

NISH

Workplace



**Creating New
Jobs through
Expanded
Disability
Awareness**

**UCP of Greater
Birmingham's
Gone for Good
Program**

**USDA AbilityOne
Awards**

Workplace

7 USDA Presents AbilityOne Awards

During its annual Small Business and AbilityOne Award Program, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) recognized organizations that have provided exemplary services to USDA, as well as USDA employees who have excelled in their work with these businesses.

9 Disability Awareness Training and Outreach

Disability awareness includes understanding the impact of disabilities on people's lives and knowing that impact varies from person to person. A growing number of nonprofit agencies (NPAs) nationwide have discovered that NISH's disability awareness training provides important benefits beyond a better understanding about disability. It also serves as an excellent marketing and community outreach tool for illuminating the important contributions made by people with disabilities in the workplace.

14 Gone for Good

Gone for Good Secure Document Destruction is a UCP Enterprises Company, which is a division of the United Cerebral Palsy of Greater Birmingham, Ala. Gone for Good provides services for the security collection, destruction and recycling of sensitive materials and information.

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Front Cover:

Top: NISH offers two disability awareness training courses, as well as on-site workshops, for nonprofit and federal agencies. These courses provide an expanded awareness of disability and serve as valuable marketing tools. See Page 9 for details.

Bottom: United Cerebral Palsy of Greater Birmingham, Ala. leveraged its AbilityOne secure document destruction experience to create many more jobs for people with severe disabilities in the commercial sector. See Page 14 for details.

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USDA Presents AbilityOne Awards

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) recently hosted its annual Small Business and AbilityOne Award Program to recognize small, small disadvantaged, women-owned, HUBZone, service disabled veteran-owned and AbilityOne businesses that have provided exemplary services to USDA. Additionally, USDA recognized its employees who have excelled in their work with these businesses. The ceremony, presented by the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization, was held June 25 at the USDA's Washington, D.C. headquarters.

Director's Award

During the ceremony, USDA Secretary of Agriculture Ed Schafer presented the Director's Award to Christine Harrison, NISH strategic business development manager, in recognition of her efforts to assist USDA agencies in exceeding their AbilityOne procurement goals. For the last five years, Harrison assisted USDA with planning AbilityOne

National Disability Employment Awareness Month events. Harrison participates regularly in USDA small business meetings and also recently gave a speech about the AbilityOne Program for U.S. veterans at a Veterans Entrepreneurship Task Force meeting held at USDA headquarters. Additionally, Harrison led planning efforts to host formal training for USDA agency AbilityOne Program liaisons at NISH headquarters.

AbilityOne Special Achievement Awards

USDA presented its 2008 AbilityOne Special Achievement Award to Ed McDonald, contracting officer, Cherokee National Forest, Tenn., in recognition of his efforts to expand USDA's AbilityOne Program contracts and promote the Program to his colleagues. In 2006, McDonald—an AbilityOne Procurement Champion—contacted the NISH South Region to add AbilityOne contracts for custodial and grounds maintenance services for the Tellico Ranger District's

recreational areas. He also developed an opportunity for AbilityOne in the El Yunque National Forest in Puerto Rico and is currently working to expand that contract.

Special Achievement Awards also were presented to Sofia M. Basso, purchasing agent, Agricultural Research Service (ARS), Peoria, Ill., and Janet Elm, contracting officer, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Washington, D.C.

Basso is responsible for procuring supplies, services and equipment for ARS' National Center for Agricultural Utilization Research (NCAUR). When NCAUR decided to convert hard copy archive material to an electronic format, Basso recommended using AbilityOne nonprofit agency Community Workshop and Training Center (CWTC) for the project. The success of the project resulted in numerous inquiries, encouraging others to consider AbilityOne for future projects.



IBS Industries, Inc. receives the 2008 USDA AbilityOne Contractor of the Year Award. From left to right: Boyd Rutherford, assistant secretary for administration, USDA; Mark Simcosky, IBS board president; Shawna Clay, IBS COO; Stan Shurmartine, IBS CEO; David Flowers, IBS project manager; Glen Keppy, associate administrator for programs, USDA Farm Service Agency; and Gilbert Smith, deputy assistant secretary for administration, USDA.

Elm is responsible for acquisitions, agency-wide conferences and the agency purchase card program. While working with card holders, she constantly promotes the consideration and use of AbilityOne Program nonprofit agencies. Elm has worked tirelessly to increase AbilityOne Program procurement, specifically in the areas of office supplies, green cleaners, hardware and industrial supplies. She also implemented a Food Safety and Inspection Service Directive to educate purchase card holders on the value of using AbilityOne.

