

## Media Release

Contact:

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

**For Immediate Release**

May 26, 2016

### **Fordyce woman who's visually impaired earns achievement award**



**From the left are Mrs. Elizabeth Davis, Hospital Administrator Tammy Rieves, DSB Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor Audrey Veasey, and Dietitian Supervisor Mamie Wheeler. Veasey presented awards to Davis, who was named the area's Consumer of the Year by the Department of Human Services Division of Services for the Blind (DSB), and to her employer, Dallas County Medical Center, as an outstanding business partner for its commitment to promoting the employment of persons with vision impairment.**

Elizabeth Davis of Fordyce has been named the area's outstanding Consumer of the Year by the Department of Human Services Division of Services for the Blind (DSB).

DSB Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor Audrey Veasey nominated her for the achievement award because of her determination to overcome adversity and succeed at work. Davis has been employed as a cook with the Dallas County Medical Center for seven years.

The award presentation was made at a hospital staff directors' meeting at Dallas County Medical Center on May 25. DSB selected her from an area that

includes Jefferson, Arkansas, Cleveland, Dallas, Desha, Drew, and Lincoln Counties.

Dallas County Medical Center was recognized by DSB as an outstanding business partner for its commitment to promoting the employment of persons with vision impairment.

"As her HR (Human Resources) Director, I have a special place in my heart for her," said Tammy Dixon. "She's very outgoing. Everybody loves her. I feel for her that this (vision problems) happened."

Davis said she began having vision problems in 2014, and was referred to DSB in imminent danger of losing her eyesight. She was diagnosed with open angle glaucoma and had surgery, but continued having eye problems. Later another doctor diagnosed her with cataracts and she had additional surgeries. She said she lost her peripheral vision and is no longer able to drive, but her husband Van Davis takes her to work.

“I am fortunate I can see as good as I can. Some people can’t,” Davis said. She expressed appreciation for DSB paying for her surgeries and related medical treatment. The agency also provided her with a talking watch, a clock with large numbers, and a walking cane.

“When I first met Mrs. Davis, she was afraid that she would never be able to go back to work,” Veasey said. The counselor explained to Davis that there was training available to help people who have lost their vision to maintain or regain employment. “Mrs. Davis seemed pleased to hear that she could possibly go back to work. Mrs. Davis had to stop working for the Dallas County Medical Center for several months, but after several procedures and cataract surgery, she was able to return to work in the kitchen,” Veasey said.

Davis said she and her husband are very family-oriented and have two grown children, two grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

This is the ninth 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. An overall state winner will be selected at the end of the year.

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.