
NEWS

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ARIZONA BRIDGE TO INDEPENDENT LIVING HONORS ADVOCATES AT ANNUAL SPIRIT OF ABIL AWARDS LUNCHEON

Arizona Bridge to Independent Living (ABIL), Arizona's largest center for independent living serving people with disabilities, presented its Spirit of ABIL award to Judith Tunell of Phoenix and Gary Corcoran of Phoenix during its annual Spirit of ABIL Awards luncheon. The Spirit of ABIL award honors a local consumer who exemplifies the independent living philosophy, which states that people with disabilities should have the same civil rights, options and control over choices in their own lives as do people without disabilities. Several other awards were given at the luncheon.

The Peer Mentor Volunteer of the Year award went to Katie Griffith of Gilbert, and the Volunteer of the Year award went to Annette Denny of Phoenix. Griffith and Denny were honored for their exemplary work ethic, reliability and dedication to helping others live independent lives.

The Personal Assistance Services Employee of the Year award went to Carissa Perez of Tempe, and honorary awards were presented to Amalia Guerrero of Glendale and Karen Sterba of Gilbert. The Personal Assistance Services awards recognize personal assistants who provide exceptionally outstanding dedication and service as

caregivers. The three 2009 honorees were chosen out of more than 1,657 personal care attendants within the program to receive the award.

“All of our honorees this year have really set a precedent for years to come,” said Phil Pangrazio, executive director of ABIL. “They embody the independent living philosophy and are such an important part of our team. We are grateful for all they do.”

Arizona Bridge to Independent Living offers and promotes programs designed to empower people with disabilities to take personal responsibility so that they may achieve or continue independent lifestyles within the community. The independent living philosophy states that people with disabilities should have the same civil rights, options, and control over choices in their own lives as do people without disabilities.