

WOODS' WORLD



It Takes a Village

A PERFECT MATCH

5th Annual Run for Woods

Transformative Changes

It Takes a Village



Up until one year ago, Tim Battin was spending \$4,000 per year buying cigarettes to support his two pack per day smoking habit. Then, he developed a boil on his arm that required significant medical treatment and was told to give up cigarettes. Smoking since he was 19 years old, Tim, now 48, was asked to do the seemingly impossible.

At age 21, Tim was involved in a near fatal motorcycle accident that left him with severe head trauma. He spent

months in acute recovery at Moss Rehabilitation before coming to Beechwood NeuroRehab. For Tim, smoking was a habit that he developed before his accident, so continuing this habit connected him to the person he was before. Many people who have an acquired brain injury (ABI) seek to get back to the person they were prior to the trauma that caused their ABI.

Last August, Beechwood staff took Tim to the emergency room to have his arm looked at because they noticed significant swelling. Tim had a boil, which the ER staff lanced to discover the area underneath was septic. They treated the infection and then applied a wound vac to decrease the air pressure on the wound to help it heal more quickly. For large wounds like Tim's, the wound vac helps to bring the edges together so that the wound can grow closed. The doctor then applied 20 staples to hold the wound

Smoking decreases the amount of oxygen that is delivered to the cells that aid in healing, so as long as Tim was smoking, his wound would likely not heal.

That request was nearly impossible for Tim to commit to. At the end of October, the surgeon at St. Mary Medical Center Wound Care Center released him from treatment because Tim was unable to stop smoking and the surgeon could not move forward with the skin graft to cover Tim's wound.

At this point, Tim had an open wound and needed a different level of support than his staff at Beechwood NeuroRehab was able to offer. His evening nurse, Shannon Egan, suggested several facilities and his Care Coordinator, Allison Boehm, worked hard to find a skilled nursing rehab facility that would be willing to take Tim and work with him to curb his smoking. A month later, Allison successfully placed



together and close the infected area.

For the next several months, Tim was in and out of the ER for changes to his dressing and re-closing of the wound as he occasionally pulled out the wound vac or the bandaging. Tim also had several falls which increased the size of the wound to 4 inches by 3 inches. He met with a surgeon who said that Tim would likely need a skin graft over the area given its large size, but that Tim needed to stop smoking because it was preventing his wound from healing.

Tim at Crestview Rehabilitation and Skilled Nursing Services where he spent a month trying to get used to wearing a nicotine patch to help curb his smoking while receiving medical care for his arm.

Tim returned to Beechwood NeuroRehab a few weeks later and was isolated to his room for several more weeks to avoid infection to his open wound while he was receiving in-home wound care provided by St. Mary Medical Center. During this time, he was still wearing a nicotine patch, but

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had also started smoking e-cigarettes. Tim's need for cigarettes at times was debilitating, so after doing some research on vaping, his team decided that because there are fewer harmful chemicals released by an e-cigarette than a typical tobacco one, it might be a temporary solution.

His staff did everything they could to support Tim and redirect him when his urge for a cigarette became overwhelming. They created and hung posters to remind Tim of his motivations for quitting smoking: it would make his mother happy and his arm would heal. They drank a lot of coffee, listened to 1980s music and played cards often. Tim was also motivated to get back to work at Beechtree Enterprises, an integrated employment center and one of Woods' social enterprises.

Gradually, the staff decreased the levels of nicotine in Tim's e-cigarette to the point where he now receives no nicotine. Tim readily admits he was addicted to nicotine and that "quitting was one of the hardest things I've ever done." He doesn't care much for the flavored e-cigarettes so staying away from nicotine is a continual battle. He is now back at work and doing all the things he did before this medical incident occurred. And the best news of all, while he is now healthy enough to have a skin graft, the wound is healing well enough on its own that the surgeon says he won't need one. The members of the "village" that helped Tim through his health crisis are incredibly proud of what he accomplished and know he will continue to need their support to maintain his good health.

Special thanks to the "village" that supported Tim: Allison Boehm, Care Coordinator; Shannon Egan and Christine Taylor, Nurses; Patrick Lawrence, Life Skills Trainer; Jen Caputo, Nursing Director; Arlene Serrano, Residential Manager; and Don Rhoades, Therapist and Dr. Steve Lipschutz.

