



For Immediate Release
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Visually Impaired DETR Client Assumes Operation of Courthouse Cafe

LAS VEGAS, NV —The Department of Employment, Training, and Rehabilitation (DETR) announces Jason E. Coleman, a visually impaired client, will celebrate assuming operation of the café located inside the Lloyd George Federal Courthouse during a ceremony March 1, 2017 at 10 a.m. at 333 Las Vegas Blvd.

Operation of the café is collaboration between the Federal Courthouse and DETR's Business Enterprises of Nevada (BEN) program. The BEN program provides clients of DETR's Bureau of Services to the Blind and Visually Impaired with training and on-the-job experience in managing food facilities, micro markets, and gift stores in public buildings, said Shelley Hendren, administrator for DETR's Rehabilitation Division.

Coleman has been very involved in the planning of the transition of the café, including creating the menu, and developing new and healthy meal options. The café was previously operated by another BEN program client who has moved on to another project.

"I have been legally blind since I was 7-year-olds. During my school years Nevada Bureau of Services to the Blind and Visually Impaired supported me with reading devices, a magnifier machine, books on tape, a walking cane, glasses, and a talking alarm clock to help me go through school as smoothly as possible," Coleman said. "As an adult, they have continued to support me with other devices so that I could continue to be self-sufficient. Now the BEN program has provided me with the training and knowledge to become a business owner. They have trusted me and invested in me. I have worked hard to learn and get ready for this opportunity to have Jason's Place."

There are currently 18 businesses in the southern Nevada and 10 in northern Nevada managed by BEN operators. The BEN program operates under the Randolph-Sheppard Act which gives people who are blind the priority right to run vending facilities in government buildings.

"The BEN program is an innovative opportunity for people who are visually impaired or blind to achieve their dream of business ownership while contributing to the economic health of the state," Hendren said. "We are appreciative of the partnership with government agencies that are dedicated to the success of the facility owners. The operators of these facilities are to be

commended for their perseverance and entrepreneurial spirit in successfully completing the rigorous training and evaluations they undergo to prepare them to be business owners.”

ABOUT THE REHABILITATION DIVISION

The Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation is designed to help people with disabilities remove barriers to employment and to help those already employed perform more successfully through training, counseling and other support services.

The Rehabilitation Division is comprised of three bureaus, which include Vocational Rehabilitation, Services to the Blind and Visually Impaired, and the Bureau of Disability Adjudication. The Division also includes the Blind Business Enterprise of Nevada Program, and the Office of Disability Employment Policy. All of these services are designed to address assessment, training, treatment, and job placement for Nevadans with disabilities. The division places primary emphasis on providing necessary services to help consumers become employed and self-sufficient.

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DETR is comprised of the Employment Security Division, Equal Rights Commission, Rehabilitation Division, and the Research and Analysis Bureau. DETR oversees the Nevada JobConnect System to provide training and job placement services to job seekers and to assist employers in hiring practices. It also supports economic development efforts through improving Nevada’s workforce.