



# NEWS

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 17, 2014**

## **Montgomery County Officials, Service Providers, Recipients and Families Attend the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Developmental Disabilities Awards Ceremony**

**Jeffersonville, PA (March 17, 2014)** – The Montgomery County Commissioners kicked off the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Developmental Disabilities Awards Ceremony at Westover Country Club last week. The awards ceremony is held each March to commemorate Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month and to recognize service providers and recipients for excellence of service and commitment to others during the past year.

Commissioner Leslie Richards read a proclamation recognizing March as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. Commissioner Josh Shapiro offered opening remarks to the crowd, which included Montgomery County Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Administrator Eric Goldstein and his staff, outside service providers, and the individuals and families they serve.

Awards were presented to service providers and recipients. Award honorees included: Herman Roether Award, Karen Hedrick and Tammy Webb; Betty Linker Award, Judith Gran; Direct Support Professional Award, Brenda Engle; Management Staff Awards, Joyce Schleppey (DEC at Center Point Training Center) and Lynde Kearns (Lenape Valley Foundation); Supports Coordinator Award, Allison Coppola (Lenape Valley Foundation); Employer of the Year Award, Venezia Transport Services (Andrew Venezia, President; John Venezia, Vice President); Life Enrichment Award, Bonnie Giordano; Educator of the Year Awards, Kathleen Valerio (The ARC Alliance Children's Services); Personal Achievement Awards, Charles Epps, James Epps, Michael Didomenico, Kelly Herr, Thad Pennypacker, Michael Pohlig, and Michael Russo; and Special Recognition Award, Coffee Cart Associates Anthony Sabella, Brandon Watts, Leigh C. Brown, Marisa Good, Michelle Dura, and Von Hunter.

The Montgomery County Office of Developmental Disabilities is a Human Services organization that serves children, adults, and families, ensures quality services, and promotes choice, partnership, and community understanding.