

SPOTLIGHT ON CE

CEing SUCCESS

It is no secret that Customized Employment (CE) is a program that faces many challenges as it seeks to individualize supports for our individuals. However, this does not impede our efforts to allow every individual the opportunity to live life to the fullest and aspire toward their goals of obtaining meaningful and gainful employment.

This year is off to an amazing start with the successful procurement of job opportunities for two Individuals. Isabel is a bright young lady who is no stranger to the CE program and the difficult nature of finding employment. With the help of Life's WORC founder, Vicki Schneps, the CE team was able to re-enroll her in our program and help secure a wonderful job opportunity. She is currently employed at Schneps Communications, where she assists with filing and general office management. When asked how Isabel was doing, Schneps Communications' VP of Events, Amy Amato, said: "It's been wonderful having Isabel assisting us in various tasks throughout the office. She's efficient, hard-working, and always has a smile on her face. It's always a pleasure to see her!"

Continuing on their upward trajectory of success, the CE team was also able to secure an incredible opportunity and placement for another individual, Ashley. Known for her kindness and tech savvy nature, Ashley was recently offered a position at eVero, a technology solutions company that is committed to the health and human services marketplace and to the advocacy of individuals with developmental disabilities.

Ashley was brought onto the eVero team as a Computer Training Instructor, to educate and teach office computer skills to her peers. Though she only started a few weeks ago, her supervisor, Jeannine Azan, has already provided wonderful feedback: "Ashley is always cordial and willing to help – which is appreciated by her coworkers and students. She has a great deal of enthusiasm. Ashley's writing is excellent – I always look forward to reading her daily blogs. She consistently arrives to work on time. I look forward to watching her confidence grow and accomplishing a lot with the eVero Outreach Team!"



Isabel at Schnep's Communications

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Stacey Astachovsky, Director of Customized Employment at Life's WORC, is thrilled with the recent accomplishments as it has always been her goal to "provide opportunities which may enhance a person's quality of life, while working collaboratively with each and every individual." The support of the program staff have no doubt been instrumental in these achievements, proving once again that there is "no 'I' in Team"...but there is most definitely a "**CE**" in **SUCCESS!**



Ashley at eVero

COMMERCE CONNECTION

Life's WORC Day Habilitation and Customized Employment departments have once again teamed up to collaborate with our local community for a new volunteer opportunity, which benefits the individuals we proudly support. Through various outreach efforts, this collective team has been raising the awareness of the programs offered at Life's WORC by pounding the pavement to make connections with neighborhood businesses and build positive relationships with local residents, public officials and business owners.

A recent partnership with the Garden City Chamber of Commerce has now led to an exciting opportunity for Life's WORC Garden City Day Habilitation Program. This collaboration with the Chamber of Commerce provides an opportunity for our program participants to work on the promotion of their "Friends of the Chamber" Shopper Card initiative. Each select group from Garden City Day Habilitation will head out to community office buildings and retailers to publicize the free merchant shopper card that provides patrons access to literally hundreds of discounts from local shops, restaurants, hotels and other business organizations in the area. These efforts will not only encourage local shopping in the Village of Garden City but will also provide the individuals we support with invaluable vocational experience practicing communication, socialization, and professionalism in the workplace.

Life's WORC is thrilled to have made this *COMMERCE CONNECTION* and we look forward to a long and prosperous partnership with the Chamber.

