

COMMISSION FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

AWARDS PROGRAM 2008

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AWARD RECEIPTS

1. Volunteers of the Year Candidate should demonstrate exceptional efforts on the behalf of the disabled community through volunteering time and energy.



St. Mary's County Commission for Persons with Disabilities Annual Awards Program Has selected **Sam and Vicki Brown** as the recipients of its 2008 award for Volunteer of the Year. Both have demonstrated exceptional efforts on behalf of the disabled community through their devoted efforts and endless energy.

Sam volunteers as President of ACTS (A Community that Shares) which distributes medical equipment to persons in need. He also volunteers at the Vivian Ripple Senior Center and is an officer of the Board of Directors of The Friends of the Ripple Center. This organization is the only day facility that provides care for seniors with special needs. Sam also volunteers his time each year to the COPD Annual Disability Awareness and Kite Flying day.

Vickie, serves on the Commission on Aging and plays a vital roll in acting as an advocate for seniors with disabilities. She has spent many hours volunteering on the Friends of the Ripple Board and raising money to keep this organization running.

Both Sam and Vicie served on the Commission on Persons with Disabilities at the State level in Annapolis from 2003-2006. They are both an incredible asset to our special needs community.

2. Notable Employer Candidate should demonstrate exceptional effort in advancing employment opportunities to persons with disabilities.

St. Mary's County Commission for Persons with Disabilities Annual Awards Program Has selected **Lone Star Steak House** as the recipient of its 2008 award for Notable Employer. A number of companies were nominated, many of who employed a larger number of employees with special needs; however the fact that Lone Star has employed the same person with special needs for nine years speaks volumes as to their ability to truly work with and address the needs of this unique work pool. Thank you Lone Star for your ability to stick with it through thick and thin and congratulations on your award.



3. Facility Accessibility Candidate should exhibit barrier-free optimum accessibility for persons with disabilities.

St. Mary's County Commission for Persons with Disabilities Annual Awards Program Has selected The **St. John's Archeological Museum at Historic St. Mary's City** as the recipient of its 2008 award for Facility Accessibility. Historic St. Mary's City has opened a new museum exhibiting the archaeological site and research of St. John's, a 17th century house that stood for nearly 80 years. This museum also includes features above and beyond what is mandated by the Federal ADA regulations. These include exhibits that are within view and reach of guests that utilize wheelchairs, audio-video programs with subtitles, and written scripts for audio-only programs.

4. Innovative Program Candidate should exhibit innovative plan and its execution for inclusion of persons with disabilities in an area of community life.

St. Mary's County Commission for Persons with Disabilities Annual Awards Program Has selected **Mary Beaton** as the recipient of its 2008 award for Innovative Program. As a volunteer for TRICO, Mary initiated an art activity program, involving clients of TRICO with psychiatric disabilities. The program offers experiences with numerous mediums including oils, water color, pencil drawing and more. It was so successful it stemmed into the Art for Arts Sake Gallery, where individual works of art are displayed at the Lexington Park Library several times a year. The program was also recognized on the Baynet this month.

5. Outstanding Person with Disability Award Candidate must be a person with a disability that enjoys all aspects of life and participates in advancement of barrier free access for all.

St. Mary's County Commission for Persons with Disabilities Annual Awards Program Has selected **Robbie Thompson** as the recipient of its 2008 award for Outstanding Person with a Disability. Robbie is a very outgoing young man and has overcome tremendous obstacles in his life. Growing up as a normal able bodied young man, he participated in sports and excelled as a student at Great Mills High School. After having a debilitating accident, Robbie was forced to learn how to walk, talk and eat all over again. Five years later, he is now living independently in his own apartment, making the best of everything. Way to go Robbie!



6. Outstanding Individual Achievements Award Candidate must exhibit exceptional effort in the promotion of independence for persons with disabilities.



St. Mary's County Commission for Persons with Disabilities Annual Awards Program Has selected **Arthur Hinaman III** as the

recipient of its 2008 award for Outstanding Individual Achievement. Artie has been a part of the Boys Scouts of America since age 11, quickly rising through the ranks making Eagle Scout this year. Artie has been a great friend and mentor to Issac Wieser, a fellow Boy Scout with Down Syndrome for the last three years. With Arties help and encouragement, Issac was able to advance through the first three ranks of Boy Scouts and receive the Order of the Arrow, making him a member of the Honor Society in scouting. Artie's friendship has given Issac the encouragement to continue on to his goal of making Eagle Scout. Artie's positive effect has been seen in Isaacs's full participation in all scouting activities, his full acceptance by his peers and leaders and a feeling of self respect and acceptance. His friendship with Issac has taught his fellow scouts and leaders many lessons on acceptance and awareness that will be carried on within the troop for many years to come. Congratulations Artie.