



# *Winning In Washington*

## **Unsung Heroes Need A Pay Raise, Too**

(NAPSA)—Many Americans have begun to realize that the professionals who take care of people who need help need some help, too. These unsung heroes, the Direct Support Professionals (DSP), need a pay raise.

As many as 75 percent of those who assist people with intellectual and developmental disabilities leave their jobs every year because of low wages that average about



**Helping people with disabilities live fuller lives is the work of a dedicated group of people who need a pay raise.**

\$8.68 an hour. At the same time, the need for DSPs is growing. By 2010, there will be 10 million more jobs than DSPs to fill them.

The DSPs who work in community-based residences, treatment and habilitation centers get some personal rewards. Recently, the American Network of Community Options and Resources, a national association of agencies offering quality support services, announced its 2008 Direct Support Professional of the Year: Mike Garcia of Catholic Community Services in Tucson, Arizona.

To learn more about the DSP workforce crisis, and how to contact your legislator about this issue, visit [www.youneedtoknowme.org](http://www.youneedtoknowme.org).