



1962 - 2012
50th Anniversary

Our Founder Ernest Kuhn

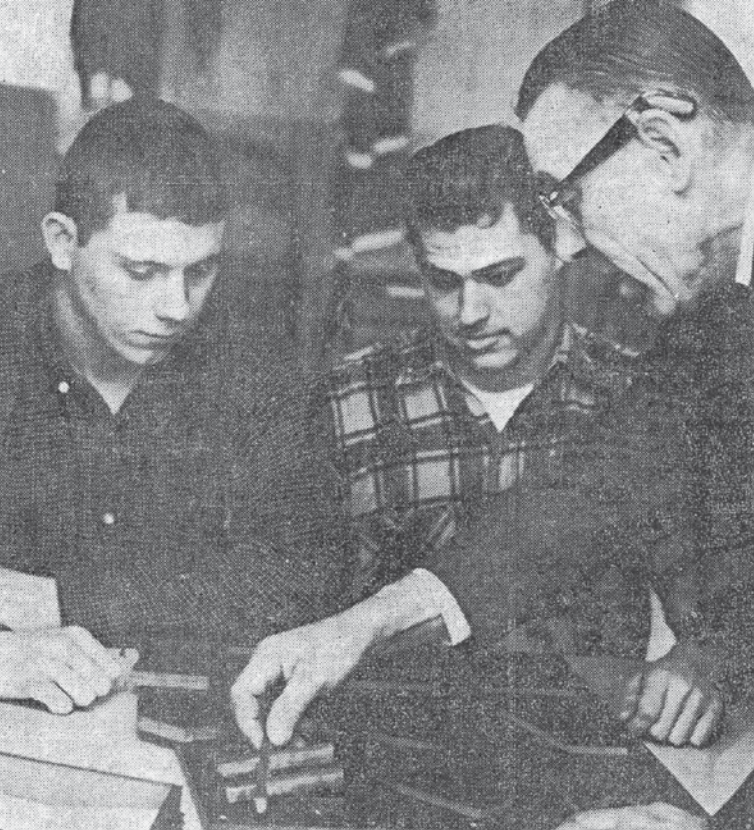


Born in Germany in 1900, Ernest B. Kuhn immigrated to Connecticut sometime before WWII, bringing his mother after he had settled. Later, he met and married Selina “Sally” Chapman, and they made their home in Meriden. As his mother became older and more infirm, she could no longer be left alone. In an effort to be at home to care for her mother-in-law, Sally had opened a small daycare center enrolling four children. Ernie himself became involved in the daycare center, building play structures for the children’s enjoyment. One day, Sally received a call from a woman who said her grandson “could not be handled. He would shut the world out.” Sally took in the child and gradually encouraged him to play with the other children. His behavior greatly improved over time which impressed his grandfather, a past mayor of the town. He helped spread the word about his grandson’s improvement and Sally found her daycare services in demand.

In the early 1960s, there were no vocational employment opportunities available to persons with disabilities. Once out of school, disabled persons most likely remained at home. Hundreds of individuals were housed in State of Connecticut facilities such as Mansfield and Southbury Training Schools.

As a deacon of the Center Congregational Church, Ernie was asked to join a newly formed group called the Meriden Association for the Retarded of which he later became president. After his mother died, they closed the daycare only to re-open a new center for older boys with disabilities in its place.

“That’s when Ernie got really hooked,” Sally recalled. “He got three or four fellows started with simple jobs. Not all parents were in favor of the program, however, since many believed their child’s disability was a private matter. But Ernie, some fathers and educators continued their campaign, knocking on doors and offering parents a special place where their children could learn and work. It all began with volunteers, a handful of mothers willing to admit something was ‘wrong’ with their children,” recalled Sally. “It was also important that the son of the mayor got involved. Many listened to him and it gave a ‘window of hope,’ helping to convince the reluctant parents of the value of the program.”



Aptitude Testing

Ernest B. Kuhn, right, director of the Meriden Regional Training Center and Shelter Workshop, administers an aptitude abilities test to Dennis Southland, left, and Clayton Beebe. The center, located on Oregon Road, was opened yesterday. (Journal Photo)

The impact of returning disabled veterans after World War II and the struggle for civil rights of women and minorities contributed to changing perspectives on disability in the United States.

