

W News from THE WALLACE GROUP

P.O. Box 21303, Eagan, MN 55121

3750 Pilot Knob Road, Eagan, MN 55122

(651) 452-9800 (651) 452-3504 fax

**Minnesota Organization for Habilitation
and Rehabilitation - MOHR**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For further information, contact:

Noel McCormick., 763-783-2832, nmccormick@rise.org

HOM FURNITURE NAMED OUTSTANDING EMPLOYER OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES BY MINNESOTA ORGANIZATION FOR HABILITATION AND REHABILITATION

Valuable partnership with Rise recognized by major state disability organization as an exemplary example and model for other employers to emulate; award presentation at 2 p.m. on October 11 at HOM Furniture, 10301 Woodcrest Drive NW, Coon Rapids

Nominated by Rise, HOM Furniture was named an Outstanding Employer of People with Disabilities by the Minnesota Organization for Habilitation and Rehabilitation (MOHR) in conjunction with 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.

Rise President Lynn Noren said the nonprofit is fortunate to have HOM as a business partner, because from senior management and throughout the entire company, HOM has supported Rise’s mission and sought out additional work opportunities for Rise workers. “HOM includes Rise workers as valuable members of their team. It’s a great partnership.”

People from Rise work in HOM Furniture's Coon Rapids facility performing a wide range of tasks, including collecting and recycling more than 2.5 million pounds of plastic, cardboard, and Styrofoam annually, running the floor scrubber, and packaging furniture cleaning kits. "For the past 11 years, Rise's work team, as well as their trainers and supervisors, have proven to be a valuable addition to our organization in so many different ways," said Dan Lentz, operations personnel and safety manager for HOM Furniture. HOM employees view the team from Rise as an extension of the HOM team, not as a separate organization, he added.

Rise workers are included in HOM's annual awards presentation and are personally acknowledged for their individual and collective good work. In addition, HOM was the winner of an "Excellence in Business Award" from the Metro North Chamber of Commerce, in part for the work it performs with Rise.

Based in Spring Lake Park, Rise supports more than 2,500 people with disabilities in Minnesota with a wide range of employment, housing support, and personal growth services. The agency partners with businesses, government agencies, housing providers and community organizations to enhance its programs.

[MOHR's](#) mission is to 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.

Celebrated every October, this year's theme for [National Disability Employment 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.