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## **Calidad Industries Celebrates National Disability Employment Awareness Month!**

### ***2010 Open House celebrates 20 years of Training and Employing Workers with Significant Disabilities***

**OAKLAND, California** — Calidad Industries Inc. today unveiled its official theme for October's National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM): ***Talent Has No Barriers: Empowering People, Creating Hope.*** The theme serves to inform the public that workers with disabilities represent a diverse and vibrant talent pool for hire.

Calidad has planned a series of events, including an Open House and site visits, to raise public awareness and showcase the skills and talents of workers with disabilities. This year's Open House will take place at the Calidad corporate offices at Goodwill Industries on Thursday, October 14, 2010. NDEAM's focus is to emphasize the need for successful employment of workers with disabilities.

"Calidad has always empowered those with disabilities to become self-sufficient by providing vocational training and employment through the Federal AbilityOne contracts for 20 years now, and we owe much of success to our vital partners in the community," said John B. Latchford, CEO of Calidad Industries and Goodwill Industries of the Greater East Bay. "We are excited to celebrate National Disability Employment Awareness Month by opening our doors to our current and potential new program partners to showcase our work and discuss creating more collaborative approaches to helping serve those in need."

As background, Public Law 176, enacted by the Congress in 1945, designated the first week in October each year as "National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week." President Harry S. Truman designated the President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities to carry out the Act. In 1962, the word "physically" was removed from the week's name to acknowledge the employment needs of all Americans with disabilities. Congress expanded the week to a month in 1988 and changed its name to "National Disability Awareness Month," which eventually evolved to its current name.

The Labor Department's Office of Disability Employment Policy took over responsibility for National Disability Employment Awareness Month in 2001.

Calidad Industries is a 501(c)3 nonprofit affiliate of Goodwill Industries of the Greater East Bay. The agency operates Federal AbilityOne contracts that employ people with significant disabilities. Currently Calidad Industries operates food service, janitorial, and maintenance contracts at federal sites in the Bay Area, including the Oakland Federal Building, Coast Guard Island, Dublin Parks Installation, and Naval Reserve sites in Alameda and San Jose. As an affiliate of Goodwill Industries of the Greater East Bay, Calidad participants also have access to Goodwill's workforce development services to help them gain competitive employment. Goodwill Industries of the Greater East Bay operates 26 retail stores, and the proceeds from the resale of donated items support Goodwill's workforce development programs to help those facing barriers to employment, such as homelessness, limited education and language skills, history of incarceration, lack of work experience, and disabilities. During 2009, Goodwill and Calidad served 3,123 individuals and families in the East Bay and placed more than 500 people into competitive jobs, an increase of more than 36 percent over 2008. As with all of the agency's funds, for every \$1 generated, 91 cents will go directly into job training, placement, and support service programs.

For more information about our NDEAM celebrations and Calidad's work in the community, please visit us at [www.calidadindustries.org](http://www.calidadindustries.org) or contact Kimberly Scrafano at (510) 698-7223.