

OUR MISSION

The Arc of Spokane Advocacy & Family Support Team provides information, education, resources, support, and advocacy to people with developmental disabilities and their families. Our goal is to help people become more informed and to empower people to become better equipped to access the services and supports they need. We promote independence and choice and respect the values and perspectives of families. We strive to be responsive to the needs of families and provide the understanding and support that families need.

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Multi-Client Households

"We are all longing to go home ..."

STARHAWK, <http://www.starhawk.org/index.html>

Everyone wants a home of their own. For young adults with developmental disabilities this often means living with their parents. But even with the best intentions parents can't live forever.

Eventually every person with developmental disabilities will need to make a choice, with or without the help of their parents, on where they will live. The choices today are limited, and with changes in the housing market even fewer options are available than just 5 years ago. Where will your son or daughter live after they leave home?

The Arc of Spokane wants to answer that question with a proposal of its own.

A pilot program proposed by the Arc of Spokane would take advantage of the DDD (Division of Developmental Disabilities) regulations regarding multi-client housing.

A multi-client household has more than one member who receives MPC (Medicaid Personal Care) hours from DDD. Each house member would pool their hours of service together and hire care providers to cover the hours needed by the housemates.

Each house hold member would pay a set percentage of their SSI, paycheck, or allowance towards the rent and utilities (this amount will vary depending upon the cost of housing and the amount of money each member has available).

Each house member will also use some of their MPC hours to cover shared tasks/chores such as preparing meals, general house keeping chores, and shopping that would benefit everyone who lives together.

Earlier this month I spent time speaking with Jon Bennett, of DDD. According to Jon, DDD will adjust each person's MPC hours to reflect the "shared" chores of living together, but only those chores that are shared between the house mates will be affected.

All service hours received for personal care and hygiene, transportation to appointments, employment, etc. will remain the same. This will enable all the house members to receive the necessary services needed for them to work, have a home of their own, and the pride of living on their own, while still being in a safe environment.

Below are several scenarios that might work.

Option #1 – Families Co-op

This option could serve 4 – 6 individuals, whose families will purchase or rent a house jointly. Each housemate will pay 30% of their income for their room and board. Families may choose to commit hours of work to supplement MPC hours or financial resources to make this option work. There is the possibility in this option of the house mates purchasing the home in the future.

(Continued on page 4)



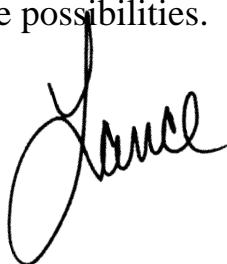
Lance's Notes

The lead article of this newsletter talks about an idea for housing supports that will meet the needs of some people with developmental disabilities. This is not an option that will work for everyone, but it is worth pursuing to meet some people's needs. The Arc of Spokane is willing to provide efforts to organize a start up of such an option.

We are looking for individuals and families who would like to try a model of people living together with Medicaid Personal Care hours providing the support. As an example, 4 people living together generating 250-300 hours per month of support. There are about 720 hours total in a month so there might not be the need for support at night while people were sleeping, and maybe the people would have jobs during the day so there would not need support during the whole day. If the 250-300 hours per month is not enough to meet the needs of the individuals, could there be family participation to make up the rest?

We know that options for young adults with developmental disabilities living outside of the family home are limited and we are committed to expanding the options that are available. Please contact Cathie Griffith and/or myself if you would like to talk more about the possibilities.

Thanks,



Our Readers

Advocacy & Family Support

is produced monthly and provides information to parents, grandparents, guardians, other family members, professionals and other adults who have a person with special needs in their life. We encourage you to copy and share this information. Please credit *The Arc of Spokane Advocacy & Family Support* and, where possible, the author.

Submissions

Please send submissions for our next issue by June 20 to:

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Mailing List

If you would like to be added to, or removed from our mailing list, please call Deanna Noland at (509) 328-6326.

E-mail List

To receive this newsletter in PDF format via email, visit www.arcspokane.org/ mailing list.htm and click on the link for **Advocacy & Family Support**. At that location you may also subscribe to lists for Local Events, State-wide Events, Legislative Advocacy and The Arc Lite newsletter.

Disclaimer

The inclusion of any article or resource in this newsletter does not imply endorsement. Contents are intended for informational purposes only.

Cathie's Notes

SPRING HAS SPRUNG?????

Well maybe... but unfortunately

for me it was while I was on vacation. I understand Spokane finally experienced some warm weather in May during the time I was vacationing in New York...just my luck!

