**ALPHAPOINTE JOINS FORCES WITH NEW YORK CITY INDUSTRIES FOR THE BLIND**

*Merger offers aspirational jobs and services to people who are visually impaired*

**Kansas City, MO – May 14, 2014** – Alphapointe, a non-profit company in Kansas City, MO announced today that it has completed its merger with New York City Industries for the Blind (NYCIB), a non-profit organization in Brooklyn, NY, into the Alphapointe family of companies. Alphapointe and NYCIB have a shared vision to create aspirational careers for people who are blind and visually impaired.

NYCIB changed its name to Alphapointe effective May 1. Rick Bland formerly CEO at NYCIB, will remain an Alphapointe adviser to ensure a smooth transition.

Reinhard Mabry, President and CEO of Alphapointe, said: “Our organization is making a difference for more than 400 employees working at nine locations in four states, and we are growing.” Alphapointe’s headquarters will remain in Kansas City, Missouri.

More than 70 percent of legally blind citizens are unemployed, and both Alphapointe and NYCIB have long been committed to reducing that number. By joining forces, the merged organization is better able to provide more resources, create more jobs and make a lasting, national impact, Mabry said.

Each companies’ community based programs and the federal AbilityOne procurement program will remain critical partners in the merged organization. Relationships will expand to include a broader network of business alliances, such as Cardinal Health, Sanofi-Aventis, Rexam and the Department of Defense, among many others. From the current products being manufactured to new products being developed, the impact to reduce joblessness for people who are visually impaired will be even greater, Mabry said.

***About Alphapointe-***
**Alphapointe**, located in Kansas City, Mo, has been empowering people with vision loss to maximize their independence since its founding in 1911. Alphapointe is the largest employer of people who are blind in Missouri and the region’s largest resource for people with vision loss, offering products and services nationwide.  Alphapointe’s full family of companies includes plastics, micro-molding, office-product manufacturing and sales, contact center services, retail stores and a comprehensive rehabilitation and education program for people who are blind or visually impaired.

***About New York City Industries for the Blind-***
Located in the heart of Brooklyn, New York City Industries for the Blind Inc. (NYCIB) is a 501(c)3, not-for-profit company that was founded and incorporated in November 1995. NYCIB is the largest employer of people who are blind or visually impaired in the New York City area. NYCIB offers employment opportunities to individuals who are legally blind through manufacturing of products, business services, and job-placement programs. NYCIB manufactures AbilityOne/Skilcraft products under the AbilityOne Program supplying the Federal government and military personnel with quality products. NYCIB is also affiliated with The New York State Preferred Source Program (NYSPSP), which supplies a broad range of products and services to New York state, city and local government agencies.

**For More Information**

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