

For Immediate Release

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GENERAL MILLS NAMED OUTSTANDING DISABILITY EMPLOYER BY MINNESOTA ORGANIZATION FOR HABILITATION AND REHABILITATION

Valuable partnership with General Mills in the Twin Cities recognized by major state disability organization as exemplary example and model for other employers to emulate

Nominated by Opportunity Partners in Minnetonka, General Mills was named an Outstanding Disability Employer by the Minnesota Organization for Habilitation and Rehabilitation, MOHR, during National Disability Employment Awareness Month in October.

"We cannot overemphasize the importance of employers in our efforts to provide meaningful services to people with disabilities in Minnesota," said Mike Burke, president of MOHR. The organization represents more than 110 disability service providers across the state.

General Mills employs two Opportunity Partners supported employment teams at two of their locations and offers temporary supported employment for special projects at a third site. General Mills has also hired individuals directly and brought work to Opportunity Partners' locations. Duties involve mailroom, scanning documents, kitting, repackaging and more.

"General Mills embraces a diverse work culture and values people of all abilities," said Stephanie Bredael, manager, strategic office and wellness services. "There is a fabulous team of workers that delivers mail and packages across our main general office in Golden

Valley. They take tremendous pride in their work and appreciate the opportunity to work in a corporate environment and meet new people. It is a win-win for us all."

One of the largest social service agencies in Minnesota, <u>Opportunity Partners</u> was established in 1953 and today helps nearly 2,000 people with disabilities live, learn and work more independently through innovative services and collaborations with business.

MOHR's mission is advocate and support its nonprofit members in providing meaningful services to persons with disabilities and communities served. Members are committed to respect for each individual, a person-centered approach and expanding work opportunities.

Awareness Month is "Inclusion Drives Innovation." It celebrates the contributions of workers with disabilities and educates about the value of a workforce inclusive of their skills and talents.

The national observance began under a different name in 1945.