Contractor of the Year Award

IBS Industries, Inc., Independence, Mo., received the USDA 2008 AbilityOne Contractor of the Year Award. IBS provides mailroom services at two Farm Service Agency (FSA) mailrooms. IBS developed an idea for presorting the mail, resulting in reduced postage expenses for FSA. IBS' outstanding performance led to its selection by FSA to assume administrative and general support services as well. Their professional approach and attention to detail contributed to a seamless transition from FSA's previous contractor.

USDA Agency AbilityOne Award Winners

Agency AbilityOne Awards were presented to three AbilityOne nonprofit agencies, including Opportunity Resources Incorporated (ORI), Missoula, Mont.; ServiceSource, Inc., Alexandria, Va.; and Delaware Industries for the Blind, New Castle, Del. ORI supported the Forest Service's Missoula Fire and Technology Center (MFTC) during fire season by inspecting, sorting, sizing, rolling and packaging sleeping bags, fire shirts and pants, and refurbishing fire gear. ORI consistently provides high quality services to the Forest Service. In fact, in the more than 19 years of working with MFTC, ORI has never had a single deficiency noted.

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Christine Harrison, NISH strategic business development manager, received USDA's Director's Award. From left to right: Secretary of Agriculture Ed Schafer; Harrison; and James House, director of Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization, USDA.



ServiceSource receives the USDA Agency AbilityOne Award. From left to right: Boyd Rutherford, assistant secretary for administration, USDA; Janet Samuelson, Service Source; Edward B. Knipling, USDA Agricultural Research Service administrator; Gilbert Smith, deputy assistant secretary for administration, USDA; and James House, director of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization, USDA.



Opportunity Resources, Inc. (ORI) receives a USDA Agency AbilityOne Award. From left to right: Boyd Rutherford, assistant secretary for administration, USDA; Richard Ensign, janitorial coordinator, Opportunity Resources, Inc; and Gilbert Smith, deputy assistant secretary for administration, USDA.

Back Cover Photo, from left to right: Lori Grosz, Lynn Delivery Systems; Ed McDonald, contracting officer, Cherokee National Forest, USDA Forest Service; Christy Harrison, NISH strategic business development manager; April Pinch-Keeler, president, MVLE; and Suzette Gross, project manager, NISH East. McDonald won USDA's AbilityOne Special Achievement Award and Harrison won USDA's Director's Award.

ServiceSource provides a variety of services to USDA for several different agencies. For example, ServiceSource provides copier maintenance and mail center operations to Economic Research Service. The nonprofit agency also stocks copier rooms with paper and other supplies, and performs all bulk copying at an ERS facility

in Washington, D.C. ServiceSource employees proudly and eagerly performed their jobs and provided quality services.

Delaware Industries for the Blind (DIB) provides a variety of products to the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), including laptop cases, plaques, travel bags, embroidered jackets

and shirts. The products are always of high quality, meet requirements and delivered timely. DIB provided the FSIS Administrator's Excellence Awards under an extremely stringent timeline.

Congratulations to all of the USDA AbilityOne Award Winners! 

NISH Training Calendar

AUGUST		
25, 26	Operating and Managing a Successful Custodial Business: Learning the Art and Science of Cleaning	Denver, CO
25, 26, 27, 28	MODAPTS	Vienna, VA
SEPTEMBER		
8, 9	Floor Care Technician Certification Course	Las Vegas, NV
10, 11, 12	AbilityOne Academy (Formerly Javits Wagner O'Day University)	Vienna, VA
15, 16, 17	The Art of Negotiation: The Mutual Gains Approach	Atlanta, GA
16, 17	Establishing a Voice of the Customer Strategy	Denver, CO
17, 18, 19	4 Roles of Leadership	Orlando, FL
18, 19	ISO 9001: 2000 A Roadmap for Successful Implementation	San Francisco, CA
22, 23	Succession Planning for Executives and Boards	Orlando, FL
24, 25, 26	Custodial University	Atlanta, GA
25, 26	Introduction to Marketing	San Antonio, TX
29, 30, OCT. 1	Management Skills for Supervisors	Chicago, IL
OCTOBER		
2, 3	Situational Leadership	Portland, OR
2, 3	Customized Employment for Anyone, Anywhere, Anytime: Creating Careers in a No-Jobs Labor Market	Vienna, VA
13, 14, 15	The Business of Shredding Boot Camp	Miami, FL



NISH offers a wide range of training opportunities through the NISH Institute for Leadership, Performance & Development. For more information, to request a 2007 training calendar or to register for courses, please contact the NISH Training Team at 571/226-4660 or visit the NISH Web site at www.nish.org.

NISH Mission

NISH creates employment opportunities for people with severe disabilities.

Left: The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) recently hosted its annual Small Business and AbilityOne Award Program. See Page 7 for details.

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