

People

TO

People

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Day Habilitation — A Fresh Approach to Day Programming



## More than an Employee



James Boles, left, presents Jamie Lembeck with an award acknowledging his 15 years of service to People Inc. Jamie began his career at People Inc. in the Marketing/Development department, but after a spinal chord injury, switched his profession to become a Disabilities Advocate.



Jamie felt it was imperative to break down societal barriers that stemmed from a lack of awareness towards people with disabilities. He became an advisor for the Mayor of Buffalo where he ensures that federal and local policies regarding people with disabilities are enforced. He also devotes his time to Hallwalls, a unique and advanced arts organization in Buffalo, and frequently lectures at the University at Buffalo and Buffalo State College.

“Jamie gives the students a personal perspective on disability and adjustment to life in a wheelchair. He educates the students on how to approach persons with a disability,” said Mary Matteliano MS, OTR/L, Clinical Assistant Professor, University at Buffalo. “The students always comment on how comfortable Jamie makes them feel and this eases their transition into the role of a therapist.”

When asked why he has stayed with People Inc. for all these years, Jamie modestly states, “People Inc. is allowing me to participate in numerous facets of society. I am grateful, especially to Jim Boles and Joe Giansante, for supporting and believing in me. It wasn’t a question of me accepting People Inc., it was People Inc. accepting me and my abilities rather than looking at my disability.”

## Job Fair



Stop by People Inc.'s Job Fair, September 21 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 1219 North Forest Rd., Williamsville to learn about exciting job opportunities including direct care, nursing and management. Part- and full-time positions are available throughout Western New York to suit a flexible schedule. Employees receive health and life insurance, 401 (k) pension plan, paid time off, tuition assistance and more. To view a list of available jobs, visit [www.people-inc.org/jobs](http://www.people-inc.org/jobs) or contact the Human Resource Department at 634-8132 for more information.

## Closing One Door, Opening Another

It was with careful review and consideration of the agency’s budget and mission that People Inc. decided to close RETAP Thrift Store in July. We are delighted, however, that RETAP will reopen in a new location under the management of Phoenix Frontier, Inc., a nonprofit organization serving people with disabilities.

“This collaboration provides a great opportunity for People Inc. and Phoenix Frontier, Inc. to work together and provide a worthwhile service for people in need,” said James Boles, president & CEO. “The store’s main purpose was to provide employment training to individuals with disabilities,” Boles added. “The mission was to ‘Recruit, Evaluate, Train, Assess and Place.’ However, the focus of RETAP Thrift Store changed and the agency’s Supported Employment and Training Services became more effective.”

Phoenix Frontier, Inc. is scheduled to open the new store at 54 Webster St. in North Tonawanda. There is a possibility of a second location on Kensington Avenue in Buffalo. We will keep you posted of the new openings on our website, [www.people-inc.org](http://www.people-inc.org), so keep checking in!