



A ray of light for individuals with special needs

FOR: The Douglas Center

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The Douglas Center Hosts Annual “Ray of Light” Recognition Award Reception

Skokie, IL — The Douglas Center hosted their Annual “*Ray of Light*” Recognition Award Reception on Thursday, September 15, 2011 at the Holiday Inn North Shore in Skokie. This important event commemorated the center’s 12 years of providing programs and services to individuals with special needs and recognized the support and contributions of the many friends of The Douglas Center.

This year’s award recipients included Barbara Chyette, Morris Braun Foundation; Casey Herbst, Resinoid Engineering Corporation; and Diane and Mike Tiran, Diane Home Care, Inc. for their extraordinary commitment and service to The Douglas Center. Among this year’s sponsors were Secure Eco Shred and Linda Cordero, From The Heart Communications.

The “*Ray of Light*” program focused on the expansion of the vision of The Douglas Center. Rifath Khan, Executive of The Douglas Center addressed the number of ways in which the center has expanded its vision. “It was a vision to start a day program in the Chicagoland area where individuals with special needs would have choices and not restrictions, personal responsibilities and not predetermined/cookie-cutter programming... a place of opportunities...a place where they would feel at home and connected”, explained Ms. Khan. “This year due to the ever changing and growing needs and the necessity for more space for the creation of additional programs needed to accommodate the changing needs of our participants, The Douglas Center has expanded for a third time in our 12 years of existence.” The Douglas Center recently expanded its current space and now operates in a 36,000 square foot facility.

“It has been a tremendous journey and privilege to have built The Douglas Center from the ground up...honoring the initial vision of providing individuals with special needs with choices, life skills, employment opportunities, skill-learning choices *and* to provide an environment conducive and supportive of their ability to function and thrive”, stated Rifath Khan. The program included a brief video detailing the programs and services provided by the center and testimonials given by several program participants.

The “Ray of Light” reception is an annual fundraising event. The event’s festivities included a silent auction and a Flat Screen Television Square Raffle. Guests of “*Ray of Light*” Reception were treated to lively musical entertainment provided by O’Dea Entertainment while enjoying a variety of hors d’ouvres and refreshments. Memorable moments of the evening were captured by Joe Pizzo of Joseph Studios, Inc.

The Douglas Center provides day programs for individuals with severe developmental, intellectual and physical disabilities. The center offers pre-vocational and vocational training as well as developmental rehabilitation for adults of all ages. The Douglas Center opened its doors in 1999. Today, they provide a home away from home for 125 hard working and dedicated individuals. The center’s *clinical services, training programs, employment opportunities and Senior’s program* enhance the lives of their clients and assist them in reaching their maximum potential.

For more information on making a donation and/or inquiries on exploring a potential production/manufacturing project assignment for The Douglas Center, please contact Linda Cordero, Development Coordinator at lcordero@thedouglascenter.com or 847-674-1921 ext. 245 or visit our website: www.thedouglascenter.com

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