



# Careers Industries

*Enriching the lives of people with disabilities*

For Immediate Release

## **Careers Industries Schedules Closing Date for New Location to Expand Services for Persons with Disabilities and Area Businesses**

Racine, WI, March 23, 2011 – Careers Industries, a non-profit organization that enriches the lives of persons with disabilities through work, care and community, is scheduled to finalize in late May its property purchase in the Westgate Mall at Washington Avenue and S. Ohio Street. The organization, which marks its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, will remodel the 55,000 square foot building and plans to move in by year end. Construction is expected to begin in June.

“After 12 years, we’ve outgrown our current Douglas Avenue location where we currently serve about 225 participants,” said Careers Industries Executive Director Joe Greene. “There is growing demand in our community for services for and by persons with disabilities. We cannot continue to provide opportunities for our participants or serve area businesses that need their work assistance at our present location.”

The new building will include a variety of spaces including four training rooms, a teaching kitchen, larger lunch rooms, an exercise room and a covered drop-off area. Careers Industries participants suggested many of the planned improvements. Additionally, the new location will also have a larger warehouse space to provide more storage services to local businesses and will feature large amounts of natural and energy efficient lighting. The organization also plans to make the building and its various amenities available to community organizations as a meeting place.

“We believe our new location will help both the Racine community and our participants fulfill their unlimited potential,” Greene said. “We’ll also re-energize a struggling corner of town with over 400 participants, staff and caregivers, coming and going daily.”

Johnson Bank will finance \$2.5 million of the project’s total estimated \$3.2 million purchase and remodeling costs. Saab Design, LLC., will serve architect and general contractor. Careers Industries has put its current 25,000 square-foot property located at 3502 Douglas Ave. up for sale and plans a small capital campaign.

“We can’t think of a better way to celebrate our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary than to continue to provide high quality, innovative care, support and services to persons with disabilities. With our staff and in partnership with

area businesses and organizations, our participants contribute to the well being of our community and economy,” Green explained.

In addition to its current Racine location, Careers Industries also has Burlington site and serves a total of 350 participants and employs 70 staff in southeastern Wisconsin. # # #