Satisfaction Highlights

Testimonials

“I was placed into a job that matched my skills, interests, and abilities.”

“Excellent services and skills in job coaching & matching social skills required for the job.”

“...They always made my daughter feel good about herself & her work, and always very patient and positive. Simply the best!”

“PAEP provided me with skills that I needed to find a job.”

“Receiving services from PAEP has been a very positive experience and we would recommend it to anyone who requires services.”

PAEP is CARF accredited for its Employment Services: Community Employment Services in Job Development, Job Supports and Job Site Training Programs.

2018-2019 ANNUAL REPORT

“An organization devoted to improving the quality of life for people with disabilities through individualized employment services.”
Welcome

Dear Friends,

2018-2019 was a great year for Parents Alliance Employment Project, full of change and progress. We welcomed new staff and new board members, implemented a new youth job training program and expanded serving individuals with disabilities outside of DuPage county into four surrounding counties.

Our effectiveness and growth is due to our dedicated staff and the mutually respectful relationships and partnerships we have forged in the community. We are proud to partner with a wide range of dedicated entities including the Illinois Department of Human Services/Division of Rehabilitation Services, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, local High School Districts, Special Education Co-ops, foundations and businesses.

As we present this report, we express our sincere gratitude to all of our partners that are dedicated to the journey of inclusion for people with disabilities in the workplace with us. Our success is your success. With the ongoing support of each and every one of you, PAEP is excited and ready for the challenges and achievements ahead in 2019-2020.

Sincerely,

Kristen A. Sheffield
Executive Director
Gina Strafford-Ahmed
Board Chair

Impact of Our Services

Building Stamina, Building a Future.

When you ask Allyson Kurczek about her new career as a full-time Package Handler, her pride is evident when she signs with enthusiasm, “I love my job!” As an individual born Hard-of-Hearing, Allyson encountered many communication and attitudinal barriers along her employment journey. But beyond these barriers, one thing was certain: Allyson was determined to reach her dream of obtaining work that involved physical labor at a warehouse. She did not let these barriers stand in the way of her ability to showcase her talents.

Allyson joined the Project SEARCH program offered through Parents Alliance Employment Project (PAEP) in partnership with Northwestern Medicine at Delnor Hospital in August 2018. Through this program, Allyson worked with PAPEP LEAD Skills Trainer, Hailey Mankivsky to be placed into three internship rotations that included the Receiving Dock, Central Supply and the Linen Department. These internships challenged Allyson to learn how to accurately unload heavy shipments from trucks, cross check boxes for purchase order numbers, compare items for accuracy and make deliveries within the hospital. Over the course of eight months, Allyson worked diligently to learn skills and build her stamina, knowing that they would transfer into and help her achieve her dream job. Allyson’s dream officially became reality in April 2019 when she was hired by FedEx as a part-time Package Handler.

Allyson was immediately welcomed by FedEx, finding out early on that she would be working on a team alongside other Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals, a diversity initiative that is strongly supported by FedEx. This meant that many of the barriers faced by Allyson as an individual who is Hard-of-Hearing would be non-existent and allowed her to thrive, to be her true self. As a result of her hard work, persistence, willpower and determination, Allyson was promoted to full-time employment. What started as a dream was quickly turned into reality, which turned into a real future for Allyson.

Allyson’s beaming smile on her face says it all. She walks a little bit taller these days and is proud to be a contributing member to the FedEx team. Prior to entering the program, Allyson’s parents expressed concern about her future. Would she ever work? Would her employer be accepting of her disability? Allyson’s mom, Tricia Kurczek can willingly answer, “This is the happiest I have seen her!”

Fiscal Year 2018-19 Outcomes

DISABILITY SERVED

Fiscal Year 2018-19 Outcomes

Funding Sources

YEAR ENDING IN JUNE 2019

- Division of Rehabilitation Services
- Government Grants/Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act
- Local High School District Partnerships
- Non Government Grants and Donations

Over 210 individuals were referred to PAEP to receive services that included career counseling, job training and preparation, job development and placement, job coaching and support services.

“Through our partnership with PAEP, we are able to recruit and hire hard workers that are reliable, have good manners, stay on task and are willing to learn. Not only do we benefit by finding good employees, but we also feel good by providing the opportunity.”

-Janice Rosera, Hyatt Lodge

“Building Stamina, Building a Future.”

-Johnson Controls

“Children are the best way to experience the future.”

-Students for the Future

“ begrudgingly takes the money, butLocalized to the U.S.”

-Apple

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