

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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**St. John's Community Services Recognizes the 20th Anniversary of the
Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)**

Washington, DC—St. John's Community Services (SJCS) recognizes the 20th Anniversary (July 26th) of The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), one of the most significant civil rights acts of our modern era. The original intent of the legislation was reaffirmed and strengthened by the "ADA Amendments Act of 2008" that clarifies the definition of disability and prohibits the disallowance of a disability based on a person's use of supportive measures.

SJCS adheres to the fundamental belief that people with disabilities must be given the opportunity to choose the communities they live in and the activities they participate in. Central to this belief is the importance of competitive work as the best route to personal empowerment and a good quality of life. With only 21 percent of people with disabilities in the labor force, compared to over 70 percent of people with no disability, we have a long way to realize the intentions of the ADA for equal opportunities. SJCS will continue to ardently support people with disabilities to prepare for and select jobs that suit their skills and long-term goals, and educate employers that hiring well-trained and reliable people with disabilities is good for business and the community.

Just as the ADA works to create equal employment and service opportunities for people with disabilities, SJCS puts those opportunities into action. Whether supporting a person to move from a volunteer to a paid position or to advocate for better public transportation and accommodations, the individual attains self-confidence and the community greater awareness and receptivity. By using the standards of ADA in our mission and application of our goals, St. John's remains confident that the laws outlined in the Act and the 2008 Amendments will remain the guideposts for creating the same opportunities for people with disabilities that are available to all of us.

St. John's Community Services, founded over 140 years ago at St. John's Episcopal Church at Lafayette Square in Washington, DC, is a non-profit, non-denominational agency that is dedicated to *advancing community support and opportunities for people living with disabilities*. SJCS provides residential, employment, adult day and educational services to over 450 adults and children in the District of Columbia, Tennessee, Virginia, and Pennsylvania.

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