

# A Brief History of Community Options, Inc.

## A TIMELINE OF ACHIEVEMENTS.



Supporting People with Disabilities since 1989

1990



**1989** Community Options, Inc. is incorporated on February 9, 1989 to develop residential and employment supports for people with severe disabilities.

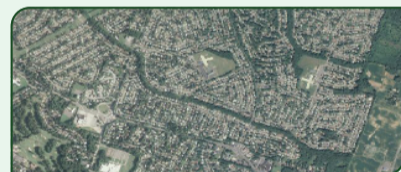
**1990** The Americans with Disabilities Act passed. Its overall purpose is to make American society more accessible to people with disabilities.

**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.

**1991** The Betty Pendler Award is first presented.

**1992** The first four New Jersey homes were purchased.



**1992** Burlington and Mercer County NJ 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; customer satisfaction; person-centered planning; and economic empowerment.

**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 (DADS) for the Texas Homeliving (TxHML) and Home and Community Based Services (HCS) 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.



**1995** 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 Princeton Developmental Center, with the very last of the individuals being removed in 1998.

**1996** An office is established to cover the areas of Somerset County, NJ. It provides community-based options for residential and employment support services to individuals with disabilities and people with traumatic brain injuries living in the area.

**1996** A Southeast Pennsylvania office is established to provide residential and employment support services to individuals with disabilities living in the Southeast region of Pennsylvania.



**1997** Princeton Daily Plan It opens first entrepreneurial business with rental offices and infrastructure comprised of persons with disabilities earning minimum wage or better.

**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.

2000

**1997** Brooklyn, NY office is established to provide support services to individuals with disabilities in Brooklyn, New York.

**1997** 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.

**1997** El Paso, TX office is established to provide residential and employment support services to individuals with disabilities in El Paso, Texas.

**1997** The first home in Texas is purchased.



**1998** The office in Amarillo is established to provide support services to individuals with disabilities in the Texas Panhandle.

**1999** Vaseful opens as a unique floral business which provides employment for people with disabilities in an integrated setting, operated by Community Options Enterprises.



**1999** Community Options, Inc. of Albuquerque, New Mexico is established to provide residential and employment services to individuals with disabilities in the Metro and Northeast Region.

**1999** The first NY home is purchased in the city of Endicott.



**1999** The Daily Plan It opens in Morristown, NJ. The organization offers businesses small offices with conference space and low-cost services, such as receptionist work, maintenance duties, filing and copying.

**2000** Syracuse, NY office is established to provide residential and employment support services to individuals with Traumatic Brain Injury in the Syracuse, New York area.

**2000** Western Center in Canonsburg PA is closed. In 1992, the Western Center was the subject of a lawsuit brought by disability advocates against the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare; the lawsuit resulted in a settlement that permitted the state to move residents to communitybased facilities.

**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 Chairman to the Board of Directors.



**2004** The Santa Fe office opens to provide services in northeastern New Mexico. Staff meets with the individual, their family, and other supporting team members, to ensure that the individual's service plans provide person-centered care, incorporating the person's preferences accordingly.

**2004** A new service area in Cookeville, Tennessee is established. A new office building is purchased in Nashville. Tennessee continues to rely on Community Options to help move people from institutions into the community.



**2005** The office in San Antonio Texas is established to provide residential and employment services to individuals with disabilities in San Antonio and surrounding areas.

**2005** Due to expansion, a new office is purchased in El Paso, TX.

2010



**2009** Robert Stack, rings The NYSE Opening Bell<sup>SM</sup> to commemorate the organization's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of providing residential and employment support services to people with developmental disabilities.

**2010** Mary Pat Christie, First Lady of New Jersey, visits the Daily Plan It in Morristown.

**2011** COI visits the NASDAQ MarketSite in New York City's Times Square to ring the opening bell. Community Options, alongside its corporate partners Withum Smith + Brown, Gunlocke Furniture and Dani Leather was joined by Senator Joe Kyrillos of New Jersey's 13th Legislative District.

**2012** The office in Lubbock Texas, is established to provide support services to individuals with disabilities in the area.

**2012** New Jersey Governor Chris Christie announces he will close two institutions.



**2013** New building is purchased in Wayne, NJ. for the Red Ribbon Academy. It is a state of the art program for the most medically fragile individuals.

**2013** South Carolina Governor Nikki Halley visits one of our homes in Columbia.



**2014** Community Options, Inc. rings the Closing Bell at the New York Stock Exchange.

**2014** First office is purchased in Philadelphia, PA.

2020

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

**2015** Thomas Kean, the 48<sup>th</sup> Governor of New Jersey, is the recipient of Betty Pendler Award.

**2015** Operations open in Arizona to provide personal care, support services and vocational programs.

**2015** The Rockville office is established to provide residential and employment support services to individuals with disabilities in Rockville, Maryland.

**2016** Ogden office is established to provide support services to individuals with disabilities in Ogden, Utah.

**2016** Community Options rings both the Opening and Closing Bell at the New York Stock Exchange.

**2017** United States Ambassador to the United Nations, Nikki Halley is the recipient of Betty Pendler Award.



**2017** Community Options, Inc. rings The NYSE Opening Bell.

**2017** Community Options opens a new office in King of Prussia, PA. The new and professional office space will facilitate current operations, as well as provide the opportunity for future development and growth in the region.

**2019** Community Options opens a second Vaseful location in Princeton, NJ.

**2020** Department of Strategic Operations is inaugurated.

**2020** Community Options opens the fifth Daily Plan It in Wayne, NJ.

**2020** Lacie Parker is appointed Vice President for Pennsylvania.

**2020** Senator Bob Casey receives the Betty Pendler award.

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

**2020** Philip Lian, Chair of Community Options Enterprises, is dually appointed Chair of the York Foundation.

**2021** James Buckley is appointed as Treasurer to the Board of Directors.

**2021** Megan Crowley receives the Betty Pendler award.

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

**2022** Dorothy Goodwin is appointed Chair of the Board of Directors.

**2023** Opened first office in New Hampshire.

**2023** Opened first Daily Plan It in Phoenix, AZ.

**2023** Opened First Children's home in South Carolina.

**2023** Implemented grant from the NBA Foundation.