



Event to help those with disabilities  
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MURPHYSBORO - Freedom Quest '09, a statewide rally to focus attention on people with disabilities, is coming here beginning at 9 a.m. Tuesday at Specialized Training for Adult Rehabilitation (START), 1201 Hanson St.

"It is a lobbying group. We're asking for more support from our legislators for people with disabilities. We have 16,000 people with disabilities statewide that are on a waiting list," said Cindy Stamm of START about the 150 individuals including people with disabilities, their family members, friends and supporters who will arrive here.

Murphysboro is the first stop of the caravan that that will make an appearance at noon Tuesday at the West Salem Trinity United Methodist Church, 4212 Broadway in Mount Vernon.

Other stops for Freedom Quest are Charleston and Alton before the caravan ends the rally at Springfield.

START, which was formerly the Jackson Community Workshop, began in July 1969 in a church basement with two people assisting six clients.

Today it is located in a former railroad depot on North 13th Street in downtown Murphysboro and has a 75-member staff helping 160 full-time clients. The facility is managed by an 18-member volunteer board.

Clients have been trained to do and get paid for janitorial work and other subcontracting work for area businesses such as custom crating, packaging, salvage, wood work and assembly.

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