

PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

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9 December 2015

MNS Celebrates National Disability Employment Awareness Month

Several staff of Mill Neck Services (MNS), which includes the Employment Services Team, recently attended the 30th Annual Celebration of National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM). The event, spearheaded by The Long Island Working Partnership, recognizes businesses with proven track records of providing job opportunities for individuals with disabilities. These businesses, which are nominated by various organizations, are presented with NDEAM awards during the commemorative event.

This year, MNS was pleased to nominate Kinray LLC, a Cardinal Health Company for the 2015 NDEAM awards. This full-line, full-service wholesaler for independent pharmacies has integrated six different MNS employees and won this year's Outstanding Employer award for its contributions to the hiring and retention of persons with disabilities.

"We are proud to have Kinray as a valued business partner because they know that it's about what people CAN do that really matters," says Marta Reeger, Coordinator of Mill Neck's Employment Services.

Like many businesses, Kinray had limited experience employing applicants with disabilities, but soon realized the potential of their first employee hire, Dinah Picot. Dinah was supported by the MNS team of Employment Specialists Donna Spano, Gabrielle Pollard and JoAnn Janotte.

"Dinah took public transportation for more than two hours each way to work the overnight shift last

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winter,” says Reeger. “She showed tremendous motivation to learn and quickly became a top performer, opening the door for five other MNS candidates.”

Among those candidates were night shift employees Wayne Randall and Ken Saul (hired in February 2015) and Luis Cruz (hired in April 2015), while Oscar Mendez and Carlos Encarnacion joined the day shift in June 2015, where they receive valuable warehouse experience including Forklift operation.

MNS continually advocates for job candidates who are Deaf, hard of hearing or have other disabilities, especially since the rate of unemployment for people with disabilities is significantly higher than for the general population. For participants in the Supported Employment Program, the Employment Services Team runs a job club, Network to Success, which meets regularly at the Town of Oyster Bay One-Stop Employment Center in Hicksville and at a satellite facility in downtown Manhattan.

Established in 1986, MNS has placed more than 1,000 Deaf, hard of hearing or otherwise disabled workers in over 400 businesses operating on Long Island. To find out how the qualified candidates in the Steps to Success Program at MNS can help your business, please contact Marta Reeger at mreeger@millneck.org or 516-922-3818, ext. 315.

MNS is part of the Mill Neck Family of Organizations, which also includes Mill Neck Manor School for the Deaf, founded by Lutheran Friends of the Deaf in 1947. For more information, please call 516-922-4100 or visit www.millneck.org.



At the recent NDEAM Awards (from left): Gabrielle Pollard (MNS Employment Specialist), Eric (Management at Kinray - in charge of hiring), Harvey Barnett (Director - Human Resources Business Partner, Kinray), Donna Spano (MNS Employment Specialist), Jaclyn Sussi (MNS Job Developer).

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