

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:

Alethea Koehler, Swift County DAC, 320-843-4201, alethea@swiftcountydac.org

Aaron Hustedde, The Wallace Group, 651-452-9800, aaron@wallacegroup.com

CITY OF BENSON NAMED OUTSTANDING DISABILITY EMPLOYER BY MINNESOTA ORGANIZATION FOR HABILITATION AND REHABILITATION

Valuable partnership with Swift County DAC recognized by major state disability organization as exemplary example and model for other employers to emulate; award presentation set for 5:30 p.m. on October 2 council meeting at Benson City Hall, 1410 Kansas Avenue

Nominated by Swift County DAC, the City of Benson 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.

Individuals with disabilities from Swift County DAC in Benson help maintain the city’s image by mowing park areas, painting fire hydrants and other tasks. They have also cleaned city offices and other properties, assembled meter boxes and stenciled safety cones. Swift County DAC will present the award at a special gathering scheduled for the city council meeting 5:30 p.m. on October 2 at Benson City Hall, 1410 Kansas Avenue.

City Manager Rob Wolfington said Benson is at a crossroads of transportation, and that it's important for the city to make a good impression on people who are passing through. "It's the little things that make a difference," said Wolfington. Mowed and maintained downtown parks and fresh paint on fire hydrants apply the shine to Benson's image, the manager explained. He said individuals from the DAC provide reliability, quality and value.

Swift County DAC Executive Director Alethea Koehler said the high visibility of these jobs brings a lot of positive feedback from the public, which is great for building morale among the individuals her organization serves. "The supervisors and crews of the City of Benson always conduct business in a respectful way, and make it known that we are an integral part of how the town runs," Koehler said.

The DAC provides employer liaisons, transportation, training, supervision and job coaching for individuals with disabilities. The nonprofit also specializes in prevocational services to teach motor skills, problem solving and safety, and the importance of reliable attendance, task completion and a good attention span.

The nonprofit'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.

#