Even as people with disabilities became more accepted, society viewed disability as a personal tragedy with which the individual and family must cope. Feelings of pity and actions of charity

were typically evoked in others. Even successful individuals such as Franklin D. Roosevelt tried to hide their disabilities. Children with disabilities rarely encountered successful adults with disabilities.

Ernie Kuhn's belief in the value of work and its importance in defining a person's role in life drove him to pursue more and more work opportunities for an increasing number of people with disabilities.

The 1960's



TRAINEE CAROL DELLABITTA shows guests of the Regional Training Center at 106 Liberty St. how she works on ceramic models of Christmas figurines. The Center sells the sets it turns out to help with its upkeep. Watching are, left to right, Center volunteers A. Robert DeMayo and R. Julia DeMayo, Southington selectman Alphonse Grimaldi,

Southington first selectman Thomas J. Gallick, Southington, selectman Pasquale Rich, Paul McLaughlin of Southington, Cheshire Police Chief John McNamara, Southington Police Chief G. Robert Triano and Wallingford Assistant Superintendent of Schools A. Raymond McMahon. (Record Photos)

35 Officials See Center In Action

The Regional Training Center at 106 Liberty St. was humming with activity yesterday as it hosted a group of 35 city and state officials in a demonstration of the skills of mentally retarded people. A special guest at the meeting was no less than Miss Connecticut, Honora Zukowski.

Executive director Roy E. Dahlberg, workshop director Ernest Kuhn, their staff and 17 trainees in their care were carefully observed by mayors, selectmen, police chiefs, social workers and psychologists from Meriden, Middletown, Cheshire, Southington and Wallingford.

"We are trying to show that mentally retarded people can be tax reducers rather than tax consumers," Dahlberg said in explanation of the program. "It has only been for the past few years really that people have begun to bring the problems of the mentally retarded out into the open," he added.

The Center is a non-profit operation financed by state, city and private funds and by profits made from its own work. It admits mentally retarded people over 18 years of age and trains them in social behavior, work habits and personal hygiene. Workshop director Kuhn was aware of the fact that the

Ernie was appointed director of The Training Center which opened its doors on February 1, 1962. Within a few short months the Training Center outgrew its Oregon Rd. location and moved onto 106 Liberty Street. The center was operated much like a factory with employees punching a timecard and having

coffee breaks. Ernie Kuhn was quoted "We are faced with the problem of taking people who have never been allowed to have a normal life because their retardation prevents them from mixing freely with others. Here they are among their equals and can be trained to meet others socially and to work with them."

"We are trying hard to educate people to realize that because a person is mentally retarded, it is no reason to keep him away from the world. We are trying to keep lives from being wasted."

—Roy E. Dahlberg,
Executive Director 1964

Editor Journal

1 JUN 9 '65
Referring to the article "Jobs for Handicapped" by Sylvia Porter in your June 1 issue, we would like to draw your attention to the fact that Meriden is fortunate to have a well operated Training Center and Sheltered Workshop for the mental retarded, located in the former East Side Grammar School at 106 Liberty Street, which our city administration leased to us. We are pleased to have had the chance to renovate and use this building for our needs ever since.

The workshop opened its doors in July 1962 with three trainees. Since then 38 young retardates entered the program, and we are very thankful to have graduated 10 of them into gainful employment. From follow up figures obtained from employers, our 10 former trainees earned more than \$26,000 in 1964. This amounts to a tax payment of about \$3,000.

The annual cost of training a mental retardate is about \$800. Therefore, the average retardate will pay back in taxes the entire cost of one year of training in three years of employment. Surely, public support, either Federal, State or local, for mental retardates in workshops and training centers, moneywise is the best investment of the tax dollar. Besides monetary rewards, the mental retardate is accepted by his family and community.

The adult retardate has indeed proven that through proper training, he can become a productive and contributing member of our society. He has become a "tax producer" and not a "tax consumer." All those who have worked for, and contributed to, the growth of the Regional Training Center can be very proud of the work that has been done. The Center has proven that it is a place "Where adult retardates are helped."

Ernest B. Kuhn
Workshop Director
Regional Training Center

Transportation

By MARY BROWN

Margi is a mildly retarded woman, trained in all the skills necessary to land a job as a housekeeper in a motel, nursing home or private residence.

Yet she has searched unsuccessfully for four months and faces the prospect of searching indefinitely until a position becomes available.

So "Margi" (not her real name) spends her days at the Earnest B. Kuhn Training Center on Pratt Street, where she is assigned work along with the roughly 60 other clients. The money she earns there comes from companies which have contracted with the center for work to be done, and from the state government.

