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DISABILITY PARTNERS EXPRESS



# NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH

Reflecting a commitment to a robust and competitive American labor force, the 2018 National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) theme is “America’s Workforce: Empowering All.” Observed each October, NDEAM celebrates the contributions of workers with disabilities and educates about the value of a workforce inclusive of their skills and talents.

NDEAM dates back to 1945, when Congress declared the first week in October "National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week." President Harry S. Truman assembled a committee to manage this observed week which State and local committees coordinated publicity campaigns. Campaigns consisted of movie trailers, billboards plus radio and television ads to convince the public that it is good business to hire people with disabilities.



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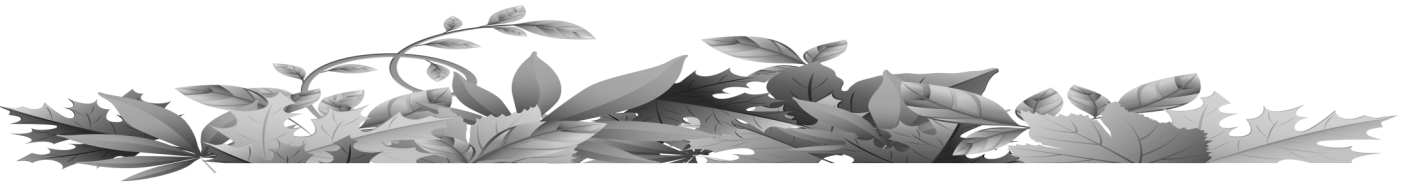
## FDA WARNING

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration is warning consumers about criminals forging FDA letters to target individuals who tried to purchase medication online or over the phone. These fake warning letters appear to be from the FDA or the FDA and the Federal Trade Commission which warns consumers that there are drug violations based on the review of the consumer’s parcel and their social media accounts. The letter also warn consumers that necessary legal steps will be taken if they find any suspicious activity on the consumer’s part. Warning letters are typically sent out by the FDA to companies and individuals who distribute or manufacture FDA regulated products, not to the consumers who purchase them. What legal actions the FDA does takes are to owners and operators of illegal websites selling medications. The FDA is concerned that these warning letters are linked to an international extortion scam .

The FDA needs to remind consumers of the dangers of purchasing medication from illegal online pharmacies. Risks of doing so ranges from receiving unapproved and potentially counterfeit medications to unknowingly making a person targets to scams like these. Also, consumers who buy from an illegal online pharmacy are at risk for receiving repeated emails and phone calls or being charged for products they never ordered nor received.

Many of these illegal websites appears legitimate and it can be hard to tell the difference between a legally online pharmacy and a rogue website. One safe way is to only purchase medications through US licensed pharmacies that require a prescription.

If you may have received a fake warning letter, send an email to: [FDAInternetPharmacyTaskForce-CDER@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:FDAInternetPharmacyTaskForce-CDER@fda.hhs.gov). Provide as much information as possible about the letter and its packaging, including sending photos or scanned documents to help aid in the FDA’s ongoing investigation of this scam.





## Be My Eyes



For those who are blind or have low vision, there are many situations where a pair of friendly eyes can be helpful. Be My Eyes is an app that can connect a person who is blind or have low vision with a sighted volunteer who is ready to provide that person visual assistance for a task at hand. For example, you need to know the washing instruction of a new garment or perhaps knowing the expiration date of a food item or the nutritional information on a package. By holding your camera steady on the item, the volunteer will be able see it and relay back to you the information you are needing. You need to make sure the room is properly lit and not too noisy and you have good Internet connection.

Be My Eyes should not be used with situations displaying identification documents, credit cards and accounts, personal addresses, social security information, health related information, nudity or practical jokes.

To download the app, go to [BeMyEyes.com](http://BeMyEyes.com). You can download the app for free on your phone. It's available for both iOS and Android devices. After downloading, launch the Be My Eyes app to register. The app will take you through a short 5 steps registration process and then you will be ready to make your first call.

### UPDATE: ENERGY EFFICIENCY FOR LOW INCOME HOMEOWNERS

In the Summer edition of the DP Express, we provided an incorrect number for the Energy Savers Network. They support volunteer-based solutions to the energy efficiency problems that disproportionately impact low-income and minority communities. The correct contact number is 828-656-3649. Email: [info@energysaversnetwork.com](mailto:info@energysaversnetwork.com).

If you or someone you know who are on a limited income and cannot afford to become more energy efficient, please email or call and they will try to help.



## PLAN AHEAD FOR HOLIDAY ASSISTANCE

Although the start of the Fall season faces us, it is never too early to think about another upcoming season, the holidays. During the 2018 holiday season, low income families can get free Christmas toys, presents and meals. A focus of these programs that may be near you, such as those offered by the Salvation Army, is supporting households with kids or senior citizens, however anyone that is currently struggling can apply for assistance from a charity.

Contact your local agencies that provides Christmas assistance such as Salvation Army, Eblen Charities and ABCCM to find out when they will be accepting applications for Christmas Assistance. Salvation Army usually begin taking applications for the Angel Tree Program in October/November. Resources are limited, so plan on applying when they begin taking applications.

## SERVICE DOGS FOR VETERANS



Service dogs organizations exist far out of reach for people residing in Western North Carolina, but now an organization that is based in Iowa is expanding into Black Mountain. Paws and Effect will place a service dog at no cost to veterans. Paws and Effect is aware how invaluable service dogs are to humans who faces daily challenges due to a disability. Each service dog will cost about \$15,000 to acquire, raise, train and support so the foundation is dependent on donations.

Paws and Effect are accepting veteran applications now at [paws-effect.org](http://paws-effect.org).

## FREE STUFF

DisAbility Partners receives printer donations and other assorted items that are available for the taking. Next time you come to our Center, check out The Free Zone to see what is available. Items are placed in the computer lab so you may want to call ahead to make sure no computer classes are in progress on the day and time you plan to come.