



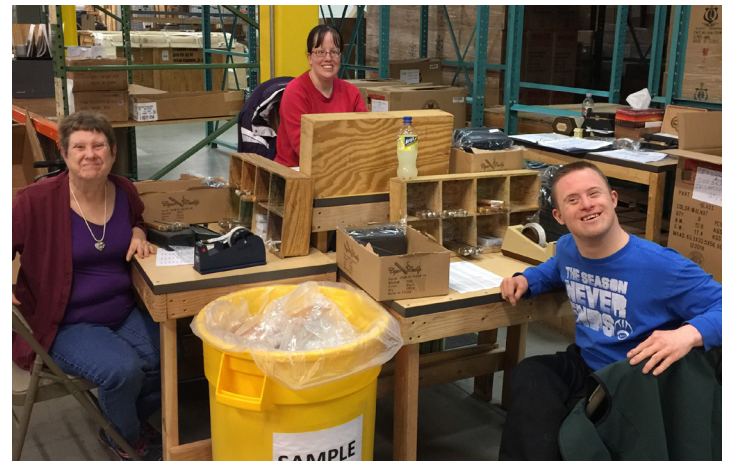
ViaWorks

Small Group Employment
at Cigars International
(Formerly Transitional Employment)

WHAT IS VIAWORKS?

Via of the Lehigh Valley is committed to providing employment options for people with disabilities. Our Small Group Employment at Cigars International empowers adults with disabilities to work in integrated community settings.

Under the supervision of job coaches, our teams work side by side with Cigars International's 250 employees to produce high quality products in their 80,000 square foot South Bethlehem warehouse. ViaWorks has become a vital part of Cigars International's business and workplace culture.



WHAT DOES VIAWORKS TEACH PARTICIPANTS?

ViaWorks provides work experience and skill development in an integrated workplace. Small groups (1:1 to 1:3) provide focused training and allow for improvement in work habits, speed, and quality.

ViaWorks participants are encouraged to share input on which areas of work they would like to train. We provide an onsite coordinator and job coaches throughout each shift. Participants are paid minimum wage for their work.

Duties performed at Cigars International include:

- Light manufacturing
- Packaging
- Skilled production
- Warehouse experience
- And more!

“Via has been an asset to the sampling department at Cigars International. Via's workers improved and exceeded our product's quality and our overall production. Each day, the Via team arrives ready to work, with a positive attitude; it's clear that each worker is happy to be here. That attitude promotes positivity within the warehouse. Working side by side with the Via team improves the entire department's morale and work environment. I cannot stress how important Via is to our department and to the warehouse as a whole.”

Ashley Peiffer

Cigars International, Sampler Lead



MEET A VIAWORKS TEAM MEMBER

Zach performs the same tasks expected of Cigars International's employees – advanced skills that require high levels of dexterity and professionalism, like

“ I like to work at Cigars because of the people. They are nice, and they like me. I like the staff too. I love working because it makes me feel pretty good about myself. I am able to help people, which also makes me feel good. I love paychecks because I can make money and spend it on clothes, pizza, and Arby's. One of the hard things I do here is packaging cigars. My coach helps me a lot by cheering me on to do good.”



ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Those interested in participating in this program should have a goal of obtaining a job in the community. As of July 1, 2017, participants will be required to pursue employment through the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation within the first 90 days of the program.

This program supports participants by strengthening work skills and professional habits. Individuals may participate in ViaWorks and Community Employment services at the same time. In conjunction with the new admission requirements, individuals may attend ViaWorks no more than 3 days a week.



For more information, contact: Nicole Clakeley, Intake Manager, OVR Services
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Via of the Lehigh Valley is a non-profit agency that provides services for children and adults with developmental disabilities like cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, autism and intellectual disability. Via's mission is to help the people we serve reach their full potential. The official registration and financial information of Via of the Lehigh Valley, Inc. may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1 (800) 732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.