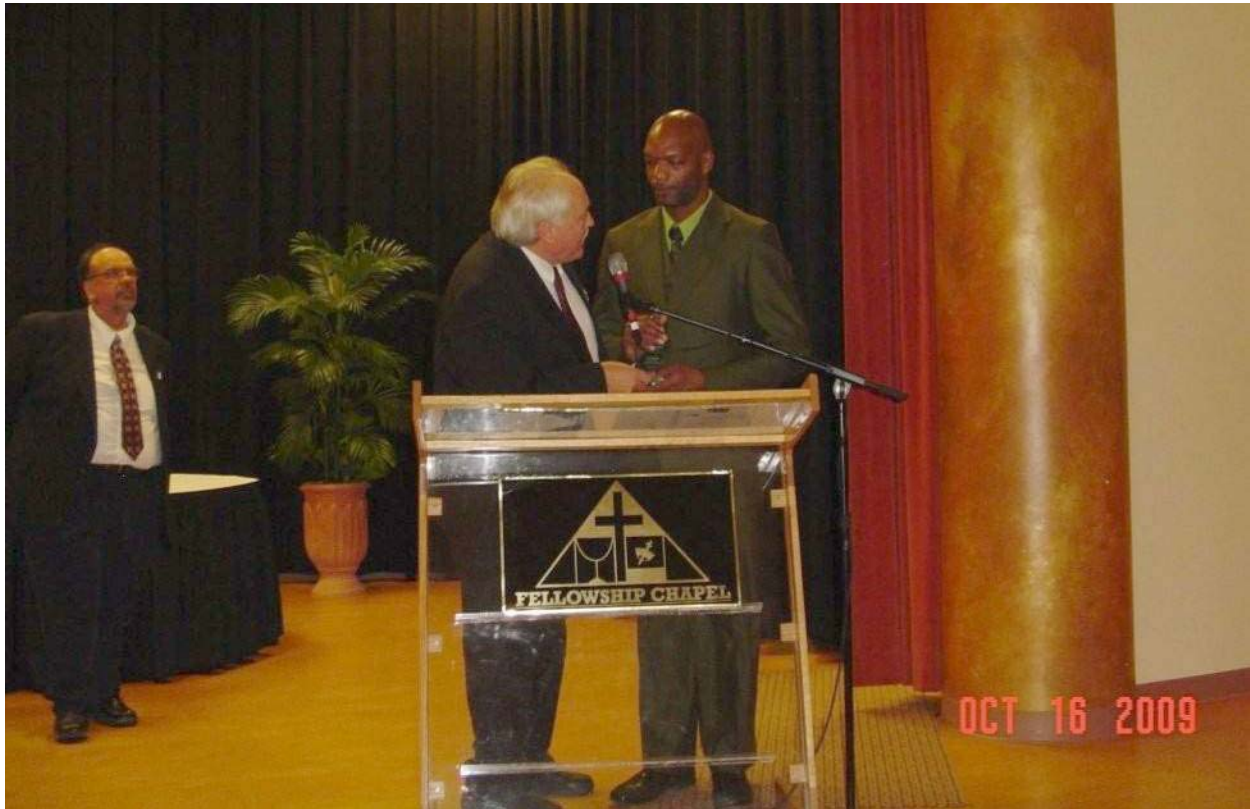


**The Parade Company is the Recipient of the  
Arc Detroit's 2009 Employer of the Year Award**



Marvin Thomas accepts the Employer of the Year Award from Pat Houlihan as Hank Johnson looks on

October 16, 2009. The Parade Company staff, Board of Directors, and thousands of parade volunteers work year round to bring a wide variety of magnificent, family events to the City of Detroit including the Target Fireworks, River Days, and America's Thanksgiving Parade. After several years of volunteering for The Parade Company, five consumers from STEP were hired for commercial cleaning.

The Parade Company, a non profit organization, governed by the Michigan Thanksgiving Parade Foundation, is to be commended for providing employment opportunities in an inclusive work environment for all persons. Marvin Thomas, who is responsible for Facility Maintenance and the Appearance Program, was instrumental in advocating for the STEP contract. These consumers and volunteers from STEP are included in the Fireworks at the Rooster Tail - an annual appreciation event and walking and participating in America's Thanksgiving Parade.

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month. This year's theme is Full Participation = Expectation + Opportunity. In that spirit The Parade Company is to be commended for providing the great opportunities that they do for people with disabilities.