



PEOPLE & PROGRESS

PROVIDING OPTIONS & OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Winter 2006

Holiday Help for SRVS Service Recipients



SRVS' annual Christmas Angels program is underway. The program provides gifts to the neediest of SRVS service recipients who have very little contact with family members during the holidays. You can help by adopting a "SRVS Christmas angel" or by making a monetary donation to the Christmas Angels program.

Each adopted service recipient has a specific wish list. Their purchased gifts

should be delivered to the SRVS' Public Relations Office at Knight Arnold by December 1. Volunteers are also needed to help wrap and distribute these gifts, and to organize holiday parties at the agency.

For more information on how you can help spread the holiday cheer to SRVS' service recipients, or to make a donation to the Christmas Angels program, contact:

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2006 Spirit of SRVS

SRVS' eighth annual Spirit of SRVS: A Wine/Beer Tasting and Silent Auction, was held on August 25 at the Hilton Memphis. More than 650 people attended and almost \$75,000 net was raised for SRVS. WMC-TV news anchor, Joe Birch, captured everyone's attention as the emcee and auctioneer of the live auction and local favorite, pianist Eddie Harrison, provided entertainment. Guests were offered wine and beer samplings from more than 60 wineries and breweries worldwide, and delectable appetizers were served from thirteen area restaurants.

The auction featured more than 500 items, including a Kawasaki motorcycle and Yamaha baby grand, and Mid-South artist Tracee Gentry added her artistic flare to the event as she completed a live oil painting of an original "Wine Still Life."

The Spirit of SRVS has become one of Memphis' largest and most elegant fundraising auctions. Jeffrie Bruton, SRVS Executive Director, expressed her gratitude for the community support. "I wish to thank our sponsors, donors,



Photo: Tracee Gentry paints an original still life at the 2006 Spirit of SRVS.

volunteers and staff for all their time, talent and contributions to making this event another successful fundraiser for our agency," Bruton said.

A Volunteer Appreciation Party was held to thank all the volunteers who helped make the 2006 Spirit of SRVS a success. The event included a silent auction which raised an additional \$1,445 for SRVS.

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 donors who recently contributed to SRVS:

Mounir and Nemat Shazly for a donation of \$10,000 to SRVS' Annual Campaign.

Cat D, Boehringer-Ingelheim, McDonnell Insurance and Weston Companies for in-kind donations of office furniture.

FedEx for a \$1,000 donation to the Sensory Garden.

Wal-Mart for a matching grant of \$1,000 for the Spirit of SRVS.

A Word from Jeffrie

There are many unsung heroes who commit their time and talents to our agency in a variety of ways. I have spoken about the selfless dedication our staff make on a daily basis to all our service recipients.

At this time, I would like to recognize SRVS' Board of Directors and Advisory Council for the countless hours they spend as vigilant stewards of our agency, advocates and special event volunteers.

I would also like to welcome our new board members: Gerry Burke, Municipal Marketing Manager at Allied Waste Industries; Jim McKinney, Owner of J.W. Design; Petra Rees, Owner and Executive



Consultant with Impact Coaching and Consulting; and Leroy Smith, Street Sales Marketing Manager at the *Commercial Appeal*.

In addition to their customary duties as members of the board, the board has been instrumental to the success of the Spirit of SRVS event. They also help in procuring in-kind donations like office furniture and service vehicles, and they raise money for SRVS annual campaign.

Our agency is fortunate to have a such a caring and diligent board, and I thank them for their individual efforts and collective drive and energy!



Photo: Atlanta Bread Company manager, Josh Stevens (middle), hands over bags of bakery items to SRVS' service recipient, Henry (right), and his Direct Support Staff, Jocelyn Gooch.

beautify their home and communities by planting a tree or participating in a neighborhood clean-up.

Davis said that in addition to giving service recipients a feeling of self-worth, "the volunteer program allows the community to see how capable our service recipients are when given the supports they receive from SRVS."

