Yonder Farms, Fireman's Home and Taco Bell. Individuals looking for program support with their vocational goals and employers looking for trained employees can contact Columbia Work Link at 518-828-5087 or info@coarc.org.

COARC also employs and supports approximately 150 other individuals through COARC Contract Manufacturing, located at the COARC Training Center in Mellenville and the new Second Street Assembly Facility in Hudson. COARC's operations, which are ISO 9001-2000 certified, specialize in custom injection molding. Here, many individuals work independently on complex injection molding and production line operations, while others perform welding, soldering and quality assurance activities. There are also many opportunities for individuals to receive added support and work on basic assembly, sorting and packaging activities. At COARC's Hudson facility, individuals experiencing disabilities work side-by-side with co-workers who do not have disabilities in an integrated setting. COARC Contract Manufacturing can fully produce a business product, from concept to shipping. Some items produced include medical, marine, electronics, cosmetics, consumable and promotional items. Businesses interested in COARC's competitively priced manufacturing and assembly capabilities can contact Mick Whitman at 518-828-4178 or info@coarc.org.

Last August, COARC created its new Blended Services Program that combines pre-vocational training with day habilitation services for those individuals who either benefit from additional support, or enjoy having variety in their daily activities. In addition to employment experience in assembly, individuals in this program also receive life skills training to achieve greater independence.

COARC's growth is not limited to work related programs, but also includes an expansion of residential facilities. Two new locations in Claverack and Greenport will open by summer, joining the 28 other Columbia County homes and apartments that provide residential support for individuals experiencing disabilities.

COARC is a Columbia County not-for-profit organization whose mission is expanding abilities, one person at a time, so individuals experiencing disabilities can achieve their personal goals. COARC programs serve more than 600 individuals and it is one of Columbia County's largest employers. Established in 1965, COARC is the Columbia County Chapter of NYSARC, Inc. It is primarily supported through state and federal funding, and also by individual and corporate members and other foundations. Information about employment, program services, membership and donation opportunities at COARC is available at www.COARC.org.
