

Chicago Area Businesses Receive Special Recognition from the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago for Helping People with Disabilities in the Workforce

December 6, 2001

CHICAGO, December 7, 2000 - Chicago's First Lady presented awards today to Chicago area businesses and individuals who have promoted employment for persons with a disability. Margaret C. "Maggie" Daley was the keynote speaker at the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago's 2000 Vocational Rehabilitation Corporate Awards ceremony.

Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago annually recognizes corporate leaders who support vocational rehabilitation to assist people with disabilities enter the workforce or in their return to employment. Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago's Vocational Rehabilitation Program provides vocational counseling, evaluation and job placement. RIC works with the business community, helping hundreds of people get jobs or return to the workplace. Over 100 area employers actively participate on the RIC Business Team.

Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago was honored to have Mrs. Daley at this year's Awards because she is also the President of Pathways Awareness Foundation, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to increasing public awareness about early detection, early intervention, and inclusion of children with physical disabilities.

Recipients of the 2000 Vocational Rehabilitation Corporate Awards are:

Employment Awards

Addus HealthCare
Chicago Public Schools
Dominick's Finer Foods, Inc.
Evanston Loews Cineplex Theatre
Glenbrook Security Services, Inc.
H & M International Transport
Haymarket House
Illinois Department of Human Services, Office of Rehabilitation Services
Interparking
Lutheran Social Services of Illinois
Professional Golf Association - Illinois Section
New City YMCA
Northern Trust Company
Northwestern Memorial Hospital
Paralyzed Veterans of America

Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago
Residence for Effective Shelter Transitions
Rush-Presbyterian St. Luke's Medical Center
Shores Training Center

Training Awards

Community

Chicago Hilton & Towers
Field Museum of Natural History
Gleeson, Sklar, Sawyers & Cumpata, LLP
U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development
Waukegan Public Library
Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago:
Building and Environmental Services
Center for Health & Fitness
Center for Spine, Sports & Occupational Rehabilitation
Computer Skills Learning Center
Food & Nutritional Services
Hospital & Clinics
Learning Resource Center
Medical Records
Security & Special Services
Volunteer Resources

TEAM Committee Awards

The Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago/Business TEAM Committee includes members of the Institute's Vocational Rehabilitation staff and area business professionals who work together to encourage employment of people with disabilities.

Personal Awards

Chris Lenz

Placement Specialist, American Medical Association

Jack Gedge

Assistant Director of Training, American Bar Association

Joy Peters

Vice President, Human Resources, Northern Trust Company

Special Awards

Agnes Christiansen

Volunteer, Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago

Henry Betts Employment Advocacy Award

This award is given to individuals or organizations that have made significant contributions towards promoting employment for people with a disability through providing job training, job opportunities, or advocacy efforts.

Marca Bristo, President & CEO, Access Living

Ms. Bristo is Chair of the National Council on Disability and a member of the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago's Board of Trustees.

Donor Recognition

Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago thanks Bank of America, DeVry Inc., and the Polk Bros. Foundation for their generous support of its Vocational Rehabilitation Program through direct grants and in-kind contributions. Polk Bros. Foundation recently announced an increase in its support for the Vocational Rehabilitation Program. The Polk Bros. Foundation is providing \$60,000 a year for two years in grant funding for support of the Computer Skills Learning Center, the job maintenance group, and vocational free care programs.

Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago is dedicated to helping people with all levels and types of physical disabilities regain or improve their physical functions and empowering them to participate more fully in family, social, vocational and leisure time pursuits. Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago has been rated "The #1 Rehabilitation Hospital" by *U.S. News & World Report* every year since 1991.

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