



PEOPLE & PROGRESS

PROVIDING OPTIONS & OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

FALL 2005

SRVS Sensory Garden in Full Bloom



Pfizer Volunteers help spruce up the Sensory Garden.

How does your garden grow? Does it blossom with picnic tables, hand-painted murals, flower beds, park benches and custom built sidewalks? The SRVS Sensory Garden has all this and more, made possible through a \$5,000 grant from the Madonna Circle. The Grand Opening of the Sensory Garden, located at 3592 Knight Arnold, is scheduled for November 1st and all service recipients, their parents and/or guardians, employees, friends and the public are invited to attend.

The idea for the Sensory Garden took root early this year after noticing that several SRVS individuals enjoyed walking around outside as part of their daily therapy, or when taking a break from working at SOS

Catching the Spirit of SRVS Is Contagious!

This year's 7th Annual Spirit of SRVS beckoned many to "catch the Spirit," and like a grand revival, people were awakened by the celebration of giving. Nearly \$73,000 was raised, surpassing last year's net total. The wine tasting and silent auction fundraising event was held on August 27th at the Hilton Memphis, where more than 700 attendees came to bid on more than 350 auction items. An eclectic array of goods made for an exciting shopping atmosphere as items ranged from holiday baskets to a yachting cruise on the SeaDream. Guests were treated to a culinary smorgasbord offered by area restaurants and a "varietal" of featured wines. As an added draw, entertainment was provided by the multi-talented Eddie

Industries. Our service recipients expressed the desire to have a safe area outdoors where they could go to sit down, and a walking trail where they could use their walkers or wheelchairs. Staff also saw the advantage of offering activities that could stimulate individuals through an outdoor learning environment.

The Sensory Garden will help our youth and adults increase their quality of life and become more active. It will provide horticultural therapy and vocational skill-building opportunities. Since the grant award, the seeds of caring have been planted by many volunteers, and additional donors were cultivated. United Way Day of Caring brought 50 Pfizer employees who made our garden more cheerful, and plans are underway to build a greenhouse, bird bath, bird houses, rock garden, and wind chimes on FedEx Cares Day.

SRVS is grateful for the ongoing support of this project. Thanks goes to all who have helped lay the groundwork thus far: Bill Albans, John and Wanda Barzizza, Bill and Gladys Cockroft, FedEx, Functional Independence, Inc., Germantown Landscape Company, Madonna Circle, Memphis Ready Mix, Pfizer, Inc., The Stockyard and Tri-State Contractors, Inc.

Harrison, and inspiring Company D Dancers.

As a post-event thank you to the more than 100 volunteers who gave so much of their time and talent, SRVS hosted a volunteer party at the Regions Bank. Volunteers enjoyed fun, food and recognition. The last of the remaining auction items went for bid, which peaked at more than more than \$1,500!

SRVS would like to thank all our guests, donors, sponsors, and volunteers who made this year's event the best Spirit of SRVS ever! Your spirit of giving was contagious!

Inside this Issue

SRVS Sensory Garden	1
Spirit of SRVS	1
A Word from Jeffrie	2
SRVS Individual	2
Irwin Siegel Award	2
Donor Listing	3
Christmas Angels	4

YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Thank you to all our donors who continue to support our agency and the needs of the individuals we serve.

We offer sincere gratitude for the generous support of the Max B. Ostner, Sr.

Endowment

Fund of the Community Foundation for Greater Memphis for a \$10,000 Grant in Honor of Mr. and Mrs. Harvey E. Middleton.

The Grant was made possible through donation to SRVS "Imagine the possABILITY" Annual Campaign.

