

Northwest Resource Center

October 2015

From the Director...

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month (see more on page 3 and also featured in the Livonia Observer on October 15th) and in the spirit I'd like to urge everyone to really advocate for this cause. If you are employed, does your employer recognize the potential of working with individuals with a disability? Do stores that you frequently visit realize the hidden talent that is out there? If you have friends or family that work, do they understand that working with someone with a disability is not an act of charity but something that is good for everyone involved? These are all opportunities to really change some perceptions and create new opportunities.

Employers perception is often the largest barrier in finding employment so if we as an extended group are able to enlighten just one or two employers, it could be just what is needed to give some people a chance.

Steve

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Contact Us
Services To
Enhance Potential
Northwest
Resource Center
32229 Schoolcraft
Livonia, MI 48150
(734) 261-7530



Bundled



STEP is partnering up with a new and exciting company, Bundled! Bundled has searched Michigan for the best products it has to offer and bundled them into themed, personalized and corporate gift boxes. All of their items are made by small businesses in Michigan and the goal is to give you a chance to try an assortment of products to see what you love. Their Bundles are the perfect gift for any occasion, a treat for yourself or a corporation's go-to gift for employees, clients, customers and events. They are great for a birthday gift, host present, out of town guest, employees or clients, bridal party or any other celebration.

These bundles will be assembled at STEP! So every basket goes to support our clients here. You can check out their website and what they offer at:

www.bundledmi.com



FROM THE CONSUMER ADVISORY LEAGUE

The subject they voted to have written about for October is: Doing What You Love

This month the group talked about how important it is to have a hobby or something that you are passionate about. Having a hobby is more important than you may think, it can help you in the following ways:

1. Hobbies help you make friends and meet new people
2. They can challenge you and improve your creativity
3. Hobbies can help you relax and reduce your stress levels
4. Doing something you love also can help reduce your risk of depression



Find something that interests you and get involved in it! If you want STEP to help you, just let us know!

Services to Enhance Potential (STEP) Joins Broad Effort to Observe National Disability Employment Awareness Month
Nationwide campaign will take place in October

Services to Enhance Potential will be participating in the National Disability Employment Awareness Month, an annual awareness campaign that takes place each October. The purpose of National Disability Employment Awareness Month is to educate about disability employment issues and celebrate the many and varied contributions of America's workers with disabilities. This year's theme is "My disability is one part of who I am."

The history of National Disability Employment Awareness Month traces back to 1945, when Congress enacted a law declaring the first week in October each year "National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week." In 1962, the word "physically" was removed to acknowledge the employment needs and contributions of individuals with all types of disabilities. In 1988, Congress expanded the week to a month and changed the name to National Disability Employment Awareness Month.

"This year's theme encapsulates the important message that people with disabilities are just that — people," said Jennifer Sheehy, acting assistant secretary of labor for disability employment policy. "And like all people, we are the sum of many parts, including our work experiences. Disability is an important perspective we bring to the table, but, of course, it's not the only one."

Here at STEP we work hard to find opportunities to get the people we serve jobs that will lead to their increased independence and happiness. We offer a wide variety of options and programs to ensure those we serve or ready and comfortable to enter independent employment including retail classes, janitorial classes, supervised work crews, and employment readiness trainings just to name a few.

One thing that we cannot stress enough is something Supreme Court Justice Richard Bernstein said at the MI Hidden Talent event put on by the Livonia Chamber of Commerce, "This is not charity. This is about the idea that if you give a disabled person an opportunity . . . you are going to find the most highly energetic, highly passionate, most incredibly loyal people that you could ever possibly hope to employ."

One of STEP's partners had this to say about how giving those with a disability an opportunity has benefited them "DQB industries and STEP have had a mutually beneficial relationship for more years that we can remember. Dan and his crew (from STEP) are an integral part of DQB industries, and we credit our smooth-running packaging operation to all of their hard work and dedication to a job well done."

Employers and employees in all industries can learn more about how to participate in National Disability Employment Awareness Month and ways they can promote its messages — during October and throughout the year — by visiting www.dol.gov/ndeam.

Important Contact Information

Brent Mikulski, CEO/ President
bmikulski@stepcentral.org
(313) 278-3040 ext. 204

Veronica Kendrick, Secretary
vkendrick@stepcentral.org
(734) 261-7530

Steve Slayton, Resource Center Director
sslayton@stepcentral.org
(734) 261-7530 ext. 203

