

# Our People **WORK**

## Vice Chairperson of the Committee For Purchase Visits ServiceSource

**T**he ServiceSource Network recently welcomed Andrew Houghton, Vice Chairperson of the Committee for Purchase from People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled (the Committee) for a tour of our Virginia programs. Houghton, who was appointed to the Committee in February of 2003 by President Bush, met with ServiceSource employees at the Marine Corps' Henderson Hall, where individuals work on a Javits-Wagner-O'Day (JWOD) Food Services contract. Houghton then toured the Annandale House Neighborhood Place and the Falls Church Skill Source Center. Houghton ended his tour at ServiceSource's Edsall Road facility where people with disabilities package Medical Molle Bags for the Marine Corps and will soon be packaging the En-Route Care System for the Marines, both of which are JWOD contracts.



*ServiceSource Network President and CEO Janet Samuelson discusses various programs with the Committee's Vice Chairperson, Andrew Houghton during his recent visit to ServiceSource.*

As Vice Chairperson for the Committee, Houghton plays a critical role in maintaining the integrity of the JWOD Program. Each month, the 15 Presidentially-appointed Committee Members vote on Procurement List Additions to the JWOD Program. Under the JWOD Program, which was first established in 1932 and later expanded in 1971, Federal Government Agencies are encouraged to contract for products and services from not-for-profit agencies that employ people who are blind or have other severe disabilities. In order for a contract to be added to the JWOD Procurement List, NISH or National Industries for the Blind (NIB) must first facilitate negotiations between the Federal Government Agency and the non-profit to ensure

that the work can be completed as specified, at a fair market price and with minimal impact to any pre-existing small business interests. The Committee Members then evaluate the opportunity and vote whether or not to add the contract to the JWOD Procurement List.

Today, more than 40,000 people who are blind or have other significant disabilities work on JWOD contracts. Nearly two-thirds of the ServiceSource Network's employment contracts are operated under the JWOD Program, with nearly 600 people with disabilities employed.

"The Javits-Wagner-O'Day Program is critical to the ServiceSource Network being able to fulfill its mission of providing valued jobs for people with disabilities. JWOD is the vehicle for us to provide quality and innovative labor solutions to our Federal Government customers, while at the same time, we can provide people with disabilities good wages and health benefits," commented Janet Samuelson, President and CEO of ServiceSource. In fiscal year 2005, employees working on JWOD contracts within the ServiceSource Network earned nearly \$13.50 per hour in wages and benefits.

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