



Careers Industries

Enriching the lives of people with disabilities

New 52,000 SQ FT Building Brings Expanded Services for Persons with Disabilities and Area Businesses

Careers Industries' Opens the Doors to New Location Today

Racine, WI, December 19, 2011 -- A holiday gift comes early to participants at Careers Industries' Racine location as they "unwrap" the doors to their brand new 52,000 square-foot building today. The non-profit organization's new space, located in the Westgate Mall, 4811 Washington Ave, Racine, brings expanded and needed services for persons with disabilities, community organizations and area businesses.

"After 12 years, Careers Industries literally outgrew our former 25,000 square-foot Douglas Avenue site. Their expansion reflects the success of their more than 350 participants as staff, volunteers and area businesses have enriched their lives through work, care and community," said Careers Industries Executive Director, Joe Greene.

"The new location is critical to our ability to expand revenue-producing services so we can be less reliant on public dollars while continuing to provide opportunities for persons with disabilities," Greene added. "Larger space will also allow Careers Industries to serve a greater number of participants while their families or other guardians can earn a living."

Features in the new building include high tech training rooms, a teaching kitchen, larger lunch rooms, an exercise room and covered drop-off area. The organization will now have 23,000 square-feet of production and warehouse space for participants to provide fulfillment services for area businesses compared to the previous location's 12,000 square-feet. Participants and employees will enjoy large amounts of new natural and energy efficient lighting. Wall colors including mocha, maroon, adobe and blue will help clearly identify spaces while adding to our interior's visual appeal.

The building's exterior incorporates an inviting and creative design with such features as metal panels, curved roof entry, cultured stone, curved parapet walls, sun shading devices and wooden trellis.

Architect Saab Design, LLC, integrated all of these elements to create a corporate image that blends with the retail setting of the site.

The project cost was \$3.2 million for new building purchase and remodeling with financing provided by Johnson Bank and Careers Industries. Several Racine-area businesses assisted with the construction and renovation. These included Straightline Grading & Excavating LLC, Franksville; Service Drywall & Decorating, Caledonia; O'Brien & Herman Plumbing LLC, Sturtevant; Kurk Concrete and Y-Not Masonry, both of Union Grove; Cicchini Asphalt, LLC, Kenosha; and Liquid Systems, Pleasant Prairie. Triad Construction, Inc. was general contractor.

"Careers Industries looks forward re-energizing our new neighborhood with over 400 participants, staff and caregivers, coming and going daily," Greene noted. The organization plans to make their space and various amenities available to community organizations.

While Careers Industries' day to day focus is on persons with disabilities, the organization contributes to the well-being of the broader community and economy through the work and volunteer service their participants perform for area businesses and non-profit organizations. They believe their new location will help both the Racine area and their participants fulfill their unlimited potential.

Careers Industries has accepted an offer to purchase its Douglas Ave. building and continues to consider secondary offers.

Founded in 1971, Careers Industries (www.careersindustries.org) currently serves more than 350 participants and nearly 200 businesses and organizations from its Racine and Burlington locations.

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