



PARENTS ALLIANCE EMPLOYMENT PROJECT

1982-
2022

40 YEARS STRONG



"Devoted to improving the quality of life for people with disabilities through individualized employment services"

WELCOME

Celebrating 40 Years: Elevating Disability Inclusion

Dear Friends,

In the 1970s, many parents of children with special needs children grew tired of fighting the battle to receive equal rights and services. Thanks to a dedicated, lifelong leader in the disability world-Marjorie Lee, the formation of a committed group of parents took place to encourage better communication between parents of special needs children and educators- then known as the Special Education Parents Alliance. It was in 1982 when PAEP's direction expanded to include the mainstreaming of adults with disabilities into the workplace and business community. Initially, the employment program was implemented entirely by parent volunteers until its funding partnership with the State of Illinois, Department of Rehabilitation Services.

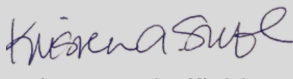
Here we are...40 years later and stronger than ever. Now funded with enough revenue to staff over 20 dedicated professionals to carry the torch of Marjorie Lee's vision- our staff provides ongoing dedication and commitment to individuals and families who turn to our agency for much-needed support during the employment process.

The continued growth and strength of PAEP are evident through its most recent accomplishments including:


- A 20% increase in programming revenue
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- Achieving the highest level of accreditation
- Updating the agency's long-range plan
- Opening a new office space to better serve the growing number of individuals engaged in our job training programs

Since its inception, PAEP has built a strong community reputation and has placed over 3,000 individuals with disabilities into successful employment. As PAEP looks toward the future, it will celebrate its 40th anniversary by doing what it does best: Doing good work and empowering and improving the lives of individuals with disabilities, one job placement at a time.

We express our sincere gratitude to all of our partners that are dedicated to the journey of elevating inclusion for people with disabilities in the workplace with us. Stay Inspired,



Kristen A. Sheffield
Executive Director



Bryan Gay
Board Chairperson

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board Chairperson: Bryan Gay, Downers Grove Economic Development Corporation

Vice-Chairperson: Rosalie Scrivo, Parent Representative

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Finance Director: Brian Suste

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Kiersten Lira

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Ashley DeWane

Chloe Suter

Morgan Mensavage

Khushbu Dalvi

Kathy Konczak

Damar Reed

Taylor Selesky

Shannon Ciezadlo

Adriana Jimenez

Brett Morgan

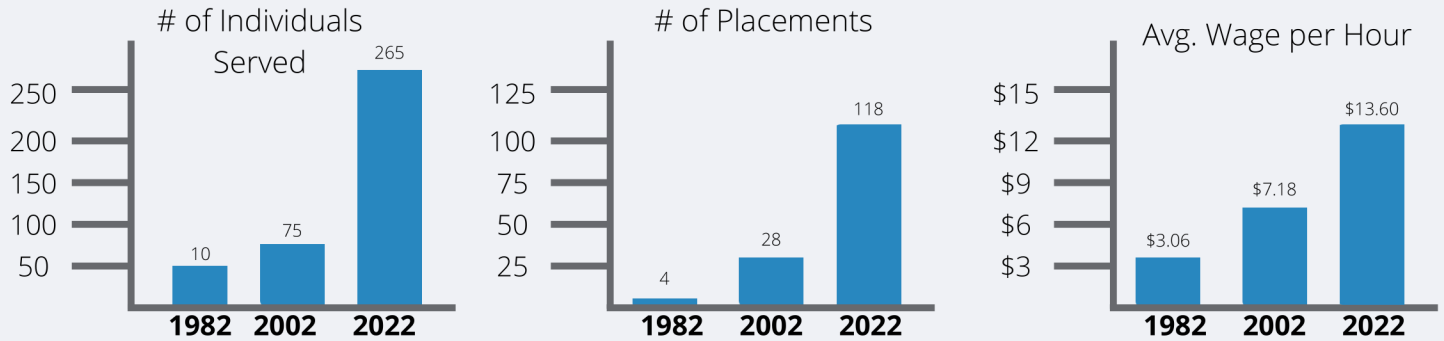
Vicki Kirkpatrick

Samantha Fitz



Marge Lee with son, Kevin
Founder of PAEP

TRENDS IN SERVICES AND OUTCOMES



LONGSTANDING SUCCESS

PAEP prides itself in ensuring that all individuals served through the agency maximize their full potential beyond job placement.

