

Chris Flynt, this year's Disabled Employee of the Year.



Ann Haynes address the crowd during Tuesday's ceremony.

Awards

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from sidewalks to increasing mobility of persons with disabilities, to working environments that suit their needs.

"I think it's a necessity in any city or town," said MCPD President Ann Haynes. "People need to understand the barriers (persons with disabilities) face and also to look at them as people first."

Britt says that the MCPD will prove valuable for his beloved students someday, though they don't know it yet.

"They're advocating for things that will be important to our children 20 years from now, as opposed to necessarily right now, but that's huge for us." he commented. "Our children are going to need the kind of employment these folks are going to promote and they're going to need accessibility to public buildings and those kinds of things and that's what the Mayor's Council is all about. We're thrilled to be in partnership with them."

ship with them."

The banquet and awards ceremony that accompanies it have become one of the MCPDs best known events.

"This is in honor of Disability Employment Awareness Month, which is a national thing ... to help people realize how much people with



Mayor Allen Joines poses with students from Carter Vocational.

disabilities can help in the employment community and how able they are," stated Bowman. "This is what we do to honor it and that way we honor all of our citizens."

A handful of citizens and organizations were recognized for their efforts by the organization this year, including Jerry

Mintz, who took home a Helping Hand Award for an Individual; the WSFCS Transition Team, the 2007 Organizational Helping Hand honoree; along with Employer of the Year Chick-fil-A of Kernersville; Volunteer of the Year Award winner Randall Scott; and Lifetime

Achievement Award honoree

Denise Corey.

Willie Bradwell, Jr., Lucy
Robinson and Dudley
Shearburn were each recoge
nized with special certificates,
as were Doug and Doris
Jackson, Marshall Parker,
Graylyn International
Conference Center and First

Assembly of G Transportation Ministry.

Chris Flynt was honored as this year's Disabled Employee of the Year,

A program manager at Services for the Blind for more than four years, Flynt oversees a project known as A Brighter Path.

"Our mission is to enhance the lives of the visually impaired, educate the

lives of the visually impaired and to create awareness in the sighted community," explained Flynt. When asked if his

When asked if his resolve was strengthened by the unexpected recognition, Flynt was matter-of fact. "Well yeah, but I

like what I'm doing anyway," he said. "This (award) is just a bonus,"

Mayor Allen Joines issued a proclamation designating October as Disability Employment Awareness Month. He has become a familiar face at the event.

"The work of the Mayor's Council is tremendously important to our city, bringing recognition to the fact that our disabled community really adds a tremendous economic benefit to our community as well as a cultural benefit," he said of his

motivation to support the nonprofit. "This is a great cadre of workers and a great cadre of volunteers for our other organizations, so it just makes sense for our city to be a supporter."

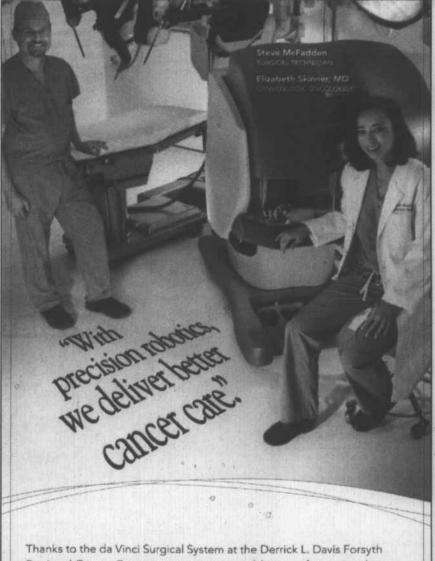
Joines is well known amongst MCPD members and volunteers as well. Bowman praised the mayor for his obvious compassion towards and dedication to local persons with disabilities.

"Mayor Joines has been wonderful," she declared. "He is absolutely amazing in his support of disability issues."

Marguerite
Hutchinson-Rhodes
brought a group of
students from the
Carver Vocational
School to lend their

expertise to the event. Though it is a deviation from the students' normal routine, the luncheon provided a muchneeded opportunity for them to gain real world experience in an environment that is patient and understanding of the youth, Hutchinson-Rhodes says.

"This is not a typical kind of thing, but we did it last year and it was just really beautiful and the students terribly enjoyed it," she remarked. "This gives them that experience in the field that they are wanting to pursue later on."



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