Like most of the clients at the Kuhn Center, Margi's paycheck is subsidized by the state under Title 19 for as long as she remains at the center.

The reason she cannot find work, according to Kuhn Director Dennis Plante, is that there is no transportation available.

"She's not able to drive, and her family cannot provide transportation for her every day," said her supervisor, Jayne Kleinman.

Even if she could locate a position on a bus route, Ms. Kleinman said, "transferring buses may be too confusing for her."

Common problem

Her problem is shared by many of the center's clients, and also by mentally retarded and handicapped persons around the state.

Plante said when clients come to the center, usually referred by another institution, the center's floor supervisors and instructors try to determine if it is possible to train the person for private employ-

While the 1960's were years of ground breaking changes for Kuhn, the 1970's represented tremendous growth and expansion of services. Operating under the name Regional Training Center and Sheltered Workshop, in 1973 the center was renamed for its founder to be called Ernest B. Kuhn Training Center and Sheltered Workshop.

Unfortunately later that same year on Christmas Day, Ernest died. At the time of his death, his life's work had helped almost 200 disabled

become gainfully employed. His legacy now continued with the addition of a structured transportation program.

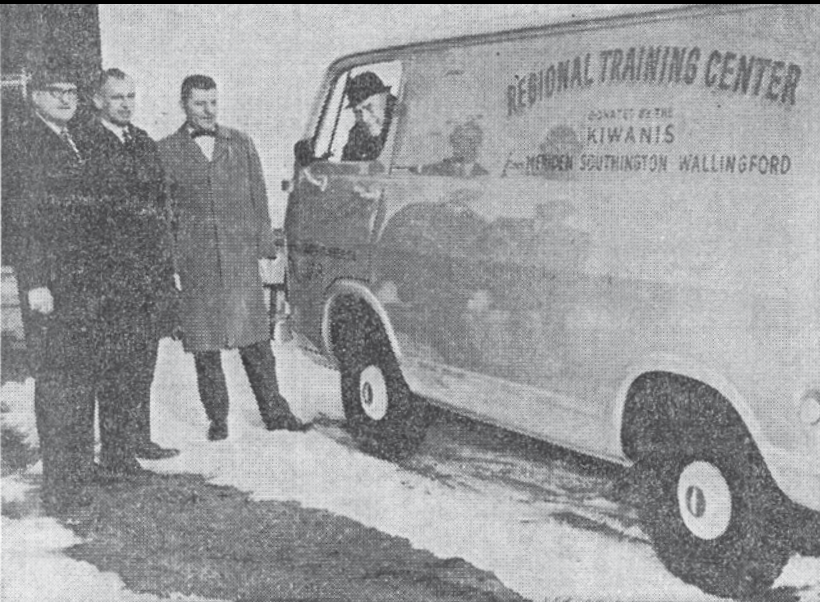
Kuhn's first van was purchased with state and federal funds provided by the Urban Mass Transportation Administration. The twelve passenger vehicle included special features such as a wheelchair lift, tie-downs and a raised roof to accommodate many different physical challenges of the clients. The van was used to transport clients to and from the workshop to their homes.



The 1970's

Today the agency continues to provide round trip transportation from home to the programs based at the main campus on North Colony Road as well as to and from job sites across the region. Kuhn currently owns 28 vans used for individuals participating in the Group Supported Employment program, Work Services program and the Community Experience Program.

In 1976, rapid growth led to yet another move from Undercliff Road in Meriden to a more central and spacious downtown location of 165 Pratt Street. With 19,000 square, the center was able to continue its growth which included a small shop that sold crafts and ceramics made by our clients.



A BUS FOR THE WORKSHOP — The Meriden, Wallingford and Southington Kiwanis Clubs yesterday presented a panel truck to the Regional Training Center to facilitate pickup and delivery of sub-contract work. Left to right are Meriden Ki-

wanis president Walter Deptula; Robert George, president-elect of the Wallingford club and Benjamin Doerfler, president of the Southington club. At the wheel of the gift truck is Ernest Kuhn, director of the training center. (Record Photo)

Area Kiwanis Clubs Donate Truck To Training Workshop

The Meriden, Wallingford and Southington Kiwanis Clubs have donated a pickup panel truck to the Meriden Regional Training Center and Sheltered Workshop on Liberty Street, it was announced yesterday by Walter Deptula, president of the Meriden Club.

