

GCEPD • Spirit of the ADA Awards Overview

NAT PIPER • HIREABILITY VERMONT • BUSINESS, LEGISLATIVE & COMMUNITY OUTREACH MANAGER

Vermont GCEPD

- Governor's Committee on the Employment of People with Disabilities
- **Mission:**
- To promote equal employment for all citizens of Vermont by advising the Governor on current issues affecting employment of people with disabilities, and, through partnerships between business, government and people with disabilities.
- Board Chair & Vice Chair – Donna Curtin & Bob Burke
- Executive Coordinator – Katie Franco

Spirit of the ADA Awards

- **National Disability Employment Awareness Month - 1987**
- In October, Americans observe National Disability Employment Awareness Month by paying tribute to the accomplishments of individuals with disabilities whose work helps keep the nation's economy strong and by reaffirming their commitment to ensure equal opportunity for all citizens.
- The Annual Vermont GCEPD Spirit of the ADA Awards were created in 2014

Award Criteria

- The Vermont “Spirit of the ADA” Award is given to employers who reflect the spirit of the Americans with Disabilities Act in their employment practices. Successfully meeting any of the following criteria qualifies for eligibility to be nominated:

Award Criteria Continued

- **Recruitment outreach and equal accessibility in the application, interviewing, and hiring procedures for people with disabilities**
- **Use of on-the-job accommodations, modifications, progressive employment methods, and/or creative solutions for successful training and employment of people with disabilities**

Award Criteria Continued

- **Accessible physical structures, buildings, workstations & equipment, and services; user-friendly website for people with disabilities**
- **Support for the employment of a person(s) with a disability as an overall employment strategy and as a favorable business decision**

David Sagi Memorial Award

- In honor of the late David Sagi
- The award is bestowed upon an employer who makes a special effort to make the business accessible to employees with disabilities
- David's approach to advocating for accessibility was practical, non-confrontational, and cooperative. He encouraged and convinced many that accessibility for all, benefits all
- The Sagi Accessibility Award recognizes employers who view accessible workplaces as a win-win for obtaining and retaining employees with disabilities.

2024 Awardees

- Customer Demonstrations Services – Colchester
- Butterfly Bakery – Barre
- Onion River Animal Hospital – Barre
- Shaw's Supermarket – Manchester Center
- WheelPad – Wilmington
- Lamoille Valley Veterinary Services – Hyde Park
- Hannaford Market – Bradford
- VINE Sanctuary – Springfield
- Windsor County Youth Services – Proctorsville
- Quality Market – Barre
- Rhino Foods (David Sagi Award) – Burlington
- Worth Repeating (Business Strategy) – St. Albans

Past Awardees • 2014 – 2023

- 111 Total!
- [Spirit of the ADA Award Winners | Employment of People with Disabilities \(vermont.gov\)](#)

Resources

- **GCEPD Homepage:**
- [Home Page | Employment of People with Disabilities \(vermont.gov\)](#)
- **Disability Employment Awareness Month:**
- [Disability Employment Awareness Month | Accessibility at the Library of Congress | Library of Congress \(loc.gov\)](#)
- **HireAbility Vermont:**
- [HireAbility - Where Ability Meets Opportunity \(hireabilityvt.com\)](#)

Thank-you!!!

- Questions / Reactions / Comments?
- Nat Piper
- Business, Legislative & Community Outreach Manger
- nathan.piper@vermont.gov
- (802) 793-2644