With spring comes the need to accomplish some spring cleaning around our homes. I have given you a list of suggestions this month to get you started. Make it easy on yourself...take it one room, one cleaning task at a time. You'll be more likely to complete your spring cleaning if you tackle it in this way.

In May, HomeOwnership Opportunities was proud to be a part of a celebration for one of our families who needed a custom house to meet the needs of her daughter with significant disabilities. Through a great partnership with IERR, ESD 101 Service Team and Northeast Washington Housing Solutions a specialized home was built for the Hendershott family and they got to move in the week of May 10th. It just goes to show what can happen if the community works cooperatively with each other.



Several families are getting close to being able to purchase homes and a couple more are re-engaging to purchase homes through our program. This is all a sign that SPRING IS TRULY ON THE WAY!!! Spring-time always brings renewed interest in having a home that you can call your own. I encourage all families participating in our program to keep doing the good work they are to get ready for purchase.

I am interested in knowing how many of you would attend a LIVING GREEN class if we scheduled one in June or July. It is a great way to learn how to accomplish the same tasks you normally would do in a more earth friendly way. Call me at the office if you are interested in attending a class like this...we would need to have at least 10 participants in order to schedule one.

And I am reminding you again to let me know if you would attend a skill building credit and budgeting class this summer. Credit and budgeting is not normally viewed as a fun subject to handle...we hope we will be able to make it as painless as possible and still offer you the ability to improve your skills.

The last item I want to talk to you about in this issue is that school will be out soon and that means increased children playing in the daytime in your neighborhoods. If we all make a decision to watch out for the youngest of our community we will have a better, safer summer.

Cathie

Check out these top 10 spring cleaning activities that can make your home healthier and safer:

HomeOwnership Opportunities



1. **Thoroughly dust your home.** Also clean any air conditioning and heating filters, ducts, and vents to minimize pollens and other airborne allergens.
2. **Organize your medicine cabinet.** Throw away expired medications and old prescription medicines that you no longer need.
3. **Inventory your garage and basement.** Get rid of any old paint, thinners, oils, solvents, stains, and other similar items you no longer need. NOTE: YOU MAY NEED TO TAKE THESE ITEMS TO A HAZARDOUS WASTE DROP-OFF CENTER.
4. **Inventory under your sinks and around your house.** Dispose of old or potentially toxic cleaning products.
5. **Have your chimney professionally cleaned.** This will help you lessen the chances of Carbon Monoxide exposure when the cold weather returns.
6. **Clean all mold and mildew from bathrooms and other damp areas.** Use non-toxic cleaning products. (Like you could learn to make at a living green class).
7. **Check you rugs.** Make sure that rugs on bare floors have non-skid mats and that older or dusty mats are either washed or replaced.
8. **Inspect outdoor playground equipment.** Make sure that all elements are sturdy and safe, especially guardrails, protruding bolts, and other potential sources of injury.
9. **Change your batteries.** Do so for both smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors.
10. **Collect old batteries throughout the house for disposal.** Dispose of them in a battery recycling or hazardous waste center.

According to the **Soap and Detergent Association** (did you know there was such a thing?) three-quarters of Americans engage in spring cleaning. Their surveys indicate that more than 80% of people who spring clean agree that it helps save time throughout the year, and 96% of people donate or discard items during their spring cleaning. If you plan to discard items please think if they might be redirected to the Arc Solicitations department. They can be reached at 328-8100.

The Partnership

Hello All!

I just want to share with you a most interesting experience that underlines the work that still needs to be done for people with developmental disabilities and their place in the wider community.

This is being written moments after my return from a conference at which I saw Brenda Henson. She is a peer trainer of the WE CAN Stop Abuse Project in Illinois, has presented national workshops, is the co-author of the Illinois Voices Peer Training Manual and the Illinois Voices "I Decide Curriculum" and has starred in a video tape on abuse prevention and reporting for persons with developmental disabilities.

She did a great job with her co-presenter Shirley A. Pacey, M.A. (also a national speaker) but what impressed me most was that a woman with disabilities was participating in an expert capacity to end violence against people with disabilities. Very motivating, very forward thinking.

After the presentation, I perused the two full tables of books available for purchase and found wonderful information on talking to children about their emotions, protecting children from sexual predators and teaching children about sexuality. *For children without disabilities.* What did I find for children with disabilities? Two (out of approximately 100 titles) on the management of the developmentally disabled sexual abuser.

