



*Senator
Bill Stouffer*

DISTRICT 21

Senator Bill Stouffer – Cultivating Rural Missouri.

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Stouffer Report: Helping Local Folks

As your state senator, I have many responsibilities here in Jefferson City — I represent approximately 160,000 constituents in the 21st Senatorial District, I serve on several committees that deal with issues from transportation to agriculture, I draft and sponsor legislation that will benefit and help serve the individuals in Missouri, and I stay informed on the measures brought forth by my colleagues in both the House and Senate.

While I represent the constituents of the 21st Senatorial District here at the Capitol, I also feel it is important to return back to my district and serve my constituents at home. Representative Mike McGhee and I will participate in the 2nd annual Golf Scramble benefiting the Parents' Groups of the Marshall and Higginsville Habilitation Centers.

The 18-hole, four-person, benefit scramble will be held on April 25, 2008. It will start at 8 am at Indian Foothills Golf Course in Marshall. The entry fee is \$400 per team, which includes food, green fees, cart, and prizes. All proceeds from the tournament go directly to supporting the Parents' Groups' of the habilitation centers in Marshall and Higginsville. Also, we still need auction and raffle items and any donation is appreciated. Last year, we raised over \$11,000.

Habilitation centers primarily serve individuals who are severely disabled, behaviorally disordered, court-committed, or medically fragile. The primary mission of these centers is to give residential support and treatment services while providing the best quality of life possible to some of the most vulnerable citizens in our state. To achieve this, these centers focus on the core areas such as personnel, health, safety, environment and habilitation.

There are six habilitation centers in Missouri and two of these centers, Higginsville Habilitation Center and Marshall Habilitation Center, are located within the 21st Senatorial District. These centers provide 24-hour residential care, which includes medical, behavioral and habilitative training. The extent of these services are determined and based upon the needs of the person with a developmental disability.

The safety and quality of life for these individuals who are developmentally disabled rank high above all other priorities in the patient's family's life. Each habilitation center offers a better quality of life for each person that they serve so families can feel secure in their choice of a habilitation center and the well-being of their loved one.

Money raised during the golf tournament will help provide individuals who are mentally ill and developmentally disabled the necessary services to maintain their health and well-being. Events like these allow these habilitation centers to continue to provide Missouri's citizens the services that allows them to live in the most appropriate and least restrictive environment.

Senator Stouffer serves the counties of Carroll, Chariton, Cooper, Howard, Lafayette, Macon, Ray, Saline, and a part of Clay.

If you have questions or comments about this or any other issue, please call toll free (866) 768-3987 or by e-mail at bstouffer@senate.mo.gov.

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