

# jobpath JOURNEYS

Job Path supports people with disabilities in their efforts to make choices about their lives.

## Kick-off “Breakfast of Champions”

BY FREDDA ROSEN



(From left) Board Trustees Roger Oliver and Diana McCourt; Lisa Pitz, Everyday Heroes Project Director; and Trustee Susan McHenry.

Job Path is one of six agencies chosen by the New York State Developmental Disabilities Planning Council to launch the Everyday Heroes Learning Initiative for Direct Support Professionals. The initiative is designed to build a cadre of support professionals skilled in the practice of community inclusion. It has always been an integral part of Job Path’s mission to help

people become active members of their communities, so this is a perfect fit for us. Our support staff has long been providing individualized services that enable the people they work with to enjoy volunteer, civic and social activities. One typical example is Job Path support worker Natalia who scoured Noemi’s neighborhood. Now Noemi works out at a gym, takes literacy classes at the library, and hopes to volunteer soon at a day care center.

Congratulations and praise, along with coffee and bagels, was heaped on our support workers at the Everyday Heroes kick-off breakfast this September. Board Trustee, Diana McCourt, whose daughter is supported at Job Path, spoke from the heart: “You’ve been my heroes for a long time”

- On the drawing board is our Life Coaching for people with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). Job Path has been getting calls from parents asking for help with their young-adult children with ASD who are just “sitting at home doing nothing.” So Job Path is hoping to create a pilot project to help eight to ten people with ASD find employment and other meaningful community activities, attend college, learn practical skills for daily life, and lead more independent lives.

- Like most nonprofits, we rely not on the “kindness of strangers,” but on the generosity of people who are committed to us. In this issue, we have enclosed an envelope for you to send in any donation you would like to make. Your help enables us to do what we do best — create and launch programs that support people with developmental disabilities as they make choices about their lives.

*Fredda Rosen is Executive Director of Job Path.*

## “STARS COME OUT FOR LIFE PATH”

The Life Path Center, which meets every Friday, recently hosted Talent Day. Participants from our Community Supports program came to perform for their peers. In addition to participants who displayed talents like dancing, singing and strumming a bass guitar: Gayle baked a delicious cake with white frosting; Rodney demonstrated karate moves; Rita brought in her colorful crocheted pieces (available for sale); and we saw pictures of Osvaldo practicing free throws on a basketball court. Consultant Beth Mount handed out glittering stars, “because you are ALL stars. Thank you for bringing your gifts to us.”

**Life Path participants who performed at Talent Day. (Collage by consultant Beth Mount.)**





Trustee Roger Oliver and brother Garrett enjoy artwork by Peter Clarke at the Job Path-sponsored show this fall.

## Meet ROGER OLIVER

Job Path’s newest board member is also the chair of the Associate Board: Roger Oliver was recently promoted to Director of Sales for TemPositions, a 43-year old award-winning staffing firm that provides skilled temporary professionals to client companies. He has been the company’s top producer for six years in a row.

Roger grew up in Hollis, Queens, the middle child of three brothers. He studied creative writing at Emerson College in Boston and pursued a career in music as a “triple threat” singer, song writer, and guitar player. His next career move was sales and product development for a clothing importer.

A founding member of Job Path’s Associate Board, Roger is particularly interested in fundraising and expects to expand Job Path’s circle of influence. His older brother Garrett is the world-renowned Brooklyn Brewery brewmaster who participates in Job Path’s annual benefit auction.

## Spotlight on: Board Member Gary Rosenberg

Trustee Gary Rosenberg, Ph.D. is Chair of the Division of Social Work and Behavioral Science, Mount Sinai School of Medicine and the Edith J. Baerwald Professor of Community and Preventative Medicine. He knew little about Job Path until he got a call from executive director Fredda Rosen who was planning to recruit someone for the board who worked for Gary. At that time, Dr. Rosenberg was Executive Vice President of Mt Sinai, which was then providing health care to individuals living in New York State-operated group homes. Gary admits, “I was intrigued by the potential in the community for mainstreaming people who had not been mainstreamed in any way before. Job Path was one of the most innovative —if not the most innovative agency — that I could find. It was both the innovation and the population that interested me, and I thought perhaps I could give something based on the knowledge that I have about New York social services.”



Fredda Rosen notes that Gary has given a lot to Job Path over the years. She explains, “Gary understands government relationships from his experience working with OMRDD at Mt. Sinai. He understands what management of a nonprofit is like. His background in social work makes him particularly sensitive to the work itself. And add to that, he knows about finances and can advise us about sources of fundraising.”

**“Job Path is a remarkable and exciting place to be due to the very creative staff and the leadership,”  
Gary Rosenberg.**

Gary is also the Editor-in-Chief of the peer reviewed journal *Social Work in Health Care* and the co-editor of *Social Work in Mental Health*. He lives in New York City and the Berkshires on a farm (dating back to the 1780s) where he grows vegetables and flowers. He has four children and six grandchildren.

## PHOEBE’S CAFÉ WELCOMES



Peter Clarke with the invitation to his art show.