In addition to other work, are sorting some 500,000 plastic bottle caps for the Eyelet company, Deptula said.

Another work contract also depended on the availability of a pickup truck, Deptula said. It is the correction of an automotive catalogue for a Middletown

retardates into productive workers.

"The center has been in existence for two years and is operated under the regulations of the U. S. government.

The sorting of the bottle caps is an exacting task, Kuhn said, because many of the caps are

As Kuhn settled into this new space, the agency now had the opportunity to think about the mission and consider expanding services to include new disability groups. It quickly became clear that helping those identified with mental illness return to the work force or enter the work force was the next venture. While Kuhn had already gradually begun to serve individuals with psychiatric disabilities in Middletown at the Beverly Heights workshop, opportunities to serve more individuals came about when the State Department of Mental Health (DMH) embraced this need. With new resources from DMH, Kuhn opened its Supported Employment Program at the Clocktower Building on Main Street in Middletown. This program was designed to provide individualized support necessary to obtain and maintain competitive, community employment that meets their needs and interests.



The 1980's

Experts increasingly acknowledge that work is a key factor in supporting mental wellness and warding off its reverse – mental illness.

Employment provides five factors that promote mental well-being:

- Structure
- Social contact and affiliation
- Collective effort and purpose
- Social and personal identity
- Regular activity

So for those who have lived with such illnesses, meaningful employment is an essential part of the recovery process. Kuhn's employment specialists assist with vocational planning, job matching, job seeking skills training, job development & placement, job coaching,

job counseling and, follow along support. Each client has an individualized person centered plan.

At the same time, Kuhns referral source for most of its Pratt street clients, the State Department of Mental Retardation (DMR) also recognized the value of community-based employment for individuals served and a new movement toward supported employment services was in full swing. During this time, the clients based in Meriden also had new opportunities with the development of the Group Supported Employment and Independent Placement programs. The number of individuals participating in the workshop decreased as more moved to community-based jobs.

A Success Story

Michael K. began his career with Kuhn Employment Opportunities, Inc. on February 13, 1998 upon graduation from Bristol Eastern High School. With support from Kuhn's Group Supported Employment program, Michael quickly had a job and has been successfully employed at the Hamden Department of Labor since 1998. Michael's responsibilities include janitorial services such as vacuuming, mopping, trash removal, and maintaining restrooms,

Despite the challenge of living with a disability, Michael demonstrates an excellent work ethic and solid understanding of the skills taught to him by his job coach. As a result of Michael's hard work he has been able to build his quality of work and productivity to the point where he is able to earn a competitive and livable wage.

Michael's success epitomizes the Kuhn mission to assist individuals with disabilities to be valued by their community, be independent by earning a wage and to be proud of the work that they do. For Michael, work is the path to seize opportunities that will further his journey toward independence.

Signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in 1990 by President George H. W. Bush changed the face of the American workforce. Now, all people were promised the opportunity of work despite physical or mental disabilities. The Act prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities, including psychiatric disabilities, in employment, state and local government activities, public accommodations, public transportation, telecommunications, and

public services. This historic Act brought tremendous new opportunities to Kuhn's clients. Access was the core of this monumental law. This includes the amenities of life that non-disabled people take for granted: going to a restaurant, a bank, a clothing store, taking the bus and being eligible to be employed at such establishments.

ADA's vision of full participation has had a profound impact on young people with disabilities. They have high expectations, and they are breaking down barriers.



The 1990's

The ADA was the most significant legislation to promote equality since the U.S. Congress passed the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and, has redefined the disability experience in the U.S.; most employers have come to accept the rightful place of disabled individuals within our society.

As Dr. Martin Luther King observed with regard to the civil rights movement, "the greatest victory of this period was... something internal... The greatness of this period was that we armed ourselves with dignity and self-respect."

During this time Kuhn services continued to grow and, the Beverly Heights operation closed in favor of more community-based services. The Middletown-based program moved to its current home at 100 Plaza Middlesex to better accommodate its growth. And, successful employment outcomes for participants in the Meriden-based program continued as well.

'Cars for Kuhn' raises cash for jobs program

The Cars for Kuhn program started during the 1990's and continues to be a significant source of funds for the agency.

Donated cars are brought to auction and the money from the sale is given to Kuhn. All donations are tax deductible.