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Blue Violet
FLOWERS AND GIFTS



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Exciting Opportunity at Philadelphia Flower Show

A handful of Woods' staff members and residents, including Yellow Daffodil Flower and Gift Shop employees, had the opportunity to volunteer at this year's Philadelphia Flower Show. The volunteer group was invited to assist with the "World Cup of Flowers" exhibit, which featured designers from 23 different countries. Volunteers were tasked with maintaining the floral designs by watering, removing, and replacing dead flowers throughout the second half of the run of the show.



Yellow Daffodil employees, Avi Saltzman (left) and Nathan Lydick (right), volunteered at the Philadelphia Flower Show in March.

A Perfect Match



If you've ever driven through Woods around 9 o'clock in the morning or 3 o'clock in the afternoon, you may have noticed two men around the same age walking closely together. One of those men is Drew Adams, a 36-year-old resident of Woods since 2001, who is blind, non-verbal, and

“We are so blessed that Matt is such a big part of Drew’s life. He is a caring, dedicated, and highly trained professional.”

has Lennox-Gastaut Syndrome, a severe form of epilepsy. The other man is his dedicated one-to-one staff person, Matt English. Each day, weather permitting, Drew and Matt walk to and from Drew’s day program at Holland Enrichment Center, where they spend their days together doing puzzles, having lunch, taking additional walks, and doing hand-over-hand activities before retreating back to Drew’s residence.

Drew and Matt have spent five days a week together for the last six years. To Drew’s devoted parents, Marcia and Bob Adams, Matt “is a gift from heaven.” And though Matt says

that he and Drew do share a special bond, it is actually Drew that has had a profound effect on his life.

“I refer to Drew as my angel and my savior. I was working in a more difficult program before I started working with him,” said Matt. “Now most days are the same but we have our routine and we both enjoy spending time together. Drew just has the best personality.”

When Bob and Marcia came to visit Woods for the first time, they knew it was the ideal place for Drew. With multiple swimming pools, sprawling grounds and comprehensive services for Drew’s medical needs, Woods fit the bill for exactly what the devoted parents were looking for.

“We loved that there were opportunities for Drew to do the things that he loves, which are swimming and walking,” said Bob.



“There are indoor pools, outdoor pools, and there’s just so much for him to do.”

“Drew loves to walk but he is blind so he needs someone to guide him,” added Marcia. “Here he is able to walk into town with (Matt) and they go to lunch. Woods is just the ideal place for him.”

In addition to providing for his

residential, educational, recreational and social needs, Marcia says the medical staff at Woods is top notch and always in communication with the family about Drew’s care.

“The staff really know him well. He has different types of seizures. They can be the ‘fall down’ kind of seizures or just the ‘staring off’ kind,” she said. “The medical staff here is just fabulous. They have their finger on what meds he is on and if something new comes along, they make a suggestion to us but they leave it up to us to decide with their guidance.”

One thing the family does worry about is the recent push to move individuals like Drew into community group home settings. Given the supervision and comprehensive care that Drew requires, the Adams’ say that living arrangement just would not work for their son.

“Drew is the type of boy you can put on a sofa and let him sit there all day, if people weren’t good enough to keep him moving around,” said Bob. “That’s what we like about here (Woods). They keep him going all the time, there are trips and outings, and so many people to oversee what he is doing and they don’t take the easy route out.”



“If our only choice for Drew were a group home, I wouldn’t be able to sleep at night. They are perfect for higher-functioning individuals who wouldn’t need the one-on-one supervision that Drew needs,” said Marcia. “He would sit in a chair and really have no quality of life.”

But that is simply not the case at Woods, where Drew gets to walk as much as he wants and enjoy his other favorite activity, swimming, all year round.

“The most active you will ever see Drew is in the pool. He really loves to be in the water, especially if the water is warm,” said Matt. “The outdoor pools take some getting used to because the water is cooler but he really loves to swim.”

In addition to his special bond with Drew, Matt says he also enjoys a close relationship with the Adams, who he says are “the most dedicated parents and the nicest people you will ever meet.” In fact, the trio, along with other family members, participate together each May at the annual Run for Woods. It is a special day for Drew’s “village of caretakers” to come together and do something that Drew loves: walk.

“We are so blessed that Matt is such a big part of Drew’s life. He is a caring, dedicated, and highly trained professional,” said Marcia. “Thankfully Matt enjoys the walks almost as much as Drew... a perfect match.”

