

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Community Options Opens Second Ribbon Red Academy in New Jersey

PRINCETON, NJ (September 8, 2016) – Community Options opened its second Red Ribbon Academy, located at 2230 Camplain Road in Hillsborough, NJ. The Red Ribbon Academy II is a state-of-the-art, medical, special needs, adult day program that combines tender loving care, therapy integration, and adapted activities for the 15 people enrolled to attend. The program provides quality medical, therapeutic and recreational support to medically fragile adults with developmental disabilities.

In 2013, Community Options launched the first Red Ribbon Academy in Wayne, NJ. The model day-program quickly caught the attention of the community and media because of the numerous awards for its exemplary program design, advanced therapeutic sensory environment, vocational rehabilitation supports, and multifaceted recreational programs available to maintain and increase the participants' mental acuity and maximize their physical ability.

Red Ribbon Academy has touched the hearts of many worldwide. Community Options received generous donations from The Spano Family Charitable Foundation and Valley National Bank. The donation from the Spano Family Charitable Foundation funded the outstanding sensory room. James Spano serves as a board member on Community Options Enterprises' Board of Directors. Valley National Bank's donation was used towards the purchase of medical equipment for the program.

In addition to several Community Options employees and board members, Senator Christopher 'Kip Bateman, Anthony Ferrera, Administrator/Deputy Clerk for Hillsborough Township and David Kois, Business Advocate for Hillsborough Township were in attendance for the ceremony and to welcome in the newest members of the Hillsborough community.

"I was very excited to attend the opening of Community Options' newest support system," said Senator Bateman. "It's going to make a significant difference in the lives of 15 individuals.

The hours of operation are Monday through Friday, from 8am to 4pm. In addition, the program provides transportation to and from the Academy. The Red Ribbon Academy is open to anyone who qualifies for services under the New Jersey Division of Developmental Disabilities.

"This represents where we started from and the journey we endured to get to the next level," said Ayesha S. Patrick, Executive Director of the Red Ribbon Academy. "Community Options Enterprises (COE) broke down doors and boundaries and has stepped out of the traditional program/ medical day program model and created a quality, state-of-the-art program that is being duplicated within COE in accordance with the overall mission to make a difference in the lives of medically fragile individuals."

For more information about the Red Ribbon Academy, please visit: <http://www.comop.org/celebrating-two-years-of-making-a-difference/> and our website at www.comop.org.

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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.