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Tuesday, December 19, 2006  
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## **DWD Presents Career Achievement Award**

### ***Vocational Rehabilitation consumer overcomes odds, helps others***

**Fond du Lac** - The Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) presented a Career Achievement Award to Paula Starr, who overcame adversity to flourish in a career of helping others. The award was presented Friday, December 15, at the Boys and Girls Club in Fond du Lac.

Paula was involved in an auto accident in 1997, leaving her with injuries which required surgery, a long recovery and an uncertain future. With the help of Wisconsin's Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR), which provided job coaching and re-training, Paula was able to overcome those challenges and now works part-time for two agencies – as the Marketing and Development Director for the Boys and Girls Club of Fond du Lac and as an Executive Assistant to the grant writing staff for CESA 6. Paula said of her work, "The two jobs combined are a perfect mix and make my work week fulfilling and challenging - exactly what I want in a career."

"Paula's case proves that when you combine human resolve with the right amount of support, you can accomplish most anything. She has both our thanks and our commendation for her contributions, against the odds, to Wisconsin's workforce," Secretary Gassman said.

Paula was selected to receive the DVR Career Achievement Award. The award is presented to DVR consumers who have successfully re-entered the workforce. DVR Administrator Charlene Dwyer said, "Our agency is very pleased to have been a partner in Paula's success. Her stamina and positive attitude are excellent examples of what an individual can accomplish. Paula is now giving back to the community through her work at the Boys and Girls Club and CESA 6."

The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation provides employment services to people with disabilities. For more information, please visit <http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dvr/>