



PEOPLE & PROGRESS

PROVIDING OPTIONS & OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

SPRING 2006

2006 Spirit of SRVS



Time to Catch another Spirit of SRVS! The eighth annual event is SRVS' premiere fundraiser and is, once again, expected to bring hundreds of people to the Memphis Hilton Hotel.

Come prepared to bid on more than 300 auction items and sample a vast array of fine wine, beer and delectable foods from area restaurants! Joe Birch, television news anchor with WMC-TV Channel 5, will be the guest emcee. Feature musical entertainment will

be provided by people with developmental disabilities, including our very own service recipients. Most importantly, the event will help support our agency's programs and services to enhance the quality of life for more than 900 SRVS individuals to have a home of their own, jobs they can be proud of, new skills they can learn and family assistance.

Mark your calendars now to attend the event scheduled for August 26th, 2006, from 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. Tickets are \$45 payable at the door, in advance through SRVS Public Relations Office or by purchase on-line at www.srvs.org. If you are interested in sponsoring, volunteering or attending, please contact the PR and Development Office at 901.869.9234.

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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.

2005 - 2006

Annual Campaign

To date, we have raised \$23,818. We urgently need your donation to reach our goal! Simply fill out and mail the enclosed remittance envelope provided for you in this newsletter.

2006 Spirit of SRVS

We thank the following corporate sponsors for helping to jump-start our Spirit of SRVS event with their generous donations:

- Harrahs \$10,000
- Guardian \$5,000
- FedEx \$1,000

Hilton Hotels Corporation
Presenting Sponsorship

Other

First Horizon National Corp.
\$1,000 Leadership Grant

Celebrating Carnival!

SRVS has truly been doubly blessed by Carnival Memphis. For the second time in SRVS' history, we were selected as one of three area charities to receive support as part of Carnival's Community Focus Program this year. In addition, the Grand Krewes of Ennead and Luxor, held special fundraising events for SRVS!

The Ennead Auction and Dance Party, "From Beale Street to Bourbon Street," was held on March 25th to benefit SRVS, and what a night it was to remember! The Al Chymia Shrine Center was adorned in a Mardi Gras theme including a giant replica of a New Orleans riverboat on stage! More than 200 live and silent auction items were up for bid and Ennead cooks created a spectacular feast! That evening, more than \$36,775 was raised for SRVS!

The second annual Oktoberfest, hosted by Luxor and organized by its chairperson, Wanda Barzizza, was held on April 22nd at the Agricenter. It provided lots of good food, fun and games including a celebrity bratwurst eating contest, the first annual back yard grilling contest, costume contests, cooking demos by celebrity chefs, and live entertainment! The proceeds are still being tabulated but \$199 of products created by SRVS individuals were sold!



Jeffrie Bruton (middle above) accepts a \$15,000 FedEx check presented by Ennead Auction co-chairs Linda Pappas and Janice Casey (L-R).



SRVS individual Vashti Ricks shares a laugh with Carnival Memphis clowns at the Oktoberfest.

Service recipient, Ronnie Hamer, won the agency's art contest and was given a bag full of arts and crafts to further his artistic abilities! Thank you, Carnival volunteers for your love, support and generosity!

A Word from Jeffrie

What an amazing time for SRVS! We are ever grateful and thankful to have so many good people in our community choosing to raise funds and supplies for our agency and SRVS individuals! Yet, there are many other ways we receive support. A big thanks must also go to those who contribute in-kind donations to our agency. Last year, we received more than \$45,400 in valued goods, and almost \$23,000 since the start of this year! I would like to especially acknowledge BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee, NASSCommunity Committee and International Logistics for recently donating much needed office and computer equip-



ment; Signature Advertising for their pro bono work, and Dennis and Michelle Scott for their cash and vehicle donations. And thanks to all who support our Clothes Closet. All your gifts are appreciated, no matter how big or small. Lastly, I want to thank the donors to our Annual Campaign which is still in progress. If you haven't already done so, I ask you to please consider making a donation this year as we need your gift to help bridge the gap between the growing needs of our individuals and our current level of funding. A campaign remittance envelope is enclosed for your convenience. Your continued support keeps our agency going!

