



## **Brownmed launches temporary manufacturing site in Central Massachusetts**

**Site will focus solely on Personal Protective Equipment and provide paid summer internships for Worcester high school students.**

FOR RELEASE July 22, 2020 – Today, Brownmed announced the successful launch of a temporary production worksite to produce lifesaving PPE to protect health care workers and others from the spread of COVID-19.

The launch of the site was made possible through an innovative partnership with The Massachusetts Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MassMEP), Worcester Public Schools and Chacharone Properties.

“As a company, we’ve been continuously exploring ways to increase our manufacturing capacity for PPE since March” said Kyla Garver, President of Brownmed. “We reached out to MassMEP in early June and quickly realized there was an opportunity to engage with students in the Worcester community who were actively searching for summer jobs. Chacharone Properties stepped in to help us find a great location and we were up and running in less than three weeks.”

The site launched June 22<sup>nd</sup> and will be staffed through the summer by sixty-five high school students from seven schools including interns from the Innovation Pathways Advanced Manufacturing Program. Brian Cummings, a Worcester Technical High School program instructor, has assumed the role of site manager.

John Killam, President of MassMEP, is a strong supporter. “Building a pipeline of future employees who want to make things is a high priority for manufacturing companies and MassMEP. Our partnership with Brownmed leverages resources that provide hands on instruction through programs like Advanced Manufacturing Training which is part of Lieutenant Governor Polito's Innovation Pathways Program.”

Drew Weymouth, Director of Innovation Pathways with Worcester Public Schools, agrees. “The connection with Brownmed via Karen Myhaver and MassMEP is an incredible opportunity for the students of Worcester. In this heightened health care crisis, the opportunity to contribute to the fight against COVID-19 by producing face

shields for health care providers allows students to make an essential and active contribution. Additionally, the chance to earn money and work with other students from across the city allows them to build professional skills.”

In addition to healthcare workers, teachers, dentist offices, salons, manufacturing operators, meatpacking plants and retail workers are just some examples of the people who will use these face shields daily for added protection from COVID-19.

### **About Brownmed**

Brownmed is a leader in manufacturing products aimed at improving the quality of life for patients and has been for more than 50 years. More information on Brownmed products may be found at [www.brownmed.com](http://www.brownmed.com).

### **About MassMEP**

MassMEP is one of 51 MEP Centers throughout the United States and Puerto Rico that operates through a cooperative agreement between the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) under the Department of Commerce. MassMEP was established as a non-profit in 1996 to provide consulting services to small and medium-sized manufacturers, as part of the MEP National Network and it's 1,300 manufacturing experts at over 400 service locations.

### **About Innovation Pathways**

Innovation Pathways are designed to give students coursework and experience in a specific high-demand industry, such as information technology, engineering, healthcare, life sciences and advanced manufacturing.

Innovation Pathways are designed to create strong partnerships with employers in order to expose students to career options and help them develop knowledge and skills related to their chosen field of study before they graduate high school.

### **About Chacharone Properties**

Chacharone Properties, established in 1982, develops, manages and leases quality properties in Central Massachusetts. Today, the firm's multi-faceted approach has resulted in the creation of nearly 2 million square feet of prime commercial property in one of the state's most vibrant regions for economic growth.

### **Media Contact**

Matt Garver  
VP – Marketing 857.317.3363 [matt.garver@brownmed.com](mailto:matt.garver@brownmed.com)

###