Grants Update

Woods received the following grants in Fiscal Year 2019:

- The **Bucks County Intermediate Unit** approved this year’s federally-funded Title I grant at \$237,000 for the school year, to support instructional aides, curricula and technology.
- The **Pennsylvania Department of Transportation** approved a grant of \$180,000 to be used for the purchase of 3 mini-vans and a small transit bus.
- The **Pennsylvania Department of Education** approved a grant for \$150,000 to support school-wide positive behavior supports, sensory equipment and professional development for teachers and staff.
- The **Joseph and Mary Faulkner Family Foundation c/o PAA** awarded Woods \$50,000, a portion of which has been dedicated to support the Graziani Nursing Fellowship, and a portion has been used to match funds raised during the Special Appeal at Woods Fete & Fundraiser in January.
- The **Huisking Foundation** made a gift of \$38,000 in support of the Electronic Health Record. The **Eamon Foundation** approved \$12,000 for the same project.
- The **Eamon Foundation** awarded a grant of \$30,000 (\$18,000 in support of adding appliances/equipment that will allow Common Grounds to produce baked goods).
- A grant for \$15,000 for equipment for the Medical Center at Woods’ eye care program was awarded by the **BNY Mellon Mid-Atlantic Charitable Trusts**.
- The **Bates Family Foundation** made an unrestricted gift of \$16,000, which will be used to support our Social Enterprises.
- The **TD Charitable Foundation** awarded \$10,000 in support of additional printing equipment for Woods Wear, increasing our capacity to provide vocational training to people with IDD.

Jumanne Jacob, a resident of Woods and employee at Common Grounds Café, reacts to the news about CGC’s new oven.



Woods’ World is going digital!

Due to rising costs, we will no longer be printing and mailing hard copies of our Woods’ World quarterly magazine. Moving forward, we will produce a digital version of Woods’ World, which will be emailed quarterly.

If you don’t already receive emails from us, please drop a note to communications@woods.org to be added to our email distribution list.

We still plan to produce a few printed copies of Woods’ World magazine. If you would like to request one, please send an email to the address above!

Record-Breaking 5th ANNUAL RUN FOR WOODS

A record 1,125 runners, walkers, and rollers registered for the 5th annual Run for Woods on Saturday, May 4th! One of those runners was Woods day student, Janine Davidovich, who took her usual spot at the very front of the start line with other eager participants. Janine finished with a time of just under 35 minutes and won the award for fastest Woods participant. While accepting her award from Woods' president and CEO, Tine Hansen-Turton, Janine remarked "you really can do anything if you work hard enough," a moving message that resonated with everyone in attendance.

The opening ceremony of the 5th annual Run for Woods kicked off with a greeting from Woods' resident Whit Park, a Run for Woods ambassador and top fundraiser for the past three years, who has raised more than \$20,000 for Woods during that time. Whit reflected on his 24 years at Woods and the numerous opportunities he has been given, including his three jobs at the Yellow Daffodil Flower and Gift Shop, a local limo company, and The Woods Enterprises work center.

We also heard from Naliyah Walton, a former resident of Woods who now lives in a community home at Woods Community at Brian's House. Naliyah shared that she is enjoying the independence of living in a community home and helping her staff to prepare meals. She will be graduating from Woods' Brookwood vocational school on June 28 and looks forward to "finding a job that I am capable of doing and making money and continuing to make smart choices." Following the speeches, Hansen-Turton presented the Woods Humanitarian Award to State Representative Gene DiGirolamo, a longtime advocate for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

More than 80 staff members, families, and friends from the community volunteered their time to serve as course marshals, assist with registration, staff the lunch lines and present well-deserved medals to all who crossed the finish line. Following the run/walk, Outback Steakhouse and Carrabba's Italian Grill prepared and donated a lunch of steak, pasta, chicken, and salad for a hungry crowd. A post-Run celebration included games with the Woods recreation staff, samples and prizes from local businesses, and a performance and dancing by our own Disney choir.

The 5th annual Run for Woods, which was presented by Faulkner Ciocca Dealerships for the fifth straight year, attracted 70 teams. The dealerships registered nine teams, including the Top Fundraising Team, Ciocca Volkswagen of Allentown, which raised \$11,130 and Faulkner Buick GMC, which raised \$9,250. The nine dealership teams raised more than \$75,000 for Woods!

