

NEWS RELEASE  
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**For Immediate Release**

For more information contact:  
Jennifer Poulson  
[jenniferp@provail.org](mailto:jenniferp@provail.org)  
206-826-1036

**Starbucks and REI Recognized for Employing People With Disabilities**  
PROVAIL Presents its Wyckoff Award for Corporate Partnership

**SEATTLE – October 22 , 2004** – Last week, PROVAIL, one of the state’s largest organizations serving children and adults with disabilities, presented its Annual Wyckoff Award for corporate partnership to Starbucks Coffee Company and REI. Both companies employ individuals with severe disabilities with the support of PROVAIL’s Employment & Community Services program. Each year PROVAIL presents seven Wyckoff Awards in honor of Dr. Hulett J. Wyckoff, who was instrumental in the founding of the organization 62 years ago. The awards recognize individuals and organizations that have made extraordinary efforts to support people with disabilities.

Kent McDaniel, a 24-year-old with cerebral palsy, works as a Customer Service Representative handling inbound calls at the Starbucks Support Center. Kent’s position as a member of the Starbucks team embodies their belief that embracing diversity is integral to the company’s continuing viability and success. “Starbucks has a long-standing commitment to diversity and inclusion, rooted in our guiding principles,” explains May Snowden, vice president, Global Diversity. “We are proud to have Kent and other partners with disabilities as an integral part of the Starbucks team. Their contributions have added great value for the company.”

Two other PROVAIL clients, Kari Trigstad and Neimi Kelly, were hired by REI to join their facilities team this year, successfully contributing to the sparkle of the downtown Seattle store. “PROVAIL clients have many of the same attributes we seek in all of our employees. They are enthusiastic, dedicated, and happy to be a part of our community,” said Seattle store manager Rachel Ligtenberg.

The awards for Corporate Partnership, as well as for Philanthropy, Advocacy, and others, were presented at PROVAIL's Wyckoff Anniversary Dinner & Awards Ceremony on Thursday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, at Town Hall, Seattle. The evening featured an inspirational presentation from keynote speakers Kevin and Melinda Berg. Kevin, an adult with cerebral palsy, spoke about choice, opportunity, independence, and dignity, the theme words of this year's event, and how these words have special meaning for himself and others with disabilities.

### **About PROVAIL**

PROVAIL is one of the state's largest private, multi-service agencies dedicated to meeting the needs of children and adults with all types of disabilities. With 300 employees and a \$9.5 million budget, PROVAIL has provided occupational, physical and speech therapy, assistive technology, community living, employment, and dental services to thousands of people throughout its 62 year history. To learn more about PROVAIL and the services offered, visit [www.provail.org](http://www.provail.org).

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