

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Generous Donors Support SJCS Programs

St. John's Community Services is grateful to all the generous donors who contributed to SJCS during 2006. Because of our donors' belief in the work of St. John's, the people with disabilities we serve are receiving quality services, living in beautiful, accessible homes, and learning the skills they need to participate in the community. While all our donors will be acknowledged in our upcoming 2006 Annual Report, we would like to highlight some of our major donors.

- The Founders Board of SJCS \$157,000, with the following disbursement:
 - \$60,000 DC Clinical Services
 - \$95,000 DC Children's Program
 - \$2,000 NJ Saturday Recreation Program

- Mr. Hubert N. Hoffman, III & Ms. Peggy Hoffman \$50,000 Unrestricted
- The Alexander and Margaret Stewart Trust \$50,000 DC Clinical Services
- United Way of the National Capital Area \$22,500 DC Community Living Services (CLS)
- The Assisi Foundation of Memphis \$20,000 TN Nursing Services
- The Bonaventure Devine Foundation \$20,000 NJ CLS
- The John Dickson Home Fund \$20,000 DC CLS
- The Medtronic Foundation \$10,000 TN Nursing Services
- The Wachovia Foundation \$10,000 VA Supported Employment Services (SES)
- The Washington Forrest Foundation \$10,000 VA CLS
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- Whole Foods Market \$4,265 Unrestricted
- Civitan Club of Tyson's Virginia \$3,000 VA SES
- Prince Charitable Trusts \$2,500 Unrestricted
- The Goldman Family Foundation \$1,500 DC CLS
- The Washington Post \$1,000 DC CLS
- The following corporations sponsored ARTview 2006 at the \$5,000 level:
 - The Cabot Institute for Labor Relations, Inc.
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- The following corporations and individuals sponsored ARTview 2006 at the \$1,000 level:
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 - Lenkin Company Partnership
 - The Washington Post

Our sincere thanks goes to these and all our donors. Without them we would not be able to maintain the high quality of services for which we are known.

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*Advancing Community Support and Opportunities for
People Living with Disabilities
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COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

The Newsletter of St. John's Community Services

Winter 2006

NEEDS TITLE

Over 250 pieces of fine artwork decorated the walls of the Carnegie Library September 27, 2006, at St. John's Community Services' largest and most celebrated fundraiser, ARTview 2006.

One of the mid-Atlantic region's most prestigious exhibitions showcasing Contemporary American, Folk, and Outsider Art, the Fifth Annual ARTview 2006 auction was a great success. ARTview 2006 grossed \$35,600 in art sales to advance community support and opportunities for people living with disabilities.

"Celebrating Diversity in the Arts" for the fifth year, ARTview 2006 highlighted a diverse array of work from both established and



Artist Jessica Park aside her painting, "The Capitol Dome," at ARTview 2006

emerging artists, persons with and without disabilities, and included art and photography from galleries, private collections, and studio programs. A total of 106 artists from throughout the United States and Canada, with and without disabilities, participated in this year's ARTview.

Hundreds of St. John's supporters attended the elegant evening of entertainment, great food, and fun to appreciate and bid on stimulating works of art. Host of the event, WTOP radio's Man About Town, Bob Madigan, opened ARTview 2006 with delightful humor and panache, and the laughter kept coming with Board of Trustees member David Beck as auctioneer.

St. John's Community Services would like to thank our host committee, staff volunteers, and business supporters who helped to make ARTview 2006 such a success.

Giving at Year-End

As you consider your year-end tax planning, we hope you will take into account the deduction provided through charitable giving. Your 2006 year-end gift can significantly reduce your income taxes, while providing 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 2006 year-end gift ideas.

Gifts of Cash

If you itemize, making a cash donation by December 31, 2006 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 2006 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

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Thomas F. Wilds
President

Tom's Message - *The Time for Giving*

As the holidays approach, we hear the old phrase, "It's the time for giving." For me that phrase triggers a litany of thoughts about a group of people who have and continue to give throughout the year and in so many ways. They are our own special Santas. They are the chairs of our boards. There are eight of them.