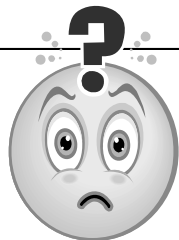
That's right. In a conference sponsored by the Partnerships funders, the only information available at the book dealers presented people with developmental disabilities as the abusers. No books on feelings for children with developmental disabilities, no information on the people who target children with disabilities.

This is a reflection of how many in the wider community view people with developmental disabilities—as people with sexual behaviors that need to be managed. Until we can change this view, people with developmental disabilities will always be perceived as a threat to community safety, not members of the community with every right to full participation and protection.

At the Partnership we will continue to work toward social change in the perception of people with developmental disabilities. I look forward to a day when book dealers (and others) think of people with developmental disabilities as a part of the community and not as a problem in it.

Stay Safe!

Jherusa



(Continued from page 1) "Multi-Client Households"

Care providers will share combined personal care hours to meet staffing needs.

The Arc could initiate and provide support for the start up and organization, and then fade out and let IP's (Independent Providers) provide needed services.

House members' need to have a level of independent living skills, such as money management, food management, and personal appearance and hygiene skills.

Option #2 – Housing Trust* and local funding

This option will serve 4 or more individuals. This group and/or their families will need to apply to the Housing Trust, local housing dollars, and work with local resources to create this housing option. Each housemate will pay 30% of their income for their room and board.

In this option housing could be new construction, the purchase of available units, or the rehabilitation of units to develop the affordable housing for this project.

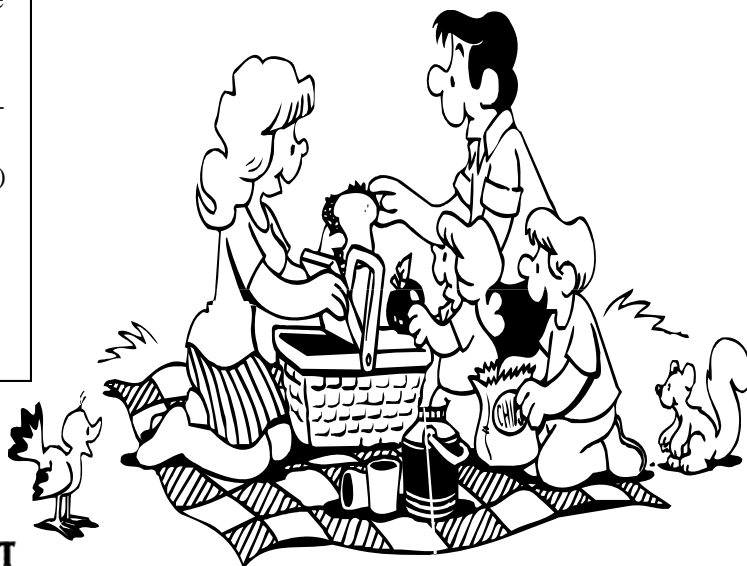
The sharing of service hours as explained earlier will again be necessary as well as all the independent living skills.

Option #3 – HUD 811

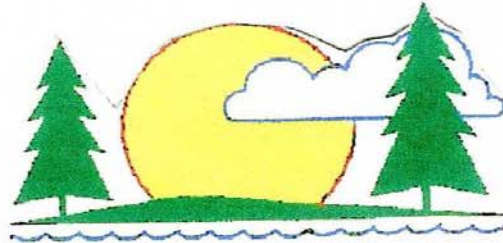
This group could use another housing non profit organization as the developing partner. In this option the group will need to secure housing for 40 years. This group will also apply for local housing dollars for operations and maintenance if needed. Units for this project are likely apartments with access to a community room.

The sharing of service hours as will again be necessary as well as all the independent living skills.

The future of our young adults with disabilities should be planned for and arranged to their advantage. How families decide to use the system for housing is up to them, but the future will come whether we are ready for it or not.



Camp For A Day
At Camp Na-Bor-Lee by Lake Roosevelt
Wednesday, June 25th, 2008
About 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.



Crafts Games Hikes Songs Yee Haw Dance

No cost to you, just bring a sack lunch and catch the chartered bus at a location close to you.

For adults with developmental challenges

Sponsored by:

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

Spokane Stake Youth aged 17 & 18 planning and adult supervision

Contact Christine Porter 448-0429 with questions.

