

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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For Immediate Release

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### **St. John's Community Services Recognizes Community Leaders and Employees Supporting Individuals with Disabilities**

*Philadelphia, PA*—Six outstanding people and organizations will be acknowledged for their commitment to furthering the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities in the Philadelphia area. St. John's Community Services (SJCS) holds its annual SJCS-Pennsylvania Awards Ceremony on Friday, November 16, 2007, from 12:00 pm until 3:00 pm at the Holiday Inn, 4100 Presidential Blvd. Hosting the event will be Loraine Ballard Morrill, News and Community Affairs Director for Clear Channel Radio's six Philadelphia stations. Representing SJCS, among others, will be Thomas F. Wilds, President; Genni Sasnett, COO; and Dr. Albert T. Brown, SJCS-PA State Director.

Each award recipient cultivates opportunities for community inclusion through advocacy, community outreach, community partnerships, and unremitting dedication to the needs of individuals SJCS-PA supports. In so doing, they have furthered the St. John's Community Services mission— *Advancing Community Support and Opportunities for People Living with Disabilities*. They are:

- Advocacy Award—Norma J. Smith, Chair, SJCS-PA Board of Directors, and parent of a service recipient.
- Community Service Award—Staples Office Supply Store, Lindberg Boulevard
- Community Partner Award—Julius E. Jackson, III, Program Director, E-3 Center of Resources for Human Development
- Program Award—Herbert Grant, Associate Team Director for The Association for Independent Growth (TAIG), Inc.
- SJCS Employee of the Year—Marta Martinez, State Office Manager/Employment Specialist at SJCS-PA
- Albert T. Brown, Jr. Award—Racheal R. Cunningham, Unit Manager at Partnership for Community Supports

Since 2000, SJCS-PA Supported Employment (PASE) has supported people with disabilities to work in the competitive workforce. PASE provides a full array of employment services to individuals with developmental and physical disabilities, including career counseling, resume development, job development and placement, job coaching, and training of co-workers and supervisors. Each individual receives the

support necessary to be successful on the job, acquire new skills, gain economic empowerment and enhanced self-esteem, and work alongside non-disabled co-workers.

St. John's Community Services was founded in 1868 by parishioners of St. John's Episcopal Church ("the Church of Presidents") in Washington, DC. Entering its 140<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year, St. John's is a non-profit, non-denominational agency that is dedicated to successfully including people with developmental disabilities into the community of their choice through unique services and opportunities. SJCS provides community living, supported employment, community participation and educational services to over 400 adults and children in Tennessee, Washington, DC, Virginia, and Pennsylvania.

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