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**A man retires after working 40 years at the
National Institute of Standards & Technology!**

Towson, MD, May 4, 2009- On April 17th, 2009 a celebration was held honoring Swain Sandberg, a man with a disability, who recently retired after working 40 years at the National Institute of Standards & Technology (NIST). What makes Swain's story so unique are the many obstacles he overcame from his disability, and the many achievements he received as a result of his dedication and strong work ethic.

Swain worked on the janitorial floor of NIST, where he emptied trash cans and enjoyed all the people he came into contact with every day. Swain has earned many outstanding achievements from NIST, including his 40 year pin. When Swain began working at NIST he took the bus to and from work, and when they no longer offered the bus he took it upon himself to walk to work every day.

Swain has been receiving services from Abilities Network Community & Employment Partners in Silver Spring, Maryland for 5 years. The Community and Employment Partners program provides services designed to support adults with developmental disabilities to live and work as independently as possible in their communities.

Swain's Abilities Network counselor Sarah Bretz says, "He put a lot of time and effort into NIST. He only took three sick days the entire time he was there. He was always on time and walked to and from work every day. He lived and breathed his work. There was not a building we walked into where someone didn't know who he was." Sarah comments, "He is dear to us here at the Abilities Network. Everybody knows of him, and a lot of the counselors know and love him."

When asked how he feels about his huge accomplishment at NIST Swain said, "I have made a lot of good friends there that I like a lot. I am very proud that I have worked for 40 years." Now that Swain is retired he is looking forward to watching as many movies as he can, since it is his favorite hobby. Swain says, "I really enjoy a good movie. I like all kinds of movies, and that is what I am going to do, watch my movies."

For additional information on this story please contact Lauren Dunn at 410-828-7700 ext. 1229, or ldunn@abilitiesnetwork.org.

Abilities Network is a non-profit organization that provides individualized services to children and adults, as well as their families of differing abilities that focus on one-on-one supports to foster broadened, more inclusive communities through education, training, and advocacy. For more information about Abilities Network, please visit our website at www.abilitiesnetwork.org.

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