

W News from THE WALLACE GROUP

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Minnesota Organization for Habilitation and Rehabilitation - MOHR

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MID CONTINENT CABINETRY NAMED OUTSTANDING DISABILITY EMPLOYER BY MINNESOTA ORGANIZATION FOR HABILITATION AND REHABILITATION

Valuable partnership with Advance Opportunities in Marshall recognized by major state disability organization as exemplary example and model for other employers to emulate; award presentation set for 11:00 am, Tuesday October 17th 2017 at Mid Continent Cabinetry

Nominated by Advance Opportunities, Mid Continent Cabinetry was named an Outstanding Disability Employer 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.

More than two dozen individuals with disabilities from Advance Opportunities work at Mid Continent Cabinetry’s Cottonwood, Minn. plant in a fully integrated setting, performing a variety of jobs, said Dawn Wambeke, executive director of Marshall-based Advance Opportunities. They scan barcodes, clip labels, punch holes in doors, assemble product, bale cardboard and clean at the facility.

Mid Continent Human Resources Manager Racquel Rolla said employees from Advance are positive, happy to be working and their good attitudes are contagious. They have even boosted morale for other workers at the plant, she explains. Rolla challenges supervisors to think more about other jobs that could be added to workers' duties.

The company makes custom, high quality cabinets for homes and is owned by the largest cabinet manufacturer in the world. The Advance Opportunities partnership with Mid Continent began in 2015 through a personal connection with the company's founder and a 38-year staff member from the nonprofit. "Teams went into motion to make staffing, transportation and schedule changes to open the door for this great opportunity that would positively affect so many individuals," Wambeke said.

Both parties in the arrangement seem very satisfied. "I can't tell you how fortunate we are to have come across them and to have found the partnership we have with them," the HR manager said. "They have been an amazing benefit for our business."

Advance Opportunities will present the award at a special gathering scheduled for 11:00 am on Tuesday, October 17th 2017 at Mid Continent Cabinetry, 67 East 2nd Street, in Cottonwood.

The nonprofit's state association and award organizer, [MOHR](#), has a mission 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.