



NEWS RELEASE

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ViaQuest Inc. Honored at the Ohio State House with the Medical Mutual 2012 Pillar Award

ViaQuest Inc. received the 2012 Pillar for Community Service for the work done by The ViaQuest Foundation

Columbus, OH (January 27, 2012) – Richard Johnson, President and CEO of ViaQuest Inc. and the ViaQuest's Executive Committee along with Derek Kinzer, Executive Director of the ViaQuest Foundation and PGA Member, were on hand to receive the Medical Mutual 2012 Pillar Award for the ViaQuest's Foundation work for Community Service. The award was presented under the pillars at the Ohio State House which have the historical relevance were President Abraham Lincoln learned he had won the 1860 Presidential Election and would become 16th President of The United States.

The ViaQuest Foundation focuses on improving the lives of a wide array people who have been diagnosed with developmental, physical behavioral or emotional challenges. Since its founding in 2005, the foundation has positively impacted the lives of over 650 youth and young adults. Currently, more than 80 adults with developmental or physical disabilities are employed at locations throughout Ohio thanks to the ViaQuest Foundation's program assistance.

The biggest initiative for the ViaQuest Foundation is its vocational program that provides work opportunities for those diagnosed with various disabilities. The services provided to those individuals include job skills and job-readiness training. However, the services don't stop at training the individual. Job coaches work with employers to keep an eye on employee progress, working with the employer to set realistic expectations and help the employee become a successful and productive worker.

Another vital part of the foundation's work centers on its recreational programs. The ViaQuest Foundation's "Golf and Life Skills" program is sponsored in conjunction with the PGA, the USGA, and the National Alliance for Accessible Golf. In the program, youth and young adults learn life skills through golf. The program is the first USGA and PGA funded golf program in the country targeted at those on the Autism Spectrum, and the program is also taught to incarcerated youth in secured juvenile detention centers using adaptive golf equipment.

In addition, the ViaQuest Foundation facilitates the "Paws with a Purpose" program, which takes shelter dogs and rescue dogs, trains them to become Canine Good Citizens and Companion Dogs. The dogs are then placed in residential treatment homes, group homes, vocational centers, and with hospice caregivers to provide support and comfort for those receiving services.

For more information on The ViaQuest Foundation, contact Derek Kinzer at 614-374-0288.

About The ViaQuest Foundation

The ViaQuest Foundation, a not-for-profit organization based in Dublin OH, was established in 2005 to enrich the lives of adolescents and young adults facing intellectual, emotional and behavioral challenges through recreational activities designed to enhance life skill development. For more information, visit www.ViaQuestFoundation.org .