

Near disaster was faced by the **2008 Specialized Customer Services Individual Award** winner, when two major employers of the Winnsboro, South Carolina area announced their intent to close their doors. This individual envisioned the more than 450 employees who were heading quickly to the Unemployment Insurance lines. As the Area Director of the South Carolina Employment Security Commission, he recognized the Winnsboro Workforce Center did not have an efficient way to handle a situation of this magnitude.

He contacted both the Midlands Workforce Development Board and the Fairfield County Economic Development Director to rally support for a transition center in the Winnsboro community. His efforts allowed many dislocated workers to avoid time without employment as these various workforce entities exemplified *Together We Can Make A Difference*. IAWP is pleased to present **the 2008 Specialized Customer Services Individual Award** to Steve Hampton, South Carolina Chapter.