This past year, Brian Belmonte received an award from UPS for his dedicated service for the past 5 years with UPS. Congratulations Brian!

"Thanks to Kathy Konczak at PAEP, for connecting Brian at UPS 5 years ago. Brian is confident in doing his job, a reliable asset to his boss, and is involved in the community. We are so proud."
-Karen Belmonte, Brian's mother



Tim Barg, who was part of our 1st graduating class with Project SEARCH CDH, celebrated 8 years of hard work with the Northwestern Medicine Central DuPage Hospital Linen Department. Way to go Tim!

"In the past 8 years at CDH, I have been able to move out on my own with my brother, take the train, have my own benefits and made a couple of friends. I have had different types of managers throughout the years who have helped me."

-Tim Barg, Former client

"A hero is an ordinary individual who finds the strength to persevere and endure in spite of overwhelming obstacles."
-Christopher Reeves"

OUR NEW HOME

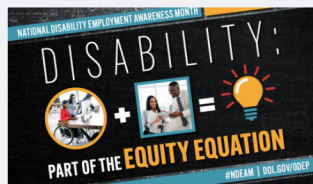
PARENTS ALLIANCE EMPLOYMENT PROJECT OFFICIALLY MOVED INTO ITS NEW OFFICE LOCATION IN LISLE IN AUGUST 2022. AS A RESULT OF OUR GROWTH, THE NEW OFFICE SPACE IS TRIPLE THE SIZE SINCE 40 YEARS AGO!

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO DESIGNS 4 DIGNITY, WHOSE MISSION IS TO EMPOWER LIVES THROUGH PRO BONO DESIGN SERVICES. DESIGNS 4 DIGNITY WORKED CLOSELY WITH STACK BROGAN COLLECTIVE AND INTERIOR INVESTMENTS TO PROVIDE HIGH QUALITY AND COMFORTABLE FURNISHINGS TO ENSURE THE NEW PAEP SPACE NURTURES DIGNITY, INSPIRATION, AND GROWTH FOR THE STAFF AND INDIVIDUALS IT SERVES.



BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

PARENTS ALLIANCE EMPLOYMENT PROJECT FORMED A BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BAC) WITH THE GOAL TO INCREASE OVERALL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES BY NETWORKING AND PROMOTING THE GOAL OF INCLUSIVITY IN THE WORKPLACE. THE BAC MEMBERS WILL BE TASKED WITH ACTIVITIES TO ENGAGE AND ASSIST INDIVIDUALS IN THEIR EMPLOYMENT JOURNEY BY:



- CONDUCTING MOCK INTERVIEWS W/ PAEP CLIENTS;
- OFFERING TOURS OF THEIR BUSINESS;
- BECOMING A MENTOR;
- HOSTING A JOB FAIR;
- BECOMING A BUSINESS JOB TRAINING SITE

PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING OUR GROWING BAC TO INCREASE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMPETITIVE EMPLOYMENT FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES!



CARF

THE COMMISSION ON ACCREDITATION FOR REHABILITATION FACILITIES (CARF) ANNOUNCED THAT PARENTS ALLIANCE EMPLOYMENT PROJECT HAS BEEN ACCREDITED FOR A PERIOD OF THREE YEARS FOR ITS COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT SERVICES IN JOB DEVELOPMENT, JOB SUPPORTS, AND JOB-SITE TRAINING PROGRAMS. THE LATEST ACCREDITATION IS THE 9TH CONSECUTIVE THREE-YEAR ACCREDITATION OUTCOME THAT THE INTERNATIONAL ACCREDITING COMMISSION HAS AWARDED TO PARENTS ALLIANCE EMPLOYMENT PROJECT.

THIS ACCREDITATION DECISION REPRESENTS THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF ACCREDITATION THAT CAN BE GIVEN 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. IT HAS DEMONSTRATED TO A TEAM OF SURVEYORS ITS COMMITMENT TO OFFERING PROGRAMS AND SERVICES THAT ARE MEASURABLE, ACCOUNTABLE, AND OF THE HIGHEST QUALITY.