



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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DRS recognizes The Op Shop

Clarksburg, W.Va. (September 29, 2010) – The West Virginia Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) recognized The Op Shop of Fairmont as its Employer of the Year for its Clarksburg District at an Employer Recognition Banquet at Stonewall Jackson Resort on September 23, 2010.

“This banquet is a way for us to show our appreciation to the businesses nominated and selected by our vocational rehabilitation professionals for their consideration and contributions to the employment of our clients,” said Division of Rehabilitation Services Director Deborah Lovely. These employers are giving someone a chance to prove their employment capabilities. They are empowering individuals with disabilities by providing them with job opportunities.”

The Op Shop is a Community Rehabilitation Program in Fairmont, W.Va., that serves all counties in DRS' Clarksburg District. This CRP has created an environment of integration that values and includes people with and without disabilities in the workplace.

The Op Shop has utilized grant opportunities available through DRS to create jobs by "thinking outside of the box." They have expanded their existing custodial business by purchasing a SaniGlaze franchise to clean and recondition ceramic tile. They have also added outdoor window cleaning equipment, pressure washing equipment, and parking lot striping equipment. Last year, they hired 33 DRS clients to work in a variety of jobs.

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.

Other West Virginia businesses recognized by DRS at the banquet include RPR Industries, Inc., Grantsville; Sweet Springs Valley Water Company, Gap Mills; Fleet Service Company, Inc., Wheeling; WorkForce West Virginia, Huntington; and Food Lion Store #2568, Martinsburg.

The Clarksburg District consists of Monongalia, Marion, Preston, Harrison, Taylor, Barbour, Tucker, Randolph, Upshur, Lewis and Gilmer counties.

For more information about DRS and its programs, call 1-800-642-8207 (V/TDD) or visit the division's Web site at www.wvdrs.org/. In the Clarksburg District, call (304) 842-2951.