



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – OCTOBER 17, 2008

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

*Portal Industries has provided opportunities to individuals with disabilities in Ozaukee County for over 40 years.*

Grafton, WI October 17, 2008 – Since 1965, Portal Industries, Inc., a local nonprofit agency dedicated to providing services for individuals with disabilities or other barriers to independence in Ozaukee and surrounding counties, has been a critical player in developing and supporting employment opportunities in the State of Wisconsin.

One of Portal Industries, Inc.'s clients, Krista Skibicki, experienced great benefits from community employment services through employment she gained 17 months ago with a daycare located in Mequon, called Kid's Kingdom. According to Luann Koch, Krista's Employment Consultant provided through Portal Industries, Inc., "Krista loves her job, especially the independence and responsibility the assignment brings. She has taken on a teacher's supporting role in directing and supervising the kids' activities. She is very fair with the children and is no push-over; she's earned the respect and admiration of the children she serves." Krista's success with Kid's Kingdom is just one example of several successful placements Portal Industries, Inc. has been able to make on behalf of their client-base.

In addition to job placement, Portal Industries, Inc. also offers additional work service opportunities through their facility-based programs. The facility-based programs offered provides individuals with disabilities or other barriers to independence with supportive work environments where these individuals can earn income, develop skills and prepare for jobs with area businesses.

According to Joy O'Brien, Director of Marketing & Communications at RFW, "Without companies like Portal Industries, Inc., 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."

Portal Industries, Inc. provides a wide variety of services to individuals with disabilities or other barriers to independence including; work services, supportive employment, adult day services, alternative day services, transportation services and recreation activities. In 2007, Portal Industries, Inc. provided services to 240 total individuals with disabilities or other barriers to independence, 90 of which related specifically to the employment services sector.

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



**REHABILITATION FOR WISCONSIN, INC.**

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**About RFW:**

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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