

# Out&About

RAY FASHONA ■ 845-437-4883 ■ rfashona@poughkeepsiejournal.com

## Abilities First praises efforts

Each year Abilities First Inc. honors a local business, a community leader and a volunteer for their contributions to people with disabilities in the community, as well as a program participant for their remarkable abilities.

These awards were presented on April 30 at The Grandview in the City of Poughkeepsie. State Sen. Steve Saland attended to participate in the ceremonies.

Omega Institute, a retreat center in the Town of Clinton, received the Business of the Year award; Sheila Appel, manager of Corporate Citizenship and



Courtesy photo

From left, Raymond Ike, state Sen. Steve Saland, Michele Osika Swank and John Thoman, executive director of Abilities First.

Corporate Affairs for IBM, received the Volunteer of the Year award; and Ann Hardiman, executive director of the New York state Association of Com-

munity and Residential Agencies, received the Lynn and Nancy Wall Award for her dedication to people with disabilities throughout her career.