To all of our residents, staff members, volunteers, affiliates, families, friends, sponsors, and donors, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts for a truly amazing 5th annual Run for Woods!



Woods Announces Transformative Changes

Woods is ahead of schedule with the phased implementation of our successful, comprehensive program realignment that was first developed and launched more than 24 months ago. The transformation initiatives focused on how to continually improve outcomes for the children, adults and seniors we serve through a wide array of programs that provide life-long solutions. This includes downsizing our campus-based residential services in Langhorne and creating more community integrated residential services.

To date, the comprehensive program evaluation and realignment process has resulted in an overall reduction of more than 15% of the youth-residential services provided in Langhorne with more to come. Woods and its affiliate partners offer a continuum of care that currently provides 97% of their residential services in community settings with Woods serving the remaining 3%, or about 600 individuals, in supervised homes on its Langhorne campus.

Woods is actively collaborating with both its affiliates and government agencies in Philadelphia to design a community-based treatment model for youth with severe behavioral disorders that will afford these youth the availability of best practice treatment modalities in closer proximity to their families, which is critical to their recovery and resiliency. “Consistent with our mission, we believe this is the right approach, at the right time, to achieve the maximum benefit for those receiving these vital clinical services,” said Tine Hansen-Turton, Woods CEO and president. “Our government partners and advocacy organizations – as well as the families of those we serve – are also supportive of this direction.”

Kevin Sheetz, Chair of Woods’ Board of Trustees, said the Board enthusiastically supports the leadership’s strategic direction, including the shift towards community-centered treatment services in specific instances. “Our plan is a reflection of Woods’ unwavering commitment to delivering – either on campus or in the community – the highest quality personalized supports and programs to the exceptional children and adults we serve throughout their lives. Excellent progress has been made over the past two years and the future is bright for those we serve and our

extraordinary co-workers and colleagues throughout the Woods network.”

These latest developments exemplify Woods’ continued evolution into a contemporary population-health organization that integrates prevention, wellness, education, behavioral health, and social services with coordinated and integrated healthcare delivery. We significantly enhanced our healthcare delivery last year with the opening of the new Medical Center at Woods. It serves as an emerging national model for providing comprehensive, coordinated, personalized care for people with complex diagnoses and medical conditions. The outpatient center features extended hours and increased access to more specialized services, aimed at optimizing outcomes while reducing costly and unnecessary emergency room visits. Woods also has round-the-clock nursing services and plans to widely replicate this approach in other locations.

Woods has been in discussion with Bucks County officials concerning new opportunities for re-imagining use of facilities and properties that comprise the 300-acre campus that are consistent with Woods’ mission. Woods expects to open up its existing campus, integrate it more into the community, provide services to underserved populations and, in the process, create jobs and advance the economic well-being of Bucks County. “I have tremendous respect for Woods and its leadership who continually innovate better ways to serve individuals with cognitive and behavior-related disabilities,” said Jon Rubin, Bucks County Director of Housing and Human Services, who is among officials directly involved in the collaboration.

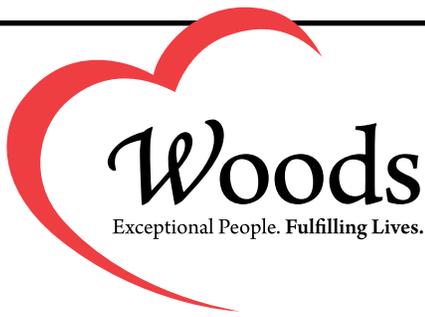
Looking ahead, Woods will soon announce the selection of a site-planning partner, and the next phase of the campus redevelopment/design process, that will include structured input from numerous stakeholders, including county and local governments, Woods team members, funders, advocates, and, of course, families. The overarching goal is to provide service recipients and their families new options for support, especially for those who are looking for enriching growth opportunities after aging out of existing education programs.



WOODS SEEKS COUNCIL ON ACCREDITATION APPROVAL

Woods has applied for and received approval by the Council on Accreditation (COA) to move forward in the process of pursuing accreditation. Woods staff are conducting a thorough review of our programs, policies, procedures and operations against national standards and best practices as set forth by expert evaluators from agencies similar to Woods. Accreditation signifies that an organization or program is effectively managing its resources and providing the best possible services to all of its stakeholders.

COA evaluators will visit Woods in February 2020 after which Woods expects to receive the highly valued accreditation.



