

August 13, 2008

NISH CEO Speaks Out Against *Tropic Thunder*
Cites film's depiction of developmentally disabled person as "outrageous"

The following statement was released today from NISH President and CEO, E. Robert Chamberlin:

STATEMENT

"The parties responsible for the soon-to-be-released film, *Tropic Thunder*, have redefined the term 'politically incorrect.' Their use of words such as 'retard,' 'moron,' and 'imbecile' to describe people with developmental disabilities is outrageous and insensitive.

We reject the use of these terms and the degrading and stereotypical depiction of people with disabilities in this film. It has taken decades to begin to change the public perception of people with disabilities so that they are recognized for their abilities and for their potential. The movie-going public should not be subjected to such offensive terminology and stereotypical portrayals that serve to reinforce outdated perceptions of people with disabilities.

We join the Arc of the United States, the Special Olympics and other organizations in demanding that the use of the words 'retard,' 'moron,' 'idiot,' and 'imbecile' be removed from promotional materials connected to the release of this film. We urge all people to boycott this film.

It is a shame that the extraordinarily talented actors and filmmakers involved in this production have chosen to show such insensitivity to people who live each day with disabilities and to all those who love and support them. We urge all Americans to reject this film and we urge theater owners and operators to do the same."

E. Robert Chamberlin
President and CEO, NISH

NISH—Creating Employment for People with Severe Disabilities

Established in 1974, NISH (www.nish.org) is one of two national, nonprofit agencies designated by the Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled to support nonprofit agencies (NPAs) participating in the AbilityOne Program.

NISH provides employment opportunities for people who are blind or have other severe disabilities by procuring federal contracts for goods and services. Headquartered in Vienna, Va., NISH supports a network of more than 1,300 NPAs as well as federal customers by providing legislative and regulatory assistance, communications and public relations materials, information technology support, engineering and technical assistance, and extensive professional training needed for successful contract management.

AbilityOne Program

Providing employment opportunities to more than 40,000 people, the AbilityOne Program is the largest single source of employment for people who are blind or have other severe disabilities in the United States. More than 600 participating nonprofit organizations employ these individuals and provide quality goods and services to the federal government at a fair market price. The AbilityOne Program is administered by the Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled (www.abilityone.gov), an independent federal agency, with assistance from National Industries for the Blind (NIB) (www.nib.org) and NISH-Creating Employment Opportunities for People with Severe Disabilities (www.nish.org).

Michael McDermott
NISH Northwest Quality Manager
Phone: 206-272-3503