



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

PEOPLE & PROGRESS

OPTIONS & OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Winter 2005

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BLUECROSS BLUESHIELD BENEFITS SRVS

For more than 60 years, BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee has been committed to improving the health and quality of life for millions of Tennesseans. Recently, BlueCross Blue Shield turned its attention to a very special group of Tennesseans by making an extremely generous donation of \$200,000 to SRVS.

The donation will allow SRVS to do a multitude of much-needed things, including purchasing vehicles, equipment and supplies for our new SETS mobile work crews and our residential program, as well as helping cover the cost of the SOS merger and

workshop redesign.

"Over 250 people who need assistance with their jobs and daily living activities most of us take for granted are being helped by this generous grant from BlueCross BlueShield," SRVS Executive Director Jeffrie Bruton said. "We are grateful for their support and happy to be given this opportunity to enhance our services to individuals with disabilities."

The donation will be fully celebrated as part of an upcoming "SRVS Appreciation Day." Watch for details to come!

A NEW DAY FOR SOS INDUSTRIES

SOS Industries started with a simple goal: to provide a sheltered place where very special people could explore their own humanity. Through the hard work of many dedicated people, it was a dream that became a reality through love, sacrifice, and determination.

This year, a new chapter in SOS history will be written, as the workshop on Jackson Avenue merges with the workshop at SRVS headquarters on Knight Arnold. The consolidation of the workshops will allow SRVS to streamline the operations of SOS, saving money and increasing efficiency.

But most importantly, the merger will allow the agency to better serve indi-

viduals with developmental disabilities by ensuring that every client is matched with the best possible program that SRVS has to offer. For some, this may mean placement in our new SETS mobile work crews, or increased participation in the community. For others, it will be a chance to be more productive in the redesigned SOS workshop.

"Combining the two workshops will not only give us greater flexibility in completing our contracts, Director of SOS Industries Dudley Crowder said. "This will make SOS a better place to do business with, and more importantly, a better place for our individuals to work."

You Make a Difference!

This November, a group of 20 volunteers from the Ford Motor Company volunteered to spend a whole day helping SRVS.

The eager group went to the Watkins and Cornell group homes and helped with everything from cleaning windows to re-organizing storage closets to heavy-duty yardwork.

SRVS is appreciative of all those who volunteered to help in 2004. You truly do "make a difference."

A WORD FROM JEFFRIE

As we start a new year, and a new journey, I can't help but look back and celebrate some of the wonderful things that happened at SRVS in 2004.



The year began with generous donation from First Tennessee Foundation in honor of Ralph Horn. Spirit of SRVS continued to grow, raising a record amount of money for our programs. As you can see in the surrounding stories, the year ended with the generosity of many that contributed to the Christmas Angels

program. The year ended as well as it started, thanks to the wonderful donation from BlueCross BlueShield.

The year ahead already promises more successes to celebrate, from the SOS workshop merger to the establishing of our SETS mobile work crews, and much more. With your help, we can make 2005 another year of continued prosperity for SRVS.

- Jeffrie Bruton
Executive Director

ANGELS AMONG US

"It's better to give than to receive."

During the holidays, it is not unusual to hear that time-honored adage. More and more people have taken that saying to heart, as this year's Christmas Angels program was the biggest and best yet. Over \$2,500 was raised from 31 donors and more than 250 gifts were purchased for our clients. Another 60 clients were adopted through the community, where 61 donors helped to make their Christmas special.

The Christmas Angels program is an opportunity for board members, staff, family and volunteers take a client's wish list and buy them presents for Christmas. The individuals supported through this program are a part of SRVS'

Community Living Residential program, which supports individuals with developmental disabilities to live in group and assisted living homes.

Many of them don't have family or are in need of assistance and the Christmas Angels Program may be the only Christmas they get.

"I cannot say enough about how much we appreciate all of the donations and gifts that we received," program coordinator Kimberly Carpenter said. "The Christmas Angels program is a blessing, not only to the individuals receiving gifts, but to all of us who work with these people every day. It is truly heartwarming to see such an outpouring of love."

SEA ISLE TEACHERS SHOW THEIR WINGS

Where can you go to see a real-life angel? Just go to Sea Isle Elementary and you are sure to find many angels. More than 20 staff members at Sea Isle Elementary recently participated in SRVS annual Christmas Angels program by adopting 11 adults with developmental disabilities and raising more than \$600 to contribute.

The Christmas Angels program was introduced to Sea Isle staff by Sue Russell, a board member of SRVS and family member of an individual helped by SRVS. Each year more and more staff from Sea Isle have become involved with the program.

ST. AGNES STUDENTS WRAP UP GOOD CHEER

Teenagers usually sleep in and lounge around in their pajamas during Christmas Break. This year, ten students from St. Agnes Academy chose to give a little of their time wrapping gifts during their Christmas vacation. They wrapped more than 300 gifts - *in one day* - for people with developmental disabilities.