Tear off and return this lower half

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Emergency contact: _____

Phone: _____

Physician's name: _____

Phone: _____

Send to: Christine Porter, 5612 S Moran Ct. Spokane WA 99223

Deadline: June 15, 2008



NEW SECTION 811 SUPPORTIVE HOUSING LEGISLATION INTRODUCED IN U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Reps. Christopher Murphy (D-CT) and Judy Biggert (R-IL) Introduce the "Frank Melville Supportive Housing Investment Act of 2008" (H.R. 5772)

The Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities Housing Task Force (CCD Housing Task Force) and the Technical Assistance Collaborative (TAC) are pleased to announce that on Thursday April 10, 2008 Reps. Christopher Murphy (D-CT) and Judy Biggert (R-IL) introduced critical permanent supportive housing legislation - the "Frank Melville Supportive Housing Investment Act of 2008" (HR 5772). This ground-breaking legislation proposes significant changes and improvements to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Section 811 Supportive Housing for Persons with Disabilities program.

Section 811 is the only federal housing program solely dedicated to assisting the lowest income people with serious and long-term disabilities to live independently in the community by providing integrated affordable and accessible rental housing linked with voluntary services and supports.

This essential legislation will help address the enormous and unrelenting housing crisis faced by millions of extremely low income people with disabilities and will spur the creation of thousands of new 811 units every year by:

Authorizing a new Section 811 Demonstration Program that fulfills the promise of true community integration as envisioned in the Americans with Disabilities Act;

Enacting long over-due reforms and improvements to the existing Section 811 production program essential for the program's long-term viability.

Recent CCD Housing Task Force/TAC studies document that people with serious and long term disabilities - including millions of non-elderly adults living on federal Supplemental Security Income of approximately \$637 per month - have the greatest unmet need for housing assistance in the United States. Current federal, state and local efforts to achieve the promise of community integration for people with disabilities, reduce unnecessary and expensive institutionalization, and assist aging parents who have adult children with disabilities still living at home are completely stalled because of the critical shortage of affordable and accessible rental housing. Important Medicaid supportive service reforms to expand self-directed care and promote rehabilitation and recovery for people with disabilities are also stymied because people with SSI-level incomes cannot afford modest rental housing in any community in the United States.

The enactment of HR 5772 will provide states and localities with a new infusion of critically needed Section 811 capital and project-based rent subsidy funding designed to invigorate and sustain the creation of thousands of new permanent supportive housing units every year through partnerships with state housing finance agencies, county and local governments, and non-profit housing providers.

TAC and the CCD Housing Task Force are grateful to Reps. Murphy and Biggert for their leadership and look forward to working with them and with other advocates to ensure that this essential legislation is enacted as soon as possible.

We are also very pleased that this important legislation honors the memory of the late Frank Melville - the first chair of the Melville Charitable Trust. Since 1993, the Trust has been a leader in promoting and advancing the creation of permanent supportive housing across the nation.

More information on this important legislation will soon be available on TAC's website at www.tacinc.org or the CCD website at www.c-c-d.org.



Customized Employment Q and A For Parents



“To Work or Not to Work”... that is a question being asked by many individuals with disabilities and their family members as they begin to think about going to work in their local communities. This fact sheet addresses frequently asked questions by family members and provides answers to dispel the concerns. After reading this, it is hoped that family members will agree that the answer to the question: “To Work or Not to Work” is **“To Work!”**

Question: I have been told that my son / daughter is not ready to work in the community.

Answer: Customized employment eliminates the need for a person to “get ready” to work. If your son / daughter wants to go to work, then it is time for him / her to go. A key aspect to customizing employment is finding work that matches your son’s / daughter’s interests and skills. Using this approach, a personal agent or employment specialist works closely with a job seeker to negotiate a specific position that uses the person’s talents to match the needs of a business. The goal is not just to locate any job, but a job specifically negotiated that capitalizes on your son’s / daughter’s interests and abilities.

Question: But, my son / daughter does not have the skills to meet the demands of a real job and needs training.

Answer: Many people with significant disabilities do not transfer skills learned in one setting such as a workshop to another such as a community business. One of the reasons is that it is difficult to simulate the features of a job in a setting that does not have co-workers and the demands of a real workplace. For instance, your son / daughter may be in a training program to learn how to work in an office. The participants in the program take turns completing tasks such as sorting mail, delivering messages, and folding letters and stuffing envelopes. However, typically position descriptions change from business to business. The way that one office prepares and delivers mail can be very different from another. The time spent learning the task in the training program would be better spent in the actual workplace where your son / daughter is employed.

