



News from THE WALLACE GROUP

P.O. Box 21303, Eagan , MN 55121
3750 Pilot Knob Road, Eagan , MN 55122
(651) 452-9800 (651) 452-3504 fax

**ProAct, Inc.
For Immediate Release**

For further information, contact:

Aaron Hustedde, The Wallace Group, 651-452-9800, aaron@wallacegroup.com
Sally Ogren, ProAct, Inc. 651-388-7108

**RED WING ORGANIZATIONS TO BE HONORED BY PROACT FOR
BEING LONG TERM EMPLOYERS OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**

**Norwood Promotional Products, Capital Safety, and Goodhue County to receive awards as
long term employer partners at annual recognition banquet**

The importance of employers to people with disabilities cannot be stressed enough, says ProAct, a major provider of services to individuals in and around Goodhue County. The organization is naming three Long Term Employer Partners for special honors at its upcoming recognition banquet at Treasure Island Resort and Casino.

“It’s about their commitment and partnership with us,” said Jim Bohmbach, job developer with ProAct in Red Wing. He said ProAct participants gain confidence, like talking about their work and look forward to their jobs every day. “They don’t want to do anything else ... that’s their job ... they feel responsible,” he said. ProAct leaders also stressed that the employers aren’t involved to be charitable, but they rely on people with disabilities to provide quality work.

The honorees, Capital Safety, Goodhue County Social Services and Norwood Promotional Products, a subsidiary of BIC, USA, each have employed people from ProAct for many years. Combined, these employers represent dozens of jobs that have an impact on the local community.

The businesses each started their relationship with ProAct by sending production work to the nonprofit to be done in-house. That soon developed into work crew arrangements where people with disabilities came to work at employer sites. The relationship has spanned some 15 years with Capital Safety, which assembles and packages fall protection equipment. Norwood Promotional Products produces numerous custom imprinted items used for giveaways and other promotions, and has employed people from ProAct for about five years.

The nonprofit's relationship with Goodhue County goes back much further, to the mid-1980s, when Social Service Director Greg Schoener brought in people with disabilities to cover janitorial duties. That was later expanded to include clerical tasks and other projects, including document imaging. Schoener, who recently retired, said he believes in the therapeutic value of work for people with disabilities.

"It's their commitment to keeping it going and making it work," said Employment Services Manager Pam Veith.

The employer recognition comes just before the start of National Disability Employment Awareness Month, which is in October. This year's theme, "Profit by Investing in Workers with Disabilities," honors the contributions of workers with disabilities, according to the U.S. Department of Labor. It also serves to inform the public that they represent a highly skilled talent pool that can help employers compete in today's global economy.

ProAct is a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit corporation which has served the needs of people with disabilities and other challenges for 40 years. With facilities in Eagan, Red Wing, Zumbrota and Hudson, Wis., ProAct serves people from the Twin Cities, southern Minnesota and western Wisconsin.

#