

LAFAYETTE CITY-PARISH PRESIDENT'S AWARENESS COMMITTEE FOR CITIZENS WITH DISABILITIES SECOND ANNUAL AWARDS

The Lafayette City-Parish President's Awareness Committee for Citizens with Disabilities is seeking nominations for its Second Annual Disability Awards. Awards will be given this year in five categories: Distinguished Merit, Outstanding Youth, Outstanding Person with a Disability, Outstanding Family, and Outstanding Employer. These Awards will be presented in October in recognition of Disability Employment Awareness Month. All citizens are encouraged to submit nominations.

The Nomination Packet should include the following:

- 1. A letter of nomination describing the nominee's achievements and contributions incorporating the criteria listed for each individual award.**
- 2. The name, address and phone number of the nominee.**
- 3. The name, address and phone number of the person making the nomination.**
- 4. Letters of support are optional.**

Submit the Nomination Packet to:

**Jim Richard
Event Coordinator
Goodwill Industries of Acadiana
P. O. Box 62270
Lafayette, LA 70596-2270
jrichard@lagoodwill.com**

Deadline for submission for Awards is *September 15, 2009*

THE 2009 DISTINGUISHED MERIT AWARD

This award is given in public recognition of extraordinary service by an individual, organization or agency working in the disability field that has substantially advanced opportunities in Lafayette Parish for persons with disabilities to utilize their capabilities in achieving full participation in society.

Criteria to be considered could include, but is not limited to:

- **Expanding educational opportunities**
- **Improved access to housing, buildings, and transportation**
- **Greater participation in recreational, social and cultural activities**
- **Greater opportunities for employment**
- **Expanded and strengthened rehabilitation program/ facilities**
- **Increased application of technology on behalf of persons with disabilities**
- **Purposeful application of biomedical research aimed at conquering major disabling conditions**

THE 2009 OUTSTANDING YOUTH of the YEAR AWARD

The Outstanding Youth of the Year Award is given in recognition of a young person with a disability in Lafayette Parish who has, by example of achievement, provided encouragement and inspiration to others.

Criteria to be considered could include but is not limited to:

- **An individual between 13-19 years of age**
- **Someone who has demonstrated persistence and initiative in dealing with his/her disability**
- **Someone who has contributed toward increased awareness for persons with disabilities**
- **Someone who has participated in activities for the benefit of persons with disabilities**

THE 2009 OUTSTANDING INDIVIDUAL WITH A DISABILITY AWARD

The Outstanding Individual with a Disability Award is given in recognition of a person with a disability in Lafayette Parish who has provided encouragement and inspiration to others, and has advanced opportunities for persons with disabilities in our community.

Criteria to be considered could include but is not limited to:

- An individual with a disability recognized for his or her leadership abilities and achievements**
- An individual who has participated in activities to benefit persons with disabilities**
- An individual who has demonstrated persistence and initiative in dealing with disability issues**
- An individual who is committed to providing opportunities for independent living, self determination, access, justice, and full participation in life**
- An individual who is aware of, and willing to work for, solutions to the problems persons with disabilities face in housing, transportation, recreation, employment, education and communication**

THE 2009 OUTSTANDING EMPLOYER AWARD

The Employer of the Year Award recognizes outstanding achievement in providing employment opportunities for person with disabilities in Lafayette Parish.

Criteria

- **Hires persons with disabilities as a regular practice**
- **Accommodates persons with disabilities in the work place**
- **Promotes persons with disabilities when appropriate**
- **Pays equitable wages to all staff**

THE 2009 FAMILY OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Family of the Year Award is given in recognition of a family in Lafayette Parish who has a member with a disability and who by their involvement in the community and their mutual support of one another are an example of courage, unity and strength for other families. All forms of families from foster parents to single parents are encouraged to apply.

Criteria

- **Meets the challenges of one or more physical or mental disabilities**
- **Maintain outstanding efforts in achieving dynamic/cohesive family unit**
- **Recognize the contributions of each family member**
- **Participates in the life of the community, in organizations and events that the family can enjoy together**
- **Recognized by others in the community for efforts toward full participation**