New Work Enclaves Benefit Business and Service Recipient



Photo (L-R): Napoleon, Sammy, Sahola, Alicia and Louis, represent just one of EC Services' enclaves.

Anyone who wants to work, can work, no matter how significant the disability. That's the philosophy behind SRVS' Employment Concepts (EC), a program designed to match employers with job seekers with disabilities, which started in 1989 as a pilot project with the State of Tennessee Division of Rehabilitation Services.

EC is more than just a place for supported employment. It offers SRVS individuals career development, job coaching, a place to earn a competitive wage and best of all, a quality needs assessment based on the individual's work interests.

Some individuals have stayed on the job SRVS found for them for many years, a rarity in today's job market. Making the right fit for the right person is a trademark of SRVS.

This past year, the EC program expanded and diversified its business to include enclaves, or mobile work crews. Known as EC Services, the enclaves are typically service oriented and one of the first to develop has been the Janitorial Crew.

Having the opportunity to work in a group with the added benefit of fellowship is a unique hallmark of the enclaves.

These individuals work together at business sites and provide cleaning for state use contracts such as Tennessee's Career Centers, Drivers License Bureau and Safety and Highway Patrol. There are now more than nineteen on staff for the day and night-time janitorial crews.

The crews work around the clock. "It's hard work, but I enjoy it. Basically, it gives me the feeling of being independent, on my own, making money and becoming self-supportive," says EC Services employee Alicia.

A small percentage of the crews consist of non-disabled employees, but working side by side with people who are non-disabled employees has given SRVS individuals a feeling of truly being integrated into the community. It offers a sense of normalization and socialization.

EC Manager, Graylin, has witnessed this first hand: "The enclaves allow our individuals to create a lot of new friends and build relationships with people. It makes them feel less isolated, and gives them a sense of belonging in addition to a paycheck. They've become real close as a group and look after one another. It's the best form of advertisement for us - people see our individuals out there working harmoniously. They do a good job."

Sammy is a SRVS individual who works for EC Services. He was usually very quiet and reserved. Since joining the night crew, he has opened up and Gene, who is hearing impaired, finally found a job he loves to do, buffing floors! In fact, most will say they miss each other when they don't have to come to work, and several make plans to eat out together on occasion.

More than just finding a job, but improving the quality of our individuals' lives, has kept the enclaves a successful program for both businesses and individuals. Donna Palmer, Director of EC, who does much of the job carving and job coaching, firmly believes that anyone can be employable, "Our job is to work with providers and families to identify the supports our individuals will need to learn and be successful!"

THANK YOU DONORS FOR GIVING TO SRVS!

Donations from February 2006 - April 2006

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(\$10,000+)**

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(\$1,000-\$4,999)**

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of Virginia Rinehart
Elbert & Grace Gill
of Rudolf & Else Rubel, Dr. &
Mrs. Harold J. Morris, and
Will Williams. Also for a
speedy recovery of Bettye
Young.
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of Lori Siegal
Diane Fry
of Mary Ann Turner
Don & Marie Stark

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Howard Parris
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SRVS Volunteers In a Class of Their Own

Volunteer Memphis recently held its 30th annual Spirit of Giving Awards on April 25th, 2006. The Volunteer Recognition Luncheon, held at the Hilton Memphis, pays tribute to Mid-Southerners for their outstanding volunteer service to individuals and non-profit organizations in the area. Joining this year's class of distinguished honorees were two fellow SRVS volunteers who placed as finalists in their respective categories, a prestigious grade considering there were numerous applicants! They are: SRVS board member, Sue Russell, finalist for Board Volunteer of the Year; and FedEx Technology Services, finalist for Group Volunteer of the Year (10 or fewer volunteers). Thank you both for your never ending spirit of giving to our agency and in making a difference in the lives of our service recipients! (Photo above: Fred Rice, from FedEx and Sue hold their plaques (middle, L-R) along with his group and Jeffrie Bruton).

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