

Employment Options holds annual awards banquet

By Mary Wenzel

STAFF WRITER

Employment Options celebrated its Annual Employment Awards Fundraising Banquet on May 25 to honor members and their employers who participated in the 2005 employment program.

This event, held at the Employment Options Clubhouse, 82 Bingham St., Marlborough, is an annual celebration that honors members commitment to the employment program and that of the employers hiring them. This year's celebration was a fund-raiser based on the theme of fun and humor, in the workplace and life including the appearance of two caricature artists, Bill Gage and Justin Swamin, capturing the spirit of Employment Options ... its people.

John Depietro, a motivational speaker, talked about how to be more successful and have fun while doing so. A nationally known speaker, Dipietro is the managing partner of Advanced Business Concepts/Dipietro, a full service training and communications company.

Bill Short, of the Short Funeral Home, Marlborough, was the master of ceremonies.

A special recognition award was presented to James Carbone, of the Wellness Center, for providing the agency complimentary employee assistance programs and trainings.

"Almost everyone has a need to feel they're a part of something important, something bigger than themselves, or, maybe just, simply, to feel needed in their jobs," said Ann Marie Busby, general manager, Marlborough Country Club. "We feel it's been a pleasure and an honor working with members from Employment Options knowing that we're helping

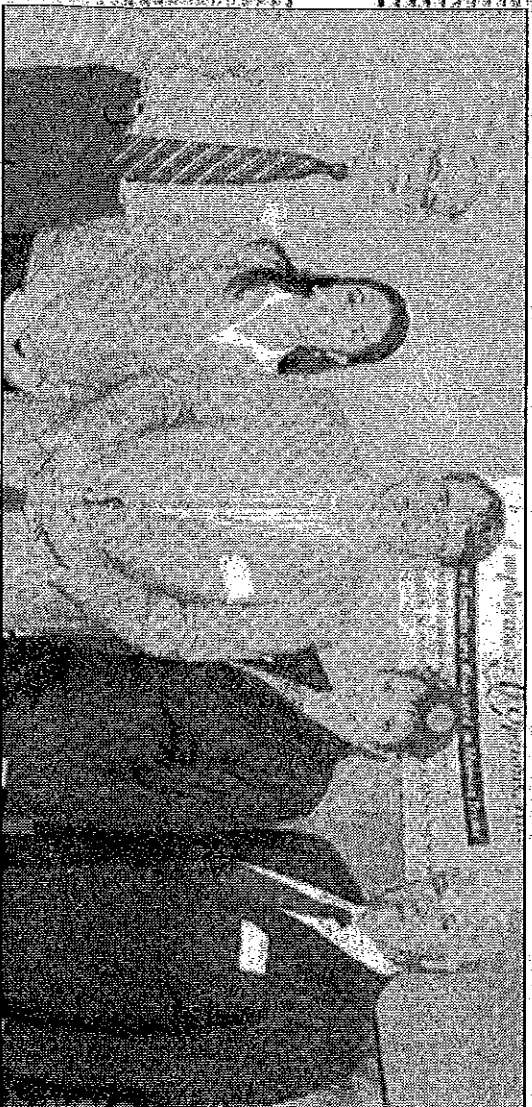
people with their employment needs, while they meet our needs for hard working employees."

The employment programs namely, Transitional, Supported and Independent Employment are currently working with companies including: CVS, Marshalls, Aramark, Harrison Lodging, Champion Cleaners, Entrprise Rent A Car, Home Depot, Marlborough City Hall, Marlborough Country Club, Monnick Supply, Olive Garden, Price Chopper, Target, TJ Maxx and Trader Joe's, to name a few.

Employment Options is looking for new opportunities with area employers. Options provides a full service option - from finding the job, to training members for the position, to absence coverage, to continuous contact with the employer and member throughout the job tenure. The member gets a support system to rely on and eventually strives to hold an independent position, and the employer has a negligible turnover rate and someone to go to if they need help with employee matters.

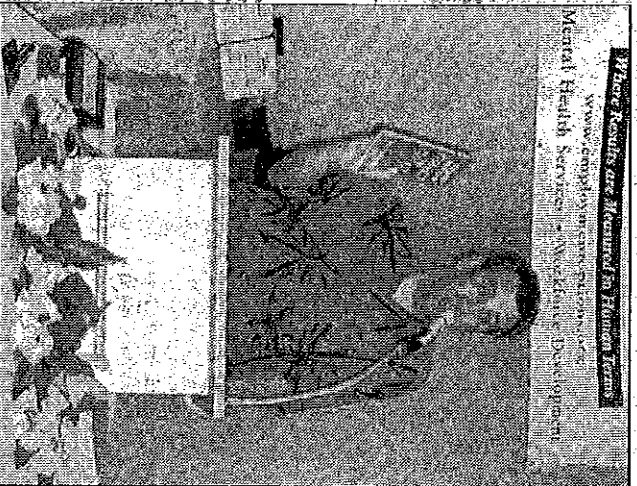
The event was sponsored in part by TD Banknorth and continues to receive support from local companies and community agencies. To sign on as a fiscal friend of Options or to announce jobs at your company, visit www.employmentoptions.org.

Employment Options, Inc., is a non-profit agency, serving two distinct populations in the Metro West region, namely those in need of mental health services (called the Clubhouse program), and secondly, low income individuals that require workforce development services. The Clubhouse provides various services ranging from employment, housing, education, advocacy to patenting services to "members" who are mentally ill. For more information, visit the Website or call 508-485-5051.



Above, those attending the recent Employment Awards event included, from left, James Carbone, CEO The Wellness Center; Tricia Maguire, employment coordinator for Options; Todd McDonald, president of the board; Toni Wolf, executive director for Options; and Bill Short, master of ceremonies.

STAFF PHOTOS BY MARY WENZEL



John Dipietro, a motivational speaker, attended the 2006 Employment Awards Banquet and talked about how to be more successful and have fun while doing so. In his hand, he holds a copy of his book, "You Don't Have to be Perfect to be Great."



Anupa Shaw, right, director of marketing at Employment Options, attended the Awards Banquet along with Wanda Larabee of Wanda's Food and Catering and Bob Recko.