



## News from THE WALLACE GROUP

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**Minn.Governor's Council on  
Developmental Disabilities**

**For Immediate  
Release**

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### **BYERLY'S GOLDEN VALLEY GROCERY NAMED 'INNOVATIVE EMPLOYER' BY STATE GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

**Minnesota Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities cites grocery operation  
for creatively utilizing the skills of people with disabilities in nontraditional ways**

Recognized for its work in employing people with developmental disabilities, the Byerly's grocery store in Golden Valley was honored as an "Innovative Employer" by the Minnesota Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities (DD Council).

People with disabilities are employed throughout Byerly's, as cooks and in deli, stocking and cleaning positions. "As with all employees, if people want to expand their work and have interests, they are promoted and new tasks are assigned with training," said Meredith Heerey in Byerly's human resources department. She works with a network of job coaches and agencies. People with disabilities perform work trials at Byerly's, and, according to Heerey, 90 percent stay on as company employees.

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A survey of employers conducted jointly for the DD Council and the Department of Employment and Economic Development found that in general work situations, people with developmental disabilities performed as well or better than other employees by every standard, other than speed.

Companies and organizations engage people with disabilities either as direct employees or through organizations that provide employment services and training for people with disabilities. A recent survey revealed that there are now nonprofits serving all regions of the state that can provide such access to qualified employees.

A total of 11 Innovative Employers were chosen from 45 Minnesota nominations for recognition made to the DD Council. Winners were selected based on site visits and analysis of employer practices. The nominees chosen were also found to have an inclusive work environment and typically offered opportunities for advancement.

Byerly's measures its customer service capabilities by using secret shoppers and at least one employee with a developmental disability said she consistently earns high scores when the shoppers come through her line. Another employee with a disability has been with the store for 15 years.

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