SUPPORT WITH HEART

When you listen closely to how Woods staff, residents and families describe their experiences and interactions with our organization, the words “heart,” “love,” and “compassion” are frequently mentioned. We realized over the past two years of our transformation, that our brand was shifting and our logo needed to change with it. We hope you like it as much as we do!

Archway Celebrates Grand Opening of Blue Violet Flowers and Gifts Social Enterprise



On Wednesday, March 20th, Archway Programs, an affiliate of Woods, celebrated the launch of its first social enterprise, Blue Violet Flowers and Gifts, at a ribbon cutting ceremony and grand opening event. Waterford Township officials, Archway employees, clients, customers and local community members joined together to unveil the new retail flower shop located on the White Horse Pike in Atco, New Jersey.

The new flower shop creates custom floral arrangements for all events and holidays, and provides fresh flowers, as well as a variety of hand-

crafted items and unique gifts from other local South Jersey businesses. What sets Blue Violet Flowers and Gifts apart is that it employs individuals with disabilities, promoting inclusion and supporting the community. Directly improving the job skills of people facing barriers in the workplace, Blue Violet Flowers and Gifts employs adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities as well as special needs students from the Archway Schools. This gives individuals with different abilities an opportunity to achieve independence, productivity and integration into

the community.

“Archway Programs changes the lives of people with disabilities every day. We believe that everyone should have access to fulfilling and competitive employment opportunities that give them a sense of purpose,” said Shawn Gibson, Chief Operating Officer of Archway Programs.

Archway’s main focus is to help students and adults with disabilities learn skills that can translate to a position in the community. Through this new initiative, the South Jersey community has an opportunity to support programs to help individuals with disabilities in their communities.



Tiara's Loving Children Pageant

On Saturday, March 23rd, more than two dozen contestants, including individuals from Woods, competed in a special needs pageant coordinated by Tiara's Loving Children, a nonprofit organization created to give children and adolescents with special needs a pageant experience. The event, with this year's theme of “Fairytale,” invited participants from the community to join in the fun in three categories: formal wear, casual wear, and fairytale-themed outfits.

Woods Celebrates Pair of Harcum Graduates



Woods employees and recent Harcum graduates, Erica Obeng (left) and Sylvia Vankpana (middle), pose for a photo with Valerie Durden, Enhanced Benefits Specialist at Woods, after graduation on May 11th.

Erica Obeng and Sylvia Vankpana are quite a dynamic duo. Erica, an instructor at Woods' Holland Enrichment Center, and Sylvia, a housekeeper at Woods' Redwood residence, made history on May 11th as the first Woods employees to graduate from the Harcum program with associate's degrees. For Erica, the opportunity to go back to school through Woods' partnership with Harcum College helped her to fulfill a lifelong dream.

"I started college before when I lived in Virginia and then I went back once through the University of Phoenix in 2009, but it was just too much at the time," she said. "When I heard about the Harcum program I thought 'this is my opportunity to take the bull by the horns.'"

And that she did. With the help of Valerie Durden, Enhanced Benefits Specialist at Woods, Erica and several others (26 to be exact) completed the necessary paperwork and embarked on a new journey together. One of the many benefits of the Harcum partnership is that all of the classes take place at Woods and flexibility is offered around work shifts.



"It worked out well for me because I worked at Holland (Enrichment Center) from 9 am-4 pm and then I had a short break before I had classes (at Woods) from 5:30 to 9:30 on Monday and Wednesday evenings," said Erica. "I'm a workaholic and I just knew that I would be able to handle working and going to school at the same time. I also got my whole family involved. My husband, Samuel, who also works at Woods, and my 16-year-old daughter helped me improve my typing."

Aside from the convenience and benefit of classes being offered at Woods, students receive a significant tuition discount, tuition assistance through loan repayment or tuition reimbursement, and guidance with paperwork and application requirements. In addition to the Harcum program, Woods has partnerships with Capella University (offering online master's and bachelor's degrees) and Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (offering a master's degree in Non Profit Leadership and Population Health Management).

"Woods is committed to supporting its employees' professional development and encouraging higher



Several Woods' cohort Harcum College students celebrated Erica and Sylvia's graduation with a party on May 31st.

education, and Erica and Sylvia are a testament to that!" said Valerie. "This achievement has also given Erica and Sylvia the confidence and ability to go even further in their education. We will continue to offer our support as these ladies embark on the next steps towards earning their bachelor's degree. Erica and Sylvia are winning with the support of Woods, and when our employees win, we win as an organization."

