



***New Contract Offers McFarland Opportunity to Assist Families  
with Developmental Disabilities***

**December 10, 2008**

Upon award of a new sub-contractual agreement with the Academy for Educational Development (AED), McFarland staff celebrated the opportunity to provide resources to families with Developmental Disabilities (DD). Effective October 1, 2008, staff will work with AED to create a National Clearinghouse and Technical Assistance Center on Family Support for the Administration on Developmental Disabilities (ADD). To address a lack of adequate resources for individuals with some form of DD and their families, McFarland will assume responsibility for equipping states with Action Plans to improve the quality of life for these stakeholders. In developing the Action Plans, our staff will support a select pool of experts to specifically analyze and identify the varying needs of families from state to state. Many people who have DD often face challenges with communication, mobility and other day-to-day requirements.

McFarland is sensitive to these challenges and will ensure that carefully targeted support is provided. Staff will also assist state teams in infrastructure building through training and conference calls intended to strengthen their overall capacity. The ultimate goal of this contract is to support AED in identifying and delivering comprehensive resources for individuals with DD that improve their overall quality of life.