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News Release

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Peckham, Inc. Announces Master Craftsman Sewer Apprenticeship Program

LANSING, MI – Peckham, Inc. is proud to announce the new Master Craftsman Sewer Apprenticeship program registered with the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL). This program is for sewing machine operations, and the first apprenticeship program at Peckham. There are currently 13 Peckham clients enrolled in the programs first graduating class.

“We are extremely proud of the Master Craftsman Sewer Apprenticeship program,” says Jo Sinha, Chief Operating Officer. “This program was designed as a combination of on-the-job and classroom instruction. Complex garment construction is a skilled job; having a DOL registered apprenticeship program recognizes garment construction as a skilled trade.”

The curriculum is designed to empower individuals to thrive in Peckham’s unique social, cultural and agile manufacturing environment. The core training supports the Peckham values of diversity, teamwork, peer-to-peer learning and communication. Courses in the program include apparel construction and equipment problem solving, measurements, reading technical specifications, stitch types, lean manufacturing layout concepts and an overview of the Peckham production system.

“When graduates complete the program, they will receive a nationally recognized credential,” says Sinha. “Peckham’s other lines of business are now looking into developing similar programs. This is a testament to the dedicated team who constructed the program.”

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The creation of the Master Craftsman Apprenticeship was the result of team collaboration across Peckham’s Manufacturing team. Subject matter experts in Lean Layout, Machine Maintenance Trouble Shoot, Problem Solving Methods and Peckham Production Systems also collaborated with the team to create the thorough training program.

“It has been an honor to be a part of this effort,” says Dana Harder, Associate Manufacturing Project Manager. “We cannot wait to see the vocational outcomes this brings our clients.”

Peckham, Inc. is a nonprofit community vocational rehabilitation organization that values quality, diversity and performance. Our mission is to provide a wide range of opportunities to maximize human potential for persons with disabilities who are striving for greater independence and self-sufficiency.

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