

News for Immediate Release

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COLEMAN EMPLOYMENT SERVICES' NEW STARK COUNTY PROGRAM TAPPED FOR NATIONAL JOHNSON & JOHNSON SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT GRANT

One of only three Ohio agencies to receive award

CANTON, Ohio (Oct. 3, 2006) – Coleman Employment Services, which recently opened its new office location on West Tuscarawas Street, has been awarded the Johnson & Johnson Supported Employment Grant sponsored by Johnson & Johnson, the Ohio Department of Mental Health and the Supported Employment Coordinating Center of Excellence at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland.

Coleman Employment Services is a program of Coleman Professional Services, a nationally recognized not-for-profit provider of award-winning behavioral health and rehabilitation programs, located in Kent, Ohio. Employment Services, originally based in Portage County, began providing services in Stark County in 2002, and offers employment and vocational services and benefits counseling to individuals with disabilities looking for work.

The Johnson & Johnson Supported Employment Grant allows Coleman Employment Services to develop and implement a high fidelity supported employment model to help people with mental illness return to the workforce. The model is an evidence-based practice that originated at Dartmouth University in New Hampshire and spawned a national program to help people with mental illness get and keep competitive jobs in their communities.

“Finding meaningful employment for someone with mental illness not only provides them with stability and self-sufficiency, it also allows them to become a contributing member of society,” said Shawn Gordon, Employment Director for Coleman.

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“Fewer than five percent of people nationally who have a severe mental illness have access to these services,” Gordon said. “We know that being able to offer services in Stark County will get more people into the workforce and improve their quality of life.”

The grant program is a new *Signature Program* of Johnson & Johnson that advances the Johnson & Johnson commitment to healthy communities. The company is dedicated to funding programs that will have a lasting impact by building communities and helping people lead more productive lives. Coleman Employment Services is one of three employment service programs in the State of Ohio chosen to participate in this national program.

Coleman Employment Services will work in conjunction with the Stark County Community Mental Health Board and the Stark County office of the Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation (BVR) to develop and implement the Supported Employment program for the residents of Stark County.

For more information on the Johnson & Johnson grant or on the services provided by Coleman Employment Services, call 330-438-2400 or visit www.coleman-employment.com.

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