

the disabled live, opportunities for integration of persons with disabilities through employment largely rest on informal work, particularly self-employment. Unfortunately, persons with disabilities are often denied loans by banks and lenders.

Improving the living conditions of persons with disabilities in developing countries is an overlooked developmental challenge. As James Wolfensohn, the President of the World Bank once said, "unless disabled people are brought into the development mainstream, it will be impossible to cut poverty in half by 2015 as agreed to by more than 180 world leaders at the United Nations Millennium Summit in September 2000". So is the goal to give every girl and boy the chance to achieve a primary education by the same date.

Every child is unique and has a fundamental right to education. Yet in developing countries, only a small minority of disabled children is in school. Less than 10 percent of children with disabilities attend formal education and over 9 in 10 are illiterate. When denied the basic right of education, disabled people become severely restricted in terms of their economic, social and political opportunities as well as the prospects for their personal development. Without an education it is more difficult to secure a job, particularly one that pays a decent wage, to participate actively and fully in the community and to have a meaningful voice in policy making, especially on issues that directly concern the affected population.

Given the dynamics of disability and health, access to adequate health care services is essential for the promotion of independent living for the disabled. Health services play a critical role in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of illnesses and conditions which can cause physical, psychological and intellectual impairments. Yet for the majority of persons with disabilities living in developing countries, poverty precludes access to these vital services—either because health care facilities and practitioners are not sufficiently available, or there are not enough funds to purchase needed medications and devices. Particularly dramatic is, beyond the lack of orthopedic surgeons, the greatly insufficient number of medical rehabilitation centers to help people adapt to disabling conditions. According to the World Health Organization, at most only 5 percent of the disabled in developing countries have access to rehabilitation services.

The potential for enhancing the possibility of persons with disabilities to carry on independent lives rests on the integration of the disabled into the general community, rather than placing them in exclusionary institutions or relegating them into "colonies" of disabled. Community Based Rehabilitation programmes, which are in the process of becoming fairly well established in industrialized countries tend to be part and parcel of these strategies, but remain rare in developing countries.

In developing countries, persons with disabilities are often excluded from the mainstream of the society, discriminated against and denied their human rights. Violations of the human rights of persons with disabilities are seldom addressed in society. Many disability legislation and policies are based on the assumption that persons with disabilities are simply not able to exercise the same rights as non-disabled persons. Consequently, the situation of persons with disabilities is often addressed in terms of rehabilitation and social services. In many countries, existing provisions do not provide for the rights of disabled persons in all their aspects—that is, political, civil, economic, social and cultural rights—on an equal basis with persons without disabilities. Further-

more, anti-discrimination laws often have weak enforcement mechanisms, thereby denying opportunities for persons with disabilities to participate on the basis of equality in social life and development.

Mr. Chairman, the adoption of the UN Convention will not provide a magic wand in overcoming the dismal conditions faced by persons with disabilities in developing countries. However, without such an instrument their chances of becoming fully integrated in their societies will remain infinitely difficult to attain.

YVONNE ROBERTSON HONORED BY THE GREATER CINCINNATI REGION OF THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR COMMUNITY AND JUSTICE AT ITS 60TH ANNIVERSARY AWARDS DINNER

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 2004

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Yvonne Robertson, a friend, constituent and outstanding community volunteer, who will be honored for her distinguished service to our community at the Greater Cincinnati Region of the National Conference for Community and Justice's (NCCJ) 60th Anniversary Awards Dinner on May 27, 2004.

Yvonne has dedicated over 30 years of community service as an active volunteer. As a former educator, she has focused much of her community service on youth. Yvonne has served on the boards of Cincinnati's School for Creative and Performing Arts; the Adolescent Clinic; the Greater Cincinnati Scholarship Foundation; and the Greater Cincinnati Youth Collaborative. In addition, she is the Immediate Past President of Advocates for Youth Education, which grants need-based college scholarships to area students.

Yvonne has a special interest in social service organizations. She was the first chair of The Gathering, a day long conference for African American women centered on personal, spiritual, social, health and work related issues. She chaired the Negro Spiritual Festival, and has been a trustee of the Cincinnati chapter of the Red Cross; the Cerebral Palsy Center; and Family Services of Cincinnati.

Active locally and nationally in arts organizations, Yvonne was appointed national director of the arts for The Links, an international women's service organization, and during her tenure established a collaboration with the Smithsonian Institution. She has also served as trustee for the Cincinnati Ballet; the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra; and the Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park.

All of us in Greater Cincinnati thank Yvonne for all she has done to make our community a better place, and we congratulate her on receiving this prestigious award.

CONGRATULATING THE BOB JONES ACADEMY MOCK TRIAL TEAM

HON. JIM DeMINT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 2004

Mr. DEMINT. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to congratulate the Bob Jones Academy Mock

Trial team for winning the Championship at the National High School Mock Trial Competition in Orlando, Florida. The team represented their families, school, and State in an outstanding way and are an example of excellence, dedication, and teamwork to the country. I am very proud of their achievement.

Success is never achieved alone, and I would like to extend congratulations to the families, friends, and teachers who share in this moment as well. Principal, Dr. David Fisher, and head coach, Mr. Michael Murphy, as well as his assistants Miss Ruth Hindman, Mr. Allen Fretwell, and Mr. Chuck Nicholas share in this honor by their investments in preparing the team.

For over 75 years, Bob Jones Academy has maintained a tradition of excellence in Christian education with a faculty committed to preparing young lives—both in mind and character—to serve Christ in all walks of life. Ashleigh Millard, Matt Miller, Daniel Hindman, Ben Adams, Kerry Weigand, Richie Patton, Elizabeth Sowers, Emily Sowers, Alex George, Betsy Apelian, and Daniel Nickerson continue this tradition of excellence.

RECOGNIZING FRANCES WILLIAMS PRESTON FOR HER CONTRIBUTIONS TO MUSIC AND HER SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 2004

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of popular music's most effective and accomplished champions, Frances Williams Preston, on the occasion of her retirement. Ms. Preston, whom Fortune magazine has called "one of the true powerhouses in the pop music industry," steps down this year after 18 years as President and CEO of Broadcast Music, Inc. (BMI). And while her daily presence as the leader of BMI will be missed, she will no doubt continue to make her mark on the industry that she has come to lead.

Since entering the music business through the mailroom of WSM Radio in Nashville forty years ago, Ms. Preston's passion for music and acumen for business have shaped the art both in Nashville and nationwide. Tapped by BMI to open its Nashville office in 1958, Ms. Preston oversaw the growth of an industry giant which now employs 400 people in Nashville and thousands all over the globe. Under Ms. Preston's leadership, BMI became a driving force in Nashville's music scene, helping songwriters make a living doing what they loved, much as she did, herself. And although she eventually left Music City for New York in 1986 to take the helm of BMI's national and international operations, she has always remained an active fan and supporter of Nashville music and Southern artists.

Ms. Preston's numerous awards and commendations barely do justice to her lifetime of achievement, yet she retires as one of the most decorated individuals the music industry has ever seen. Ms. Preston has received nearly every honor available to a music industry executive, including a Trustees Grammy in 1998, and membership in the Country Music, Gospel Music, and Broadcasting & Cable