

CORPORATE ADVISORY NETWORK

Transform Your Workplace

THE BENEFITS OF NEURODIVERSITY



What is the Corporate Advisory Network (CAN)?

The CAN is a professional forum that enables companies to explore the dual benefits of diversifying their workforce. Through free membership, organizations progress their business goals while expanding opportunities for neurodiverse candidates to find gainful employment with a company that recognizes the contributions they bring to the workplace.

By joining CAN, you become a key partner in supporting our mission and demonstrate your commitment to creating a more inclusive workforce that values differences. At our quarterly meetings, you can share expertise, learn best practices, network with other professionals, and support young adults who are looking for an opportunity to work.

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Creating Opportunities for Mutual Benefit

For people with autism and developmental disabilities, a job is a milestone that often seems unattainable.

What are the benefits of joining CAN?

- The CAN serves as an advisory body and strategic partner committed to sharing best practices, expertise, and opportunities that will help facilitate employment and internship opportunities for individuals.
- Birch Family Services staff is available to provide training on such topics as disability in the workplace, creating customized employment options, supporting managers and colleagues with individuals in their workplace.
- Birch Family Services staff can be a resource to company employees who may be managing the needs of a child or adult with autism or another developmental disability to help them learn about the services and training available to them.
- Birch Family Services is available for employees with autism or developmental disabilities who are interested in our services or supports.



"Job hunting was really hard. Birch makes sure you are doing a great job and helps you work together to achieve something higher."

*-Jason Moy,
Employed at Home Depot*

80%+

Unemployment rate
for working-age
adults with autism
and developmental
disabilities.

28%+

Adults with
developmental
disabilities live
in poverty.



What do we expect from our members?

- Share our belief that individuals with special needs should be a part of corporate Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) efforts.
- Attend quarterly CAN meetings (virtual or in-person).
- Participate in a shared network directory, allowing you to connect with others.
- Support Birch Family Services initiatives (volunteer, donate, sponsor, etc).
- Help expand our network by tapping into yours.

CAN members strive to create the conditions for a more inclusive workforce within their own companies and beyond, learning from industry leaders and supporting the community in a profound way.



"My internship is giving me hands-on experience and it makes me feel satisfied and accomplished."

***-Piankhi Wade,
Employed at Lloyds Bank &
Columbia University Medical Center***

"The Birch/Lloyds Bank Mentoring Program is an exceptionally rewarding experience for all involved. I feel privileged to have the opportunity to help mentees on their journey into the workforce, building lasting relationships, and using my knowledge and experience to help prepare the mentees for real life interview situations."

—NORMAN SCOTT, LLOYDS BANK



NEW FRONTIER

Training for the Working World

Many CAN members are enthusiastic supporters of New Frontier, a Birch Family Services program that encourages and supports young adults with autism and developmental disabilities to join and succeed in the workforce.

Using a strengths-based, person-centered approach, New Frontier forges partnerships between employees and employers that ensure lasting and productive relationships. Birch Family Services job coaches work with New Frontier members one-on-one to help them maximize their strengths and achieve personal goals. Members are offered health and wellness workshops, social and recreational activities, and the development of skills necessary for a successful and more independent life.

Building Skills for the Workplace and Life

Through our network of corporate and nonprofit partners, we help young adults obtain:

- Permanent competitive employment appropriate to their abilities and interests.
- Paid internships to enhance their talents and improve their resumes.
- Volunteer work experience to gain the skills needed for permanent employment.



"New Frontier is fun, and you get to interact with all the other individuals. It gives me the ability to visit places I'm not familiar with, learn, and explore hobbies outside my interests."

-Ronell Culbengan, employed at H & M

WHEN YOU JOIN OUR CORPORATE PARTNERS, YOU'LL BE IN GOOD COMPANY

(PARTIAL LIST)



Find our full directory here!

A photograph of two men sitting at a table in what appears to be a meeting or workshop. The man on the left is white with glasses, wearing a patterned shirt, and has his hand near his chin. The man on the right is Black, wearing a dark button-down shirt, and is gesturing with his hand while speaking. A woman is partially visible in the background.

2,000 OPPORTUNITIES TO EMPOWER (AND GROWING)

Birch Family Services supports more than 2,000 individuals with autism and developmental disabilities and their families throughout New York City, and the need for our services is growing. Our person-centered approach ensures people are empowered to choose not only what services and supports they receive, but how they will obtain the life they want. By being person-centric in our programs, we support individuals and their families in accomplishing their goals across the lifespan.



Early Childhood Education



School-Age Education



Community Services



New Frontier

Join the Corporate Advisory Network to participate in upcoming events, learn from others and share your expertise. Visit our website to learn more about how you can get involved. Or contact Nicole.Thornton@birchfamilyservices.org.