



## PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS,** THE MONTH OF OCTOBER HAS BEEN DESIGNATED BY THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS AS NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH. THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990 AND THE LAWS AGAINST DISCRIMINATION PROMOTE INDEPENDENCE, EMPOWERMENT, AND QUALITY OF LIFE; AND; AND
- WHEREAS,** REDUCING PHYSICAL BARRIERS CAN OFTEN BE EASILY ACHIEVED, WHILE CHANGING OUR MISPERCEPTIONS AND REJECTING STEREOTYPES CAN CREATE THE GREATEST OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL, INCLUDING THOSE WITH DISABILITIES; AND
- WHEREAS,** THE CITY OF DES MOINES RECOGNIZES THE DEMONSTRATED BENEFITS OF A DIVERSE WORKFORCE AND EXPERIENCES EVERY DAY THE VALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS OF ITS EMPLOYEES WITH DISABILITIES; AND
- WHEREAS,** BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS REQUIRES COOPERATIVE, SUSTAINED, AND CONSISTENT EFFORT; AND WE MUST WORK TOGETHER TO ENSURE THAT PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES CAN PARTICIPATE FULLY IN THE WORKPLACE AND ALL ASPECTS OF COMMUNITY LIFE; AND
- WHEREAS,** WE MUST CONTINUE TO WORK FOR A COMMUNITY WHERE ALL INDIVIDUALS ARE RESPECTED FOR WHO THEY ARE, CELEBRATED FOR THEIR ABILITIES, AND ENCOURAGED TO REALIZE THEIR FULL POTENTIAL AND ACHIEVE THEIR DREAMS; AND
- WHEREAS,** THROUGH THE ASSOCIATED ABILITYONE PROGRAM, COMMUNITY-BASED NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS GOODWILL INDUSTRIES OF CENTRAL IOWA PROVIDES EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES TO PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR HAVE OTHER DISABILITIES WHILE PROVIDING A WIDE ARRAY OF QUALITY, GOODS AND SERVICES TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AT A FAIR PRICE; AND
- WHEREAS,** BY EMPLOYING PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR HAVE SEVERE DISABILITIES, THE ABILITYONE PROGRAM IS ABLE TO HELP THESE INDIVIDUALS MORE FULLY PARTICIPATE IN THEIR COMMUNITIES, MARKET THEIR SKILLS INTO OTHER PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR JOBS, AND CREATE AND SUSTAIN EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES; AND
- WHEREAS,** IN DES MOINES, IOWA, GOODWILL INDUSTRIES OF CENTRAL IOWA PROVIDES EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND TRAINING FOR 39 PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR HAVE OTHER SEVERE DISABILITIES, ENABLING THEM TO LEAD MORE PRODUCTIVE AND MEANINGFUL LIVES, PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR THEIR FAMILIES AND DEVELOP SKILLS NECESSARY FOR LONG-TERM EMPLOYMENT; AND
- WHEREAS,** THE CITY OF DES MOINES, IOWA RECOGNIZES THE IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTIONS OF GOODWILL INDUSTRIES OF CENTRAL IOWA TO DES MOINES AND ITS CITIZENS.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, T. M. FRANKLIN COWNIE, ON BEHALF OF THE CITY COUNCIL AND THE CITIZENS OF DES MOINES, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 2009, AS:

### NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH

IN DES MOINES, IOWA AND HEREBY COMMEND ALL PERSONS WHO ARE COMMITTED TO AND WORK TOWARD ENHANCING EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH VISUAL AND OTHER SEVERE DISABILITIES.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO SET MY HAND AND CAUSED THE SEAL OF THE CITY OF DES MOINES, IOWA TO BE AFFIXED THIS TWELFTH DAY OF OCTOBER, TWO THOUSAND NINE.

**T. M. FRANKLIN COWNIE, MAYOR  
CITY OF DES MOINES**

