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**STATE OF VERMONT VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION RECEIVES
NATIONAL AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN PROGRAMMING**

WATERBURY, VT – Earlier this year, the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation received an award from Johnson & Johnson for being one of only three states in the country to implement an evidence-based supported employment program for people with mental illness. This came as the first of three awards recognizing the Division for its superior devotion to the placement of individuals with disabilities in the workforce. Again, the Agency was honored when the National Association of Social Workers presented the Division with the Social Agency of the Year 2002 award. This nomination came in acknowledgment of expanded services, partnerships, and the new programs it implemented to ensure that those with the most significant disabilities find new meaning in their life, while adjusting to the many challenges and hurdles that have occurred post injury.

In addition to the two national awards, on June 17, 2002, Director of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Diane Dalmasse, received an award from Senator James Jeffords in recognition of her initiative in creating a series of employment incentives that offer a range of benefits to Vermonters with disabilities.

The Mission of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation is to enable Vermonters with disabilities to be employed and to live successfully in their communities. In 2001, Vermont VR counselors provided services for 6,587 Vermonters with disabilities and assisted 1,183 people to become employed. To learn more about Vermont VocRehab, visit <http://www.dad.state.vt.us/dvr/>.

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