

PRESENTATION OF THE 2009 MILCH AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE OF ACCOMPLISHMENT

TO

Gallagher Services

For people with developmental disabilities, challenging the world's preconceived notions of their limitations can prove more difficult than living with the effects of the disabilities themselves. Surely, the skeptical might say, a person with a developmental disability can't hold a job, live independently, be a leader, or create art.

It is these small-minded perceptions that deny men, women and children with developmental disabilities their dignity, their independence, their sense of self-worth. And it is these perceptions that Gallagher Services has worked so hard to dispel for more than 30 years. Gallagher Services, affiliated with Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Baltimore, operates residential and day programs dedicated to opening the doors to fuller lives for people with developmental disabilities. Last year, more than 340 people benefited from Gallagher Services' extensive array of programs, which emphasize discovering the extraordinary gifts inside each person and providing the support and opportunities needed to share those gifts with the world. These moments of revelation rarely make headlines; instead, they offer simple joys often taken for granted by those for whom such achievements come more easily.

Throughout its history, Gallagher Services has endeavored to engage the broader community in its programs and encourage others to witness and learn from the achievements of its clients. As a result, Gallagher Services' job training programs, fundraisers, community activities and holiday events are enriched by the participation of students, professionals, retirees and many others who contribute their own experience

and skills. They soon learn that their participation is by no means one-sided—the resulting friendships with Gallagher Services' clients leave volunteers forever changed, and profoundly aware of how the common threads of humanity run far deeper than simple differences in abilities.

For its 32-year commitment to enhancing the dignity and self-worth of men, women and children with developmental disabilities; for its tireless efforts to uncover and celebrate its clients' exceptional gifts and talents; and for its great generosity in allowing the broader community to participate in the moments of sincere joy experienced in its programs, Loyola College in Maryland is proud to honor Gallagher Services with the Milch Award.

Established in 1977 and with operations in Baltimore City as well as Baltimore, Anne Arundel and Harford counties, Gallagher Services is a Catholic Charities affiliate that operates a wide variety of programs dedicated to enhancing the self-esteem and independence of people with developmental disabilities. These initiatives include group homes; pre-vocational and vocational training; supported employment; medical day care and habilitation activities; spiritual, recreational and social programs; 24-hour supervised care; assisted living and retirement programs; and life care and medical services. All Gallagher Services' clients are provided with individualized attention to ensure that they are matched with the most appropriate services available, and that they have access to the supports and opportunities needed to live the fullest lives possible.