

## MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDERS

Job Options, Inc. (JOI) was started over 20 years ago as part of Mental Health Systems, Inc as a natural extension of our efforts to provide employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities. It was intended to provide services to the Federal Government under the Javits-Wagner-O'Day act which is now known as Ability One. About 15 years ago, JOI was established as a separate, independent not-for-profit in order to allow the management to focus solely on operating a successful service organization employing individuals with disabilities.

The Ability One program provided an opportunity for us to provide meaningful employment at local prevailing wages for people with disabilities. It also allowed us to focus on the primary goal of these individuals: employment. This focus was important because we listened to our clients and knew that they wanted employment; not pre-employment training or counseling. They were already getting plenty of that. They, like all of us, wanted a good job and an opportunity to get a better job.

When we started JOI we never envisioned that within two decades it would grow into an organization that employs over 800 people and generates annual revenues of approximately \$35 million. JOI has become one of the larger organizations within the Ability One Program. JOI's size and growth is a testament to the capabilities of people with disabilities who provide a wide variety of services that are critical to government operation. JOI is dedicated to the proposition that with proper management, support and accommodation, people with disabilities can provide quality, cost effective services and can be the best value solution for a wide variety of Federal Government and commercial customers.

JOI is also an important resource for the San Diego community. It is the largest local provider of employment opportunities for people with disabilities. In this way JOI is part of the matrix that make San Diego a great place to live for everybody, regardless of ability.

We are committed to continuing the growth of JOI. There is more of a societal need than ever for the employment programs provided by Job Options, since more than 70% of all people with disabilities are unemployed. The Ability One Program provides needed services to the Federal Government at competitive prices. There is little incremental cost to the government to provide jobs for the disabled. The Federal Treasury benefits from the reduction in entitlement payments to people with disabilities and the increase in tax revenue.

Most importantly, though, the employment opportunities for people with disabilities contribute not only to their financial well being, but provides a basis for improved self esteem and a sense of truly belonging to society as a whole.

Looking ahead, JOI's growth is likely to increase come from partnerships with other firms, both not-for-profits and for-profit firms in areas inside and outside of Southern California. Some of the opportunities that JOI is exploring include secure mail services, comprehensive food service, fleet management and expanded contracts with commercial entities.

If you are a person with a disability we invite you to explore the employment opportunities at Job Options, Inc. We provide real jobs for capable people, and that sums it up. Our employment opportunities are real. The work must be done. These are not "make work" programs. Our employees, though made up largely of people with disabilities, are capable. This is attested to daily by the fact that our operations compete successfully in both Government and private industry environments.

If you are eager for employment and are willing to work, you have all that is needed to embark on a journey to self sufficiency. We believe very strongly in the therapeutic effects of work and being part of a team like JOI that performs a valued and needed service. We invite you to give us a call today.

**Dr. Bill Mead**, Chief Executive Officer and Founder

**Bill Eastwood**, Chief Administrative Officer and Founder

3465 Camino Del Rio South, Suite 300  
San Diego, California 92108  
619.688.1784 · Fax: 619.688.9884  
email: [joboptionsinc@joboptionsinc.org](mailto:joboptionsinc@joboptionsinc.org)  
web site: [www.joboptionsinc.org](http://www.joboptionsinc.org)



**Job Options has customized programs to meet your business needs.  
Call us to learn how our services can work for you at 619.688.1784.**