



BANK OF AMERICA PROVIDES COMMUNITY ACCESS UNLIMITED \$7,500 GRANT

Money to support the agency's innovative Academy for Continuing Education

Elizabeth, NJ – June 26, 2014 – Bank of America has provided Community Access Unlimited (CAU) with a \$7,500 grant to support the agency's Academy for Continuing Education, or ACE.

The academy is a pilot program open to the general public, with classes designed to help support and empower post-secondary graduates and returning students with developmental disabilities of all ages and to assist participants in exploring new interests, developing skills and becoming more fully engaged in the community, particularly as it relates to employment, according to Marguerite Modero, ACE director.

"ACE encourages independence and job-readiness by building a program around each participant," said Bob Doherty, New Jersey president, Bank of America. "This thoughtful approach has had an immeasurable impact on individuals and families throughout Union County."

CAU takes great pride in its relationship with Bank of America, Modero said. For years the Bank of America Charitable Foundation has supported a variety of projects pertaining to employment, one of CAU's core missions, as well, she said.

"For post-high school students with developmental disabilities, transitioning to adulthood can be challenging," said Modero. "The choices and options of what's next are not typically addressed with a clear and concise plan of what to do after graduation.

"Today more options with creative life choices need to be offered to help young graduates and older returning students. The Academy for Continuing Education is dedicated to providing group and individualized classes to help students find a career path or meaningful community engagement."

ACE is the latest example of the ever-broadening continuum of care CAU provides its members, including housing, vocational and life-skills training, education, advocacy and recreation, according to Sid Blanchard, CAU executive director.

"This intertwined network of support provides CAU with an advantage over other social services agencies that are not able to match our breadth of services," he said. "That's the CAU Advantage.

"Celebrating 35 years, Community Access Unlimited is a leader within the state's nonprofit community in setting standards, developing new approaches and changing mindsets," he added.

For more information on the Academy for Continuing Education please visit www.caunj.org.

CAU provides support programs and services to people with disabilities and youth served under the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to enable them to live independently in the community, in areas including housing, vocational and life-skills training, education, advocacy and recreation.



From Left-Right: Goreti Munoz, Vice President and Branch Manager at Bank of America, William Busch, Director of Membership Development at CAU, Bernadette Griswold, Managing Assistant Executive Director at CAU, and Nafeeza Holder, Vice President & West Gateway Consumer Market Manager at Bank of America