



Susan E. Camacho, LSW, received our Liberty Award for her dedication and service to consumers in our Transition to Community Living Program. The Honorable Edward J. Lambert, Jr. received our Community Service Award for his leadership in disability matters during his tenure as mayor.

Lisa Antonelli, a SCIL consultant, received our Volunteer Service Award for her work in support of our fundraising efforts.

SCIL Consumer and Volunteer Denise Canuel contributed her talents in the fine arts to provide the painting and poetry that set the anniversary's theme, and SCIL Independent Living Specialist Michelle Sabino contributed her expertise in graphic design to the invitations and anniversary booklet.

SCIL wishes to thank all the volunteers, donors and contributors who made this event possible. It goes to show the Sky's the Limit when we all work together!

photographs by Antonio Harris & Karen Sullivan



## SCIL Maintains Commitment to TAP despite Inadequate Funding

SCIL has been involved with area youth through the Transition to Adulthood Program for the past eight years, and we have found the work both challenging and rewarding. Our program has grown so that we are now working with students from 13 different area high schools, and we have designed and launched a pilot program with Diman Regional Vocational Technical High School that is unprecedented in Massachusetts. We think the pilot is so good that it will become a model for other schools working with students with disability who are making their transition into adulthood.

SCIL has been one of the five Independent Centers in Massachusetts funded by Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission (MRC) for the TAP program, but historically our funding has been disproportionately low in comparison to the other centers. Despite this discrepancy, SCIL has put focused effort into TAP and in the last four years, the program has grown so dramatically that our center is accounting for most of the statewide growth of the TAP program. Last May we submitted a formal request for an amendment to our contract to correct the disproportionate funding. In September MRC decided to grant us a portion of the amount of increase we requested. Although discouraged by the amount we received, SCIL remains loyal in our commitment to help youth with disabilities.

At our 20th Anniversary celebration SCIL chose a TAP student, Antonio Almeida, to receive our Mairilou Leonard Service Award because this young man exemplifies the very best of what the TAP program can accomplish. Antonio has overcome remarkable challenges by setting and accomplishing an extremely intense series of goals so that he now serves the very organizations that have served him. While working with Old Colony Y Youth Build of Fall River, Antonio is seeking to obtain his GED and receive career training. While this process continues, he has obtained his license, bought a car, found health insurance and other benefits and has moved into his own apartment. In serving the wider community, Antonio performs outreach for Youth Build. He helped build homes

in New Orleans for Victims of Hurricane Katrina and gave a speech in Washington D.C. regarding the Youth Build efforts.

SCIL remains determined to honor the achievements of students like Antonio.

## Support Group for People with All/Any Disabilities

Meets every third Friday of the month at 1:15 p.m. here at SCIL, 66 Troy Street, 1st floor, Fall River, MA.

Group open to new ideas for topics and themes. Meet new people and make friends!

No December meeting—see you in the New Year!

Group run by Michelle Sabino, Independent Living Specialist

For information, contact Michelle at 508-679-9210 ext. 20 or e-mail her at [msabino@secil.org](mailto:msabino@secil.org)



## SCIL Receives its First Federal Health and Human Services Grant

The U. S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Community Services has awarded SCIL \$33,900.00 for the Targeted Capacity Building Award. This one-year grant will help SCIL address the needs of the homeless population with disabilities in New Bedford and develop revenue strategies for sustainability within that city.

## SCIL's office will be closed

on Monday, December 24, and 25 and on Monday, December 31, and Jan 1. We will reopen on January 2.

# SCIL's

## 2007 Holiday Party

*Southeast Center for Independent Living  
Merrill Building \* 66 Troy St. \* Fall River, MA 02720*

*For more details or accommodations, call us 508 - 679 - 9210, MUST call to RSVP*

*We are a scent free environment, please refrain from using scented products.*

### Saturday, December 15, 2007

### from 11am - 2pm

### held at SCIL

*Consumers \$5.00*

*Friends of SCIL \$10.00*

*Children 12 & under Free*

*Join us for*

*food!*

*Santa*

*gifts*

*fun*

*& more*

