



For Immediate Release

Photos included in story

Media Contacts:

Kristen Wells
O: 708-425-6867
C: 618-558-1683
kwells@parklawn.com
www.parklawn.com

**Kiwi Club of Chicago are the
Mabley Volunteers of the Year**

The members of The Kiwi Club of Chicago are officially the 2009 recipients of the ARC of Illinois Mabley Volunteer of the Year Award. This award honors an exceptional individual(s) who actively devotes time and energy to enhance life experiences for people with developmental disabilities.

The Kiwi Club of Chicago is a group of current and retired American Airlines flight attendants and was recently nominated by Park Lawn Director of Development **Doris Marks** for this prestigious award. They have been connected with Park Lawn from the start in 1955 when several Kiwi members volunteered to help teach the children enrolled in Park Lawn's classes.

The Mabley Volunteer of the Year Award is named after **Jack Mabley**, famous columnist that was a longtime advocate for people with developmental disabilities throughout his life and career. According to The Arc of Illinois Executive Director **Tony Paulauski**, this is one of the most honored awards that the Arc of Illinois presents.

"When we choose the winner of this award, we look at the type of service and the years of services and that is why the Kiwi's were awarded," said **Paulauski**. "We are delighted to honor them."

Throughout the years, the Kiwi Club members have coordinated annual fashion shows to raise money for charity. Once the members of the Kiwi Club learned a fellow Kiwi member had a child at Park Lawn they decided to donate the proceeds from their fashion show entirely to Park Lawn. This year marked the 50th Kiwi Fashion Show benefiting Park Lawn.

"Over 50 years, the Kiwi's enthusiasm for raising funds and willingness to help has not wavered," said **Marks** of Park Lawn. "As their chosen charity, The Kiwi Club members have totally embraced Park Lawn's work with individuals with developmental disabilities."

(Kiwi club volunteers of the year, cont.)

In addition to the club support, individual members also donate. To date, the fashion show proceeds and private donations by the Kiwis nears \$1 million. In addition, they have stacked up thousands of volunteer hours and in-kind support.

The Kiwi Club of Chicago sponsors the Great Room at Park Lawn Center and continues to bring awareness about Park Lawn and its programs. Park Lawn is a non-profit organization offering a variety of programs and services for individuals with developmental disabilities since 1955. The mission of Park Lawn is to provide services that promote independence, choice and access to community living for people with developmental disabilities. More information about the Kiwi Club of Chicago and Park Lawn can be found at www.parklawn.com.



Back: Park Lawn Director of Development **Doris Marks**; Park Lawn Executive Director **Jim Weise**; Kiwi members **Carolyn Bachman**; **Marti Schultz**; **Genevieve Johnson**; **Lu Arens**; Park Lawn Assistant Director of Development **Nancy Schmitz**; **Front:** Kiwi members **Billie Kigin**; **Barbara Burt**; **Boots Hogate**; **Bette Enright**.

(Kiwi club volunteers of the year, cont.)



Kiwi members accept their award from The Arc of Illinois: **Billie Kigin; Bette Enright; Carolyn Bachman; Barbara Burt; Martie Schultz; Boots Hogate; Ruth Banas; Lu Arens; Genevieve Johnson.**