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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Local sheltered workshop, Lake Area Industries, celebrates 40th Anniversary with Open House & Ribbon Cutting Celebration**

The Camdenton Area Chamber of Commerce recently helped Lake Area Industries celebrate 40 years in business with a ribbon cutting ceremony in conjunction with their Open House event on October 5<sup>th</sup>. Ribbon Cutting attendees included LAI Board Members, Staff, and Employees, Chamber Staff and Board Members, and many additional local community and business peers.

Lake Area Industries employs 50 adults with varying disabilities in Camden County providing them daily challenges and support to reach their greatest potential. These meaningful jobs are made possible by providing services to local businesses and individuals. LAI offers packaging and assembly services, secure document shredding, dock foam recycling, cardboard recycling, and operates Gifted Gardens, their retail garden center.

Many may be unaware, but October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM). This Open House and Ribbon Cutting celebration event allowed attendees to be educated about disability employment issues and celebrate the many and varied contributions of America's workers with disabilities. The history of NDEAM traces back to 1945, when it started as a week and focused only on people with physical disabilities. Later, it expanded to a full month, and its name and scope evolved to acknowledge the importance of increasing the workforce inclusion of people with all nature of disabilities.

For more information about Lake Area Industries you can visit their website [www.LakeAreaIndustries.org](http://www.LakeAreaIndustries.org) or call 573-346-7934.

**#2 Photos Included**

-Group photo

-close up of Linda Platter, longest serving LAI Board Member of 32 years and her daughter Tina Platter, longest employed of 33 years