



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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RE: Fire Safety Training Film Premiere

**Photo I.D.:** L-R – Mark Schlater, CBO, Champaign Residential Services, Inc. and ODMR/DD Director Kenneth Ritchey.

**Columbus:** A premiere showing of a newly-released Fire Safety Training video filmed last summer in Urbana was enjoyed by an invited gathering of actors, actresses and sponsors held at the Columbus Developmental Center on October 23. Content of the film was developed and approved by the Fire Safety Committee of the Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (ODMR/DD), the Ohio Department of Commerce/Division of the State of Ohio Fire Marshal and the American Red Cross.

Sponsored by Champaign Residential Services, Inc. (CRSI) headquartered in Urbana, Ohio, the film features actual actors and actresses with developmental disabilities as well as persons who provide direct care services to them. It also features members of the Urbana Fire Department who volunteered their time and equipment in assisting with the project.

On hand to present awards to each of the people who played a role in the film was Kenneth Ritchey, Director of ODMR/DD. Mark Schlater, chief business officer for CRSI and member of the Fire Safety Committee presented each participant with a copy of the video. He also received recognition for his work on the Fire Safety video project.

“It was like the Academy Awards”, said Than Johnson, CEO of Champaign Residential Services, Inc. “I am so proud of everyone involved in the filming, but this project would never have gone forward without the hard work and dedication of Mark Schlater who saw the need and spent many months making this project a reality.”

“The video is an easy and convenient way to train children, the elderly or individuals with developmental disabilities on fire safety” according to information released at the premiere by the Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (ODMR/DD). “The video demonstrates visually and verbally the importance of being aware of precautions to be taken in the event of fire and how anyone can successfully evacuate their home. It also focuses on licensure requirements, performing drills and training the consumer and provides an approved fire safety training checklist”, the Department says.

To find out how to order or to get more information about the fire training video, contact the Public Relations Department at CRSI at 937-653-1333, e-mail inquiries to: [firesafety@crsi-oh.com](mailto:firesafety@crsi-oh.com) or go to CRSI's website at [www.crsi-oh.com/about.htm](http://www.crsi-oh.com/about.htm)

