



Media Release

Contact:

**Kandy Cayce, DHS Division of Services for the Blind
(501) 682-0332**

For Immediate Release

November 13, 2012

Achievement awards to be presented to six with vision impairments

Six Arkansans from their respective areas who are blind or severely visually impaired have been named as area Consumers of the Year by the Department of Human Services Division of Services for the Blind (DSB) and will be recognized at the Little Rock Founders Lions Club noon meeting November 14.

They are being recognized for their determination to overcome adversity, gain marketable skills, secure good jobs, and become role models for other individuals.

Their employers have been named as area Employers of the Year and will receive awards recognizing them as outstanding business partners for their commitment to promoting the employment of persons with vision impairment.

Receiving awards will be: Julie Brooks of Little Rock and the Department of Labor; Erika Evans of Sherwood and the Pulaski County Special School District; Diana Scroggins of Cleveland, AR, and Ashley Fielding of Texarkana, both now of North Little Rock and employed by Arkansas Lighthouse for the Blind; David Naumann of Bentonville, now of Austin, TX, and Kellen Bassham of Mountain Home, now of Memphis, TN, both employed by the Internal Revenue Service.

Naumann and Bassham are graduates of the Internal Revenue Service career program taught by IRS staff in conjunction with World Services for the Blind.

The six are among only 13 people across the state that will be named to receive this honor.

This is the fifth year that DSB has given Consumer of the Year awards. At the end of the year, the DSB Board will select an overall state winner from the area winners.

-more-

DSB provides vocational rehabilitation services to individuals who are blind or severely visually impaired and whose goal is successful employment. The division also serves youth and older blind individuals. For information about DSB's programs and services, call 1-800-960-9270 or 501-682-5463 or visit the DSB website at <http://humanservices.arkansas.gov/dsb/Pages/default.aspx>.