



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – OCTOBER 10, 2008**

**National Disability Employment Awareness Month - RFW Applauds Local Business for Employment Efforts**

*RCS Empowers has provided opportunities to individuals with disabilities in Sheboygan County for over 56 years.*

Sheboygan, WI October 9, 2008 – Since 1952, RCS Empowers, a nonprofit agency, has been dedicated to empowering individuals with disabilities so that they may work, live and function within their community. RCS Empowers has been a critical force in developing and supporting employment opportunities in the Sheboygan County area.

Tom Russo and Steven Nick, RCS Empowers' clients, have found successful employment with the Home Depot as a result of the employment services offered through RCS Empowers. The Home Depot has been instrumental in affording Tom and Steve the opportunity to be independently successful with their employment. Claudia Krepsky, District Human Resource Manager, with The Home Depot had this to say about their experience employing these individuals.

"Tom was brought on at The Home Depot as a part-time associate. Tom has natural leadership skills and takes his position in the store seriously; whenever there is a task that needs to be completed, Tom is the one who gets it done! His cheerful disposition coupled with his passion makes him a shining example of The Core Values of The Home Depot."

"Steve's dedication and drive make him a huge asset to The Home Depot. He has received a Presidential Recognition Award as well as Employee of the Month numerous times throughout his career with The Home Depot. Steve sets a strong example of his fellow associates with regard to positive work ethic and doing the right thing. His generous heart and giving spirit have made him an asset to the store."

Tom and Steve's success with The Home Depot are just two examples of the many successful placements RCS Empowers has made on behalf of their clients.

Through the use of their multiple production facilities, RCS Empowers provides a supportive work environment where people with disabilities can earn income while developing work skills that prepare them for jobs within the business community.

RCS Empowers provides a variety of services including; Early Intervention Program (birth to three), Day Services, Work-Related Services and Employment Services. In 2007, RCS Empowers provided services to 800 individuals with disabilities of which 250 individuals were part of the Employment Services Program.

On October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2008, RCS Empowers in sponsorship with the State of Wisconsin Department of Vocational Rehabilitation and Hearthstone of Wisconsin will be holding its 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Sheboygan County Employer Recognition Luncheon in celebration of October being National Disability Employment Awareness Month. This year, over 100 employers will be recognized for their involvement in employing and offering work experience to individuals with disabilities.

According to Joy O'Brien, Director of Marketing & Communications at RFW, "Without companies like RCS Empowers, individuals with disabilities or other barriers to independence might not have opportunities such as these encouraging them to expand their skills and gain specialized training to transition into community-based employment."

In recognition of National Disability Employment Awareness Month, RFW is pleased to acknowledge RCS Empowers in their efforts to support individuals with disabilities or other barriers to independence.

**About RFW:**



## REHABILITATION FOR WISCONSIN, INC.

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Rehabilitation For Wisconsin, Inc. (RFW) is a statewide nonprofit membership association located in Madison, Wisconsin. Their members consist of over 50 organizations and other individuals dedicated to addressing the employment, residential and community support needs of people with disabilities or other barriers to independence. RFW provides leadership, advocacy, education and other services to its members and works to build strong partnerships between community rehabilitation programs, public policy makers and the community of people with disabilities in Wisconsin. For more information about RFW and their members, please visit our website at [www.rfw.org](http://www.rfw.org).

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