



NEWS

Media Contact:

Christina Bakewicz

585.232.5232 (direct)

[cbakewicz@rochesterworks.org](mailto:cbakewicz@rochesterworks.org)

### **SEVERAL LOCAL YOUTH GET HELP LANDING THEIR FIRST JOB!**

#### **RochesterWorks! & McDonalds partner to launch a new program that puts youth to work throughout the school year!**

*Rochester, NY - September 21, 2010*– This summer, nearly 40 Rochester area youth experienced their first job, thanks to a partnership between RochesterWorks and several local McDonald’s restaurants. RochesterWorks for Youth successfully launched a pilot program to bring youth job seekers and youth friendly businesses together, to create winning job matches.

The pilot program placed youth, ages 16-21 year old, in their first jobs at McDonald’s restaurants. Working with the Summer Youth Employment and Summer of Opportunity Programs and various youth serving partner agencies, RochesterWorks recruited and pre-screened youth for the open McDonald’s positions to develop a pool of qualified applicants, then youth were interviewed and 40 were hired by McDonald’s staff. As an added incentive to the businesses, RochesterWorks provided partial wage reimbursement to help offset training costs.

After successful completion of the first 120 hours of work, youth who received positive performance reviews from managers were offered a permanent position with the company. Thirty-five (35) youth are expected to continue their employment beyond the summer months.

Melody Dodge, manager at the McDonald’s at Westgate Plaza, praised the program and its participants, saying, “All the kids come ready to work, [and] they are all anxious to be here. I have kids coming up to me all the time asking to add them into the schedule. RochesterWorks really did a good job at selecting kids that are ready and willing to work.”

RochesterWorks is gearing up to form similar partnerships with other businesses in the area and wants to continue developing public-private partnerships. “The program is an exceptional use of talent, time

and resources, where all parties benefit. We owe the success to our employers and hard working youth,” says Rosa Smith-Montanaro, Youth Placement Specialist at RochesterWorks!.

-----

RochesterWorks! is dedicated to helping Monroe County develop a strong workforce. RochesterWorks! helps job seekers find jobs, move to higher paying jobs or get training to improve skills. RochesterWorks! assists businesses with recruitment, assessment, placement and training, and connects them to all federally funded employment and training programs in Monroe County. RochesterWorks! has helped attract millions of dollars in funding to support Monroe County companies and organizations.

Services are available at two convenient full service Career Centers at 255 North Goodman Street and 276 Waring Road in Rochester. Services are free of charge.

###

To find out how your business can participate contact: Rosa Smith-Montanaro at [rsmontanaro@rochesterworks.org](mailto:rsmontanaro@rochesterworks.org)

For more information on RochesterWorks! Youth Services, visit: [http://rochesterworks.org/youth\\_services.aspx](http://rochesterworks.org/youth_services.aspx)