



**CHARLIE CRIST**  
GOVERNOR

**FLORIDA DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH**

WHEREAS, Florida's Agency for Persons with Disabilities provides services to more than 35,000 Floridians with developmental disabilities so they can live and work in their local communities; and

WHEREAS, Florida's Vocational Rehabilitation program, within the Department of Education, assists citizens with disabilities helping them to become employed; and

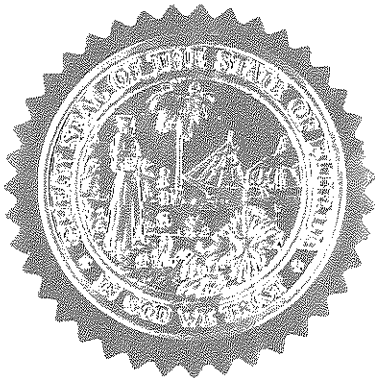
WHEREAS, these two state programs continue to have an overwhelming impact on Florida's citizens with disabilities offering services including job placement, training, support services, and job coaching; and

WHEREAS, the Able Trust, also known as the Alliance for the Employment of Citizens with Disabilities, provides Floridians with disabilities employment opportunities through fundraising, grant programs, public awareness, and education, awarding over \$20 million to individuals with disabilities and nonprofit agencies for employment-related purposes, enabling over 2,000 Florida citizens with disabilities to enter the workforce each year; and

WHEREAS, mentoring and job shadowing provides employment opportunities for students and job seekers with disabilities, therefore the Agency for Persons with Disabilities, Vocational Rehabilitation, and the Able Trust support Florida Disability Mentoring Day on October 15, 2008; and

WHEREAS, the State of Florida joins the rest of the Nation in recognizing the contributions of the 3.5 million Floridians with disabilities by celebrating October as Disability Employment Awareness Month and October 15 as Florida Disability Mentoring Day;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Charlie Crist, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing October 2008 as *Disability Employment Awareness Month*.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the Capitol, this 17<sup>th</sup> day of September, in the year two thousand eight.

Handwritten signature of Charlie Crist in black ink.

Governor