

The CW REPORT

Empowerment through Employment

Spring 2008

CW Group, Inc. is a nonprofit corporation with the mission of creating employment opportunities for persons with disabilities and other challenged populations, as well as supporting and assisting small businesses.

It is comprised of three subsidiaries:
CW Resources,
Connecticut Enterprise Center
and
CW Enterprises.

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CW Resources

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The Right Thing to Do

In his job as shopping cart retriever at the Naugatuck Big Y Sean has a good eye for finding lost items, returning them to the rightful owner or turning them in to the customer service desk. In the two years that he has worked on one of CW's enclaves out of our Waterbury Center Sean has found all kinds of food and clothing in the shopping carts he retrieves and brings into the store.

But this day was different. He found a money clip containing over \$600 in cash lying on the ground in the parking lot. Sean took the money clip into the store and turned it in to the courtesy desk. The frantic and grateful owner retrieved the money and brought Sean's actions to the attention of CW staff. The gentleman even offered Sean a reward, but he refused. "I knew I had to turn in the money as it was the right thing to do," he says. Or as Sean's mother said, "Sean knows no other way and is honest to a fault."

Sean, a young man of 23, came to CW Resources after graduating from Thomaston High School. A sharp dresser, always wearing a shirt and tie, he says he enjoys working because it keeps

him busy, he gets to meet a lot of people and it's good to earn your own money. Margaret Mathis, his job coach, says he is an 'all around wonderful person'. "Many customers know him by name, he helps people put their groceries in the car and is always very respectful."

A passionate Yankee's fan, Sean played baseball with the Special Olympics and now participates in downhill skiing. When not at work he enjoys running errands for his mom and working on the computer. One day Sean would like to work in the electronics department of Best Buy. With his track record, it seems like he will succeed in whatever he chooses.

Another young man working in the CW Resources' kitchen in New Britain found a paycheck on the street. Eddy was on his way home from work when he discovered the check lying on the sidewalk. He picked it up and not knowing how to return it to the proper person, brought it to work and asked his supervisor for assistance. She was able to contact the business and return the check to the rightful owner. Eddy received a letter of thanks and felt good that he had done the right thing and was able to help someone in need.



Sean retrieving one of the carts at Big Y.



Eddy disposing of the cardboard recyclables.

CW Photo Gallery



Kiki (left) receiving her first ever paycheck. Kiki is in the New Britain High School to Work program that CW Resources runs.



Michael cleaning up in the New Britain Senior Center kitchen. Each day after the noon meal, he is responsible for washing the pots and pans and making sure the kitchen is left clean.



Heather, a student at New Britain High School, and Amber, a Waterford High School student, stocking shelves at Petco as part of their school to work transition program.

What's in a Name?



The State of Connecticut recently changed the name of its department serving persons with intellectual disabilities to the Department of Developmental Services (DDS). This change reflects the mission and commitment of the department to serve individuals eligible for services with the utmost respect and dignity.

The old name, the Department of Mental Retardation (DMR), had fallen out of favor and advocates for individuals with disabilities preferred a more respectful, acceptable name. Another example of this change is in 2003 when the President's Committee on Mental Retardation was renamed The President's Committee for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities .

In a similar move, CW Resources changed its name from Constructive Workshop, in 1995 to more accurately reflect our mission and programs for those we served. The term "workshop" had become outdated and out of favor and CW offered many "resources".

As our language changes and evolves certain words can become disrespectful and hurtful to persons in our society. The word "retarded" is such a word. Governor Rell said, " I hope that this change will be a model for our state—that it will remind us of the importance of language and the importance of the way we treat the people we serve."

When disabilities are used as labels — these labels hurt. Labels lead to stigma—a word that means branding and shame. And stigma leads to discrimination. Everyone knows why it is wrong to discriminate against people because of their race, religion, culture, or appearance. They are less aware of how people with disabilities are discriminated against. Although such discrimination may not always be obvious, it exists—and it hurts.

Here are six steps you can follow to help end the stigma which surrounds people with disabilities:

1. Learn more. Many organizations sponsor educational programs.
2. Insist on accountable media.
3. Obey the laws in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The ADA prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities in all areas of public life., including housing, employment, and public transportation.
4. Recognize and appreciate the contributions to society made by people with disabilities. People disabilities are major contributors to American life—from the arts to the sciences, from medicine to entertainment to professional sports.
5. Treat people with the dignity and the respect we all deserve.
6. Think about the person—the contents behind the label. Avoid labeling people by their diagnosis.

