



Careers Industries

Enriching the lives of people with disabilities

New B2B Web Portal Provides Manufacturers a Guide to Outsourcing Solutions Provided by Community Rehabilitation Programs

Cree & Careers Industries Relationship Demonstrates Business Benefits of CRP Contracts

Racine, WI, December 10, 2012 -- [Rehabilitation for Wisconsin in Action](#) has announced the launch of the [Midwest Works](#) (Midwestworks.org) web portal that offers manufacturers a searchable data base of outsourcing solutions provided by Community Rehabilitation Programs (CRPs), such as Careers Industries' Fulfillment Services program.

"Wisconsin's CRPs provide employment opportunities to thousands of people with disabilities and economic disadvantages by offering work that is no longer cost-efficient for manufacturers and other organizations to do in house," explains Joe Greene, executive director of Careers Industries.

Cree manufacturing manager Scott Kogutkiewicz considers the work Careers Industries performs a critical piece of the Cree production process. Depending on the project and the product, a series of individual components need to be grouped together, bagged, and labeled accurately to be included with a specific product. In other cases, there's a need to assemble small components such as base covers for light poles.

"When I first went to tour Careers Industries, I was blown away by the warmth, excitement and pride, yet I still approached hiring them as more about us helping an organization in the community," says Kogutkiewicz. "Now, it is the quality of the work, the fast response time and the cost savings that keep us coming back."

Cree, a global market-leading innovator of LED lighting with offices in Racine, has continued to expand its relationship with Careers Industries' Fulfillment Services since they first engaged the CRP in late 2011. While contracting with Careers Industries has proven to save Cree costs, another important benefit is that it helps Kogutkiewicz more efficiently structure the company's full-time workforce and how they're using their time.

"It goes beyond just being a win/win for us and Careers," he says. "The value extends to our employees, our customers and the community. And, in the end, because of the quality of the work I'd



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encourage any business to see what kind of benefits they could gain through partnership with Careers Industries.”

Contracts with CRPs can be short or long term. CRPs have high production and assembly standards and can meet contract specifications with the ability to configure their facilities, services, and equipment to meet customer needs. Another reason for Wisconsin’s manufacturers to consider outsourcing work to CRPs is the [Tax Credit](#) that is available to support the employment of people with disabilities.

The Midwest Works web portal features a searchable data base that manufacturers can use to look for CRPs by their geographic area, their organization name, or by the products and services the CRPs offer. The portal also includes an interactive map that can be used to locate the CRPs closest to manufacturing plants or distribution centers.

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Rehabilitation for Wisconsin in Action represents CRPs and other organizations that provide employment and community living services. Careers Industries, with locations in Racine and Burlington, provides work, care and community for persons with disabilities.

Contact:

Pam Kassner, pam@superpear.com (414) 510-1838

Joe Greene, jgreene@careersindustries.com, (262) 752-4100

Thomas Cook, tcook@rhw.org (608) 244-5310