Two sustainable volunteer projects have been created through a partnership with the Memphis Food Bank. SRVS service recipients Roxolla, Sinclair and James, pick up and transport donated food from one local Starbucks to the Food Bank on a weekly basis. Charles, another service recipient, visits the Heistan warehouse once a week to help their staff sort and shrink wrap cereal boxes. The Food Bank project is a win-win situation for all involved. SRVS service recipients are able to engage in meaningful social interaction while learning valuable vocational skills, and according to Heistan warehouse manager Robert Hall, "the Food Bank is grateful for the volunteer help because it keeps our mission going and impacts the lives we serve."

A third project recently started with the Atlanta Bread Company in Germantown. SRVS service recipient, Henry, daily picks up donated bread, cookies and pastries from the store, and brings them back to SRVS to distribute to service recipients. The store customarily donates two percent of its daily leftovers which is equivalent to 150 pieces a day.

SRVS Executive Director, Jeffrie Bruton, is excited about the program. "I am proud to see our service recipients become 'ambassadors' for SRVS, and I thank our direct support staff for supporting their interests."

SRVS Ambassador Club



Photo: (L-R) SRVS' service recipients Sinclair and Roxola collect Starbucks pastries from Ryan Ekoff.

A new community-based program has been established at SRVS which will allow service recipients the opportunity to reach out to others in need. The program is called the Ambassador Club, and its members are service recipients who are able to participate in volunteer projects across the Mid-South.

The Ambassador Club is spearheaded by Cherry Davis, Director of Community Day Supports, who was looking for a feasible way to integrate service recipients into the community as good stewards and citizens while teaching them vocational skills. It became the perfect compliment to the expressed desires and goals of many service recipients who wanted to not only become a volunteer, but eventually develop their own volunteer club.

With the help of agency staff, several volunteer projects were organized. The first project was through a partnership with the Memphis City Beautiful Commission, which donated more than 120 oak tree seedlings to SRVS service recipients so they would have the opportunity to voluntarily



Photo: (L-R) Robert Hall, Warehouse Manager at the Heistan warehouse, gives instructions on how to package cereal boxes to employee Steven Jones and SRVS' service recipient, Charles.

THANK YOU DONORS FOR GIVING TO SRVS

Donations from August 1, 2006 - October 31, 2006

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(\$10,000+)

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Fitzhugh and Sylvia Taylor
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In Memory...

of Linnie Fay Buckingham
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of Donna Burke
Howard Parris
of Mickey Cobb
Katherine Uhlmann
of Joseph G. DePete III
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and Sylvia Taylor;
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Harvey and Judy Middleton;
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of Donna Gowen
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Kenneth New
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United Way of Bergen County

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SRVS Shows Out at Special Olympics

SRVS service recipients participated in the 15th Annual St. Ann's Special Olympics Fun Day at Christian Brothers High School in October. Nearly 100 athletes competed in a variety of track and field events. SRVS service recipients won special awards in several categories. *Photos: (L-R) Matthew and Mary race to the finish.*



- Deborah Third place in Relay Racing
Third place in Wheelchair Racing
- Derek Third place in Ring Toss
Second place in Softball Throw
Second place in Freesbie Throw
- Delano Second place in 50 Meter Run
- Joe First place in Softball Throw
Fifth place in Freesbie Throw
- Katie First place in Ramp Bowling
Third place in Ramp Bowling
- Mary First place in Wheelchair Racing
Third place in Freesbie Throw
- Matthew Third place in 25 Meter Run
Third place in 50 Meter Run
- Vinson Fourth place in Freesbie Throw



Elvis Fan Clubs Show Support for SRVS

Elvis Presley fans showed a "hunk of burning love" for SRVS service recipients during Elvis Week at The Elvis Presley Fan Club Presidents' Event. The Elvis Presley Clubs collectively chose SRVS as their charity to support this year. More than 750 items worth more than \$2,500, including cash donations, were donated to the agency by Elvis fans from around the world.

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).

Chairman of the Board John Barzizza	Executive Director Jeffrie Bruton	Editor Diana Fedinec
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