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CONTACT: Kathryn Sampson, Community Options Inc.

(609) 352.5280 | Kathryn.Sampson@comop.org

Jonah's Journey to Happiness with Community Options

PRINCETON, NJ -- Jonah, 21, grew up with intellectual disabilities including Fragile X syndrome. His parents felt that his future was either bleak or not discernible so they, along with his school, contacted Community Options.

Community Options runs the STEP program (School To Employment Program). Community Options' Regional Director Meghan Hunter and her staff explored potential employment opportunities for Jonah and other individuals like him. They met with employers in hospitals, retail stores, pharmaceutical companies, law firms, shelters and supermarkets requesting employers to offer internships to learn the job skills needed to prepare for future employment with the support of a job coach.

Jonah was placed in a hospital setting. He tried the stock room and did not like it. He tried environmental services and had some difficulties. Then he found his dream job: the kitchen. Jonah prepares desserts and snacks for patients. He loves his job and enjoys talking with his co-workers in the kitchen.

“We’ve been particularly impressed with STEP’s ability to differentiate needs among the students and craft job placements where they are both successful and learning,” said Jonah’s parents, Laura and Dennis.

This is another example of Community Options working in tandem with an individual like Jonah, his family, the school and the employers to find the proper job match. This is a relationship that Jonah feels good about and the employer is satisfying a need within their company.

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About Community Options, Inc.:

For over 25 years, Community Options has developed housing and employment programs for people with disabilities – serving thousands of people through 38 offices across 10 states. Community Options provides advocacy assistance to empower people with disabilities because all people – regardless of ability level – should live and work in the community with dignity, choice and self-determination.

For more information please visit our website: www.comop.org and to follow along with the ComOpCares campaign, search #ComOpCares on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.