

W News from THE WALLACE GROUP

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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IRONWOOD SPRINGS CHRISTIAN RANCH NAMED OUTSTANDING DISABILITY EMPLOYER BY STATE DISABILITY ORGANIZATION

Valuable partnership with Ability Building Center recognized by Minnesota Organization for Habilitation and Rehabilitation as model for other employers; award presentation set for October 16 at 1 p.m., at Ironwood Springs facility, 7291 County Road 6 Southwest, Stewartville

Nominated by Ability Building Center (ABC), Ironwood Springs Christian Ranch has been 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.

ABC Executive Director Bruce Remme added, “We are honored to partner with such an outstanding organization. Ironwood Springs is truly a model employer that is making a difference in southeastern Minnesota.”

Lynda Kuscienko, Job Developer at ABC, said Ironwood Springs focuses on community, inclusiveness, overcoming obstacles and finding value in all individuals, whether they have a disability, or not. “Staff at Ironwood are friendly, welcoming, accommodating and patient,” said Kuscienko.

Individuals with disabilities from ABC cover room cleaning duties at Ironwood Springs’ Miracle Lodge, explains Jaimi Stejskal, director of programs and marketing for Ironwood. “They do a great job of making sure rooms are turned over for guests who are arriving for the week,” she said. The nonprofit operation began in 1976, first serving as a camp for youth with physical disabilities. Its mission was later expanded to include people with cognitive disabilities. It also serves many veterans, Stejskal explains.

Kuscienko said Ironwood employs people with disabilities at all levels of the organization, and the founder of the nonprofit uses a wheelchair. Ironwood provides the ABC crew, employees and guests with lunch each day. ABC job coaches work closely with the Ironwood staff to ensure that the crew has what it needs to make the work productive and rewarding, she said.

A public award presentation is set for 1:00 pm, October 16, 2017, at Ironwood Springs, 7291 County Road 6 Southwest, in Stewartville. Members of the media and all interested parties are invited to attend.

ABC's state association, [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.

For 61 years, Ability Building Center has been improving the quality of life for people in Southeastern Minnesota by providing rehabilitation and employment services for persons with disabilities and other special needs. Its goal is to see that every person, regardless of disability, is respected as an individual, and is the one whose voice is most clearly heard throughout the entire service design and delivery process. For more information, visit: www.abcinc.org

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