



# NEWS RELEASE

**DATE:** October 10, 2008

**CONTACT:** Patti Archiere  
**Public Affairs Coordinator**  
Tel: (845) 692-4454 ext. 101  
E-mail: [parchiere@occupations.org](mailto:parchiere@occupations.org)

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### OCCUPATIONS, INC. SYSTEM OF SERVICES ANNOUNCES RECENT APPOINTMENTS

**Middletown, NY, — Occupations, Inc. is pleased to announce the following appointments to its system of services leadership structure.**

**Wendi Chason,** has been appointed the Director of Development and Public Relations of the Occupations, Inc. System of Services. Ms. Chason brings to Occupations, Inc. over 20 years of leadership experience in public relations and marketing in both the corporate and non-profit sectors. She has spearheaded and managed sales and marketing teams of international corporations, as well as pioneered multi-million dollar non-profit agencies in fundraising through capital campaigns, donor management, special events, and strategic alliances. Ms. Chason has also worked in Albany where she developed skills in political lobbying and enhanced her knowledge in the fields of mental health and services for the disabled.

As Director of Development and Public Relations, Ms. Chason will use her leadership skills and experience as a key spokesperson to enhance and diversify Occupations' fund development and public relations activities through the promotion of the agency's image, services and presence in the Hudson Valley region of New York State.

**Katariina Hoas,** has also been appointed as Occupations Inc.'s new Vice President of Program Services. Ms. Hoas will be responsible for the planning, quality and financial oversight of program services, as well as the design and promotion of new services. In her role as Vice President, Ms. Hoas will work closely with Occupations, Inc.'s leadership team to implement and integrate system-wide growth and improvement initiatives, as well as professional development and the implementation of evidence-based practices.

2-2-2

Occupations, Inc. System of Services Announces Recent Appointments

October 8, 2008

Ms. Hoas is a native of Finland and has relocated from Maine to join the Occupations team. Her background includes a position at the Port Resources in Maine where she collaborated in strategic planning to define and enhance their organizational mission, developed policies, and formulated fiscal analyses to create improvements. Ms. Hoas is an experienced senior level social services leader and clinician, and has an extensive background in program development and oversight of services for adults and children with developmental and emotional disabilities.

The Occupations, Inc. System of Services include outpatient mental health services, case management, child welfare, emergency services, residential services, and employment opportunities to people with developmental disabilities and individuals recovering from mental illness. Occupations, Inc., also provides an extensive transportation system throughout Orange County. Family Empowerment Council, Inc., an affiliate of Occupations, Inc., provides services to people with disabilities, including service coordination and case management to diverse populations, mental health family support for families with children with emotional disturbance, early intervention, educational advocacy, consumer-directed personal care, support and assistance, residential habilitation, and respite services. All of Occupations, Inc.'s services can be accessed 24-hours a day, seven-days-a-week, through one toll-free call to the Service Access Center at **1-888-750-2266**.

**###**