



from the **Press Room**

Subject: Exhibit of art by Hoosiers with developmental disabilities visits capitol for Disabilities Awareness Month

For Immediate Release, page 1 of 1

Contact: Nora Loechel, 317-454-8008

Indianapolis— On March 1, a unique art show will continue its year-long tour throughout the state of Indiana at the Indiana Statehouse in Indianapolis as a special recognition of Disabilities Awareness Month. “What’s important to me! An exhibit of art by Hoosiers with developmental disabilities” reflects the needs, hopes, and goals of Indiana residents with developmental disabilities through artistic creations.

Artwork by nearly 100 individuals from around the state will be on display, including individuals from Bloomington, Indianapolis, Muncie, Lafayette, Fort Wayne, Crown Point, Terre Haute, Evansville, and many other cities and towns. “What’s important to me!” will be displayed on the second floor of the Statehouse until March 31. The exhibit will then travel to various locations throughout the state, including the Vigo County Public Library in Terre Haute, the Indianapolis-Marion County Public Library, the Wayne County Library in Richmond, the Indianapolis Arts Garden, and the St. Joseph County Public Library in South Bend.

The highlighted artists present their skills and talents through a diverse variety of styles, including paintings, pencil sketchings, and textile works, which reflect the contributions they make in their communities and the interests they have in their lives.

Developed to raise awareness about developmental disabilities, the tour facilitates community integration of individuals with autism, cerebral palsy, and other diagnoses, and creates a greater understanding of the person-centered services provided to individuals with developmental disabilities by the State of Indiana and Indiana Professional Management Group (IPMG). In September 2006, IPMG became the sole provider of case management services to individuals receiving an Autism, Developmental Disabilities, or Support Services Waiver from the State of Indiana. The Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services (DDRS), a department of Indiana’s Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA), administers the waiver program for more than 12,700 Hoosier waiver recipients.

Sponsored by IPMG, “What’s important to me!” paints a picture of how person-centered thinking can be implemented by those who support individuals with developmental disabilities, as they work together to provide quality person-centered planning for each individual. The exhibit provides a tangible reflection of the things important for each person, such as health and safety issues, as well as those things important to the waiver recipient, such as their hopes, dreams, and the goals they have for their lives within their communities. Ensuring each person’s waiver is used to move the recipient forward with these two important concepts is the hallmark of IPMG’s person-centered case management services.

IPMG is a statewide organization that quickly and creatively responds to the needs of people with developmental disabilities by forming solutions that endure. Successfully meeting the needs of waiver recipients is paramount to all aspects of the organization. IPMG’s innovative, 21st Century case management services empower individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to achieve their goals and thrive in their communities.

For more information on IPMG, visit www.gotoipmg.com, or contact Nora Loechel, IPMG Senior Public Relations Executive, at 317-454-8008 or n.loechel@gotoipmg.com.