A Word from Jeffrie

Fall is typically a busy time for many, and there's no exception at SRVS. Over the past few months, several events have been organized for the benefit of our service recipients and employees. What always amazes me is the dedication of our staff in volunteering their time and talent to make these events so successful. Despite meeting the various needs of individuals, they manage to go the extra mile, from sitting on event planning committees, to staying late to clean up. Just recently, I ran into several service recipients who



mentioned how much fun they had at the Spirit of SRVS, our agency's September Picnic, and this year's Client Banquet. They say it's never too late or too often to say thank you. I would like to express my deepest gratitude to all the volunteers and employees who sincerely desire to make our agency a better place for us all. I encourage everyone to volunteer to help with a SRVS event or program – it's a wonderful opportunity to have fun with your co-workers while doing something good for our clients!

SRVS Employee Runner Up in 2005 Irwin Siegel Award

Dedication and determination has carried Lee Westbrook a long way in her life. From taking care of a mentally disabled family member, to becoming a Site Manager with SRVS, Lee has been compassionately serving the needs of the developmentally disabled for many years. Although she has been with SRVS for two years, her prior work experience and focused attention to meet the challenges of her service recipients at SRVS, has earned her the distinction of runner up in the prestigious 2005 Irwin Siegel Agency Direct Support Staff Recognition Award.

The Award was created by the Irwin Siegel Agency, Inc. to honor competent and caring direct support professionals. Nominees must demonstrate an exemplary level of performance.

By all accounts, Lee has been a dutiful administrator and leader. She maintains a smooth day to day operation of her home, and takes great pride in ensuring the health and well being of Charlene Banks, her service recipient.

In fact, Lee has made herself available to Charlene at anytime whenever she needs her assistance, sometimes even changing vacation plans. This selfless dedication had earned Lee trustworthy respect from Charlene, who willing says that, "Lee is not my staff, but she is my real friend."

Congratulations, Lee, on your exceptional efforts to enhance the quality of life for Charlene and others.



Lee Westbrook gets a protective hug from her close friend and service recipient, Charlene Banks.

SRVS Individual Rises to the Occasion

Even when it's a fair weather day, you'll find Gary Elliott walking outside in our new S R V S



Sensory Garden. He is always eager to go outdoors, which is part of his physical therapy, despite his cerebral palsy. This is because Gary doesn't let his physical disability get in the way of doing the things he likes to do. That's also one of the reasons why SRVS asked Gary to speak at the Grand Opening of our Sensory Garden.

Gary came to SRVS over 30 years ago, and since that time, he has become very self-sufficient. He is well-known by SRVS employees and service recipients and is loved by all. In fact, you really can't miss him when he flashes that winning smile! Yet Gary is a serious, hard worker at S.O.S. Industries, and dutifully reports to work. Even Mavis Malone, who is Gary's Production Supervisor at S.O.S., will tell you that Gary is completely motivated by his accomplishments and is a "very conscientious and confident worker." He is well respected by his co-workers and supervisors, and likes production work. Gary is truly an amazing individual. He takes pride in keeping active within his own social circle of friends, attending church, and meeting new people in his community.

Since hearing about the Grand Opening, Gary has been conscientious about his role for the day. We appreciate the take charge attitude Gary has taken in helping us prepare for this event. We hope we have been able to return the favor by providing him with a picnic area for his outdoor walks, and a grill to accommodate his appetite for barbeques!

THANK YOU DONORS FOR GIVING TO SRVS

Donations from June 2005 - September 2005

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(\$10,000+)

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The Spectra Group

Anne Thompson

Marta Vinzant

Christmas Angels



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

Time to be an angel and help SRVS provide for the needed assistance of service recipients through their annual Christmas wish list. This is a special time for some of our individuals who have very little contact with their family members during the holidays. You can earn your wings in several ways. You can donate items that can be used as gifts or make a monetary donation. You can also observe our Christmas tradition of "adopting an individual." All you would need to do is stop by the Public Relations (PR) Department on the 2nd floor and pick up an "Angel." The back of the Angel will include the individual's name, department and wish list. Whatever you choose to contribute should be returned to the PR Office as a wrapped gift with a complete list of the contents in any bag or box that you bring.

For further details, please contact Marta Vinzant at 869-9234.

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



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