For Erica, the sky is the limit as she continues her education in pursuit of a bachelor's degree and beyond!

"This was a very personal thing for me. I knew I could make it work and accomplish this and now I am moving on to work towards my bachelor's degree and am hoping it will help me move up at Woods," said Erica. "I also dream of one day getting a master's degree and doctorate degree in Abnormal Psychology."



Common Grounds Café Hosts Coffee with a Cop

In April, Common Grounds Café hosted a “Coffee with a Cop” event with the Middletown Township Police Department. Woods resident Tyler Loftus was the ambassador for the event and assisted Officer Melissa Robison with collecting information for child identification cards. Thank you to all of the officers who participated in the event and took the time to speak with our residents, staff members, and families from the community!

Woods Launches Graziani Nursing Fellowship

The first cohort of the Graziani Nursing Fellowship Program at Woods wrapped up in February following four symposiums focusing on leadership, healthcare in the United States, the business side of nursing and the future of nursing. The Graziani Fellowship Program is a competitive program in nursing leadership available to current Woods nurses who have demonstrated a commitment to Woods and to promoting the health and wellness of people with intellectual disabilities, behavioral challenges and medical complexities, and who have a strong interest in developing their leadership skills in the field of nursing.

The program is supported by generous donations from the Joseph and Mary Faulkner Family Foundation and individual donors who wish to honor Dr. Leonard J. Graziani, and who are supportive of the important role of nurses at Woods. Dr. Graziani is a beloved neurologist who recently retired from Woods after more than 40 years.

The Graziani Nursing Fellowship Program is aligned with Woods’ mission, which is to support children and adults with disabilities or challenges to achieve their highest potential and independence through innovative and individualized approaches that promote learning and personal fulfillment. Six Woods nurses, including Director of Health and Wellness at Beechwood NeuroRehab Jennifer Caputo, participated in the first cohort.

“I found the program to be really enlightening, as well as inspiring and motivational. I felt completely supported by Tine (Hansen-Turton) and she’s a huge advocate for nursing and nursing development,” said Caputo. “I’m really eager to begin the next step of my nursing career and I really believe in Woods’ mission and hope to be a part of it for a long time.”

The program’s goals are to:

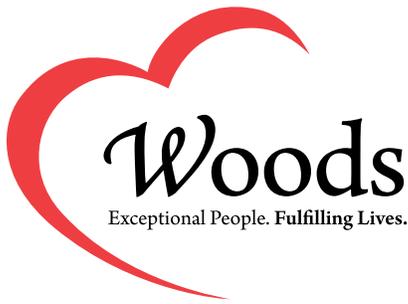
- Introduce Fellows to newly emerging nursing career opportunities at Woods, including inter-disciplinary care teams at the Medical Center at Woods;
- Develop Nursing Fellows’ leadership skills;
- Support nurse’s pathways into advanced degrees, and
- Provide Nursing Fellows with networking opportunities that support their future career path.

Fellows join a growing network of nurse leaders and have the opportunity to network with regional nurse and public health leaders, and health care entrepreneurs. Two of the six participants have already been accepted into advanced practice nursing programs. Guest speakers come from diverse backgrounds in nursing, academia, health care and nonprofit leadership and are an invaluable asset to the development of well-rounded leaders.

The second Fellowship has five new cohort members and kicks off this month.

The wonderfully talented group from StoryUP paid us a visit recently. We had a great time playing games and singing songs with the actors and creating our own interactive stories!





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Local Businesses Open Their Doors to Vocational Students

Students from our Brookwood vocational school had the opportunity to tour local businesses this spring. McCaffrey's Food Market in Newtown, Philly Soft Pretzel Factory in Langhorne and Brian's Harley Davidson in Langhorne generously opened their front doors and back offices to new groups of students each week to expose them to the inner workings of different businesses. Special thanks to Jackie Berrios for giving our students a tour of the beautiful showroom at Brian's Harley Davidson, Shaun Kean of Philly Pretzel Factory for showing us how to twist our own pretzels and teaching us all about the pretzel business, and Kathy Bodine for hosting our group and giving us tours of the many departments at McCaffrey's!

If you know of a local company that would be interested in giving a tour to Woods' vocational students, please contact Katie Carnevale at kcarnevale@woods.org or (215) 750-4215.

