

The **CW** REPORT

Empowerment through Employment

Winter 2011

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 Awarded Three-Year Accreditation

CARF International announced that CW Resources, Inc. has been accredited for a period of three years for its Community Employment Services in the areas of Job Development, Job Supports and Job-Site Training. Also surveyed and accredited were Employment Services in Employment Planning Services and Organizational Employment Services.

This accreditation decision represents the highest level of accreditation that can be awarded to an organization and shows the organization's substantial conformance to the CARF standards. An organization receiving a Three-Year Accreditation has put itself through a rigorous peer review process and has demonstrated to a team of surveyors during an on-site visit that its programs and services are of the highest quality, measurable, and accountable.

The three-day survey found that CW Resources had strengths in many areas including its ability to: find new funding sources in rough economic times and to look beyond its borders for employment opportunities; provide excellent individualized employment services; bring together employment resources and establish links with these resources; and establish a non-emergency transportation system. CW staff was commended for their identifying and minimizing risk, their attitude of openness to outside input and learning, for being highly motivated and dedicated professionals and the number of long-term staff members.

The individuals responsible for the accreditation, CW's Vice President of Community Rehabilitation Services, Sandra Lavoy and Laurianne Florio, Rehabilitation Services Manager feel that the survey is important not only because it holds CW Resources accountable, but also demonstrates CW's staff commitment to higher standards for the people we serve. "We are very pleased to be recognized with the three year accreditation from CARF and feel that this only reinforces the quality of work that our staff does every day in helping people with disabilities to gain independence and participate in the workforce," said Lavoy.

CARF is an independent, nonprofit accrediting body whose mission is to promote the quality, value, and optimal outcomes of services through a consultative accreditation process that centers on enhancing the lives of the persons served. Founded in 1966 as the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities, and now known as CARF, the accrediting body establishes consumer-focused standards to help organizations measure and improve the quality of their programs and services. This latest accreditation is the 28th consecutive year that CW Resources has achieved CARF accreditation.

“Each day, Americans with disabilities play a critical role in forging and shaping the identity of our Nation. Their contributions touch us all through personal experience or through that of a family member, neighbor, friend or colleague. We grow stronger as a Nation when Americans feel the dignity conferred by having the ability to support themselves and their families through productive work.”

President Barack Obama

CW Develops New Commissary Work Sites



First there was Newport, Rhode Island and then Hanscom Air Force Base in Massachusetts and Buckley Air Force Base in Colorado. Now CW has been awarded two more commissary contracts—one at Fort Lee in Virginia and another, Fort Hamilton in Brooklyn, New York.

Commissaries are grocery stores that offer food and related products to active and retired military personnel and their families at a substantial savings. This type of store provides many different types of job opportunities for persons with disabilities: stocking shelves, shipping & receiving and janitorial. In addition, the pay is good and the workers enjoy the opportunity to serve the military and their families. In fact, 60 people are now working who may not otherwise be employed, 38 at the Fort Lee store and 22 at

Fort Hamilton.

The five commissary contracts are an important ingredient in the growth of CW. “With our expansion to New York and Virginia, CW has become a national employer for people with disabilities. None of this would have been possible without the hard work and dedication of our staff,” said Bill Green, Sr. Vice President of Contract Services.

Kurt Lux, CW Regional Manager and the person responsible for all the commissary contracts explained what’s involved. “CW partners with NISH, the national nonprofit agency whose mission it is to create employment opportunities for people with disabilities, to secure these contracts. They notify us when a commissary contract will be coming up for bid. CW bids on the contract based on pricing, experience and location and NISH selects the most qualified vendor based on its criteria.”

Once the contract is secured Lux and his assistant, Shawn Getman move to meet with local agencies providing workers, check the efficiency of the contract, set our own systems, monitor the budget and put our own quality control into place. “We are the liaison with the workers and any issues that might arise. We try to help folks be the best they can be. This means that we are accessible 24/7. We are their support system. This often makes all the difference to a person with a disability” says Lux.

