

W News from THE WALLACE GROUP

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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U.S. BANK NAMED OUTSTANDING DISABILITY EMPLOYER BY MAJOR STATE DISABILITY ORGANIZATION

Valuable partnership with PAI recognized by Minnesota Organization for Habilitation and Rehabilitation as model for other employers

Nominated by PAI, U.S. Bank 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. PAI is a disability service agency that provides workers to U.S. Bank.

“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 PAI perform clerical work in a highly secure financial records setting, explains Suzanne Sancilio, VP of operations for PAI, which is based in White Bear Lake. “U.S. Bank has been exemplary in their flexibility and willingness to adapt specific job tasks to suit the needs of the individual workers from PAI,” she said. The partnership provided the pilot for PAI’s “Job

Opportunity and Employment Starter,” or J.O.E.S. program, a unique opportunity for individuals with autism spectrum disorder.

Pam Lowe, officer and HR business partner with U.S. Bank, said the strengths that individuals from PAI bring to their roles help the U.S Bank teams operate more efficiently. “PAI also provides us with onsite job coaches to help train and support our PAI employees while they work,” said Lowe. “We embrace individual differences because we know that fostering diversity and inclusion makes us stronger and more innovative.”

Through the J.O.E.S. program, U.S. Bank starts new employees referred by PAI with fewer hours, and expands their hours as they become more comfortable with the job, explained Sancilio. “U.S. Bank’s enthusiasm for the program’s initiation and sustainability is inspiring.” The vice president said the company is a great example of the change people have been waiting for in the intellectual disability and autism fields.

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.

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