

Peak Community Services honors staff members

Submitted by Kathi Thompson

At the 2009 Annual Celebration, held this year at Occasions in Royal Center, several staff of Peak Community Services were honored for outstanding dedication to persons with developmental disabilities.

The **You Make The Difference** award went to a group of staff members who worked together last year to honor the consumers who choose Peak Community Services to be their provider. Recipients were: Jacquie Wethington, Holly Brewer, Jennifer Roush, Megan Okuly, Connie English and Bonnie Bell.

Shooting Star: Darlene Olds was nominated by her co-workers for a variety of reasons. She has a great rapport with consumers and co-workers alike. She adheres to the philosophy that "less is more" in terms of doing for consumers, and as a result, they find they can do more.

Peak Performer: This award is the equivalent of the Employee of the Year. Nominated by a slew of individuals, Nicki Gunter received this award. In the position of Chief Financial Officer, Nicki is responsible for the overall budgeting process, tracking of income and expenses and making recommendations for spending or not spending monies for the programs of the agency. While she is an accountant, she understands that we serve people who need support. Under her leadership, the financial division finds ways to further the mission of the agency, to "Create Opportunities and Support Success" for the individuals we support.

Super Heroes: Three staff members were given awards for just doing what had to be done under very trying circumstances. Mark Pilger was honored for getting several consumers to safety following a traffic accident, even though he was injured. Ken and Brenda Graves were honored for their efforts to save the life of a consumer who suffered a fatal heart attack at this summer's Special Olympics in Terre Haute. In addition to staying with the consumer until the end, they also provided comfort to the consumers who remained at the games.

In addition to the special awards, the following staff were honored for five, ten, fifteen and twenty-five years of service to persons with developmental disabilities.

5 Years of Service: Jan Adair, Ray Aldridge, Katherine Chumbley, Amanda Cole, Tina Foust, Kimberly Haulcy, Katy Heigl, Danny Lonsinger, Tim Main, Lyndy Miller, Angela Royer, Peggy Ruff, Jill Smith, Lindsey Smith, Wendy Stanley, Cherene Trusty, Ashley Williams, Jo Zielinski, Scott Zuehl.

10 Years of Service: Ben Blameuser, Kim Grogan, Nancy Hughes, Jessica Patrick, Carol Shidler, Jodie Simpson.

15 Years of Service: Kelly Bendel.

25 Years of Service: Donna Barr and Pam Shook.

Peak Community Services has been a part of this community for over 50 years, providing life-changing opportunities for persons with developmental disabilities in Cass, Pulaski and surrounding counties. The agency is proud to be a United Way / United Fund agency. Visit the Web site at www.peakcommunity.com.

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