



A quarterly publication of SRVS, Shelby Residential & Vocational Services, Inc.

PEOPLE & PROGRESS

OPTIONS & OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Summer/Fall 2004

Inside this issue:

Use Your Imagination	1
Spirit of SRVS	1
Director's Column	2
SRVS' Best Honored	2
Big Apple	2
Donors	3-5
News & Notes	6
P & P via Email	6
Home Décor Drive	6

SRVS Makes a Difference:

- This Holiday season, over 130 individuals with need will receive gifts through our Christmas Angel program.
- SRVS employees raised over \$32,000 for United Way, all of which comes back to SRVS.
- Daily, we employ 227 individuals with developmental disabilities through SOS Industries, community enclaves and SETS janitorial/landscaping crews.
- Since June, we have found or are helping to find community jobs for 84 individuals.

USE YOUR "IMAGINATION"

For most people, spending a few minutes of your valuable time to sit and imagine is a thing of the past. However, SRVS suggests that you take a few moments to join us as we "Imagine the PossABILITIES" for the individuals that we serve.

It's not hard to imagine that people with developmental disabilities want to live in their own homes, want to work where they feel safe, and want to learn new skills. SRVS is the place that makes these desires become reality.

Doing so requires a large amount of time, effort, energy, and of course, money. This is where we need your help. This winter, SRVS will begin the

"Imagine the PossABILITIES" annual campaign. We encourage you to read about how every day, SRVS helps over 800 people with developmental disabilities lead active and productive lives.

And if you find yourself imagining, consider making a donation to the annual campaign. These donations help individuals like Rebecca, whose story you can find on page two, along with many others to live active and productive lives.

We look forward to working with you further to "Imagine the PossABILITIES," and thank you in advance for your participation in this year's Annual Campaign.

SPIRIT OF SRVS SETS RECORDS

Some people came for the dancing. Some came to sample a glass of the world's finest wines and beers, or to taste food from the area's top restaurants. Still others came to get a good deal on some great auction items. But no matter what brought people to the 6th annual Spirit of SRVS, all who came helped this year's event to be the most successful yet!

With over 600 in attendance and almost 500 auction items, this year's Spirit of SRVS was definitely one for the record books. We raised a net total of \$62,000 through sponsorships, auction items, individual donations and ticket purchases to support SRVS'

programs.

The evening at the Hilton Memphis was filled with entertainment by Horizon with Erica Middleton, a special performance by the Night Fever Dancers, and culinary delights from restaurants such as Equestria, Yia Yia's, and Bhan Thai. Guests enjoyed silent auction items ranging from bottles of fine wine to dinners at area restaurants to live auction items for trips to Florida and California.

We would like to thank all of the sponsors, volunteers and SRVS staff members that helped make this wonderful night happen!

A WORD FROM JEFFRIE

As you see in the adjacent story, I recently received the award for Executive Director of the Year from the Tennessee Network of Community Organizations, or TNCO. While I was honored to be nominated for such an award, I have always thought that the people who truly should be celebrated are the individuals with developmental disabilities that we serve. These individuals work extremely hard to achieve a multitude of personal goals, such as self-sufficiency, meaningful employment, and a variety of other hopes and dreams.



Another group that deserves to be in the spotlight is the SRVS staff members. These professionals work extremely hard to help our individuals achieve their goals, often putting in long hours and going above and beyond the call of duty. Without their commitment, SRVS would not be able to provide the high level of support that we have been known for since 1962. Please join me in applauding these wonderful people.

**- Jeffrie Bruton
Executive Director**

TNCO HONORS BEST OF SRVS

SRVS' excellence continues to shine, as three of our best and brightest were recently honored by the Tennessee Network of Community Organizations. Executive Director Jeffrie Bruton, Board Chairman Harvey Middleton, and Direct Services Professional Jackie Joiner all received awards at the TNCO Annual Conference in Nashville.

Bruton was named Executive Director of the Year by TNCO for her service on the TNCO Board of Directors. Bruton has served President of TNCO and Chair of the Governmental Affairs Committee, as well as on the Finance Committee, Executive Committee, and as Treasurer.

Harvey Middleton was chosen as Volunteer of the Year for his service as Chairman of the Board for SRVS. As a volunteer since 1986, Middleton has served as Treasurer, 1st Vice Chair and currently serves as Chairperson of the Board. He is a member of the Executive Committee, the Finance Committee and the Fundraising Committee. He's also served in various capacities with our Annual Fundraiser, the Spirit of SRVS: A Wine-Tasting & Silent Auction

SRVS had yet another team member honored, as Jacqueline Joiner was selected as the Direct Support Professional of the Year.

Joiner has been with SRVS as a Direct Support Professional for over 16 years at the Kramer Day Center. She was specifically recognized for her ability to work as part of a team and provide a positive, nurturing and productive atmosphere for the individuals with whom she works.

TAKING A BITE FROM THE BIG APPLE

Remember the memories of field trips in school? Riding the bus with friends, sight seeing and learning all rolled into one. That, plus much more, is what Rebecca, a teenager who has moderate mental retardation and ADHD, was able to do on her spring break from Georgian Hills Junior High School this past April. With the support of her teacher, Mrs. Sims, she and three of her SRVS staff, as well as the rest of her 12 special needs classmates, were able to go to New York City.

The trip is traditionally taken by regular 9th grade students, but through various fundraisers, they accumulated the money necessary for the nearly 50 regular and special needs kids that wanted to take the trip. Through all of their hard work and donations, the special needs class alone was able to raise over the amount that they needed for a grand total of \$8,000.

The group was able to stay in New York City for four days and saw everything from the Statue of Liberty to Central Park. The group also got to experience a trip to Harlem, Ground Zero, NBC Studios, Manhattan, Rockefeller Center and a performance at the Apollo.

Since returning, Rebecca's staff feel like she has a renewed sense of independence. She stands taller now that she has seen the sights of the Big Apple. She recognized that she was somewhere new and different and really began to show improvements in her behaviors after getting the freedom of making so many choices while on the trip. Rebecca reached her goal of independence and a higher level of productivity by getting to travel, help with all aspects of the trip and see a whole new world she would've otherwise not been able to see. This trip was truly an accomplishment for Rebecca!

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NEWS & NOTES

- Congratulations to the Kramer Activity Center and the Residential Day Habilitation Program for receiving the City of Memphis, Human Services Grant. This grant of over \$21,000 will be used to implement a Sensory Project.
- The first ever "SRVS in September" celebration was held on September 10 at New Hope Christian Church. Over 200 SRVS individuals and staff attended the picnic, and enjoyed the food, dancing, games and much more!
- Efforts are still being made to lobby state legislators in regards to the Direct Support Professionals bill, which would raise the pay level for DSP's at SRVS. If you would like to assist in these efforts, please contact Melinda Rodgers at 901.869.9207.

If you would like to begin receiving an electronic edition of *People & Progress*, please send your name and email address to matthew.washburn@srvs.org

Home Décor Drive a Success

Thank you to the Olberding Family for hosting SRVS first-ever home furnishing and décor donation drive. Thanks to their hard work, we raised multiple truck loads full of various household donations, including pictures, knick-knacks, appliances, furniture, & bedding items.

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Chairman of the Board
Harvey Middleton

Executive Director
Jeffrie Bruton

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Melinda Rodgers & Matthew Washburn

SRVS has 80 facilities serving the needs of local citizens with developmental disabilities.



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