

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

End of Year Giving

As you consider your year-end tax planning, we hope you will take into account the deduction provided through charitable giving. Your 2007 year-end gift can significantly reduce your income taxes, while providing the meaningful support for St. John's Community Services and making a real difference in the lives of children and adults with disabilities. Here are some beneficial 2007 year-end gift ideas.

Gifts of Cash

If you itemize, making a cash donation by December 31, 2007, is one of the easiest ways to lower your 2006 income taxes. Gifts of cash are fully deductible—up to 50% of your adjusted gross income. (As an example, if your adjusted gross income is \$60,000, up to \$30,000 in charitable gifts may be deducted.) As long as the donation envelope is postmarked by December 31, your gift will qualify as a 2007 gift even if we do not receive it until the first week in 2007. Some employers will match charitable gifts, meaning your gifts are worth even more. If your company or firm has a matching gifts program, simply enclose the form along with your check. Ask your personnel office about this option.

Gifts of Stock

If you have appreciated stock, donating this stock will generally offer a two-fold tax savings. First, you avoid paying any capital gains tax on the increase in value of the stock. Second, you receive an income tax charitable deduction for the full fair market value of the stock at the time of the gift. Gifts of appreciated stock are fully deductible - up to 30% of your adjusted gross income. (As an example, if your adjusted gross income is \$100,000, up to \$30,000 in appreciated stock gifts may be deducted.)

Make sure that you have owned the stock for a "long-term" period of time (generally more than one year) to qualify for these significant tax advantages. Your gift of stock should be post-marked by December 31, 2007. You may also

choose for your stockbroker or trust office to arrange for a stock transfer from your account by year-end. If you have stock that has depreciated, it is generally not advantageous to donate the stock, but rather sell the stock yourself to realize the loss for tax purposes. You can then contribute the cash and take a charitable deduction.

Bequests

While considering your 2007 income tax savings, this may also be a good time to consider long-term tax savings. The federal estate tax can still take approximately 40% to 50% of one's estate at the time of death. We hope you will consider a charitable bequest in your will—to benefit St. John's while lessening your estate tax burden.

Please contact Margarita Covarrubias at 202-274-3406 or mcovarrubias@sjcs.org for further information. We also urge you to discuss your tax planning with your accountant or other professional advisor.

Celebrate unity through the arts at

ARTVIEW 2008

Beneficiary of the artDC Fair
Washington Convention Center
May 15, 2008
6:00 - 9:00 PM

Silent and live art auction gala

For more information and ticket sales, contact George Liacopoulos at 202-274-3402 or gliacopoulos@sjcs.org.

*All proceeds benefit
St. John's Community Services*

St. John's Community Services

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*Advancing Community Support and Opportunities for
People Living with Disabilities
www.sjcs.org*

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COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

The Newsletter of St. John's Community Services

Winter 2007

St. John's Community Services Kicks Off 140 Years of Driving Social Change

St. John's Community Services (SJCS) held a reception at the Willard Hotel on Thursday, October 25th to launch a year of events in celebration of its 140th Anniversary in the fall of 2008. The reception featured remarks by Mark J. Gold, SJCS Chairman, Reverend Luis León, Rector of St. John's Episcopal Church, Vincent C. Gray, DC City Council Chairman, and Thomas F. Wilds, President/CEO, SJCS.

Each speaker movingly shared his personal recollections of St. John's people and events. Mr. Gold provided historical context of the 1868 founding of St. John's soon after the assassination of President Lincoln. Reverend León spoke of the ties binding the church and SJCS that remain as alive today as they were 140 years ago. Mr. Gray recalled his 30 year



Reverend Luis León from St. John's Episcopal Church with Tom F. Wilds, SJCS President

community Services will remain relevant and strong in the years ahead.

The remarks underscored the central theme that since its founding by the "church across from Lafayette Square" in 1868, St. John's has taken courageous stands on behalf of the rights of people often disenfranchised by our society. "Driving Social Change," is more than a slogan, it is an essential ingredient of our mission: *Advancing Community Support and Opportunities for People Living with Disabilities.*

Throughout this special year, SJCS will conduct a series of activities and develop products (see Events Calendar on p. 3) to raise awareness and gain support for its work, and change perceptions about people with disabilities. All events and products will be supported by media and community outreach, with strong use of the 140th Anniversary as a unifying symbol of "Driving Social Change."

The year will culminate on November 1, 2008 with an anniversary celebration, including special recognition for individuals who have made a significant contribution to advancing the quality of lives of people with disabilities. It will provide SJCS family members and others a moving testimony to the power of commitment and service—the power of St. John's Community Services.

