



IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month!

WAYNE, MI. – March 1, 2011 – When you think of a person with a disability, what comes to mind? A local business owner? An entrepreneur? An advocate standing on the steps of Capitol Hill? None of these images probably came to your mind; however, that’s how far people with disabilities have come.

“Community Living Services has been a leader from the beginning,” said CLS President and CEO Jim Dehem. “More than 25 years ago, people with disabilities were living in institutions, were on regimented schedules and had very little interaction with anyone. Fast forward to today, our state is one of 11 that doesn’t have a person with a disability in an institution, they’re all closed down.”

In honor of March being Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, CLS is saluting all people with disabilities who have made tremendous strides toward gaining independence and freedom.

“We provide supports and services that help people choose what they want to do with their lives. We support an advocate who makes decisions at the state level that affect all people with disabilities living in Michigan. We know women business owners who have their own store, a woman who has her own shredding business and many other small business owners. People we support are living as independently as possible. They are controlling their own budgets, and controlling who walks in their front door,” said Dehem.

Community Living Services is a non-profit organization that promotes inclusion, full citizenship and a self-determined life for people with developmental disabilities. CLS provides supports and services to 3200 people in Wayne County and is funded through the Detroit-Wayne County Community Mental Health Agency. Our Oakland County office serves 650 people and is funded by the Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority.

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