

POSS **A**BILITIES

OF SOUTHERN MINNESOTA

2009 Annual Awards Recognition

Nomination Process

August 31, 2009

PossAbilities of Southern Minnesota is proud to announce its 15th Annual Awards Recognition on **Tuesday, October 6, 2009**. The year's event will be held at the **DoubleTree Rochester** from 11:45-1:30 p.m. and will include a luncheon, program and awards presentation.

Awards will be given to businesses and individuals who have actively participated in Supported Employment and Volunteerism this year. Six special awards will be given to those who have made an exceptional effort in Supported Employment and Community Involvement this year:

- The Summit Award: given to an exceptional business, and an organization
- The Guide Award: given to an exceptional co-worker, and a local employee
- The Explorer Award: given to a PossAbilities consumer (2)

Definitions relating to annual awards:

Consumer: A person with disabilities receiving services from PossAbilities

Supported Employment: A community based job coordinated by PossAbilities

Support: Any support given to a PossAbilities consumer to help make their job/volunteering more successful: job coaching, assistance, employer accommodations, transportation, personal care, etc.

All staff, board members, involved businesses, agencies, support workers, families, and consumers are encouraged to submit nominations for the three awards. Please submit nominations only if you have personal knowledge of current supported employment placement(s) or volunteerism.

Please use the attached ballot to make your nominations according to the criteria outlined. Please be as detailed as possible. Selection will be based on the information submitted.

Please send by Fax: 281-6117, or mail form to: PossAbilities Annual Awards, 1808 3rd Ave. SE, Rochester, MN 55904. This form is also available on our website at www.possabilities.org and can be emailed to vallen@possabilities.org. Questions? Please feel free to call Vicki Allen at 287-7100. Thank you.

DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS IS TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2009.

2009 Award Categories

Explorer Award

The Explorer Award is given annually to a *PossAbilities consumer* who has excelled in his/her job or volunteer role. Two awards will be given. Things to consider when looking at excellence in individual achievement:

- ❖ Overall performance and attitude on the job (paid or volunteer).
- ❖ Advancement and growth on the job; expanded duties or hours, raises, etc.
- ❖ Has taken an active role in becoming less dependent on PossAbilities for support.
- ❖ Has made an exceptional effort to fit in well with co-workers; being part of a team.
- ❖ Has grown and flourished in work-related and personal areas; increased social activity, overall attitude, friendships, confidence, etc.

Guide Award

The Guide Award is given annually to an *exceptional co-worker* from a business that employs a PossAbilities consumer. This award will be presented to a *co-worker* who has made a special effort to work closely with a supported employee to help him/her to become part of the team. A second award will go to an *employee* at a local business who has provided friendship and assistance to a consumer. Considerations will be given to:

- ❖ Co-worker that has initiated the effort to provide support on the job.
- ❖ Co-worker's involvement has enabled the supported employee to decrease dependence on PossAbilities staff.
- ❖ Co-worker has provided support for social opportunities outside of work.
- ❖ Overall increased quality of life for the supported employees can be partly attributed to the involvement of the co-worker.
- ❖ Employee has provided assistance and support to consumer.

Summit Award

The Summit Award is given annually to a *business* that has made an exceptional overall effort at participating in our Supported Employment program. This award will be given to a *business* that has proven to be an *outstanding employer* in a number of areas. A second award will go to an *organization* that has provided community support and friendship to individuals. Considerations will be given to:

- ❖ Wages, benefits, etc. (growth of job duties, raises, and benefit options)
- ❖ Willingness to provide needed accommodations
- ❖ Includes supported employees as part of the team.
- ❖ Willingness to provide the majority of support needed by the employee
- ❖ Level of participation in areas outside employment; public relations for PossAbilities, positive referral source, involvement in events, sponsorships, etc.
- ❖ Extends a hand of friendship and community support through volunteerism.

