



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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Kohl's honored as Employer of the Year

Martinsburg, W.Va. (September 26, 2011) – Kohl's, located in Ranson, W.Va., received recognition as the Martinsburg 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 strong partnership between Kohl's, Horizon Goodwill Industries and DRS is providing work experience opportunities for clients of DRS. Kohl's has become an enthusiastic site for Community Based Assessments, which provide a short-term job "tryout" with the goal of discovering vocational strengths and weaknesses, for clients of the division. The lives of people with disabilities and the community are strengthened by this store's willingness to support to such programs and to provide work opportunities for people with disabilities.

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

- Food Lion Store #1189, Martinsburg
- Harper's Auto Parts and Service, Petersburg
- Kmart Corporation, Martinsburg

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 Martinsburg District consists of Berkeley, Jefferson, Morgan, Hampshire, Mineral, Hardy, Grant and Pendleton 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 Martinsburg District, call (304) 267-0005.