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STAR, Inc., Lighting the Way... Holds Annual Meeting and Achievement Awards

November 11, 2009: STAR, Inc., Lighting the Way... a not-for-profit organization dedicated to serving infants, children and adults with developmental disabilities, as well as providing support services to their families, held its **57th Annual Meeting and Achievement Awards** at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, October 26, 2009 at the STAR facility on Wolfpit Avenue in Norwalk.

Jack McFadden, Board President, was Master of Ceremonies for the event. Katie Banzhaf, Executive Director, presented the Achievement Awards. Among the speakers and attendees were Norwalk Mayor Richard Moccia, Connecticut State Senator Bob Duff and Norwalk Town Clerk Mary Roman.

The "Corporate Volunteer of the Year" award was presented to Deloitte of Wilton, and the "Jo Mercede Volunteer of the Year" award winner was Judy Bosworth of Wilton for her dedication and valuable work with Theater of the STARS, among other large-scale volunteer and recreation projects at STAR. "Employer of the Year" award was presented to John Purcell of Diageo Corporation in Norwalk, for the company's work with employee Bob Novack. The "Anne O'Callaghan Parents of the Year" award was presented to Theresa and James Taylor of Norwalk for their tireless work as chairpersons of the 4th Annual STAR Walk, Roll & Stroll, one of STAR's primary fundraisers of the year. The "Jeannette Shivers Volunteer Service" award for service and dedication by a STAR client was presented to Charlie Sherman of Norwalk. The "Perii Skolnick Humanitarian" award, in recognition of leadership and service to STAR, was presented to Joan Dionne of New Canaan. In addition, the "Youth Volunteer of the Year" award was presented to Ruby Steinberg and Eliza Yass of Westport for their volunteer work with STAR's Recreation Services programs.

Guests at the Annual Meeting and Achievement Awards ceremony enjoyed appetizers and hors d'oeuvres by Cynthia Choyce Catering and music by Rubberband, a musical group comprised of individuals with and without disabilities.

STAR, Inc., Lighting the Way is a not-for-profit organization serving infants, children and adults with developmental disabilities, as well as providing support services to their families. We create opportunities for individuals to live full lives with independence, freedom of choice

and personal growth by providing support, services and advocacy. We inform and encourage the community to recognize and appreciate the value of all individuals.

For information about service or volunteer opportunities at STAR, please contact Megan Johnson at (203) 846-9581 or mjohnson@starinonline.com. Additional information about STAR is available online at www.starinc-lightingtheway.org <<http://www.starinc-lightingtheway.org>> .



Photo: Employees from Deloitte accept the Corporate Volunteer of the Year Award from Katie Banzhaf, Executive Director of STAR, Inc., Lighting the Way...