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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Recycler presents “green” partnership award to vocational training agency



Downers Grove, IL – Excitement rippled through the entire facility as Spectrum Vocational Services received the “Partners in Progress” award from MRC Polymers, Inc. Over 125 people were on hand for the celebration on January 19th.

“Our partnership demonstrates that it is possible to meet social and financial goals while achieving a positive impact on our environment,” said Paul Binks, President and CEO of MRC.

The award is in recognition of the first anniversary partnership between the Chicago-based recycler and the Downers Grove vocational training agency. Despite the economic downturn of 2009, the two firms found a way to provide work for adults with developmental disabilities as part of a process to transform landfill bound scrap into engineering-grade plastics.



Nicole Fox, Program Manager, accepted the award for Spectrum and said, “Our partnership is a win-win situation for everyone. Our clients have the opportunity to work daily, materials are kept out of landfills and MRC has usable plastic to recycle.”

Binks acknowledges that costs to mechanize the scrap recovery job would be on par with outsourcing to Spectrum, but enthusiastically points to the human benefits of working with the vocational services team.

“Recycling is the process of taking a product at the end of its useful life and using all or part of it to make another product.

Our partnership with Spectrum expands the usefulness equation to directly include people,” he remarked.

Binks is not the only one at MRC to recognize the human part of the business relationship. Agents in MRC’s purchasing division cranked up efforts last year to locate DVD cover scrap. “Knowing the destination of our bales means that we have our antennae up for opportunities all the time,” commented Jayme Dood, Purchasing Director. MRC trucks bales of DVD covers to Spectrum from their Chicago plant.

Fox also sees people at the core of the business partnership. “Absolutely everyone looks forward to their rotation week to work with MRC DVDs,” she said. “This is the type of assignment that every Spectrum client can handle.”

Spectrum Vocational Services is the Adult Day Services Division of Little Friends, Inc., a non-profit agency based in Naperville, IL. The program serves DuPage area adults who have developmental disabilities. Individuals work on subcontract jobs and are paid for the work that they do.

MRC recently received the 2009 Governor's Sustainability Award for commitment to environmental excellence through innovative sustainability practices. The company was cited for its environmentally-friendly transformation of millions of pounds of landfill-bound car bumpers into high quality, engineering-grade resin pellets for manufacturing applications.

Caption (1709 jpg):

Nicole Fox, Program Manager at Spectrum Vocational Services, receives the Partners in Progress award from Paul Binks, President and CEO of MRC Polymers, Inc.

Caption (1724 jpg):

Smiles and satisfaction radiate from Margie's face as she pulls the paper from a DVD cover at the Spectrum Vocational Services facility in Downers Grove. Spectrum participants are an integral part of a recycling process to transform scrap into engineering-grade plastics.

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About MRC Polymers, Inc.

MRC Polymers' proprietary recycling and compounding technologies establish it as the industry leader in providing consistent, high quality, engineering grade resins. It has manufactured engineering and commodity thermoplastic compounds since 1980. Located at 3307 S. Lawndale, Chicago, IL, 60623. For more information, please visit www.mrcpolymers.com

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About Spectrum Vocational Training.

Spectrum Vocational Training is the Adult Day Services Division of Little Friends, Inc., a private, non-profit agency based in Naperville. Founded in 1968, Spectrum serves people, ages 16 and older, with developmental challenges from DuPage and surrounding counties. Spectrum serves more than 200 people each year in its vocational programs. Located at 2302 Wisconsin Avenue, Downers Grove, IL 60516. For more information, please visit www.littlefriendsinc.org

About Little Friends, Inc.

Little Friends, Inc. is a private, non-profit organization serving children and adults with autism and other developmental disabilities. Based in Naperville, Little Friends operates 13 programs that include three schools, family support and consultation services, vocational training programs, community-based residential services and the Little Friends Center for Autism. Founded in 1965, Little Friends serves more than 800 people each year throughout DuPage, Kane, Kendall, Will, McHenry and western Cook counties.

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