On the Move in Bristol



CW workers pose outside Bristol's new center located at 461 Broad Street, Bristol.

CW Resources announced that its Bristol Center will be moving this spring to 461 Broad Street. The larger, more accessible and convenient location will allow them to serve more individuals and offer a greater diversity of employment opportunities.

CW Resources has been serving the City of Bristol since 1974 when it first opened its Hill Street facility in response to community needs. The Center was housed in the old South Chippin Hill School for 34 years. First erected in 1755, it was home to a two-room schoolhouse until 1936. While historically unique and owned by the City, the building, through the years, became too small and was no longer suited to the needs of today's clients.

"Our new centralized location is accessible, all on one floor and is serviced by public transportation. This was very important to us because most of the people we serve rely on public transportation and it was not available at our old site," said Sandie Lavoy, Vice President of Community Services.

This facility's 4,800 square feet, compared to the 1,200 square feet of usable space it had before, allows CW to offer more programs and services to more people. "Now that we have all this great space we plan on expanding our in-house production capabilities. The center will also be enhanced with an enlarged Day Service Options Program and other services for our clients," said Center Manager Art Helfgott. The new location also offers plenty of parking and a loading dock in the back.

Presently, the CW Resources Bristol Center serves 35 persons with disabilities from Bristol and the surrounding communities. It runs a landscaping business that services residential and commercial customers, delivers meals to homebound residents and employs people in a variety of businesses throughout the Bristol area.

What's Cooking in the CW Kitchens?

Meals, and lots of them, is the answer. The CW Food Service Division, located in our headquarters in New Britain, are presently preparing 6,500 meals each day in its kitchens. They are then delivered throughout Connecticut and parts of Massachusetts to homebound individuals and to group sites, such as senior centers.

And we're growing. Just this January the Food Service Division signed a contract with the Vernon VNA to provide 500 meals a day. In this particular contract we prepare the meals, pack them in coolers and deliver them to the VNA. From there, they are delivered by their drivers to customers in Vernon and Manchester.

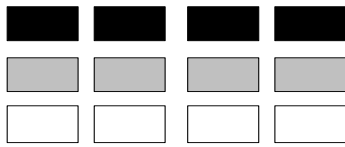
Another growth area is Bridgeport and the southwestern part of the state. A new contract with the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) for individual referrals is already brought in 80 new meals per day and is expanding rapidly.

CW client workers have recently taken on the challenge of operating the Kennedy meal site in Bristol located in senior housing. They serve the meals with supervision from a CW job coach. This is just one more area where CW is able to employ persons with disabilities and the economically challenged and fulfill its mission. All totaled, at least 150 people are employed each day in the preparation and delivery of meals at CW Resources.

The Food Service team is always looking for new opportunities. For instance, this academic year CW high school students are preparing lunches for E.C. Goodwin Technical School while their school kitchen is being renovated. Each new contract means another person who may not have had the opportunity to work can now be employed.



Marisel is packing cold lunches for CW's new Vernon VNA contract.



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Empowerment through Employment

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Donor Opportunities

1. Prepare a will. Without one, you lose control of the possessions you worked a lifetime to acquire.
2. Leave a gift in your will for the charitable organization that made a difference in your life or in the life of someone you love.
3. Donate a specific dollar amount or a percentage of the assets in your will to your favorite charity. The provision can be part of a new will or added to your existing will.
4. Consider using assets for your charitable gift. These include , but are not limited to, stocks, bonds, real estate, art and jewelry. Such gift may provide tax savings.
5. Name your favorite non-profit as the beneficiary of your IRA or pension plan.
6. Purchase a new life insurance policy naming a nonprofit as the beneficiary.
7. Name your favorite nonprofit as the beneficiary of an existing life insurance policy.
8. Remember deceased loved ones with memorial gifts to nonprofits.
9. Encourage family members and friends to leave gifts to nonprofits in their wills.
10. Ask your legal or financial advisor to include charitable giving as part of their counsel to other clients.

*For more information contact your financial advisor
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