Each lead a specialty board with oversight of one of St. John's corporations. They devote a great deal of time, energy and commitment to ensuring that St. John's Community Services does indeed, "advance community support and

opportunities for people living with disabilities."

Mark Gold takes on his second year as Chairman of the Board of Trustees, the parent corporation. Mark has served St. John's for more than a decade as a board member. **J. Nicoll (Nick) Durrie**, who has served the agency in many official capacities, now takes over as Chairman of the St. John's Foundation. **Antonia (Toni) Brathwaite-Fisher**, with vast professional and advocacy experience in the District of Columbia, now chairs our SJCS-District of Columbia subsidiary. **Bailey Lynn**, an attorney and SJCS-Virginia board member, was recently elected to the chair of the Virginia subsidiary. **James (Buddy) Kizer**, advocate and brother of a St. John's consumer in Tennessee, leads our "Volunteer State" board for another year. **Bonnie Cooper**, mother of a New Jersey consumer and dedicated board member who has

championed quality services, has taken the reigns of SJCS-New Jersey's board. **Norma Smith**, mother of a young man benefiting from SJCS-Pennsylvania supported employment services and an advocate for such services for years, now leads the board in Philadelphia. And from the St. John's Founders Board, **Ellen O'Bannon** heads up approximately fifty volunteers that provide the extra financial support to ensure quality services. The Founder's Board began St. John's 138 year legacy.

These dedicated volunteers make it feel like the Christmas Holidays all year. They keep pulling gifts (brand new ideas, hope for tomorrow and just plain hard work) out of their bags, regardless of the time of year. Their leadership, dedication and inspiration give the St. John's family that rosy glow. Join me in welcoming our newly elected leadership team!

Year-End Donations *continued...*

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 postmarked by December 31, 2006. 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 2006 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 Director of Development, Sandra Bishop, at 202-274-3405 or sbishop@sjcs.org for further information. We also urge you to discuss your tax planning with your accountant or other professional advisor.

Genni Sasnett Receives the vaACCSES President's Award

Genni Sasnett, Chief Operating Officer of St. John's Community Services, was recently awarded the inaugural President's Award from vaACCSES, an association with over thirty-five organizational members advancing quality employment, training, residential and community supports for Virginians with disabilities. Genni was recognized for "significant and sustained contributions to the association, its members and persons with disabilities."

The vaACCSES President's Award, the first award of its kind in the history of vaACCSES, was presented to Genni on September 19, 2006, at the 10th Anniversary Virginia Collaborations Conference in Virginia Beach. This award was presented to Genni not just because of her service as Past-President, but for the many years of moving the association forward, and for her legislative and advocacy efforts to assist Virginians with disabilities.

As stated by Thalia Simpson-Clement, St. John's Virginia State Director and current Board member of vaACCSES,

"Genni's love and passion for what we do as well as her knowledge and dedication to systems change throughout the field was recognized...the recognition was more than deserved for her tireless efforts and all that she does for our [St. John's] prestigious organization."

With over twenty-five years of experience supporting people of all ages with disabilities, Genni is widely recognized as an advocate and agent for reform. She was instrumental in starting the first Supported Employment Program in the District of Columbia, and has been a driving force in converting St. John's from traditional facility-based services to its current status as a fully community-based organization that is completely facility free. Congratulations to Genni Sasnett.



Industry Insight

Consumer Directed: Real Life Choices

The New Freedom Initiative (NFI), announced on February 1, 2001, is a nationwide initiative to remove barriers to community living for people of all ages with disabilities and long-term illnesses. This initiative supports states' efforts to meet the goals of the Olmstead v. L.C. Supreme Court decision issued in July 1999 that requires states to administer services, programs, and activities "in the most integrated setting appropriate to the needs of qualified individuals with disabilities."*

In order to better serve individuals with disabilities in the setting of their choosing, The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) provides grants to assist states with implementing systemic changes. These grants include employment initiatives, strategies to recruit and support direct service workers, and enduring improvements in community long-term support systems-referred to as "Real Choice Systems Change." The intent of "Real Choice" is to create a competitive environment for providers. Whether as part of the CMS' "Real Choice" initiative or not, the movement toward community-based services and consumer choice is taking hold across the country. For example, the New Jersey Division of Developmental Disabilities is currently using an RFP (Request for Proposal) process for developing approved provider lists, and the Pennsylvania Office of Mental Retardation is now piloting a "fee-for-service" reimbursement model that would also afford individuals with disabilities and their families the opportunity to "purchase" services from provider organizations they choose.

