

PROMOTIONAL FEATURE

CCARC opens boutique downtown

NEW BRITAIN

STAFF

CCARC was founded in 1952 by a group of parents who supported each other as they raised children with Down Syndrome and other developmental disabilities.

Today, CCARC is a private, nonprofit organization that offers an array of services, supporting over 200 adults with intellectual disabilities and their families. It has only grown since it was founded, and now it has a new CEO and a plan to expand its services in the future.

Senior Vice President Julie Erickson has worked for CCARC for over 40 years.

"To be part of the growth we've had since I've been here has been tremendous," Erickson said.

Located at 950 Slater Road, CCARC provides residential services, adult day services, clinical services, employment services and a self-advocacy program called Yes I Can. Normally, the organization also provides recreational programs, but those programs are on hiatus due to the pandemic.

CCARC provides personalized services to meet the needs of

everyone they support. They recognize that the individuals they support often face many different types of challenges, so their staff is trained in many different areas, including abuse and neglect, positive behavioral management, sensitivity and more.

CCARC also provides employment opportunities for the individuals they support. Recently, they opened the shop "Something Beautiful" in downtown New Britain. The shop employs many people with intellectual disabilities, and proceeds from the sales will benefit CCARC's Group Supported Employment program.

CCARC brought in a new CEO, Linda Iovanna, in August after their longtime CEO Anne Ruwet retired. Iovanna said she is currently helping the organization carry out its strategic plan for the future. They are looking to expand their services to better meet the needs of anyone who needs their help, such as providing specialized services for medically compromised people.

Iovanna said she joined CCARC because of its "stellar reputation" and because she was excited to figure out new ways to support people with intellectual disabilities.

"The opportunity to look at challenges and find different



Ciara Hooks | Staff

The City of New Britain held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for Something Beautiful, a unique boutique and gift shop.

ways to help is exciting to me," Iovanna said.

Erickson said she has stayed with the organization for over 40 years because it is "like a family" and her work is impor-

tant to her.

"It's truly been a labor of love. Yes it's my job, but it's also near and dear to my heart," Erickson said.

For more information, visit

ccarc.com or call (860) 229-6665.

Something BEAUTIFUL
A unique shop providing job opportunities for people with disabilities supported by CCARC

117 West Main Street
New Britain, CT 06051
Tues. – Fri. 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

GREATER NEW BRITAIN
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