### “WORKS ON PAPER” by Peter Clarke

*Peter Clarke has been drawing for years on scraps of paper using a Bic pen. The drawings, often depicting wrestlers and other action figures, are crude, raw and unrefined, but the quality and originality of the work shines beyond its minimalist materials. Peter’s art was viewed as a hobby to be encouraged, but his work reflects a real talent. Working with him this summer, I helped him select his best work, and we organized his first art show, sponsored by Job Path.*

— Caitlin Meissner, Job Path summer intern and consultant

The art show was held at Phoebe’s Café in Williamsburg, Brooklyn where Peter lives with his mother. The café at 323 Graham Avenue is run by Dori Melfi who provided food for the opening night reception where 9 of the 18 works on display were sold. We were able to give all of the proceeds of the sale to Peter due to the generosity of an anonymous donor who covered the cost of framing by the Manhattan firm Arts & Letters. We will keep you informed about Peter’s continuing journey as a working artist.

## SPOTLIGHT ON EMPLOYER

### Paul Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP

Through our Supported Employment program this April, we helped three people get jobs at Paul Weiss. Rachel Pollock, Job Path's general counsel and deputy director, spent three years at this law firm as an associate, so she forged the relationship. "We matched people with departments where they would be receptive to our customized employment strategies," Rachel explained, "We asked them which areas could use additional part time help." One person was hired in a porter maintenance position, another was hired to do data entry, and Todd Irby started as a mailroom messenger. This is Todd's story told by former support worker Matt D'Anna.

*In a word, Todd's work experience has been AMAZING. In April, 2005, Todd began working in the mailroom where he*



**Paul Weiss**  
**Assistant Manager**  
**Joseph Noberini**  
**and Todd Irby.**

*delivers and picks up packages through the 35-story building. He began with a map and a support worker (me!), but now he fearlessly navigates the halls by himself. In less than three months, he progressed from a rookie to a confident worker. He travels to and from the law office independently.*

*Two hours into Todd's first day, a small fire broke out on one of the top floors. Todd wasn't scared, but his first day did end early. Months later, Todd happened to be trapped in an elevator alone. Todd remained*

*calm and communicated with security through the intercom. He joked, and management bought him lunch for his resilience.*

*The other messengers have embraced Todd as "one of the guys," and he continues to create meaningful relationships with his coworkers.*

## 2005 Auction Revisited



**Job Path support workers enjoy tour of Brooklyn Brewery in Williamsburg in August 2005.**

Executive Director says, "We could have stayed all evening being regaled by Malachy's stories. It was a fun-filled dinner."

We also offered a beer tasting and tour of the Brooklyn Brewery led by brewmaster Garrett Oliver (see photo, opposite page) for the second year in a row. This year we asked people to pledge \$50 or more so that we could send some of our hard-working support workers out for a really special evening. We raised \$2,400 on this item alone! Thanks to all our donors and to Garrett for being such a gracious host.

Last May, Job Path held its sixth annual auction benefit. We would like to thank host Mutual of America for making us feel particularly welcome in their midtown setting with a panoramic view, and we're grateful they've invited us back for 2006.

The winner of item #6 had dinner with actor and author Malachy McCourt and his wife, board member, Diana McCourt at Rosie O'Grady's Restaurant. Emily Menlo Marks, Job Path's first

### Progress Report



**Job Path's endowment campaign has raised a total of \$473,000 to date.**



Leah Cohen at work

## ONE PERSON'S JOB PATH "If at first..."

BY EDELE ST. JEAN

When I first met Leah Cohen, she told me she needed another job so she could get married. Her situation touched me because I was planning my own wedding at the time.

Last February, I met a manager at the Daffy's on Madison Avenue.

When I went back in March, as she

requested, she was no longer there. So I started over with a new manager who interviewed Leah for a stock position. When I called him back he said, "We're not getting enough sales, so this isn't a good time to hire."

I went to my supervisor and we decided to write the manager a letter. We described in detail the tasks Leah could handle — like placing tags and alarms on merchandise and assisting customers in the fitting room — and how it would benefit Daffy's. We explained that Leah would be particularly useful during the hours when the store is busiest by taking on routine tasks. I ended the letter promising to call him in a week, but instead the manager called me immediately. He said, "I've created a position just for Leah." I'm happy to say Leah now works two days a week from 9-3, and the staff has been really supportive to her. I'll let you know about her wedding plans. Mine was great!

*Edele St. Jean is a Job Path Employment Specialist*

## Patronize Job Path's patrons!

We were fortunate to have some of the finest (and tastiest) restaurants represented at our annual benefit/auction. We encourage everyone to wine/dine and spend time with Job Path's benefactors.

### Amy Ruth's

113 W. 116th St.  
New York, NY 10026  
212 280-8779

### Lobster Box

34 City Island Avenue  
City Island, NY 10464  
718 885-1952

### Blue Smoke/Jazz Standard

116 East 27th St  
New York, NY 10016  
212 447-7733

### Raffaele

1055 First Avenue (at 58th)  
New York, NY 10022  
212 750-3232

### Chanterelle

2 Harrison Street  
New York, NY 10013  
212 966-6960

### Rosie O'Grady's

800 Seventh Avenue  
New York, NY 10019  
212 582-2975

### Landmarc

179 West Broadway  
New York, NY 10013  
212 343-3883

### Sylvia's

328 Lenox Avenue  
New York, NY 10027  
212 996-0660

**PLEASE SAVE THE DATE: Thursday, May 11, 2006, is our next annual benefit auction, once again hosted by Mutual of America.**

## jobpath

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Fredda Rosen, **Executive Director**

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