Thus, while different models are emerging in each state, the bottom-line is the same: Individuals with disabilities will be given the freedom to shop around for providers of discrete services, and in turn providers will be reimbursed only as services are rendered. This consumer-oriented and "fee-for-service" approach will result in a more competitive environment. St. John's has been positioned to take advantage of these competitive opportunities since well before Olmstead. We have long been committed to being a consumer oriented, community-based and non-institutional provider. The real challenge before us is how to effectively build upon our solid reputation for quality services and successfully market our existing programs and expand into new service areas.

*The Olmstead decision interpreted Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which gives civil rights and protections to individuals with disabilities and guarantees equal opportunity for individuals with disabilities in public accommodations, employment, transportation, State and local government services, and telecommunications.

Saturday Drop-In Program Expands

Due to the success and high demand for its services, the St. John's Community Services' Saturday Recreation and Respite Program (Drop-In) Program in Trenton, New Jersey, is expanding from 30 to 42 participants. The program offers the unique opportunity for children and young adults, ages 3 to 21, with developmental disabilities to explore their communities through creative and exciting journeys. At the same time, the program gives dedicated parents an opportunity for some free time from the demands of caring for a child with a developmental disability.

Each Saturday, the children and young adults are picked up at their homes and embark on a day of boundless adventure. With



Children enjoying the afternoon together at the Saturday Drop-In.

dedicated staff, they take field trips to places such as the Statue of Liberty and Jenkinson's Aquarium; participate in seasonal activities of pumpkin picking, holiday light shows, cook-outs and swimming; and enjoy casual afternoons of movies, board and video games,

sports, arts and crafts, and Bingo. Being community-based, this SJCS-NJ program provides children and young adults opportunities to interact with their non-disabled peers, hone social skills, follow rules and directions, and practice appropriate behavior in fun and stimulating settings.

The program, which began in 1999, has evolved into a loving community of children and young adults, parents, and St. John's staff. The staff members, who represent a diversity of interests and backgrounds, serve as positive role models, as well as confidants and friends. And most importantly, wonderful and supportive relationships have been forged among all involved.

In My Own Words...

Honoring Thomas Offenbach and Samuel Benetiz, participants in the Pennsylvania Supported Employment Program

Thomas Offenbach



I have been working with the Naval Defense Center in Philadelphia two afternoons a week since 1995. I have duties of vacuuming, emptying the trash, and cleaning windows for the Naval Defense Center where I have become a valued employee.

Before coming to St. John's in January of 2005, I had a second job I was not pleased with. But when I came to St. John's, I was offered employment at Taco Bell where I was given greater responsibilities.

I have been working for Taco Bell as

the Dining Room Captain since December 27, 2005. I work three mornings a week emptying trash, mopping and cleaning bathrooms, and cleaning windows. I am very proud that I now have a job where I have tons to do and I get to interact with the customers.

Samuel Benetiz



When I came to St. John's Community Services in May of 2003, I had some issues that made it difficult for me to find a job. St. John's found two jobs for me before placing me in my current job at Applebee's. My prior jobs were working at Halloween Adventure handing out brochures and working at a

building in Center City as a maintenance worker. I liked both of these jobs, but my current job at Applebee's is the very best.

I started working at Applebee's in July of 2004, cleaning tables, wiping pictures, cleaning the floors, wiping windows and setting up the dining room. At that time, I had one-to-one supervision from my residential site. Within a few months, St. John's Community Services saw that I no longer needed the one-to-one supervision, and had a team meeting to discuss fading out my one-to-one. One month after that meeting, my one-to-one was dropped. I no longer need a one-to-one and have been doing a good job at Applebee's.

I like my job because I have lots of responsibilities, but more than anything, I like the friendships I have made with my co-workers. I am well liked by them and we laugh and joke. I work four mornings a week, and I have saved enough money to take a vacation in Puerto Rico later this year.