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**MERCER RESIDENTIAL SERVICES, INC HONORS ITS OWN DURING NATIONAL DIRECT  
SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS RECOGNITION WEEK**

*U.S. Senate Resolution highlights service of direct support workforce the week of  
September 14*

Celina, Ohio – Mercer Residential Services, (MRSI) announced a week of activities to honor and celebrate its direct support professionals. “In deep appreciation and sincere admiration for the critical role of this devoted workforce, the U.S. Senate unanimously approved Senate Resolution 228,” said Garry Mosier, CEO of MRSI. This legislation designates the week beginning September 14, 2009 as National Direct Support Professionals (DSP) Recognition Week.

“DSPs enable our most fragile citizens and their families to live healthy and productive lives in the community. DSPs, provide services for hundreds of people and their families in West Central Ohio everyday. National Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week is but one way we all can demonstrate gratitude for what they unselfishly do for so many,” Garry Mosier continued.

DSPs are the people who work as direct care workers, in-home support workers, personal assistants and attendants to ensure that people with disabilities are able to live more independently and in community settings. However, low wages coupled with difficult work often leads to high turnover. MRSI supports the American Network of Community Options and Resources (ANCOR) National Advocacy Campaign in its mission to increase funding for DSPs and improve the supports for people with disabilities.

MRSI is private nonprofit organization established in 1977 by a group of parents and professionals as a local alternative to the institutionalization of people with disabilities. We provide an array of services from group homes, homemaker/personal care services, vocational, recreational, and social activities, for people with developmental disabilities in Auglaize, Darke, Mercer, and Van Wert Counties. We also operate The Challenged Higher Clubhouse, a consumer self help support center for individuals with mental illness.