



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

Administrative Offices • 107 Capitol Street • Charleston, West Virginia 25301-2609
Telephone: 304-356-2060 • Fax: 304-558-1421 • Toll-free: 1-800-642-8207
Web page: www.wvdrs.org

Deborah Lovely, Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Jerry Carper, District Manager
West Virginia Division of Rehabilitation Services
(304) 356-2371

Center Hardware, Inc. honored as Employer of the Year

Charleston, W.Va. (September 23, 2011) – Center Hardware, Inc., located in St. Albans, W.Va., received recognition as the Charleston 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."

Center Hardware, Inc. is a family-owned business with a history of serving the St. Albans community. John Anderson, the store's owner, frequently provides work exploration opportunities to high school students. His willingness to provide opportunities for applicants with disabilities precipitated his nomination and selection for this award. DRS appreciates the support he and his employees give to enable students with disabilities the opportunity to learn and work at his store.

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

- West Virginia Division of Culture and History, Charleston
- Quality Inn, Ripley
- Charleston Town Center/Network Parking, Charleston
- NGK Spark Plugs, Inc., Sissonville
- PTI Inc., Point Pleasant

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 Charleston District consists of Kanawha, Boone, Clay, Calhoun, Roane, Jackson, Mason and Putnam 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 Charleston District, call (304) 356-2371.