

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MORE THAN JUST A PLACE TO WORK

“Citizens Development Center Gives Workers with Disabilities a Life”

(DALLAS) -- Citizens Development Center of Dallas enables hundreds of people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities to go to work every day, giving them dignity, purpose and a place in society. There are 257,762 working age adults in Dallas County and Collin County with an employment disability. The unemployment rate for these people is 36%-43% compared to 5% for the general population (US Census and United Way Needs Assessment). **March is National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month.**

Approximately 250 men and women come to our Work Center in Stemmons Corridor to perform contract packaging and assembly jobs for diverse businesses such as Mary Kay, Crane Plumbing, Corporate Express and small upstart business who are not yet ready to hire a workforce. 90% of these men and women have moderate to severe mental retardation; 50% have a secondary disability such as epilepsy, Down syndrome, autism, etc. Ralph Novak, Mary Kay Manager, Contract Services says, “The staff and workers at CDC have always gone above and beyond our expectations with hard work and enthusiasm.”

The Center also works with more than 100 individuals in our Employment Program where we match client skills and desires with job opportunities in the community. “Our partnership with diverse employers in the Metroplex improves the lives of many people in our community and helps to overcome limiting beliefs about people with developmental disabilities,” said Rita De Young, Executive Director.

“Whataburger is one of our biggest employers and some of our most heartwarming success stories come from our clients who work there.” Over the years, Citizens Development Center clients have worked in more than 15 Whataburger restaurants throughout Dallas. “It is very rewarding to support an agency that directly benefits our team members,” explained Shelly Kay, Divisional Director of Marketing for Whataburger. “We are especially grateful for Citizen Development Center’s dedication to improving the lives and self-esteem of people who are capable and just need a chance.”

Whataburger is just one example of companies that hire adults with disabilities. During the past year we have also filled jobs for La Madeline, Albertsons, Tom Thumb, Kroger, Bennigans, Mary Kay, On Our Own, Redbird Education and many more.

Citizens Development Center is a non-profit organization that empowers adults with disabilities to achieve their highest level of employability through job placement, supported employment and vocational training. Our job placement program matches clients with positions at participating companies, teaching them the job search process, how to create a resume and interviewing skills. Often, clients are coached by coordinators to help them learn the specific skills necessary at their new occupation. For more severely disabled clients, the group’s supported employment Work Center provides vocational training and a safe work environment for contract packaging and assembly services outsourced by area businesses.

Visit www.cdcdallas.org for more information about Citizens Development Center.