

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dreamcatchers Empowerment Network Awarded Three-Year CARF Accreditation

NAPA, Calif., August 26, 2006 —Dreamcatchers Empowerment Network today announced that it has received a three-year accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) for its vocational assessment, training, support and job preparation programs for youth and adults with limitations and disabilities. This is the first accreditation that the international commission has awarded to Dreamcatchers.

This outcome represents the highest level of accreditation that can be awarded to an organization and shows that Dreamcatchers meets or exceeds the high standards established by CARF. An organization receiving a Three-Year Accreditation outcome has put itself through a rigorous peer review process and has demonstrated to a team of surveyors during an on-site visit that its programs and services are of the highest quality.

“The Dreamcatchers Empowerment Network team is passionate about helping our clients join the ranks for the working world and ensuring their transition to employment and independence is smooth,” said E.J. Hullana, executive director of Dreamcatchers. “The CARF accreditation, along with the positive feedback from our clients and community employers, demonstrates that our programs and services are making a difference in peoples’ lives.”

Dreamcatchers Empowerment Network provides support to recovering mental health clients and people with physical disabilities as they transition to leading independent lives within their communities. The organization collaborates with numerous government agencies and local businesses throughout Humboldt, Napa and Solano counties to offer its diverse group of clients a complete support program.

Dreamcatchers takes a client-centered approach to providing services with respect and dignity, as well as educating the community on the benefits of employing people with limitations. The belief is that when an individual achieves meaningful employment, the community benefits from the exposure and contributions of individuals, who are frequently marginalized. Dreamcatchers employment services are a key to fighting stigma and discrimination for individuals with limitations.

About CARF

CARF is an independent, nonprofit accrediting body whose mission is to promote the quality, value and optimal outcomes of services through a consultative accreditation process that centers on enhancing the lives of the persons served. Founded in 1966 as the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities, and now known as CARF, the accrediting body establishes consumer-focused standards to help organizations measure and improve the quality of their programs and services.

About Dreamcatchers Empowerment Network

The Dreamcatchers Empowerment Network mission is to provide pre-vocational assessment and preparation, vocational assessment, training and support, job preparation, and coaching to youth and adults with limitations and disabilities. The organization is dedicated to serving individuals in a collaborative manner, with a network of other agencies, including local school districts and educational services, the Department of Rehabilitation, vocational providers, local businesses, Work Investment Board, case managers, the Department of Mental Health, personal support networks, and families. Directed at assisting participants to prepare for, choose, obtain, and retain employment, Dreamcatchers Empowerment Network services are tailored to an individual's strengths, resources, priorities, concerns, abilities, capabilities, and interests.

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