



# PEOPLE & PROGRESS

PROVIDING OPTIONS & OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Fall 2006

## ... catch the Spirit!

A new date has been set for the Spirit of SRVS: A Wine/Beer Tasting and Silent Auction, but the venue and all its delicious trimmings remain the same. SRVS' premier fundraising event is now scheduled to take place on Friday, August 25, at the Hilton Memphis. WMC-TV television news anchor, Joe Birch, will be the emcee and auctioneer, and entertainment will be provided by pianist Eddie Harrison.

**Spirit of SRVS**  
**Friday, August 25, 2006**  
**6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.**  
**Hilton Memphis**  
**939 Ridge Lake Blvd.**

Be prepared to enjoy a delightful evening bidding on silent and live auction items as you are wined and dined by some of Memphis' greatest culinary establishments. The auction will feature samplings of beer and wine from around the world as well as unique appetizers from area restaurants. And if that's not enough to whet your appetite, check out what's up for bid.

Hundreds of auction items have been donated, including a Yamaha baby grand piano valued at \$25,000, a FedEx flight simulation session, a Delta acoustic guitar and even a Boston Terrier puppy. Thinking of decorating your home, planning a vacation or buying a present for someone special? You'll find a vast selection of home and garden items, travel getaways, jewelry, autographed sports memorabilia, dinner packages and more.

The event is expected to draw many, thanks to the support of our generous sponsors to date:

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We also need your help to make this event its most successful. Volunteers are needed to spread the word by distributing posters in your neighborhoods, for set-up prior to the event, and as decorators, bid runners, greeters, and table watchers the night of the event.

If you are interested in volunteering, becoming a sponsor, donating an auction item or attending, contact SRVS' Development Coordinator, Asiyah Kurtz, at 901-869-9234. Tickets can be purchased online at [www.srvs.org](http://www.srvs.org).

Come on and catch the Spirit of SRVS this year and help support our many programs and services! Your participation will benefit more than 800 people with developmental disabilities served by our agency.

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## 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 gratefully acknowledge the following grantors:

The City of Memphis Division of Housing and Community Development for a matched grant of \$250,000 to build new and fully accessible homes.

Carnival Memphis Children's Charity Initiative for \$60,000.

BlueCross and BlueShield of Tennessee for a \$2,500 grant for health assessments.

Bank of Bartlett for a \$1,500 grant to assist the Employment Concepts program.

## A Word from Jeffrie

It's always amazing to me to see how dedicated our direct support professionals are in helping to make our service recipients more self-assured, independent and eager to achieve their own personal goals. They work tirelessly and are extremely conscientious about the quality of their service delivery.



enhance their human services skills as well as education via specialized training like the Home Manager Technical Certificate program. This certificate requires an intensive level of study, and each year, SRVS graduates several direct support staff with top honors.

I was happy to see this selfless dedication recognized at the TN Disability MegaConference in June in Nashville. Our direct support staff often go above and beyond in their profession, from maintaining their credentials to taking the initiative to

We are very fortunate to have an ambitious and talented cadre of professionals for our service recipients. On behalf of the agency, our supporters and service recipients, I congratulate all our direct support professionals on a job well done. You are our everyday heroes.



Photo: (L-R) Cindy Fields, Rickey Frazier and Jeffrie Bruton at the TNCO awards ceremony.

At The Tennessee Community of Organizations (TNCO) awards ceremony, SRVS received two honors. Cindy Fields was named Outstanding DSP, and Rickey Frazier won the Individual Achievement award. After four years of consistent supervision, tutoring, medical attention and interaction, Cindy has managed to help change Bryan, her service recipient, from a person who was profoundly withdrawn, to one who enjoys learning new things and socializing. For Cindy, seeing Bryan finally laugh and smile is more than enough of a reward for her, "he's made the connection of what it means to be a valued person in this world and that's what matters most," said Cindy.

Rickey is a spiritual and religiously connected individual. Through SRVS' Community Participation program, he communicates his inspirational messages through music and song. He regularly visits local churches to perform and is a well-known caller on gospel radio talk shows. With the support of his staff, Rickey even recorded and marketed his own CD entitled, "Rickey Frazier and Friends... It's Finally My Time!" Rickey is determined to live life to its fullest. Staff have often said that, "Rickey has an inspirational voice, and his enthusiasm to achieve and succeed at anything he wants has motivated everyone."

