

PRESS RELEASE

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St. John's Community Services Recognizes Community Leaders and Staff Supporting People with Disabilities

Washington, DC—St. John's Community Services (SJCS) holds its annual awards ceremony at the Omni Shoreham Hotel on Wednesday, December 9, 2009, from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. John McCarthy, Deputy Director, Health Care Finance (DC), will be the guest speaker providing an overview of some of the major issues confronting the disability community and recognizing SJCS for over 140 years of service. Representing SJCS will be Thomas F. Wilds, President & CEO; Genni Sasnett, COO; Curtis Richards, SJCS-DC Chair; and Arthur Ginsberg, SJCS-DC State Director and Chief Government Affairs and Advocacy Officer.

The award recipients will be honored for their commitment to advancing the lives of people with intellectual, developmental and other disabilities in the District of Columbia. The recipients cultivate opportunities for community involvement through advocacy, community outreach, and community partnerships. They are dedicated not only to the needs of people with disabilities and their families but to building stronger and more inclusive communities. In so doing, they further the SJCS mission—*advancing community support and opportunities for people living with disabilities*. They are:

- Advocacy Award—Laura Nuss, Deputy Director, Developmental Disabilities Administration
- Community Partner Award— Shantel Williams, Volunteer Coordinator, Washington Center for the Aging
- Community Service Award—Ronald Coleman Jr., Supervisor, La Chateau and Club
- Program Award—Gail Jernigan, Administrator, Washington Nursing Facility
- SJCS Employee of the Year—Jacqueline Jones, Manager, Employment Services
- Diana Barrett Award—Rachael Houston, SJCS Support Specialist, Residential Services

St. John's Community Services was founded in 1868 by parishioners of St. John's Episcopal Church ("the Church of Presidents") in Washington, DC. SJCS is a non-profit, non-denominational agency that is dedicated to successfully supporting people with intellectual, developmental and other disabilities and their families so that they may live, work, volunteer and participate in communities of their choice. SJCS provides residential, employment, adult day and education services to over 450 adults and children in Washington, DC, Virginia, Tennessee and Pennsylvania.

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