



Media Release

Contact:

**Kandy Cayce, DHS Division of Services for the Blind
(501) 682-0332**

For Immediate Release

November 26, 2012

Former Bentonville man who's blind gains job and award

In today's economy job seekers sometimes have to re-locate. This was the case for David Naumann of Bentonville, who is blind and "has found a new life" employed by the Internal Revenue Service in Austin, TX.

"Austin is a very blind-friendly city," he said, praising its transportation system and its two educational facilities for the blind (a school and a rehabilitation center). "Since moving to Texas, I'm even learning to smoke meat."

Naumann is one of only 13 Arkansans who are blind or severely visually impaired that have been named as area Consumers of the Year by the Department of Human Services Division of Services for the Blind (DSB). He is being recognized for his determination to overcome adversity, gain marketable skills, secure a good job, and become a role model for others.

His employer, the IRS, has been named as an area Employer of the Year as an outstanding business partner for its commitment to promoting the employment of persons with vision impairment.

Naumann appreciates the opportunity to support his family. He and his wife Gloria have been married for 12 years. "I can't stress enough how much I appreciate what (DSB) has done for me. I'm not exaggerating when I say I was sitting on my couch watching CNN over and over. You (DSB) turned my whole life around."

Until 2009, he had worked as a project manager for NCR Corporation, which is a supplier to Wal-Mart. Then his vision worsened and he went on disability. "I had cabin fever, so I contacted DSB." After discussing options with a DSB counselor, he decided to enter the Internal Revenue Service career program taught by IRS staff in conjunction with World Services for the Blind. DSB paid for his

-more-

training at World Services, taught him how to travel using a white cane, and purchased some assistive technology equipment he needed.

This is the fifth year that DSB has given Consumer of the Year awards. At the end of the year, the DSB Board will select an overall state winner from the area winners.

DSB provides vocational rehabilitation services to individuals who are blind or severely visually impaired and whose goal is successful employment. The division also serves youth and older blind individuals. For information about DSB's programs and services, call 1-800-960-9270 or 501-682-5463 or visit the DSB website at <http://humanservices.arkansas.gov/dsb/Pages/default.aspx>.