The year provides wonderful opportunities for everyone in the SJCS family and people new to St. John's to become involved. You can support the agency and artists with disabilities by buying extraordinary art pieces at ARTview, sponsoring a table at the 140th Anniversary Celebration, and identifying community leaders as potential Board members or donors. Your efforts will enable St. John's Community Services to drive social change for another 140 years and support people with disabilities to live in communities of their choosing with all the benefits of other members of our community.



Genni Sasnett, Chief Operating Officer, with SJCS-VA service recipient, Andrew

relationship with Tom Wilds and SJCS leadership, paying homage to the years of advocating with St. John's for the rights of people with disabilities in DC. And Mr. Wilds concluded by thanking all the people whose dedication has ensured that St. John's Com-



Vincent C. Gray, DC City Council Chairman



Thomas F. Wilds
President

Tom's Message Happy Birthday St. John's!

In 2008, St. John's Community Services will be celebrating its 140 birthday!

We've planned a variety of events and ways to celebrate this major milestone, but most importantly, we plan on using this special occasion to educate the community as well as the St. John's family about our proud and rich heritage.

St. John's Episcopal Church at Lafayette Square

St. John's Community Services started as an idea of the Rev. John Lewis. He was the rector of St. John's Episcopal Church, at Lafayette Square, just across the street from the White House. It was 1868. The Civil War had ended

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just a few years before. President Lincoln was assassinated at Ford's Theater a half dozen blocks from the church. The streets of the capital were mainly



Orphans in 1939

dirt. The country was in disarray and needed to rebuild. Children were wandering the streets homeless and hungry. Church documents note that children were drinking from sewers. People had come home from the war, injured sick and penniless.

Rev. Lewis asked his parishioners at St. John's Church to help. He created several of the city's first charities. He developed a mentoring program for his parishioners to guide a new developing church in an economically depressed area of the Foggy Bottom community (a reclaimed swamp area in the nation's capital). He also created several schools for children. But for the neediest of the city, homeless children and adults injured, helpless and aged, he founded St. John's as a hospital (later an orphanage) at the location that is now McPherson Square. The hospital was just around the corner from the church and the White House. It opened its doors on Nov. 1—All Souls Day.

Rev. Lewis' greatest accomplishment was to inspire his congregation to act boldly and to take chances. Today, 140 years later, his courage inspires us to *advance community support and opportunities for people living with disabilities*. St. John's Community Services has

about 500 staff and over a hundred volunteer board members operating in numerous states. And while we've grown, we still rely on the devotion of the St. John's family members to carry on the mission. We lend a helping hand (not a hand-out) to support children and adults to live, learn, play and work in their communities. We also assist communities to create opportunities so that every citizen can not only participate in activities, but can give back to the community in the form of volunteering to help others, and as employees providing a service and paying taxes. We recognize and respect the contribution of people with all abilities and celebrate the diversity of our community.

As a St. John's family member, join us in this year-long celebration. Remember our heritage and help us plan for the challenges that face us in our continuing journey down history's winding road.

Happy Birthday St. John's!! And thank you to the family, past and present, that made us and keeps us strong.



Manager of Applebees with SJCS-PA service recipient, Charles

SJCS Strategic Plan—A Roadmap for the Future

In 2006, SJCS developed a strategic plan that provides a roadmap for our organization through 2011. The plan was developed through the collective efforts of our staff, boards, service recipients and their families, and community members. The 21 organizational goals and specific state and home office strategies that comprise the plan target three principal areas: 1) Service Quality, 2) Finances and 3) Business Practices.

Our accomplishments over the past fiscal year indicate that we have made great strides toward our goals and have established clear priorities for the future.

Service Quality

- SJCS-VA received its third consecutive, 3-year CARF accreditation for all Virginia services; SJCS-TN again attained Quality Tier status in Tennessee; and SJCS-DC was one of the first providers to pass the DC government's Basic Assurances Standard Authorization quality assurance review, meeting 97.1% of standards.
- We implemented our first Corporate Compliance Program and strengthened and refined our internal quality assurance system agency-wide.

- We refined the Quality Teams process in all locations, in which our highly valued staff has become more involved in the decision-making process.

Financial Stability

- For the first time in several years, we achieved a modest surplus in our operating budget.
- We improved our financial accountability and performance review systems, and experienced growth in our endowment that exceeded that of the general stock market.
- In programs and services, we filled many long-standing vacancies, opened over a dozen new living arrangements, and expanded our employment, educational and community participation services.

Business Practices

- Home office and state staff developed creative ways to further collaborate, better utilizing their respective skills and expertise to further the mission of SJCS.
- The SJCS Board of Trustees and State Boards of Directors became more engaged in governance, sharing their expertise and working closely with staff.
- All Board members continued to gen-

erously invest in SJCS through financial and other gifts.

