

January 5, 2016

## PROVIDING A HIGH QUALITY OF LIFE TO THE DISABLED IS A LIFETIME PROMISE

The Murray Parent's Association, [www.murrayparentsassociation.com](http://www.murrayparentsassociation.com), urges that all service providers to the disabled emphasize both early detection and intervention when abuse or neglect are suspected.

From [www.disabilityscoop.com](http://www.disabilityscoop.com). Shaun Heasley writes in a September 4, 2013 article: "In what is believed to be the largest survey of its kind, over 7,200 people with disabilities, family members, advocates, service providers and other professionals were polled between May and October 2012." The survey highlighted several troubling comments on our society as a whole:

- Persons with disabilities are victims of crime in the community at a rate double that of the general population, with the mentally disabled having the greatest chance of being victimized
- Estimates show that half of community abuse cases go un-reported, with only a small percentage actually investigated by impartial third party agencies and watchdog groups

If visiting a parent or guardian at Murray Center in Centralia Illinois, ask them about why their loved one resides there? Ask them about why their loved one calls Murray "home"? Ask them about outings, parties, friendships and **quality** of life? Ask them about any experiences with abuse or neglect—particularly about first-hand community-based living comparisons. YES, many Murray residents have experienced less professional settings and have physical and emotional scars as a result. Each person is at Murray Center for specific reasons, with the decisions made after careful thought. Member families are willing to share their stories upon request.

The Murray Parent's Association (MPA) has served the most profoundly disabled and vulnerable citizen's among us for over forty years. We speak from personal experiences and lifetimes of providing devoted care. The MPA focuses on the quality and dignity of life provided to over 200 of our loved ones.

For More Information, please contact:

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<sup>1</sup> Crimes Against Persons With Disabilities, 2009 – 2012 Statistical Tables; Erica Harrell, US Department of Justice: Bureau of Justice Statistics.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.disabilityscoop.com/2013/09/04/survey-abuse-widespread/18652>, Shaun Heasley.