

## Wanted: Reliable, Hard-Working Employees Adults With Autism Spectrum Disorders Make Stellar Team Members

According to [www.autismclean.org](http://www.autismclean.org), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) now affect one in 150 individuals. These adults are persistently overlooked and under-employed. But Todd Ruderman, owner of Value Store It Self Storage, knows that they have great potential to become great employees. And he knows that better than anyone in the

self-storage industry. In fact, over the last several years Ruderman has employed six adults with ASD to work at several of his facilities. "These employees will not be late," he says. "It's great! Their jobs are more important to them than the paychecks. They look forward to work and they follow instructions to a tee. Plus, they don't get distracted."

Although multi-tasking can be an issue at times, adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders enjoy learning as well as training others. They are attentive to details; maintain an exceptionally high level of accuracy; perform well on complex, repetitive tasks; and easily memorize detailed facts, figures, and systems. Adults with ASD also can develop highly advanced technical skills. To boot, they are straightforward, honest, and loyal to their employers.

Hiring adults with ASD is proven to boost company morale and productivity for non-disabled employees. In addition, employing adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders creates a positive public image for your business in the eyes of your customers and community.

Moreover, businesses that employ adults with ASD receive tax credits for doing so. Companies receive up to 50 percent tax credit per employee, depending upon the employee's number of hours. "I want other people to do this. And there are more reasons to do it than not to do it," says Ruderman. "There is a growing population of adults with



ASD that is in need of employment and it's not like they can't contribute. I'd love to see the REITs start a program for hiring adults with ASD."

For more information about how your company can hire adults with ASD, visit [www.autismkey.com/autism-organizations](http://www.autismkey.com/autism-organizations) to find a local ASD job placement organization. "These organizations and businesses do all the leg work to find good candidates for the job you are seeking to fill," Ruderman says. "They will match the individual's skills to the job description." ■



## Industry News

### MiniCo Chosen For Best Of Business List

Readers of *Inside Self-Storage* magazine recently named MiniCo Insurance Agency as a Best of Business winner in the category of best commercial insurance for the second consecutive year. MiniCo will be profiled in the November issue of *Inside Self Storage* for being selected as a 2013 Best of Business winner. In addition, MiniCo will be honored at a special ceremony at the *Inside Self Storage* World Expo in Las Vegas, March 31 to April 1, 2014.

Launched in 2011, the magazine's Best of Business reader survey was created to give self-storage industry professionals the chance to elect their choice of best businesses in 35 various categories. A complete list of 2013 Best of Business winners can be found on the magazine's website.

### Mako Steel Named Best Builder

Mako Steel has been selected once again as the winner of the Best Builder category for *Inside Self Storage* magazine's Best of Business survey. In addition, Mako Steel has announced a change of address. The company is now located at 5650 El Camino Real, Suite 100, Carlsbad, CA 92008.

### Auction Ends In A Slam Dunk

A recent purchase of a self-storage unit at a Maryland auction has made one man very happy. The delinquent unit, which Adrian Petrus purchased for \$300, was packed with memorabilia belonging to the basketball star Dikembe Mutombo. Some of the contents include signed basketballs, shoes, jerseys, trading cards, pictures of Mutombo with celebrities, and art work by Mutombo's brother. Petrus has tried to contact Mutombo, but the basketball giant has not returned his calls. ■

## Global News

### UK Company Opens Facility In Scotland

Store First, a self-storage operator in the United Kingdom, is opening a new facility in Paisley, Scotland, near the Glasgow International Airport. Store First Glasgow will be located close to Glasgow, the UK's fourth largest city. Store First, which currently has several facilities in northwestern England, intends to increase its footprint to 50 locations across the UK within five years. ■

## Associations

### TSSA Announces Election Results

The Texas Self Storage Association (TSSA) recently announced the results of its board member elections. Those newly elected to serve three-year terms on the board include Blair Valk of Assured Self Storage in Dallas