

Improving lives THROUGH supports and services THAT FOSTER self-determination.

3/17/17

In recognition of Developmental Disabilities Awareness during the month of March, the Division of Senior and Disability Services is partnering with DMH to promote the 2017 Year of the Caregiver Initiative.

State Health Department Dubs 2017 the Year of the Caregiver in Missouri

Nominations are being accepted for the best unpaid Missouri caregiver.

Do you know someone who puts their life on hold to care for an ill family member or friend? If so, the Department of Health and Senior Services invites you to nominate that person for Caregiver of the Year.

"We want to give a face to these unsung heroes," said Celesta Hartgraves, director of the department's Division of Senior and Disability Services. "We also want to provide caregivers with information on how to keep their loved ones safe at home and give them tips on how to manage their own stress."

Beginning in April, the department will feature a story and photo of an unpaid Missouri caregiver each month on its website. By December, an overall Caregiver of the Year will be selected. The form is available at <u>http://health.mo.gov/seniors/caregiver.php</u>.

For more information, please call (573) 526-4542

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