

## **PRESS RELEASE**

June 18, 2008

For Immediate Release

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### **St. John's Community Services Recognizes Community Leaders and Employees on Behalf of Individuals with Disabilities**

**Cordova, Tennessee**— Eight outstanding people will be recognized for their commitment to furthering the lives of people with intellectual, developmental and other disabilities in West Tennessee. St. John's Community Services —Tennessee holds its annual awards ceremony at the Memphis Home Builders Association on Thursday, June 19, 2008. Walter Rogers, Executive Director of the ARC of TN, will be the guest speaker. Representing SJCS, among others, will be Thomas F. Wilds, President; Genni Sasnett, COO; Pat Jackson, Chief Advancement Officer; and Julia N. Bratcher, TN State Director.

A special guest, the Honorable Senator Mark Norris, will present on behalf of the Senate of the State of Tennessee, a Proclamation to St. John's Community Services (SJCS) in honor of its 140<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year. The Proclamation recognizes SJCS, founded in 1868 at St. John's Episcopal Church in Washington, DC, as a "steadfast leader in driving social change so that each individual may live with dignity and respect.....St. John's dedication, quality services, and advocacy benefit all – individuals with disabilities, their families, employers, co-workers, neighbors, and communities in Tennessee and in all the states it supports."

Each award recipient cultivates opportunities for community inclusion through advocacy, community outreach, community partnerships, and dedication to the needs of people with disabilities. In so doing, they further the St. John's mission— *advancing community support and opportunities for people living with disabilities*. They are:

- Advocacy Award—Stephanie Bibbee, Neighborhood Network
- Community Service Award—Cindy Branch, Home Healthcare Solutions
- Community Partner Award— Ray Barton, Fairfield Inn
- Program Awards— Katherine Marshall, DMRS; Rhonda Whaley, SJCS-TN; Angelique Grantham, SJCS-TN
- SJCS Employee of the Year— Memphis: Arlene Peete
- SJCS Employee of the Year— Jackson: Marlin Lockett

SJCS is a non-profit agency that is dedicated to successfully include people with disabilities into the community of their choice. SJCS provides community living,

supported employment, community participation and educational services to over 400 adults and children in Tennessee, Washington, DC, Virginia, and Pennsylvania.

In Tennessee, SJCS supports people with disabilities living in approximately 25 homes and apartments in the Memphis and Jackson areas. These individuals participate in community-based services to enhance their social and life skills, access community resources such as shopping and banking. With the support of SJCS staff, many individuals choose to volunteer each week at non-profit organizations or hold jobs where they gain self-esteem and independence as they work with their non-disabled coworkers.

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