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## JOB SHADOW DAY

# Businesses give teens look at career opportunities

On June 24 the Niles Chamber of Commerce and Industry along with the Niles Teen Center co-hosted the Seventh Annual Job Shadow Day, according to a news release.

Teenagers were matched with local businesses based on their skills and interests. The Job Shadow Day is designed to provide teenagers with a look into the business world, and to demonstrate how their education can translate into a rewarding future.

Olivia Tran from Meltzer School "shadowed" at Athletico Physical and Occupational Therapy on Touhy Avenue.

"I like it there because there you get to help so many people and that's what I want to do for a living," Tran said. "Now I have one more job on my list for my future career."

The Niles Teen Center consists of youngsters in sixth- through 12th-grade who choose to have a positive effect on their community.

Another student, Peter Azzo, from Washington School, thanked the Police Department and wrote: "I really appreciate you took us to the 911 Dispatch Center. Thanks to you I would like to be a police officer."

For the local businesses that participated, Job Shadow

Day helped forge personally satisfying connections with young people that could contribute to building a more prepared workplace of tomorrow.

Chuck Hartogh, owner of C&M Auto Service, has participated a number of years and said he is surprised when he sees kids years later and they comment on how much of an impact the day had and that it's made "lasting memories."

Hartogh said he hopes they reflect on the "real life" experience of Job Shadow Day when determining their own career paths.

"The Niles Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Niles Teen Center value partnership and hope to continue to collaborate on future events," the release stated.

The Niles Chamber stated that is pleased that the following local businesses participated: Niles Animal Hospital, AthletiCo Physical and Occupational Therapy, C&M Auto Service and the Niles Police Department.

For more information or to participate as workplace host contact the Niles Chamber, (847) 268-8180, or for student information contact the Niles Teen Center, (847) 375-8949.