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“HIRING
MADE
SIMPLE”

Learn how employing people with
intellectual and developmental
disabilities can improve your bottom line!

Program Snapshot for For Area Employers

From: 
Kathleen Stauffer, Chief Executive Officer

The Arc Eastern Connecticut provides employment and vocational preparation for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities age 16 and over at both our Danielson/Woodstock and Groton locations. The program serves as a catalyst for men and women with intellectual and developmental disabilities to become productive, equal, and valuable members of society by providing opportunities to learn, work and participate in the community as independently as possible, in ways that serve personal goals and demonstrate measurable contributions to society. We share the firm conviction that all people can achieve their dreams of working in the field they desire. Our employees learn specialized skills that make them stand out from the average worker and increase their marketability.

- 82 Group Supported Employment (GSE) participants are employed at an average of 15-20 hours per week
- 14 Individual Supported Employment (ISE) participants are employed at an average of 20 hours per week
- 5 participants in the School to Work Transition (SWT) program and 18 participants in the pre-vocational/ Transitional Employment program are employed at an average of 15-20 hours per week
- All employed participants earn at least Connecticut minimum wage of \$10.10 per hour

Traditional employment opportunities in both group supported and individual supported employment, combined with cutting edge projects and micro-businesses designed by staff and participants, generate training and employment opportunities in the following fields:

- **Culinary Arts:** ETC offers a state-of-the-art culinary program in which participants create a variety of foods available for purchase in the General Store, Farm Stand and Bakery as well as through the online catering menu. The Bakery's specialty item, the "Classic Crunch" chocolate chip cookie, is now on the shelves of a regional grocery store.

- **Retail:** in addition to community employment at retail outlets, participant employees work in The Arc Emporium upscale thrift store, The Arc's Bottle and Can Redemption Center, The Arc Bakery, and snack carts at area organizations throughout the region. Skills mastered include using a cash register/Square, restocking merchandise, making change, customer service, scheduling, and general inventory. Every step in the process of selling merchandise and interacting with community members is a learning experience for the people involved, and an opportunity to build the employment skills needed to become independent adults.

- **Mobile Cleaning Crews** work in venues of all sizes including the Mohegan Sun Casino, the U.S. Naval Submarine Base, AVCRAD, Johnson Controls, Burnett's Landscaping, The Rectory School, and several B&Bs. These cleaning crews tackle maintenance responsibilities such as bathrooms, floors, windows and other hard surfaces, and restock supplies as necessary.

- **Agriculture/Aquaponics:** Participants working with the aquaponics project learn how to cultivate and grow vegetables using this cutting-edge technology. They are responsible for caring for the system including plant and fish care, cleaning the tank, and checking for the correct ph levels in the water. They also identify when crops are ready to be harvested and what new recipes they can try using the vegetables. Employees also maintain the program's 22,000 square foot garden and sell the produce at The Arc's Farm Stand on Rt 177 in Ledyard and to its Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) shareholders.

- **Landscaping:** The Arc's Lawn and Landscape Crew gains experience using a wide variety of mowers, saws and hand tools and conducts mowing, pruning, yard maintenance, fall cleanup, etc. at The Arc's offices and residential homes as well as properties of business and individual private clients.

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