

Rivendale Director, Kerri Duncan wins Unsung Hero Award

by Lisa Finger

SPRINGFIELD, MO - On March 30th, Rivendale Director Kerri Duncan, received the national Unsung Hero Award at a ceremony in New York. The award recognizes individuals who are extraordinary champions for the autism cause.

Duncan was nominated by former student, Nicole Obrey, 18, who, though diagnosed with autism as a child, no longer exhibits signs of autism. Obrey has been accepted to Brigham Young University, where she will begin school in June with a major in film and a minor in creative writing.

The winning essay by Obrey, remembers “Miss Kerri” when she was the Director of Southwest Missouri Autism

Project, teaching children from 24 different counties.

Obrey’s praise of Duncan describes Duncan’s purchase of Rivendale Institute in 2000, which now serves 45 students, including two of Obrey’s younger brothers. Community involvement, personal service, legislative activities and furthered education help complete her long list of accomplishments.

As first place winner of the contest, Duncan will receive \$5,000 towards her efforts and initiatives, a personal highlight in



Rivendale director, Kerri Duncan stands next to former student, Nicole Obrey, who wrote the winning essay nominating Duncan for the Unsung Hero Award.

photo by Lisa Finger

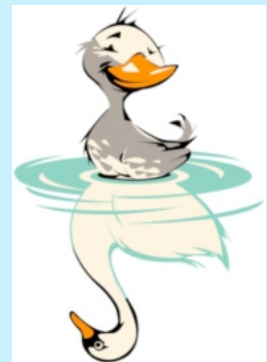
two leading parent magazines, and travel expenses to New York City to attend the Lindt Unsung Heroes of Autism Award Ceremony.

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