

# Economy takes a toll on workers



***“I now have the tools and the confidence to go back and get a full time job.”***

*Gail feels as if she has begun a second life. Living in a local shelter without a job, one of the shelter’s counselors recommended Operation ABLE. Gail held a college degree but needed some help with upgrading her office skills and with overcoming some employment barriers.*

*“ABLE’s staff encouraged me to keep plugging away and constantly reinforced my goal to find an administrative or customer service job with benefits,” said Gail.*

*With her ABLE certificates in hand, Gail felt very comfortable interviewing and landed a job as a client service coordinator with a tax preparation agency. The job was temporary and it has now wrapped up so Gail is back to job searching. “I now have the tools and the confidence to go back and get a full time job.”*

## ***“Ability is Ageless” Award Luncheon***

The “Ability is Ageless” award luncheon salutes employees 50 years of age and older who daily make a difference to their companies through their experience, work ethic and commitment to excellence. Nearly 100 nominees were recognized at the 12th annual luncheon held in October 2001. Marianne Wildstrom, a 76-year-old Holocaust survivor and counselor at Jewish Family Service, received the event’s top honor – the Neal Shine Award – before a crowd of 500 attendees.

## ***Job Placement Opportunities***

On a daily basis, Operation ABLE’s job developers are contacting employers and searching job postings to find openings for ABLE’s program participants. The job developers also work with the business community to offer recruiting opportunities throughout the year. At the annual “Ability is Ageless” job fair, companies can find dependable, hard-working employees aged 40 and older who will help them meet their business goals. Older workers are in high demand because of the skills, experience and strong work ethic they possess. Close to 1,000 job seekers attended the 2001 job fair that featured employers from across the region, and more than 1,800 people attended the recent 2002 fair.

Throughout the year ABLE also schedules several smaller job fairs with three to six employers in response to the companies’ specific recruiting needs.

