



PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS,** THE ABILITYONE PROGRAM PROVIDES OVER 40,000 PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR HAVE OTHER SEVERE DISABILITIES WITH REHABILITATION, TRAINING, AND JOB COACHING NECESSARY TO RECEIVE GOOD WAGES, BENEFITS AND GAIN GREATER INDEPENDENCE AND QUALITY OF LIFE; AND
- WHEREAS,** THE ABILITYONE PROGRAM EMPOWERS PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR HAVE OTHER SEVERE DISABILITIES, OVER 60% OF WHOM DO NOT HAVE JOBS AND RELY HEAVILY ON SOCIAL SUPPORT PROGRAMS; AND
- WHEREAS,** THROUGH THE ABILITYONE PROGRAM, COMMUNITY-BASED NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS GOODWILL INDUSTRIES OF CENTRAL IOWA PROVIDE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES TO PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR HAVE OTHER SEVERE 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 OTHER SEVERE DISABILITIES, THE ABILITYONE PROGRAM IS ABLE TO HELP THESE INDIVIDUALS MORE FULLY PARTICIPATE IN THEIR COMMUNITIES, MARKET THEIR ABILITYONE 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 35 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, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF DES MOINES, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 13 - 19, 2008, AS:

ABILITYONE PROGRAM WEEK CELEBRATING THIS PROGRAM DURING NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH

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

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

