

2008 NYSARC, Inc. Quill Awards Photography

*Schenectady ARC Update, Fall 2007
Schenectady, New York*

“Employer Highlight” Photographer ~ Marc DeNofio

“This photograph captures the joy, pride and accomplishment felt by Schenectady ARC consumer Lucille Puglio, while working on a Trans World Entertainment job at Pine Ridge Industries. The photo also captures the essence of the story where Trans World Entertainment is being highlighted for their commitment to creating employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities since 1999. A perfect reflection of our Vision and Mission statements, the photo also demonstrates our commitment to creating partnerships to empower people with developmental disabilities to live, learn, work and play as fulfilled members of society and our dedication to helping people with developmental disabilities enjoy healthy, rewarding lives as members of their community by bringing staff, families and the community together to encourage dreams and respond to each person’s life choices and offering high quality services, resource and supports.”

- Danielle Lucarelli, Assistant Director of Public Relations
Schenctady County Chapter, NYSARC, Inc.

This photograph accompanied article:

“Employer Highlight”

Founded in 1972, Trans World Entertainment Corporation is one of the largest specialty music and video retailers in the United States, operating over 800 stores in 26 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands; with their headquarters and main distribution center in Albany, NY. The company offers a wide variety of entertainment products, including CDs, DVDs, prerecorded audio and videocassettes and related accessories. Trans World Entertainment operates a retail Web site as well as mall-based and freestanding stores that include FYE, For Your Entertainment, Warehouse Music, Coconuts Music & Movies, Strawberries, Spec’s, CD World, Streetside Records, Planet Music and select Saturday Matinee movie stores.

As a customer of Pine Ridge Industries (Schenectady ARC’s workshop specializing in contract packaging, assembly and light manufacturing), Trans World Entertainment Corporation has been providing employment opportunities for individuals with

disabilities since 1999. When TWEC is in operation you will find 60 individuals working on a job for Trans World, which has been a longtime favorite of those who work at Pine Ridge Industries. “The fact that our workplace can go out in the community and see a finished product that they have helped create, like a CD or DVD in the mall is great. It gives our individuals a real sense of pride and accomplishment,” says Greg Winnie, Director of Manufacturing Operations for Pine Ridge Industries.

Over the years, Trans World Entertainment has relied on Pine Ridge to perform a variety of jobs including re-ticketing CDs. Schenectady ARC consumer Lucille Puglio has worked at Pine Ridge Industries for over 30 years and always looks forward to working on a project from Trans World, “I take the old CD cases out and put the new cases in. I really like it. It is one of my favorites.”

“It makes good business sense for us,” says John Sullivan, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer at Trans World. “We think of Pine Ridge like any other vendor, the fact that they are employing people with disabilities is an added bonus.” In recognition of the company’s commitment to see the full potential in individuals with disabilities in the workplace, Schenectady ARC presented Trans World Entertainment Corporation our *Customer of the Year Award* at this year’s Annual Awards Dinner.

We salute Trans World Entertainment Corporation for their continuous commitment to creating employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities and look forward to working with them in the future. If you would like additional information about how your business can benefit from partnering with Pine Ridge Industries program, please contact Mike Schulman at 372-1483.