



## **ECVC Celebrates National Disability Employment Awareness Month 2009**

***Press Release, October 23, 2009:*** The effort to educate the American public about issues relating to disability actually began in 1945 when congress enacted a law declaring the first week in October, each year, as National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week. In 1962 the “physically” was removed to acknowledge the employment needs and contributions of individuals with all types of disabilities. In 1988, Congress expanded the week to a month and changed the title to National Disability Employment Awareness Month.

Currently, there are 58,731,081 people 16 and older in the United States that have some sort of disability. Out of this number only 32,790,775 are actually employed.

Within the last fiscal year (2008-2009), ECVC placed 79 people into competitive employment.

Over 40 companies in the surrounding area including Martin, Beaufort, Pitt and Craven Counties have hired or currently have employees from ECVC’s program.

You hear it all the time, “good employees are hard to find.” That is a myth in itself if you are willing to look outside of the box at a person who has a disability. These clients or consumers of ECVC’s, if given a chance, could be the best thing that has happened to a business in a long time.

The 44<sup>th</sup> Annual ECVC Anniversary Banquet will be held at the Hilton on October 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:30. This event is a celebration for this important month. The speaker this year will be Mark Gilmore, and the entertainment will be provided by The American Belles.