

Handi Crafters

Annual Appeal for Financial Support



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Handi-Crafters.org

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We are honored & grateful for your support. We love visitors and welcome you to come and tour our Work Center at any time.

Dearest Treasured Friend,

Nina Ruble is a determined young lady with an electrifying smile. When Nina was born she was diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy and has spent most of her life in a wheelchair. Nina is twenty-two years old and graduated from high school last spring. What would she do next in life, thought her family? A job? Could Nina go to work? Absolutely Nina could go to work and have a job. Handi-Crafters exists for Nina and so many amazing individuals like her who want the chance to go as far as they can go in life regardless of barriers or limitations.

At Hand-Crafters, Nina is a member of a diverse and energetic work force. Since 1961, Handi-Crafters has remained steadfast to a valuable mission of supporting the employment goals for those with different abilities. Today, Handi-Crafters runs one of the largest employment and disability-focused, non-profit Work Centers in Southeast Pennsylvania. Each year, we help approximately 425 individuals gain access to rewarding job opportunities in the community and in our Thorndale based production hub. We achieve our goals through partnerships with great employers and the acquisition of work contracts with businesses who choose socially responsible outsourcing; hiring our work force to meet their production, assembly and packaging needs.

"Nina loves to get up in the morning and go to work, she is very happy." Karen Ruble, Nina's Mother.

Our Work Center model has raised the bar in providing vocational services for all. Handi-Crafters never turns anyone away who benefits from having a job and the opportunity to increase their overall quality of life; but each year we are challenged to balance ever-growing costs. **Over 20% of our client-workers such as Nina, do not have funding to help them reach their employment goals.** Therefore, we must underwrite the journey for them. Public funding for operational assistance remains flat and leaves us with a widening funding gap, while demand for our services consistently grows. We must seek greater support from the private sector to sustain our operations and the value of services provided.

We are also growing, looking ahead to expand our infrastructure to ensure that our client-workers succeed well into the future. Presently, we employ over sixty-seven, full time staff in specialized roles offering a continuum of client-focused services which include vocational assessment, case management, customized employment coaching and opportunities to engage in activities that broaden horizons through community participation such as volunteering. Handi-Crafters also operates an on-site adult care program for individuals to live life to the fullest in a retirement/respite setting. Handi-Crafters is a trusted resource serving the residents of not only Chester but surrounding Counties.

"Nina feels like she is part of the community because of her job at Handi-Crafters."

Nina started in her job almost a year ago. She comes to work, checks in with her boss each morning, she perseveres and masters each part of her job. Nina socializes with colleagues, peers, and the caring staff who assist her throughout the day, she has a break for lunch, she puts in her hours and she returns home from her job that she loves. Every other Friday, Nina gets paid. This, our treasured friends, is what your annual donations support.

Thank you in advance for your generous response. We are honored by your giving! We are grateful for your dedication to Handi-Crafters.

Yours Sincerely in our Mission,

Brian L. Nagle
President, Board of Directors

Amy Rice
Executive Director

