

**BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee and Medtronic Foundation  
Give \$12,500 to SRVS for Community Health Program**

*Memphis, TN (April 16, 2007)* – Shelby Residential and Vocational Services, Inc. (SRVS) was awarded \$10,000 from the Medtronic Foundation, and \$2,500 from the BlueCross BlueShield (BCBS) of Tennessee Community Trust, to jumpstart SRVS’ new health care initiative. Medtronic is the world’s leading medical technology company. For nearly 60 years, the foundation has focused on improving the health of people and communities including disadvantaged populations. One of the priorities of BCBS of Tennessee’s Community Trust is to support programs that promote healthy living and health care access. SRVS is a non-profit United Way agency and the largest comprehensive service provider for people with developmental disabilities in West Tennessee.

Although high risk individuals supported through SRVS Community Living program receive in-home nursing support, others are in need of basic health care monitoring. The assessments will act as a preventative tool in identifying and tracking health related needs and issues in an effort to increase the quality and length of life of each service recipient. Instead of case by case review, as had been done in the past, a general health analysis for each individual will be established.

*SRVS Continued*

“Some of our individuals have diabetes, hypertension, heart disease and other health-related issues,” said Vivian Johnson, Director of Nursing at SRVS. “Currently, there is no government funding to provide yearly assessments by our team of healthcare professionals and nurses.”

SRVS offers complete care for more than 700 service recipients through family support, residential living programs, job training and placement, community participation, a day center, and more. The grant will fund health care assessments for 169 service recipients who live in SRVS’ homes.

“We are excited to collaborate with the Medtronic Foundation to introduce this health care initiative for our service recipients,” said Jeffrie Bruton, Executive Director of SRVS. “There are unique medical needs associated with the developmentally disabled as they age.”

For more information about the Medtronic grant or SRVS, please contact Alan Gentry, Director of Public Relations and Development at (901) 869-9207 or visit the agency’s website at [www.srvs.org](http://www.srvs.org).

(See photo next page.)



Rozarra Fields, a registered nurse at SRVS, assesses the health of service recipient, John McIntosh, as part of SRVS' healthcare initiative funded by the Medtronic Foundation.