The start of the new millennium represented additional growth and changes for Kuhn: new leadership, a new building and new programs.

In 2000, Kuhn's financial situation posed a significant challenge to the viability of the agency. The board of directors closely examined the situation with the help of an outside consulting firm. Significant recommendations were offered and initiated. Many changes in staffing, spending, and program operations were made. After two years, Kuhn addressed all of its financial challenges allowing the agency to redouble its efforts in serving its clients in the community.

New inductees selected for Meriden's hall of fame

By Amanda Falcone
Record-Journal staff

MERIDEN — The Meriden Hall of Fame selected five new inductees at its annual meeting Wednesday. John F. Papandrea and the late Vern Hunter, Ernest B. Kuhn, Isaac C. Lewis and Carter Hixson White will be honored at a formal induction ceremony on Oct. 13.

The ceremony is open to the public and the winners will be presented with plaques.

"Meriden is very proud of them," said Lisa Scalise, secretary of the Hall of Fame. White was an attorney, a state senator from Meriden from 1947 to 1948, and the city's corporation counsel from 1947 to 1950. In 1949 he became general coun-

sel for the Meriden Record Co. and would rise to executive vice president and publisher, president, and later chairman of the company, today the Record-Journal Publishing Co.

Hunter owned and operated Hunter's Auto Clinic in Meriden, and began Hunter's Meriden Ambulance Service in 1953. Since 1976, the company has been the only ambulance service for the city. Hunter is considered to be a leader in the attainment of medical training and equipment advances.

Kuhn built play structures for children to enjoy. He opened up a day care center for older boys with disabilities, and the center eventually became the E.B. Kuhn Regional Training Center and Workshop

Papandrea was a lawyer who focused on family law, planning and zoning. He was a member and chairman of many Meriden charter revision commissions. He also served on the board of aldermen from 1962 to 1966. From 1967 to 1972, he was a member of the Connecticut House of Representatives, and he served as assistant majority leader, deputy managing leader and counsel to the majority. Lewis opened the I.S. Lewis Co., a manufacturing business, which eventually would merge with the Meriden Britannia Co. Lewis became president. After his death, the company formed the International Silver Company. Lewis was Meriden's third mayor.

"I think the winners were very well selected," Scalise said.



In a effort to memorialize the vision and dedication of our founder Ernest B. Kuhn, Kuhn Employment Opportunities nominated Ernest and society at large. The nomination was accepted and on October 13, 2005 Ernest B. Kuhn was inducted in the Meriden Hall of Fame.

The 2000's

After adjusting to the changes of the beginning of the decade, Kuhn set off to find a more suitable work environment in 2005. With the help of the board of directors and the community, Kuhn was able to purchase and relocate to 1630 North Colony Road Meriden. This former Knights of Columbus Hall with acreage on Silver Lake serves as the headquarters for Kuhn. Strategic renovation of the building provides generous space for on-site program services, a base for external programs and a suite of administrative offices. The large parking lot accommodates Kuhn's 28 vans, staff cars as well as ample space for visitors.



"Work is not something you obtain when you recover. Work assists in the recovery process..."

Kuhn developed a collaborative relationship in 2006 with the Rushford Center, one of Connecticut's leading substance abuse and mental health providers. After an extensive period of consultation and review of existing employment services for persons with psychiatric disabilities, a contractual relationship was established between Kuhn and the Rushford Center. A program model, designed using evidence-based practices, was implemented with Kuhn staff located within Rushford's Meriden - facility and embedded with clinical teams to best assist individuals to enter / re-enter the workforce.

In 2009, Kuhn responded to a "Request for Proposals" from the Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services (DMHAS) intended as a system-wide overhaul of employment services to insure that quality, evidence-based services were provided state-wide. As a result, Kuhn was awarded expansion funding for both its Middletown and Rushford - based programs. Today, these two programs serve approximately 250 individuals annually.

To Today

Meanwhile Kuhn had entered into School to Work transition services and provided work opportunities and community - based job assessments for special education students from a variety of local school systems. In 2008?, discussions with the East Hampton Board of Education (EHBOE) lead to the development of a new and innovative program that houses Kuhn staff within that school system. Services are designed to meet individual student needs each school year and include opportunities such as: life skills, career exploration, group supported employment, internships, assessments and independent job placements

The second half of the current decade has also seen many changes for program participants served by Kuhn through the Department of Developmental Services (DDS). A new funding structure for service reimbursement has required a renewed diligence to cost efficiencies but, has also led to a renewed commitment to improved employment outcomes for persons served. Striving to assist individuals to work in the least restrictive and most integrated employment setting continues to be Kuhn's focus in promoting our mission that persons served are Valued in their community, Independent as a result of earned income and Proud of their work and contribution to community.



