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**2010 ABILITY AWARDS HONOR INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS ACROSS FLORIDA
WHO PROMOTE THE EMPLOYMENT OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**

The Able Trust Presents Awards to Volunteers in Tallahassee

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (June 11, 2010) –The Able Trust honored fellow supporters today who advance employment opportunities for people with disabilities by hosting the 2010 Ability Awards ceremony on June 11, 2010 in Tallahassee. The Ability Awards Luncheon recognized 9 individuals and 4 businesses from around the state for their contribution to the quality of life for the individuals they serve—people who are excellent employees and just happen to have a disability. These honorees help The Able Trust fulfill its mission to get people with disabilities trained and working, and remaining or becoming productive members of their communities.

“These partners have shown dedication and passion to our mission and truly make a difference in the lives of others through their work,” said Susanne Homant, President and CEO of The Able Trust. “The Able Trust is honored to recognize these dedicated individuals and we are greatly appreciative for their continued support.”

The Able Trust Ability Awards annually recognize individuals and organizations for outstanding contributions toward the employment of Floridians with disabilities. The 2010 Ability Award recipients are:

Lighthouse Central Florida– *Beverly Chapman Award*

Kelly Greene, Center for Independent Living of South Florida– *Dr. George Spelios Leadership Award*

Harris Rosen, Rosen Hotel & Resorts– *Large Employer of the Year*

TJ Maxx, Gateway Mall– *Small/Medium Business of the Year*

Palm Beach Business Leadership Network – *Business Leadership Network (BLN) Site of the Year*

Deborah Circelli, Daytona Beach News Journal – *Media Representative in Print*

Jim Payne, NBC's WESH-TV Channel 2 – *Media Representative in Television*

Torri Bandel – *Adult Leadership Award*

Mervin Hernandez – *Young Adult Leadership Award*

Bryan Vaughan – *Public Employee of the Year*

Rogue Gallart, Center for Independent Living of Central FL– *Volunteer of the Year*

Independent Living Resource Center of NE Florida (ILRC), Clay and St. Johns Counties – *High School High Tech Program of the Year*

Publix Supermarkets, Inc. – *Business Mentor of the Year*

Below highlights several of today's award recipients for their outstanding work in making a difference in the lives of Floridians with disabilities:

Lighthouse Central Florida - Beverly Chapman Award for Outstanding Employment Placement Program

In partnership with the National Statler Center for Careers in Hospitality Service, the Lighthouse Central Florida created a successful training and placement program for individuals who are blind or visually impaired seeking a career in Orlando's busy hospitality industry. The Able Trust was pleased to be a funding partner in the program's pilot class. At a time of economic crisis and high unemployment rates the Lighthouse/Statler placement team has had a 65% employment placement rate for graduates, which is a testimony to the highly skilled program training offered and the dedicated efforts of the employment staff. Lighthouse Central Florida is commended for working on creating employment opportunities for individuals that result in a great wage, career potential and the technical skills sought after by Orlando's tourist and hospitality industry.

Kelly Greene – Dr. George Spelios Leadership Award

Greene, Executive Director of the Center for Independent Living of South Florida, founded the center and has been its only Executive Director since 1994. A self advocate with a natural flair for motivating staff and the community to advocate on such issues as accessibility, transportation, employment, emergency management, education, housing and prevention of domestic violence. She has led her agency to address the employment needs for the diverse Miami community, including a highly-successful veterans with disabilities program.

Rogue Gallart – Volunteer of the Year

Rogue is honored as The Able Trust Volunteer of the Year for both his leadership work with the Central Florida Disability Chamber and as a volunteer member of The Able Trust's Ability Celebration. Rogue is known for going above and beyond the job description and creating events, advocacy efforts and committee work that shows his distinctive efforts and touch of success.

Bryan Vaughan – Public Employee of the Year

Bryan Vaughan is the Executive Director of the Governor's Commission on Disabilities, and has earned his reputation for leadership, consensus-building and interagency collaboration in the development of recommendations and implementation of activities that improve the lives and employment opportunities for people with disabilities.

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About the Able Trust. The Able Trust, also known as the Florida Governor's Alliance for the Employment of Citizens with Disabilities, is a 501(c) (3) public-private partnership foundation established by the Florida Legislature in 1990. Its mission is to be the leader in providing Floridians with disabilities fair employment opportunities through grant programs, public awareness, public education, policy recommendations and fundraising. Since its establishment, The Able Trust has awarded more than \$25 million to individuals with disabilities and nonprofit agencies throughout Florida for employment-related purposes, enabling more than 2,000 Florida citizens of all ages with disabilities to enter the workforce each year. In addition, The Able Trust youth programs provide career development and transition to approximately 2,000 students with disabilities annually, helping to reduce the dropout rate and prepare young adults for life beyond high school. For more information about The Able Trust, visit www.abletrust.org.