

**MINNCOR Industry's EMPLOY Program, a re-entry program that focuses on employment for releasing felons, was recently awarded the Minnesota Corrections Association 2008 President's Award.**



(Pictured from left to right: JoAnn M. Brown, Gary Biedler, Brenda Chandler, Mike Hreha, And Kayce Cartwright)

EMPLOY Program staff take every opportunity to present to individuals dealing with the re-entry of felons. Recently, EMPLOY Program staff was slotted to present a workshop for the Minnesota Corrections Association (MCA) Fall Training Institute. While making arrangements for the upcoming conference, held at the DECC in Duluth from October 29-31, 2008, Ron Solheid (MCA President-elect) was impressed by the program and nominated EMPLOY for the annual President's Award.

MCA's President's Award is an honorary award characterized as given to "programs, resources or facilities working in the broad field of corrections and criminal justice, which demonstrate creativity, resourcefulness, effectiveness and innovation." Fifty-three different programs, resources, or facilities have received this award since its establishment in 1980. Some of those recipients include: Sentencing to Service (1990), Minnesota Correctional Facility - Shakopee Canine Companions for Independency (1999), Department of Corrections Critical Incident Stress Management (2000), Thistledeew Camp (1982, 2004), and the K-9 Team of the Minnesota Correctional Facility – Willow River/Moose Lake (2006).

This year, the EMPLOY Program shared the spotlight with a co-recipient, The Bridge. The Bridge, operating since 1988 by Jim and Roxanne Trombley, is a group home serving adolescent males in Itasca County.

We would like to congratulate the EMPLOY Program for its outstanding award and look forward to continuing to watch its successes!