



Media Release

Contact:

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

For Immediate Release

September 25, 2013

Little Rock woman with visual impairment earns achievement award

Hard work and a positive attitude have earned Margaret “Meg” Berry of Little Rock an area achievement award from the Arkansas Department of Human Services Division of Services for the Blind (DSB). Berry is a Licensed Master Social Worker at Arkansas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired and an individual who is visually impaired.

“You can do anything you put your mind to. Opportunity comes with hard work. I’ve had to work hard. I’ve had struggles. But you can overcome your struggles by working hard and becoming the best person you can be,” said Berry. She said she was born with retinopathy of prematurity and later developed glaucoma.

Because of her determination to overcome adversity and succeed at work, Berry has been named as an area Consumer of the Year by DSB. She is one of only 13 people in Arkansas who will receive an area award and was chosen from the area that includes Faulkner, Conway, Pope, Perry, Van Buren, and part of Pulaski Counties, including the city of Jacksonville. An overall state winner will be named at the end of the year.

Her employer, Arkansas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired (ASBVI), has been named as an area Employer of the Year as an outstanding business partner for its commitment to promoting the employment of persons with vision impairment.

Berry and her employer will be recognized at a meeting of the Little Rock Founders Lions Club on October 2, to be held at ASBVI. The award presentation falls during October’s Blindness Awareness Month, as well as National Disability Employment Awareness Month.

-more-

Berry graduated from the University of Central Arkansas in 2006 with two degrees -- a Bachelor of Arts in Music and a Bachelor of Science in Dietetics. She went on to receive a Master's degree in Social Work from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock in May 2012.

As part of her degree requirements, she completed internships at the Women and Children First organization against domestic violence and the Centers for Youth and Families non-profit, where she worked with children in residential treatment facilities. Berry said DSB helped her through college by paying her tuition, books, and reader services, as well as technology equipment.

“It was my privilege to work with Meg through the years and to see her grow as a person,” said her Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor Dwight Turner, who nominated her for the award. “She was diligent in completing her education and seeking employment in the field she chose. Actually, this is the kind of person all of us counselors enjoy working with because you know they are serious about their rehab plan, consistent and determined to work.”

This is the sixth year that DSB has given Consumer of the Year awards to recognize individuals who have managed their rehabilitation plans, gained marketable skills, secured good jobs, and become role models for others.

DSB provides vocational rehabilitation services to adults 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, visit the DSB website at <http://humanservices.arkansas.gov/dsb/Pages/default.aspx> or call 1-800-960-9270, 501-682-5463, or TDD 501-682-0093.