

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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St. John's Community Services Celebrates 140 Years of Driving Social Change

Washington, D.C. – St. John's Community Services (SJCS) will celebrate its 140th Anniversary of service to people with disabilities and honor people of all abilities by hosting a special evening on November 6, 2008 at DAR Constitution Hall. The arts, disability and interfaith communities, local and national corporations, and the community at large have been invited to join the festivities.

The evening will feature—

- **5:30 – 6:30 pm - VIP Reception** for special guests, dignitaries and sponsors, to include eight-time blues piano award winner Henry Butler, first chance to purchase art, and special seating at the Blind Boys of Alabama concert.
- **6:30 – 9:30 pm - ARTview 2008**, a national, renowned art show and sale of paintings, drawings, sculpture and photography at a wide ranges of prices by established and newly discovered talent from people with and without disabilities.
- **7:45 – 8:15 pm – Welcoming Ceremonies** to acknowledge St. John's 140th Anniversary and recognize local and national leaders and agencies joining in this historic event.
- **8:15 – 9:30 pm – The Blind Boys of Alabama** concert, internationally acclaimed four-time Grammy Award winners, whose unique blend of jazz, gospel and secular music has received acclaim throughout the world.

Over 1500 people living with disabilities and those who provide support and opportunities for their full inclusion into the community will be provided tickets free of charge due to the generous contributions of individual and corporate sponsors. **Tickets can be purchased by the public at ticketmaster.com or by calling 202-397-SEAT (7328).**

St. John's Community Services was founded in 1868 by a group of parishioners at St. John's Episcopal Church at Lafayette Square. For nearly 140 years, St. John's has served the needs of some of the most vulnerable citizens in our nation's capital, first as an orphanage in the aftermath of the Civil War, then a school for children with severe mental retardation, and today supporting both children and adults with disabilities in community-based settings only.

Today, St. John's Community Services is a non-profit, non-denominational and multi-state agency that is dedicated to *advancing community support and opportunities for people living with disabilities*. SJCS provides community living, supported employment, community participation and educational services to over 500 adults and children in Washington, DC, Virginia, Tennessee and Pennsylvania.

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