

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Mark Bagley  
(571) 226-4589  
[mbagley@nish.org](mailto:mbagley@nish.org)

**NISH National Community Awards Presented to Organizations in Falls Church, VA;  
Daytona Beach, FL; and Green Bay, WI**

**Washington, DC, June 5, 2013** — NISH—Creating Employment Opportunities for People with Significant Disabilities, announced today the annual AbilityOne® Program Community Awards. The awards recognize businesses that have partnered with an AbilityOne affiliated nonprofit agency (NPA) to maximize and showcase the employment of people with significant disabilities. Established in 1974, NISH ([www.nish.org](http://www.nish.org)) is one of two national, nonprofit agencies designated by the U.S. AbilityOne Commission® to support nonprofit agencies participating in the AbilityOne Program – the largest single source of employment for people who are blind or have significant disabilities.

“These partnerships are great examples of how businesses and nonprofit organizations can work together to provide employment opportunities for people with significant disabilities” said Bob Chamberlin, President and CEO of NISH. “The support of businesses contributes not only to the success of AbilityOne, but also serves as a model for how private businesses can be successfully involved with the AbilityOne Program.”

The Community Awards are divided into three categories. Commercial Business Partnership in support of AbilityOne recognizes a commercial business that has partnered with an AbilityOne producing nonprofit agency to increase the employability of people with significant disabilities. Small Business Partnership recognizes a small business that has partnered with an AbilityOne producing nonprofit agency and resulted in increased employment opportunities for people with significant disabilities. The Media/Reporter recognizes a media outlet or reporter that provides exceptionally positive coverage of the AbilityOne Program and the employment opportunities it brings to people with significant disabilities.

This year’s recipients of these awards are:

**Northrop Grumman of Falls Church, VA - Commercial Business Partnership in support of AbilityOne**

Northrop Grumman Corp. established a strategic alliance with MVLE, a nonprofit agency, through the DoD Mentor Protégé Program. Due to the alliance, MVLE has obtained more Federal, DoD and commercial contracts employing more individuals with significant disabilities and wounded warriors. MVLE’s Document Management Services which includes six individuals with disabilities and military veterans has expanded, resulting in operating two shifts a day to meet the work volume and timelines. The partnership is creating a stronger business base for MVLE while supporting Northrop Grumman’s corporate commitment to embracing diversity.

**BZ Marketing Services of Daytona Beach, FL – Small Business Partnership**

For more than 15 years, BZ Marketing Services has partnered with SMA Behavioral Healthcare, providing both contracts and expertise to expand employment opportunities for people with disabilities. BZ Marketing chose to team with SMA in a collaborative effort to improve accountability and empower workers with significant disabilities. The work assigned to SMA by BZ teaches basic skills – not only providing meaningful employment but also a sense of accomplishment.

**NorthCoast Productions of Green Bay, WI – Media/Reporter**

NorthCoast Productions collaborated with ASPIRO in 2012 to produce an eight-minute video explaining the fair pay practices of nonprofit agencies. NorthCoast Productions took a complex and controversial

subject and produced a clear and accurate presentation about commensurate wages and employment opportunities at nonprofit agencies for people with significant disabilities.

The Community Awards are part of the 2012 NISH National Achievement Awards program. For more information, go to: [www.nishawards.org](http://www.nishawards.org).

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### **NISH—Creating Employment for People with Significant Disabilities**

Established in 1974, NISH ([www.nish.org](http://www.nish.org)) is one of two national, nonprofit agencies designated by the U.S. AbilityOne Commission<sup>®</sup> to support nonprofit agencies (NPAs) participating in the AbilityOne<sup>®</sup> Program. NISH provides employment opportunities for people who are blind or have significant disabilities by procuring Federal contracts for goods and services. Headquartered in Vienna, VA, NISH supports a network of more than 1,200 NPAs as well as Federal customers by providing legislative and regulatory assistance, communications and public relations materials, information technology support, engineering and technical assistance, and extensive professional training needed for successful contract management.

### **AbilityOne Program**

Providing employment opportunities to more than 50,000 people, the AbilityOne<sup>®</sup> Program is the largest single source of employment for people who are blind or have other significant disabilities in the United States. More than 600 participating nonprofit organizations employ these individuals and provide quality goods and services to the Federal Government at a fair market price. The AbilityOne Program is administered by the U.S. AbilityOne Commission ([www.abilityone.gov](http://www.abilityone.gov)), an independent Federal agency, with assistance from National Industries for the Blind (NIB, [www.nib.org](http://www.nib.org)) and NISH—Creating Employment Opportunities for People with Significant Disabilities ([www.nish.org](http://www.nish.org)).