

## Kathie Williams Receives Frank Loughran Award

(Portsmouth, NH) Kathie Williams, a Career Resource Specialist on our Auburn, Maine Team, was presented our Company's special *Frank Loughran Award* at our mid-year management meeting. The Award was presented by our Company's founder, Joe Leddy. Kathie was nominated for the award by Jessica Arsenault and Mike Murtha. Kathie is not only a terrific business developer (13 placements since July), but delivers terrific client services. At the Award ceremony Jessica read her nomination, which focused on Kathie's extraordinary work with three of our clients, Heather, Dan, and Julie.



Left to right: Jessica Arsenault, Joe Leddy, Kathie Williams, Mike Murtha

Here are excerpts from what Jessica wrote:

Heather was referred to WOU after unsuccessful attempts at job development with other providers. Kathie worked with Heather on her application, interview skills, and resume. Kathie then made arrangements for a job trial/situational assessment at her local Wal-Mart, working as a greeter after Heather expressed interest in this position. Due to the support provided to Heather and the professional relationship Kathie built with Wal-Mart, Heather has added part-time cashier to her greeter responsibilities. Heather's mother has been so pleased with Kathie's excellent services that she has made favorable comments on The Sun Journal Newspaper Website and took time to drive one hour to WOU's Auburn office to speak to The CARF Surveyor about our excellent services.

Daniel is a consumer that when first referred to WOU, would not speak to anyone and wore headphones listening to music when receiving services. Kathie was able to make arrangements for Daniel to shadow at a local radio station because music is Daniel's number one passion. Daniel was thrilled with this opportunity. Daniel and Kathie attended the shadow and Daniel got the opportunity to speak on the radio and the DJ even made Daniel a CD of his time on the radio. Daniel gained confidence from this experience and was excited to share his experience and play his CD. Daniel's mother expressed her sincere appreciation to Kathie stating that she "made Daniel's entire world with this experience" and could not thank Kathie enough for making this happen for Daniel. The strategies Kathie employed have made him more productive, also, in all of his volunteer sites. He no longer wears headsets and communicates with supervisors, co-workers and peers.

### History of the Award

This award was established in memory of our late Vice President, Frank Loughran, to recognize excellence in Supported Employment. It is given annually to an employee who has exhibited creativity in job development strategies for individuals with disabilities and

a commitment to natural supports in the workplace. Frank was a wonderful person who balanced his work as head of the finance department, with the work Work Opportunities Unlimited did with the individual clients we served. Frank cared deeply about the quality of services we provided and was a leading voice in the company to ensure individual clients were gaining vocational skills and independence. Upon Frank's untimely death Work Opportunities Unlimited decided to honor Frank with this recognition in memory of his commitment to helping individuals improve their lives through the world of work. This award has been given annually since the early 1990's.

Congratulations, Kathie!