"It's just amazing how many gifts they were able to wrap," Christmas Angels coordinator Kimberly Carpenter said. "The girls did a great job. We couldn't have pulled it off without them."

THANK YOU DONORS FOR GIVING TO SRVS

Donations from June 2004 - December 2004

Director's Society (\$10,000+)

BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee

Champion (\$1,000+)

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John & Wanda Barzizza
Mickey & Patty Brigrance
Madonna Circle
Barbara Williamson

Visionary (\$500-\$999)

Anonymous
Bank of Bartlett
Margaret A. Bland
Robert & Frances Metheny
Harvey & Judy Middleton
Raleigh-Bartlett Civitan Club
Robert Stifolter
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William Brantley
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Independent Therapy Network
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Friend (\$1-\$249)

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Janie Charles
Bill & Gladys Cockroft
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Catherine Diezi
Paul & Anne Drake
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Duration Club
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Mike Fleming
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Robert Franklin
Claudene Gann
Dr. Elbert & Grace Gill
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Walter & Betty Gray
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Wanda Yarbrough

In Memory...

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Robert & Shirley Halford
of Herbert Benham
John & Wanda Barzizza
of James Howard Bennett
Paul & Anne Drake
of Rose Bernstein
Sam & Suzanne Siegel
of Bill Blass
Allen & Jeffrie Bruton
of Robert Blurton, Sr.
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of Eleanor Bowen
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of Laurie Davis
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Our Home & Garden Club
of Humphrey E. Folk, Jr.
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Lila McKee
of Robert Joseph Goldstein
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of Doris Lake
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Donald Crone
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The Duration Club
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Clarice Stroud
of Ellen Malvezzi
Paul & Anne Drake
of Dorothy McDaniels
Cindy Swift
of John McIntosh, Jr.
Margaret A. Bland
of Ronnie McKinley
Howard Parris
of Paul Messer, Sr.
Allen Messer
of Lillie Moore
Johnnie Thornton
of U.A. Moore
Dr. Elbert & Grace Gill
of Rosemary Mulrooney
Mednikow Jewelers
of Dorothy Myers
Allen & Jeffrie Bruton
of A.B. Steele
Jason & Christy Yarbro
of Anderson Tillman
Allen & Jeffrie Bruton
of Louise Watson
Timothy & Mary Shaner
of W.K. "Tag" Weldon
Edwin & Camille Bennett
Dean DuBois
Jim Esterman
Fleur De Lis/St. Louis Church
Evelyn Kay Hord
Geary Irwin
Dora & Ila Jehl
Robert G. Jordan

Robert Lockwood
Our Home & Garden Club
Brian Rudd
of Jeanne Whitsitt
Allen & Jeffrie Bruton
of Sarah Wilkinson
Richard & Kathryn Lind
of Tony Wooten
Allen & Jeffrie Bruton

In Honor...

of John Barzizza
Jack W. Ray, Jr.
of John Barzizza, Jr.
Mickey & Patty Brigrance
of Justin Barzizza
Mickey & Patty Brigrance
of The Bollweilvs & The Lizard
Jack W. Ray, Jr.
of Paul & Anne Drake
Joseph & Thelma Signaigo
of Megan Ferguson
Guardian Healthcare
Providers
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of Kramer Activity Center Staff
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of Sherry Scheinberg
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of Dan Shannon
Andrea Caldwell
of Bebe Sorrels
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Ben & Janis Benson
LaVern Brown
Sandra Bruce
Allen & Jeffrie Bruton
Lee Carver
Molly Carr
Cash & Carry
Carey & Nancy Casad
Dr. Janet Cherry
Mike Dreyfus
Leslie Dunlap
Functional Independence
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Joshua Goldin
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Tri-State Theater Supply Company
Velma Walker
Barbara Youngblood

ANNUAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

This year's annual campaign, "Imagine the PossABILITIES" is under way! By now, you may have received a letter and brochure telling you about how you can help individuals with developmental disabilities live active and productive lives.

SRVS would like to thank all of you who have already made a donation. Your kindness and generosity is appreciated. If you haven't made a donation yet, don't worry - there is still time. If you have any questions or need more information, please call Development Coordinator Kimberly Carpenter at 901.869.9234, or email at kimberly.carpenter@srvs.org.

Thanks again for helping SRVS "Imagine the PossABILITIES!"

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

Mark Your Calendars!

The 7th annual Spirit of SRVS will be celebrated on August 27th! This year's event, held at the Hilton Memphis, promises to be the biggest and best yet. Watch for more details to come. See you there!

SRVS People & Progress is produced quarterly by SRVS for individuals, their families, staff members, individual donors and our many supportive friends in corporations, foundations and government. We gratefully acknowledge the funding support of the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation; Tennessee Department of Human Services (Division of Rehabilitation Services); City of Memphis and Shelby County Government, United Way of the Mid-South; Title V Program support from Senior Services, Inc. and US Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

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Executive Director
Jeffrie Bruton

Editors
Melinda Rodgers & Matthew Washburn

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



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