As a result of these efforts, SJCS received some of its highest satisfactory ratings from service recipients, families, case managers and government officials.

While much has been accomplished, a lot of work lays ahead. In 2008, we will strive to attain accreditation for our services in Tennessee and Pennsylvania, and increase the satisfaction of our staff and stakeholders. To serve a greater number of individuals, SJCS will expand its educational services for children, open more homes in the community and increase employment opportunities for adults. We will strengthen our financial viability by increasing our private revenue and operating margin. And, most importantly, we will work to reach more people and organizations in our communities, to extend our services and expertise, and to form more partnerships-- all to build better communities and improve the quality of life of people living with disabilities.

140th Anniversary Calendar of Events

2007

November 16

Pennsylvania Awards Ceremony

December 4

DC Awards Ceremony

December 19

Virginia Awards Ceremony

2008

February TBA

DC Symposium: *Protection of Rights for People With Disabilities*

February 20

Pillow Lee Award

March 30

St. John's Sunday

May TBD

Embassy Reception, sponsored by the Founder's Board

May 15

ARTview 2008 with artDC

June 19

Tennessee Awards Ceremony

July-September

SJCS DVD Screening

November 1

140th Anniversary Celebration

CARF Accreditation in SJCS-VA Leads Way for Service Excellence

In September, SJCS-VA received full accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) for a period of three years. This represents the third successive CARF accreditation for SJCS-VA and includes the following two service categories:



- Community Services—Community Housing, Community Integration
- Employment Services—Job Development, Job Supports, Job-Site Training, Employment Planning Services

As stated in the September letter from CARF President/CEO, Brian J. Boon, Ph.D., “This achievement is an indication of your organization’s dedication and commitment to improving the quality of the lives of the persons served.

Services, personnel, and documentation clearly indicate an established pattern of practice excellence.” The CARF process once again confirmed that the SJCS-VA staff continue to meet the needs of all of its stakeholders through their commitment to quality improvement for all services.

In SJCS-DC, the District of Columbia Department of Disabilities Services (DDS) surveyed all providers for people with disabilities. DDS applied many of the standard areas used by the Council on Quality and Leadership to develop its Basic Assurances Standards Authorization (BASA). For this first-time survey, SJCS-DC received an unofficial score of 97.1%, meeting 68 of the 70 standards reviewed by DDS surveyors. Considering that thus far

only 20% of providers are passing the survey on the first try, this score represents a major accomplishment by the entire SJCS-DC staff.

SJCS-TN has received “Quality Tier” status for the past three years and six out of seven years overall. Preparations are now beginning for SJCS-TN to apply for its first CARF accreditation process. In addition, SJCS-PA has been recognized as one of the outstanding providers of Supported Employment services in Pennsylvania. Overall, 2007 has continued to confirm quality excellence throughout the agency.

Farewell and Thank You to Our PA and NJ State Directors: Andrea Bonaparte and Albert Brown

St. John’s Community Services has been fortunate to have outstanding leaders dedicated to our mission of *Advancing Community Support and Opportunities for People Living with Disabilities*. Two such people—Dr. Albert Brown and Andrea Bonaparte, state directors in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, respectively—have recently left full-time employment at St. John’s.



Al, who retired at the end of October, became the SJCS-PA State Director in May 2000, soon after SJCS initiated supported

employment services in Philadelphia for people with disabilities, many of whom were former residents of Pennhurst Institution. Before joining SJCS-PA, he led agencies in Delaware and Philadelphia

and was an assistant regional director for the Division on Disabilities in New Jersey. Al earned his doctorate in Special Education Administration at Syracuse University.

Al’s steady hand helped form an outstanding staff and support for numerous individuals to attain competitive employment. Al (affectionately called “Doc”) assumed many roles—coach, mentor, counselor, and as necessary, a back-up employment specialist. He was instrumental in building the reputation of SJCS Pennsylvania Supported Employment (PASE) as a respected provider in the state. Al remains with us part-time on a consulting basis while we seek a new State Director.

Andrea served as the SJCS-NJ State Director from August 2005 until this past October, when St. John’s discontinued its services in the state. With a strong background in rehabilitation services and an MBA from Eastern University, Andrea

took on the difficult task of stabilizing a fractious program. She was able to build a more cohesive staff, strengthen service delivery, partner with new Board leadership, and effectively navigate relationships with the state bureaucracy. As a testament to her outstanding leadership, SAGE Eldercare in Summit, NJ is awarding St. John’s their 2006 Good Neighbor Award for volunteer support in its Meals on Wheels program.



Our special thanks to Dr. Albert Brown and Ms. Andrea Bonaparte for their many contributions to SJCS and the people we support. They shall be missed, and they have our very best wishes.