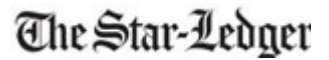




**Ambassador Opportunity Information Packet**

Community Options, Inc. is a national nonprofit that has been developing homes and employment for people with disabilities since 1989.

As featured in:



Thank you for reviewing our invitation to become an Ambassador of Community Options, Inc. For over twenty years, Community Options has been developing community-based homes and innovative employment opportunities for adults and children with developmental disabilities.

We currently operate 170 group homes across the country. We do not believe in administering large congregate settings and a majority of the people we are supporting have moved from state institutions. We believe in small group homes so the people we support can receive individualized and personalized support to become fully inclusive and contributing members to their community. We currently support over 2,000 people with significant disabilities on a daily basis throughout the United States.

Our employment opportunities are like no other in the United States. Community Options opposes the sheltered workshop setting, therefore, we are entrepreneurs. We have developed and embraced an entrepreneurial business model that has allowed for people with disabilities to gain a relevant and portable skill that that prepares them for the world of work.

Community Options currently operates in the following cities:

**New Jersey**

Princeton  
Moorestown  
Forked River  
Hillsborough  
Greenbrook  
Morristown  
Wayne  
Elmwood Park

**New York**

Brooklyn  
Queens  
Manhattan  
Binghamton  
Syracuse

**Pennsylvania**

Philadelphia  
Pittsburgh

**Texas**

Dallas  
Amarillo  
San Antonio  
Corpus Christi  
El Paso

**Tennessee**

Nashville  
Cookeville  
Chattanooga

**Kentucky**

Bowling Green  
Paducah

**New Mexico**

Albuquerque  
Las Cruces  
Santa Fe

**South Carolina**

Irmo

**Connecticut**

Hartford

**Illinois**

Chicago



## Our Major Initiatives

**School to Employment Program (STEP)** – STEP is a school to work transition program for youth with disabilities. STEP offers internships for students in the afternoons during the school week at businesses where we have cultivated relationships. The internships count as school credit toward their academic programs and give each youth a foundation in which to build to be prepared for the world of work. The program currently supports 25 youth with disabilities.

**Children's Placement Enhancement Pilot (CPEP)**- CPEP is a residential program started by Community Options that works with children with disabilities who are at-risk of institutional placement. The model is set up with House Parents to recreate a normal family type setting where children live until they are adults. CPEP currently supports 52 children with disabilities.

**Family Web 2.0** – Community Options was able to start and continue the Family Web 2.0 project through a grant offered by the Administration of Developmental Disabilities. We had the ability to create parent-focused groups in 12 different regions across the United States and those parent advocate groups created over a period of a year a clearinghouse of resources. These are rated resources that can be used for parents who are looking for supports for their children. Family Web 2.0 during the funding period was supporting over 300 people. Since the funding has ended and the effort has been sustained and information entered on the clearinghouse website, Family Web offers timely information to thousands of people on a daily basis.

**The Daily Plan It-** we have created four Daily Plan Its across the United States. The Daily Plan Its are business incubator programs that support small business and microenterprise owners while allowing adults with disabilities to learn a portable skill set and earn a decent wage. The Daily Plan Its are currently supporting 83 people with disabilities.

**Vaseful Flowers and Gifts** – Vaseful is a social enterprise created by Community Options and it serves as the only nonprofit flower store in the United States that supports people with developmental disabilities. Vaseful is a worldwide flower shop that specializes in weddings, special events and everyday flowers. Vaseful is currently supporting 17 people with disabilities.

**Presents of Mind** – is another social enterprise created by Community Options that works to train and employ people with disabilities in a retail setting where they can learn about running a brick and mortar store along with managing the back-end of the e-commerce of the store through the website. Presents of Mind is currently supporting 37 people with disabilities.

**Just Add Water** – is our latest social enterprise that is a corporate training and catering site. We train and employ people with disabilities at this site to work with business owners on all their training and catering needs. If you were someone who had a business and needed to have a 3-day training for your employees, you could rent our Just Add Water and have full use of the conference space, state of the art equipment and have it all catered by our team. Just Add Water is currently supporting 13 people with disabilities.



**iMatter Surf Camp for Children with Autism** – created in 2007, Community Options holds a one-day free surf camp for children with Autism throughout New York, New Jersey, Connecticut and Pennsylvania. The camp has significantly grown over the past 5 years and currently supports over 300 children and families affected by Autism every year.

**Community Options Business Advisory Council (COBAC)** – each city where Community Options operates is lead by a COBAC. A COBAC is made up of business people from the local area that advises the local office of Community Options and assist people we support in finding community-based jobs. The COBAC members will also often assist with our fundraising efforts.

**National iMatter Conference** – for the past 6 years, Community Options has held the National iMatter Conference, which is based around a hot topic related to social enterprise development, people with disabilities and families. Our conferences have become very popular and last year, we were fortunate to have Judy Woodruff of the PBS Newshour as our Keynote speaker. Each year we have 200 people in attendance at our conference.

**The York Foundation** – was created by Community Options to develop an endowment that would work to support the organization financially in the future if needed. The York Foundation is supervised by a Board of Overseers that works diligently to raise funds for the endowment that is earmarked for training and advocacy purposes.

**Cupid's Chase 5K Run** – Community Options has branded the Cupid's Chase 5K Run as the largest, national, simultaneous 5K run in the country held in 24 cities across 10 states at the same time. Our largest annual fundraiser.

Becoming an Ambassador of Community Options would mean you believe in our mission of supporting people with disabilities in the community. Your own personal beliefs would align with our philosophy to further advance the mission of Community Options.

We understand how busy you are and to that end, we have made our Ambassador Program highly user-friendly and easy. As an Ambassador of Community Options, we would require:

- 3 High-Resolution Photos for use in print and online collateral
- Approved Biography
- Three quotes related to your Ambassadorship that we could utilize on going in print and online collateral materials all related to your support of our cause.

As an Ambassador, we will keep you up to date on the events of the organization through our quarterly e-newsletter and will alert you to any press coverage that occurs as a result of your Ambassadorship.

I am so appreciative of your consideration and review of this request to become an Ambassador of Community Options and the work we have done over the past twenty-two years and the work we will continue to do.

Regards,  
Jessica Guberman, Ph.D.  
Vice President