A Success Story

Jean M. is a shining example of Kuhn's Middletown-based Supported Employment Program in action. Driven, hardworking and determined to succeed, he joined Kuhn in February, 2009, having been out of the work force for a couple of years. At each weekly meeting with his Kuhn employment specialist, Jean filled out multiple job applications. "Work is important to me - I've always worked," said Jean. "I feel good about myself when I have something to do."

Jean's positive attitude and perseverance paid off quickly. Within three months of joining the agency, he found work as a dishwasher at Du Glace Bistro and La Patisserie in Deep River. His dedication to do the best job possible made him a valuable member of the kitchen staff. "He does everything we ask and more," said his boss. "I wish we could clone him."

Unfortunately, the restaurant closed in February, 2010, but Jean did not let that drag him down. He began looking for another job straight away, and in June 2010 he was hired to work as a produce clerk at Adam's Super Food Mart in Deep River. Jean, his bosses report, has become the unofficial "face of Adams," greeting every customer with a smile and cheerful "hello" in his lilting Haitian accent. "Everyone knows him, and everyone likes him," said his supervisor.

"I like to keep myself busy," said Jean. "People are much happier when they have something to do."

Program Overview



A Success Story

Clinton's journey in recovery with Kuhn support began in November, 2007. Clinton had been receiving mental health services at the Rushford Center in Meriden for several months and expressed to his clinician a desire to re-enter the workforce as his goal. Shortly thereafter, Clinton was referred to Kuhn.

At that time, Clinton had an extensive work history. One work experience that he often referred back to fondly was his experience at Choate Rosemary Hall in the food services department. "The work there was always good. I had respect of my co-workers and my supervisors." It is Clinton's pride in his work and respect of his co-workers that continues to motivate him today on the job.

Working with Kuhn staff, Clinton obtained a job at Jake's Wayback Burgers in Meriden that he continues to enjoy today. After beginning at minimum wage and fifteen hours each week, Clinton has since earned a merit increase and is now able to work additional hours. The success Clinton has had at work has also translated into successes in other areas of his life including being able to support himself without Section 8 housing subsidy and being able to move to a larger apartment with his fiancé.

MERIDEN

Individuals receiving services are generally funded through the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) or a local Board of Education (BOE). To participate in Kuhn services individuals must have a disability and a verified funding source, be eighteen years of age or older (sixteen years old for BOE referral) and have the ability to benefit from services. Program participants typically have an intellectual/developmental disability. The four programs described below are offered and represent a continuum of services designed to match the wide range of skills and abilities of persons served.

Community Experience Program (CEP):

Individuals have the opportunity to learn appropriate social skills and behaviors through a variety of community activities, as well as, in-house projects (i.e.: arts & crafts). Community activities are planned based on the individual participants' expressed interests. Behavior programs and positive reinforcement are utilized to assist participants to move toward work readiness.

Work Services Program (WS):

Designed to provide individuals with a work experience in a sheltered environment through sub-

contract assembly, packaging, and light manufacturing work from the local business community. Participants are generally paid on a piece-rated basis via Kuhn payroll, in accordance with Department of Labor (DOL) standards. Individualized Service Plans (ISP) are established for each participant to maximize their productivity and earning potential, as well as, their work skills and behaviors so that they may reach their maximum level of independence.

Group Supported Employment (GSE):

Offers participants community-based employment with onsite support of a Job Coach. Work crews are small groups of participants that perform job duties at the employers' job site with a Job Coach. Program participants are paid via Kuhn payroll at an hourly rate that is assessed every six months in accordance with DOL standards. Wage reviews consider an individual's work productivity and quality as it relates to the same work performed by a non-disabled person. An ISP is established for each participant to maximize their productivity and earning potential, as well as, their work skills and behaviors so that they may reach their maximum level of independence. Offers participants a choice of first or second shift work opportunities.

