

Governor's Council on Disability

2010 Inclusion Award Winners

The 2010 **Inclusion Award Winner** is **Aimee Wehmeier**.

Ms. Wehmeier is employed with Services for Independent Living in Columbia. Under Ms. Wehmeier's direction, Services for Independent Living (SIL) has become a leader in advocacy and inclusive best practices. This year, the United Way commended SIL for building new partnerships, improving services, and strengthening its financial position. SIL is also engaging in rigorous self-evaluation and strategic planning to enhance its focus on inclusiveness, self-determination, and elimination of barriers to independence.

Emphasizing outreach to K-12 schools and area colleges, Ms. Wehmeier developed a "Community Network" program at SIL to help ensure disability issues are in the educational forefront.

Ms. Wehmeier serves on Columbia's Disabilities Commission and ADA Transition Committee, advising the City Council, and educating the business community and the public. She also serves on the Columbia Values Diversity Celebration Committee, Chamber of Commerce Leadership Columbia Planning Committee, and Community Housing Options.

She also advocates for equal participation and justice statewide through the Missouri Task Force on Aging with Disabilities, State Rehabilitation Council, Missouri Association of CILs, and the Missouri Youth Leadership Forum (MYLF), helping lead the annual MYLF event.

In addition, SIL is working with the Missouri Association of Social Welfare to host a Universal Design summit, and SIL hosts one of seven demonstration centers for assistive technology in the state.

In summary, Ms. Wehmeier's activities demonstrate excellence in advocacy and leadership, both within the disability community and in the community at large. She is a visible and highly credible spokesperson for the cross-disability community, and is committed to inclusion through universal design.

The recipient of the **Honorable Mention** is **Rebecca Herwick** of Global Products, Inc. in St. Peters.

As the President/CEO of Global Products, Inc, Ms. Herwick embodies the principles of inclusion and has expanded her enthusiasm for equal participation within her companies. Rebecca is committed to establishing equal participation for people with disabilities, especially in the area of employment. This passion led to Global Product's collaboration with the Center for Head Injury Services (CHIS). Beyond the scope of her job description, Ms. Herwick implemented "job carving", a program that provides employment opportunities for survivors of traumatic brain injuries. Over 250 CHIS clients have participated in job carving through Global Products to help

assessment their new skills and abilities. This evaluation and documentation allows each client to create a new resume for employment opportunities. Ms. Herwick believes that employment is a successful component to rehabilitation after a closed head injury. Global Products, Inc. sponsors the Annual CHIS "Gray Matters" Charity Golf Tournament and the CHIS Annual "Gray Matters" Charity Trivia Nights. Ms. Herwick formerly served as CHIS Board Member and on the board of Citizens for a Better St. Peters, working to ensure that people with head injuries and their families have the necessary available resources. She has sought to educate and inform her community by participating in panel discussions at the Annual Missouri Head Injury Advisory Council Conference in Jefferson City. Ms. Herwick received the Employer of the Year Award from the Center of Head Injury and a Certificate of Appreciation for her panel discussions. Ms. Herwick has made outstanding contributions to the community through her advocacy work, servicing as an inspiration to many by implementing equal participation not only in her personal life, but in all business aspects.

The awards will be presented at the 2011 Power Up Assistive Technology conference in Columbia on April 12, 2011.

For additional information, please contact the Council at 573-751-2600 or by email at gcd@oa.mo.gov. Governor's Council on Disability: www.disabilityinfo.mo.gov/gcd, click on Inclusion Awards.