SRVS Executive Director, Jeffrie Bruton, was thrilled to see her staff and Rickey receive their awards. "Our direct support staff are true professionals, and our service recipients, like Rickey, keep us all motivated to never give up, aim high, and enjoy life."

## SRVS Receives Statewide Recognition



Photo: DSPAT Executive Director, Earl Foxx (middle), congratulates award winners (L-R), Eva Little and Doris Martin

It was a congratulatory affair, at least for SRVS, at this year's Tennessee Disability MegaConference in Nashville where staff and service recipients received statewide recognition. The MegaConference brings together people, organizations and service providers to discuss important shared issues regarding the developmentally disabled. More than 50 organizations participated and several hundred registrants attended. Sessions featured topics which focused upon the conference's title: *Sharing Our Strength 2006, Empowerment, Inclusion, Self-Determination and Choice*. Several SRVS staff and a service recipient were spotlighted at special recognition ceremonies during the conference.

The Direct Support Professional Association of Tennessee (DSPAT) is

an affiliate of the National Alliance of Direct Support Professionals. At its awards ceremony, two SRVS staff received the Above and Beyond Award. In recognition of their outstanding accomplishments as DSPs, Doris Martin and Eva Little were each presented with a plaque and a check for \$1,500. Doris was given an additional \$100 for winning DSP of the Month.

The Above and Beyond Award is a highly coveted award as direct support professionals must adhere to a prescribed code of ethics, performance standards and reviews. There are more than 12,000 direct support staff in Tennessee who work for people with developmental disabilities. DSPAT selects only three DSP's from each region in the state. The two award winners from SRVS marks the first time DSPAT recognized more than one DSP from the same region and organization.

Eva is Site Manager of a supported living home for one service recipient, and Doris is a Home Manager for a service recipient. According to their Community Living Directors, "they are proactive teachers, counselors and nurturers. They daily encourage and gather the necessary resources to keep their service recipients healthy and active in their communities."

# THANK YOU DONORS FOR GIVING TO SRVS!

## Donations from May 2006 - July 2006

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Louis and Ruth Siegel  
of Albert M. Austin III  
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of Jane Bayer  
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of Jospeh Costa  
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of Lula Mae Davis  
Greg Hallman  
of Elaine Saviori Estes  
John and Wanda Barzizza  
of Morris Saxon  
Katherine Uhlmann  
of Jesse May Strickland  
Allen and Jeffrie Bruton  
of Sabrina Van Eaton  
William Babb, Stefan and  
Barbara Smith, J.R. Turner

### In Honor...

of Mary Burke  
Theresa Streibich  
of Kelly Dugan  
Kitty Barzizza and  
Jane McIntosh  
of John McIntosh  
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### SRVS Nets More Than \$60,000 from Carnival Memphis



SRVS was given the royal treatment at the Carnival Memphis Zoo Party, an event that marks the end of Carnival's fundraising efforts on behalf of its Children's Charity Initiative. SRVS was selected this year as one of three local charities to support. More than \$60,000 was raised for SRVS from fundraising events sponsored by the Grand Krewe of Ennead and Luxor. Jeffrie Bruton gratefully acknowledged all the sponsors, staff, royalty and Krewe members for their time, dedication and generous support of our agency. *Photo: Jeffrie Bruton (middle of photo) is surrounded by SRVS service recipients, and Carnival King Coors and Queen Brindell (far right) at the Carnival Zoo Party.*

### Second Annual Sea Isle Sock Hop Kicks It Up

More than 200 students from Sea Isle Elementary School donned bobby socks and poodle skirts for the second annual Sea Isle Sock Hop benefiting SRVS. Coordinated by the Parent Teachers Organization, the event featured plenty of good fun, food and contests like musical chairs, limbo and hoola-hoop. Thanks to the generosity of the teachers, students, parents and Sea Isle community, SRVS collected 276 pairs of socks and numerous arts and crafts supplies. The in-kind value of these much needed items by our service recipients totaled \$1,268.

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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