



**WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND THE ARTS
DIVISION OF REHABILITATION SERVICES**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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A Place to Grow Children's Center honored as Employer of the Year

Beckley, W.Va. (September 26, 2011) – A Place to Grow Children's Center, located in Oak Hill, W.Va., received recognition as the Beckley District Employer of the Year from the West Virginia Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) at an Employer Recognition Banquet at Stonewall Resort on September 22, 2011.

"The partnerships with businesses that are jointly developed and nurtured serve as the foundation for our ultimate success," said Division of Rehabilitation Services Director Deborah Lovely. "The employers recognized are progressive in their attitudes and they empower people with disabilities by providing them with job opportunities."

A Place to Grow Children's Center is in its 16th year of business and has partnered with DRS for the last 10 years. The business has grown from employing six individuals to now employing 25 people, with a license to care for 104 children. The growing business has developed and nurtured relationships with DRS clients by providing on-the-job training and placement opportunities, as well as workplace accommodations to give people with disabilities a chance for employment success.

Distinguished Employer awards were presented to other businesses in the district earlier this year:

- City of Lewisburg, Lewisburg
- Mountain Quest Institute, Marlinton
- Saunders Staffing, Inc., Bluefield
- Raleigh County Community Action Association, Inc., Beckley
- Precision Services, Inc., Gassaway

DRS, a division of the West Virginia Department of Education and the Arts, is the state agency responsible for the federal vocational rehabilitation program in West Virginia. DRS assists people whose physical or mental condition is interfering with their ability to get or keep a job. Employers play a critical role in the success of those participating in the vocational rehabilitation program.

DRS offers individualized service to assist employers in retaining valued employees or in hiring qualified employees. DRS can provide consultation related to disability, as well as information about

assistive technology, disability resources, potential tax credits, workplace accommodations and other benefits to employers.

The Beckley District consists of Raleigh, Mercer, Summers, Monroe, Greenbrier, Fayette, Nicholas, Braxton, Webster and Pocahontas counties.

For more information about DRS and its programs, call 1-800-642-8207 or visit the division's Web site at wvdrs.org. In the Beckley District, call (304) 256-6900.