And apparently to others as well. Leslie Caroll, Fort Lee Store Director commented, “Every time I walk into the warehouse I praise CW Resources. They have restored my faith in contractors. The workers have been wonderful, they go over and above what their job calls for. For instance, yesterday they noticed an area that needed to be straightened out and did it without being asked.”



Hanscom Air Force Base



Newport Station Rhode Island



Buckley Air Force Base

CW Snapshots . . . CW Snapshots . . . CW Snapshots

An American soldier, somewhere in a remote location in Afghanistan, displays the Christmas tree, ornaments, photos and letters of thanks and support that he received from clients and staff of CW Resources. CW adopted Charles Thomas, pictured here, and members of his unit. Nine boxes, weighing 254 pounds, were shipped out from our Connecticut CW Centers in New Britain, Naugatuck, Bristol, West Hartford, Hartford and Gales Ferry in November as our way of thanking those who serve our country and can not be home for the holidays.



CW's Production Division has a number of government contracts and approximately 20 active commercial accounts that they do work for. One of the newest is Life Marketing & Events, a company that works with LEGO. This fall the New Britain Work Center had the privilege of completely disassembling, and in some cases sorting by color, three million individual LEGO pieces and sending them out to special LEGO events. According to Chris Cauffman, Production Manager, "This job was great as it was one that almost anyone could do and enjoyed working on. It was a real boost as some of our other contracts have been slow this year. We are looking forward to continuing this relationship."



CW Centers throughout Connecticut celebrated the holidays with parties, dancing, presents, good food and a visit from Santa. "CW is very mindful of the excellent job our clients and staff do all year long and it is heartwarming to see everyone enjoy themselves," said Ron Buccilli, CW President and CEO.

Some centers went out to a restaurant, while others celebrated in-house. The venue or whether you still believe didn't seem to be the deciding factor. As one person said, "I just love parties and Christmas is the best because Santa comes and we are all together."





CW Group, Inc.
Headquarters
200 Myrtle Street
New Britain, CT 06053

The CW Report is published quarterly by CW Group, Inc. Contact Joan Rhinesmith, editor, with any comments or suggestions. 860-229-7700 jrhinesmith@cwresources.org

We're on the web!
cwresources.org

A Win, Win, Win

By Sandie Lavoy

Thanks to Community Development Block Grants from both Bristol and New Britain, CW Resources has put 40 people with disabilities to work. The purpose of the grant is to assist elderly and/or disabled homeowners with the raking and removal of leaves, a labor intensive task which requires hard work and physical stamina. This is CW's 2nd fall season with running the New Britain program (previously completed through the Parks and Recreation Department) and 20 of the 81 homeowners in New Britain are new to the program this year. This is Bristol's first year, and our crews have helped 12 homeowners this year and hope to continue the project for years to come. We also want to thank the volunteers who assisted in raking some properties, both this year and last. A special thanks to the Scouts and Troop 75's Scoutmaster Phil Pepin for coordinating the effort and to Jim Brasile, National Honor Society Advisor and his student volunteers from New Britain High School.



A Bristol CW work crew gathers by their truck.

Looking to Make a Difference?

The Family Empowerment Task Force is working to make a difference for people with developmental disabilities and other special needs by educating legislators and public officials about the needs of families. They are working to sustain, enhance and grow the Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) that are offered by the Connecticut Department of Developmental Services (DDS) through its private provider network and self-directed plans. Their current objective is to increase the DDS budget for HCBS by private non-profit agencies like CW Resources. To accomplish this they have a plan of action for the new year to:

1. Elect people who care
2. Educate the new government
3. Rally at the Capital in 2011
4. Testify at budget hearings

Because of their work, the 2009– 2011 biennial budget for DDS Home and Community Based Services did not suffer extreme cuts. To become involved in the Task Force or to learn more about it you can email the following persons on their steering committee: Mickey Herbst (mjherbst@optonline.net), Lois Nitch (loisnitch@sbcglobal.net), Walt Glomb (wglomb@aulm.mit.edu), Larry Gray (larry@fraleigh-gray.com).

You can also follow their progress by joining an on-line community: on Facebook they are the "CT DDS Family Empowerment Task Force" (<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=181091687967>) and on Yahoo Groups they are "family-empowerment" (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/family-empowerment/>).