Independent Supported Employment (ISE):

Program participants who demonstrate the skills and ability to work at a competitive level work individually with an Employment Specialist (ES) to identify an appropriate job match, learn job-seeking skills and to be placed in a job with an area employer. Competitive employment is defined as earning minimum wage or higher with the participant being paid directly by the employer. The ES provides initial on the job coaching to ensure success in employment. Ongoing support for the participant focuses on job duties/work performance, employer feedback, relationships with coworkers, and any other issue that may affect the participant's job success. ISP is established for each participant to guide effective, person-centered service delivery.

Another service offered through Kuhn's Meriden facility includes working with local Boards of Education (BOE) students. Participants funded through a BOE can access any of the programs identified above as appropriate to meet their needs/skill level. A BOE School to Work Transition plan is individualized allowing students to attend school part-time and Kuhn part-time so that they can meet their educational requirements while beginning to learn

work skills and behaviors. Kuhn may also offer BOE students Career Exploration/ Individualized Vocational Planning services. These services may be conducted either in the community or within the agency's facility.

EAST HAMPTON

School to Work Transition Program:

Kuhn has a unique contractual relationship with the East Hampton Board of Education. This program was designed to enhance vocational resources / services in order to provide well coordinated school-to-work transitions for special education students based in the East Hampton community. Kuhn staff is housed at East Hampton High School and the town's alternative Learning Center. Students in this program are offered individualized services to meet their needs including but not limited to: career exploration & vocational planning, community-based situational assessments, group supported employment and, independent competitive job placement services. Students also receive assistance in planning for long-term services/ funding, as needed, in order to transition to adult services.

MIDDLETOWN

Individuals receiving services through Kuhn's Middletown office are funded through the Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services (DMHAS). To participate in these programs individuals must be eighteen years of age or older, a resident of Middlesex County, Lyme or Old Lyme. They must meet the DMHAS definitions for having a severe and prolonged mental illness, income below the poverty level and receive DMHAS - funded clinical services. In addition, they must demonstrate a desire to work and have an impairment in vocational functioning. The two programs described below are offered via the Middletown office.

Supported Employment:

This program provides the individualized supports necessary for persons served to obtain and maintain competitive, community employment that meets their needs and interests. Program services are provided by an ES and include, but are not limited to, vocational planning, job matching, job seeking skills training, job development & placement, time-limited job coaching, job counseling and, follow along support. ISP is established for each participant to guide effective, person-centered service delivery.

Vocational Mentor Program (VMP):

This peer support program provides individuals who are successfully discharged from the Supported Employment Program to continue vocational support by a peer mentor. As an individual's need for job-related support decreases, the mentor and the ES work collaboratively to offer the participant ongoing support at a less intensive level. A Job Support Group is available to all VMP and Supported Employment program participants, and is also open to any individual with a mental illness who resides in the service area and has a desire to work.

RUSHFORD

Supported Employment:

Kuhn and The Rushford Center, Inc., two local non-profit agencies, collaborated to design employment services for persons with psychiatric disabilities living in Meriden and Wallingford. Eligible participants receive clinical services from Rushford and employment support services from Kuhn via an evidenced based model of supported employment that integrates these service components.

Supported Employment is similar to Kuhn's Middletown-based services as stated above.



A Success Story

Robin W. first came to Kuhn in February 2009. While she had the desire to work, attempts to find work had been unsuccessful because of some physical challenges. Robin has limited use of one arm and one leg due to the effects of cerebral palsy. Kuhn was told that Robin may have limitations to both her work skills and her stamina. Robin proved them wrong! She started working in Kuhn's Work Services program, and learned all of the jobs available. She would find ways to accommodate to her needs, always completing her work correctly and completely.

By August of 2009, a new crew was being formed to work at a company called Aplicare, a local Meriden-based business that formulates, produces, and packages topical antiseptic and personal care products. Robin was selected to work on that crew because she demonstrated the skills, motivation, and drive to be successful in the job.

What makes Robin's story truly a success story is not only that she is working, although that is success in itself but, that Robin exemplifies the mission of Kuhn Employment Opportunities - valued, independent, and proud- in how she conducts herself. She is valued on the crew for her work, but more importantly for the example she sets for others. She always has a positive attitude and is a positive role model for her coworkers. Robin demonstrates her independent spirit every day by not allowing physical challenges to prevent her from doing what she wants to do.

The KUHN Mission Statement

“The Kuhn organization is committed to developing quality skill enhancement programs which provide meaningful employment for persons with disabilities so that they will become independent, gain self-esteem, and be accepted by the community.”



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