A Brief History of Community Options, Inc.

A Timeline of Achievements.

1989: Community Options, Inc. is incorporated in February 1989 to develop residential and employment supports for people with severe disabilities.

1990: The Americans with Disabilities Act passed. Its overall purpose is to make American society more accessible to people with disabilities.

1990: Governor James Florio announces he will close Johnstone in Bordentown, NJ.

1991: The first COI Business Advisory Council (COBAC) meeting is held in October of 1991. The focus of the COBAC is to recruit local business members within the community to help connect people with developmental disabilities to competitive employment.

1992: The first Four New Jersey homes were purchased.

1992: Burlington and Menor County AJ offices are established to provide residential and employment support services to individuals with disabilities in New Jersey. COI believes there are four values critical to supporting individuals with disabilities and their families successfully: individual choice; individual responsibility; individual control; community-based facilities.

1992: The Division of Developmental Disabilities closes the Johnstone Training and Research Center in New Jersey.

1992: Tim O'Donoghue becomes Chairman to the Board of Directors.

1993: COI contracts with Texas Department of Aging and Disabilities (TADDS) for the Texas Hem line Program (TfMLA) and Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Medicaid waiver programs.

1994: Community Options, Inc. of Southern Tier is established to provide residential and employment support services to individuals with disabilities in the Binghamton, New York area.

1994: The Pittsburgh office is established to provide residential and employment support services to individuals with disabilities in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

1994: An office in New York City is established to provide residential and employment support services to individuals with disabilities in all five boroughs of NYC.

1995: COI’s first Pennsylvania home is purchased to help people to live independently in community settings.

1995: The State of New Jersey closes the North Pennsylvania Developmental Center, with the very last of the individuals being removed in 1998.

1996: An office is established to cover the areas of Somerset, Union and Hunterdon Counties.

1997: Community Options, Inc. of Albuquerque, New Mexico is established to provide residential and employment support services to individuals with disabilities in the Metropolitan and Southwest Region.

1997: The first New Jersey home is purchased in the city of Endicott.

1997: The Daily Plan II office is in Somerville, NJ. The organization offers businesses small offices with conference space and low-cost services, such as receptionist work, maintenance duties, filing and copying.

1997: The first office in Nashville, Tennessee is established with the purchase of a large home functioning as a commercial entity. Plans are underway to expand in Tennessee.

1998: Vaseful opens as a unique floral business which provides employment for people with disabilities in an integrated setting, operated by Community Options Enterprises.

1998: The Santa Fe office opens to provide services in northeastern New Mexico. Staff meets with the individuals, their family, and other supporting team members, to ensure the individual’s service plans provide person-centered care, incorporating the person’s preferences accordingly.

2000: Brooklyn, NY office is established to provide employment services to individuals with disabilities in Brooklyn, New York.

2000: The office in Dallas is established to provide residential and employment support services to individuals with disabilities living in (16) counties in the Northern Texas Region to include Dallas, Collin, Denton and other surrounding counties.

2000: Dr. Clarence York and Robert Stack create The York Foundation to establish an endowment to further our effort and help empower individuals with disabilities. The Foundation seeks to assist individuals with disabilities in achieving their maximum potential by integrating independence, self-determination, and productivity into all facets of their lives.

2001: Tim Dunigan appointed as Chair of the Board of Directors.

2002: The first entrepreneurial business with rental units is established to provide residential and employment support services to individuals with disabilities in the Texas Panhandle.

2003: Vaseful opens the first Vaseful location in San Antonio and Dallas, Texas offices are purchased.

2004: The office in Albuquerque is purchased.

2005: The office in Austin is purchased.

2006: Vaseful purchases new location for its flower shop, in Edison, NJ.

2007: Nikki Halley visits one of our homes in New Jersey.

2008: The First home in Dallas is purchased.

2009: Nikki Halley visits the Metro and Northeast Region.

2010: The York Foundation is established to provide residential and employment support services to individuals with disabilities in the southeastern New Mexico communities.

2011: Vaseful opens a second floral business office in Morristown.

2012: The first Missouri office opened in St. Louis.

2013: Community Options opens in Philadelphia, PA.

2014: Vaseful purchases new location for its flower shop, in Edison, NJ.

2015: Community Options, Inc. opens its corporate offices in Rockefeller Center.

2015: Robert Stack, ring bearer at the NYSE Opening Bell®, commemorates the organization’s 20th anniversary of providing residential and employment support services to people with developmental disabilities.

2015: Senator Bob Casey receives the Betty Bender Award.

2015: Thomas Kean, the 48th Governor of New Jersey, is the recipient of the Betty Bender Award.

2016: The office in Nashville, Tennessee is purchased.

2016: Robert Stack, ring bearer at the NYSE Opening Bell®, commemorates the organization’s 20th anniversary of providing residential and employment support services to people with developmental disabilities.

2016: Nikki Halley is the United States Ambassador to the United Nations.


2018: The Western Center in Carson City, Nevada is established.

2019: The York Foundation is established to provide residential and employment support services to individuals with disabilities in the southwestern New Mexico communities.

2020: Greg Thornees is appointed Regional Vice President for Arizona, New Mexico, Texas and Utah.

2020: Philip Lian, Chair of Community Options Enterprises, is duly appointed Chair of the York Foundation.

2020: James Buckley is appointed as Treasurer to the Board of Directors.

2020: Megan Crowley receives the Betty Bender award.

2020: The first home in Iowa is purchased in Council Bluffs.

2020: Dorothy Goodwin is appointed Chair of the Board of Directors.

2021: Robert Stack, ring bearer at the NYSE Opening Bell®, commemorates the organization’s 20th anniversary of providing residential and employment support services to people with developmental disabilities.

2022: The first home in Iowa is purchased in Council Bluffs.

2022: Nikki Halley is the United States Ambassador to the United Nations.

2023: Nikki Halley is the United States Ambassador to the United Nations.