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ALPHAPOINTE HOSTS UNITED STATES ABILITYONE® COMMISSION IN KANSAS CITY

The Federal AbilityOne® Program Promotes Job Opportunities for People with Disabilities and Visited with the Third Largest Employer of People who are Blind in the US

Kansas City – Top executives from the U.S. AbilityOne Commission based in the Washington, D.C. area visited Alphapointe yesterday to see first-hand the many ways in which the agency is creating job opportunities for people who are blind and visually impaired.

As the independent federal agency that administers the AbilityOne Program, the Commission's mission is to provide employment opportunities for people who are blind or have significant disabilities in the manufacture and delivery of products and services to the federal government. The delegation, consisting of Commission Chairperson James M. Kesteloot and his wife, Barbara; Executive Director Tina Ballard; Deputy Executive Director Kimberly Zeich; and Senior Advisor Brian Hoey met with Alphapointe CEO Reinhard Mabry, other Alphapointe executive team leaders and members of the Alphapointe Board of Directors. The group also met with employees who are blind and visually impaired, employed in all aspects of Alphapointe's business lines, who shared their work experiences.

Alphapointe, with over 400 employees in its facilities in Kansas City, Missouri; Brooklyn, New York; and military base supply centers in Missouri and Arkansas, employs people who are blind or visually impaired in virtually every aspect of its operations. In 2015, National Industries for the Blind awarded Alphapointe with the Employment Growth Award for its efforts to increase employment, retention, growth and upward mobility for people who are blind.

"Alphapointe is a premier organization that provides exemplary services and employment to people who are blind," Chairperson Kesteloot said. "Our visit clearly showed us that Alphapointe's staff and employees do a tremendous job."

Executive Director Ballard said, "The AbilityOne Program greatly benefits from Alphapointe's leadership. Alphapointe delivers value to its people and our community every day."

Reinhard Mabry, Alphapointe CEO, discussed many initiatives the agency has strategically developed to increase skilled, competitive jobs for people who are blind and visually impaired, including business lines and services acquired through mergers and acquisitions.

“Alphapointe’s mission is to empower people with vision loss to achieve their goals and aspirations. We are very proud of our success in creating quality employment opportunities at all levels of our enterprise for people who are blind. The unemployment rate for people with disabilities is over 70% nationally, and that is just not acceptable to us. Through our rehab and education programs we can prepare young people and adults for success in the workforce, for employment at Alphapointe and in the community. We were extremely honored that the Commission came in from D.C. to see our operations first-hand and meet the employees that make our business a success.”

About Alphapointe: Alphapointe is a private, non-profit 501(c) (3) organization that has continued to serve people who are blind and visually impaired since 1911. Headquartered in Kansas City, Alphapointe is the third largest single employer of visually impaired individuals in the U.S., employing more than 400 people in nine locations in four states, including our main operations in Kansas City, Missouri and our facility in Brooklyn, New York. Alphapointe is the only comprehensive rehabilitation and education agency for people with vision loss in the state of Missouri, providing outreach, services, employment and education to more than 5,000 individuals a year. For more information visit <http://www.alphapointe.org>.

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