



COMMONWEALTH CORPORATION

MARCH 2005

Nursing Home Employees Celebrate ECCLI Graduation

Thirty Merrimack Valley employees graduated from the Extended Care Career Ladder Initiative (ECCLI) on March 8, 2005 at the Senior Center in Lawrence. Among those in attendance were Jane C. Edmonds, Director of the Department of Workforce Development; State Representative William Lantigua; Lawrence Mayor Michael Sullivan; Jonathan Raymond, President of Commonwealth Corporation; and Joseph Bevilacqua, President of Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce and CommCorp board member..

In April 2004, CommCorp awarded four local SunBridge facilities a \$150,000 ECCLI Grant. The participating
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Congratulating the graduates are (l. to r.) Joe Bevilacqua, Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce; Virginia Bowen, Colonial Heights; Donna Howie, SunBridge Care and Rehabilitation; Jane Edmonds, Dept. of Workforce Development; Shaw Rosen, Merrimack Valley WIB; Mayor Michael Sullivan; and State Rep. William Lantigua.

Grant Promotes Employee Ownership in Growing Company

The Massachusetts Office of Employee Involvement and Ownership (MASSEIO), a program funded by Commonwealth Corporation, recently announced a \$3,500 technical assistance grant awarded to Aegis Associates, Inc., of Watertown. Aegis Associates will use the grant to offset costs associated with the introduction of an Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP) that will benefit the company's 55 employees. Founded in 1989 by Jim Gildea, its' current President and CEO, the specialty consulting firm provides technology installation and support services for small to mid-sized corporations,

agencies and organizations based throughout New England.

CommCorp President, Jonathan Raymond, was joined at the press event by Aegis President and Chief Executive Office Jim Gildea, Aegis employees, Senator Steven Tolman and Representative Rachel Kaprielian, as well as Christopher Mackin, Executive Director of MASSEIO and CommCorp Project Coordinator Tara McDonough.

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ECCLI Graduation

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facilities are SunBridge Care and Rehabilitation – Colonial Heights, SunBridge Care and Rehabilitation – Broadway, SunBridge Care and Rehabilitation – Wood Mill and SunBridge Care and Rehabilitation of North Reading.

At the halfway point in the grant, the project is already exceeding its goals. To date, the project has moved 52 CNAs up the career ladder through its on-site education and training programs. Courses offered included English, reading, supervisory skills and specialized CNA courses. Classes were held at local SunBridge facilities and taught by educators provided by Northern Essex Community College.

The ECCLI Program seeks to create opportunities for skills development and career and wage advancement for direct care workers, in order to stabilize the long-term care workforce, thus improving quality of care for long-term care recipients.



CNA II graduates (left to right) Minneh Mureithi, Ramona Montilla, and Josefina Mendrell celebrate their achievement.

Employee Ownership

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“The MASSEIO program links employees to employee ownership opportunities. Commonwealth Corporation is pleased to sponsor programs that encourage entrepreneurs like Jim Gildea to share the future growth of his company with his workforce,” said Raymond.

Raymond added that Gildea and his fellow employee owners at Aegis join a special community of over 90 such companies throughout the Commonwealth that share substantial ownership and control with their employees and collectively employ over 26,000 people.

Upon receiving the award, Gildea remarked, “I am excited to include 55 fine members of our organization in the future ownership of Aegis. I believe strongly in the concept of employee ownership. Including Aegis employees in the future ownership of the company can only increase the motivation of our already dedicated staff. They are the company and it’s only right that they should have a stake in the ownership.”

“I am thrilled to meet a CEO of the caliber of Jim Gildea who has the foresight to invest in his employees and keep jobs here in Massachusetts,” said Senator Tolman. “His willingness to share the wealth with his employees should be a positive example to CEOs throughout the state. We need more leaders like Jim.”

Representative Kaprielian also praised the grant award saying, “It is not often that we get a chance to glimpse the beginning of an experiment in democratic capitalism. Jim Gildea and his associates are providing their families and the rest of us with a lesson in what a truly broad-based ownership society might look like. I am honored to represent this corporation in the State House.”

Commonwealth Corporation is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids are available upon request to persons with disabilities. (617) 727-8158; TDD/TTY (800) 439-2370; 529 Main Street, Boston, MA 02129

Mitt Romney, Governor; Kerry Healey, Lt. Governor; Jane C. Edmonds, Director, Mass. DWD; Jonathan Raymond, President, CommCorp