

PRESS RELEASE

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St. John's Community Services Recognizes Community Leaders, Volunteers and Employees Supporting Individuals with Disabilities

Philadelphia, PA—Six outstanding people and organizations will be recognized for their commitment to furthering the lives of people with disabilities in the Philadelphia area. St. John's Community Services (SJCS) holds its annual SJCS-PA Awards Luncheon at noon on Friday, March 27, 2009 at the Crown Plaza Philadelphia. The luncheon will be hosted by Lorraine Ballard Morrill, News and Community Affairs Director for Clear Channel Radio Philadelphia. Representing SJCS, among others, will be Thomas F. Wilds, President; Genni Sasnett, COO; and Nicole Buckley, SJCS-PA State Director.

Each award recipient develops opportunities for community inclusion of the people SJCS-PA supports through advocacy and outreach. Their dedication has furthered the SJCS mission of *advancing community support and opportunities for people living with disabilities*. The award recipients are:

- Advocacy Award—Bill Krebs, Member, SJCS-PA Board of Directors, and self-advocate
- Community Service Award—Lorraine Ballard Morrill, News and Community Affairs Director, Clear Channel Radio Philadelphia
- Community Partner Award—Ridge Avenue Shelter, represented by Eugene Green, Facilities Administrator and George Jenkins, Maintenance Supervisor
- Program Award—Partnerships for Community Support, represented by Helen Falguera, Program Director and Rachel Cunningham, Unit Manager
- Program Award—Philadelphia Mental Retardation Services, represented by Linda Auchinleck
- SJCS Employee of the Year—Kimberly Milburn, Program Coordinator, SJCS-PA

The Hon. Representative W. Curtis Thomas will present a citation to SJCS from the House of Representatives of the State of Pennsylvania. Rep. Thomas is the father of two sons affiliated with SJCS-PA—Salim Thomas, supported by St. John's in his employment at PepBoys and Chimes; and Kareem Thomas, Vice President of Bank of America and an SJCS-PA Board member. The citation acknowledges St. John's for its 140 years of service and its commitment in Philadelphia to create competitive employment opportunities for people with disabilities. The citation also commends SJCS-PA for its recent initiative to provide a unique day program for adults to develop life skills, volunteer in the community, enjoy recreation activities and prepare for possible employment.

St. John's Community Services was founded in 1868 by parishioners of St. John's Episcopal Church ("the Church of Presidents") in Washington, DC. St. John's is a non-profit, non-denominational agency that is dedicated to supporting over 400 children and adults with disabilities to live, work, learn and participate in communities of their choice in Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Washington, DC, and Virginia. Since 2000, SJCS-PA has supported people with intellectual, developmental and physical disabilities to work in the competitive workforce. Each individual receives the support necessary to be successful on the job, while employers are given the opportunity to hire and retain qualified, skilled and reliable employees.

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