Question: The workshop is a safe place, and I don’t think my son / daughter should be alone in a community job. He / she has never been without the support of the agency’s staff.

Answer: Looking for a “safe” place to work is also part of the customized employment process. First, “safe” needs to be defined in relationship to your son’s / daughter’s support needs. For example, a person who has a history of walking out of any door at home or the workshop may have a very different safety concern than the person who just lacks community based experiences. In some instances a workplace that limits access to the outside or machinery may be warranted. Another person may just need to have a little extra support from a coworker.

Your safety concerns will be taken into consideration when negotiating work. It is only natural for you to be concerned about your sons or daughter’s welfare. For example, part of the negotiations might include arranging for some additional supervision or creating a job where your son / daughter works alongside a coworker who is aware of the support need. Once again, an agent would work closely with an employer to negotiate a job that minimizes your son’s / daughter’s disability and provides the workplace supports necessary for him / her to be successful.

Question: How would my son / daughter learn the skills in the workplace?

Answer: Key to the negotiation process is the employer’s willingness to support whatever your son / daughter needs to become successful at work. For example, sometimes a job applicant with a disability will need more skills training than the employer is able to provide. In such a case, a trainer sometimes called an employment specialist will go to work with the individual and provide additional on-the-job training. Or perhaps, the person needs to use an assistive technology device to get the job done like using a reaching device to pull items off of a high shelf. Another, job applicant may need a modification in a company’s policy that would allow him / her to work a flexible schedule. Workplace supports vary from individual to individual and are tailored specifically to meet the needs of an individual in a customized job. At the end of the process, when the deal is struck, the result is a custom made job for your son / daughter.

Question: I don’t know what kind of job my son / daughter would like.

Answer: A personal agent or employment specialist will spend time getting to know your son / daughter as well as your family. For instance, an employment specialist may spend time with him / her in the community doing preferred leisure activities, talking with family members, meeting with friends who know your son / daughter well, and so forth. The time will be spent discovering his / her interests, abilities, and support needs.

Occasionally there still may be uncertainty about what your son / daughter might like to do. If this happens, several types of jobs will be identified that appear to match your son / daughter's expressed work interests. Then, he / she can have a brief work experience, perhaps 3 - 4 hours within each job type, to more specifically identify his/her work preferences and support needs. This information will be used to customize a job on your son’s / daughter’s behalf.

Now prepared, the personal agent or employment specialist will begin to identify potential places of employment in the lo-

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7) **“To Work or Not To Work”**

cal business community. You may even be asked if you know employers in your network that would be willing to support a person with a disability in the workplace. The agent will meet with employers to learn more about the business and specific needs of the company. Whenever an employer has some suitable opportunities that match your son / daughter's specific interests and needs, the job negotiation process will begin.

A good customized job individualizes the employment relationship between employees and employers in ways that meet the needs of both. A proposal will be prepared for the employer's consideration that will highlight your son's / daughter's abilities and how he / she can bring value to the business. Once a proposal has been made and both the job applicant and employer agree to the proposal, a work start date will be set.

Question: How will my son / daughter get to work? The community rehabilitation program provides door-to-door transportation service.

Answer: A critical aspect to customizing a job for your son / daughter will be finding work opportunities at locations where transportation will not present a barrier. Every situation is different. For example, some people may travel to work using public transportation, while others, ride with co-workers, take specialized transportation services, or walk.

Part of getting to know your son / daughter will be exploring various transportation options. This information is vital to the strategic plan for customizing employment, since it influences the scheduling requirements and the work location. For instance, your son / daughter may have access to the public bus system, but lack the skills needed to get to the bus stop and ride the bus alone. In this case, a transportation trainer can teach your son / daughter how to get to and from the job on the bus. Or, another option might be that the place of business is on a friend's route to and from work. This could become part of the employment negotiation process. For example, employment negotiations may center a round a specific work schedule that would allow the person to work a schedule that matches the friend's daily commute times.

If you are not comfortable with these options, staff can determine if there is a specialized transportation service in the community that can offer door-to-door service. Or, perhaps a college student or senior citizen would like to earn extra money providing transportation. You can be assured that the support needs of your son / daughter will be met so that everyone feels comfortable. He / she will not be left alone until the skills to get to and from work independently have been demonstrated.

Question: But, that would cost extra money. I don't imagine that he / she would be making very much anyway.

Answer: Your son / daughter would be making at least minimum wage or more based on what other workers earn who are performing similar job duties. The amount would be negotiated with the employer at the time of hire and again during the course of employment for pay raises. In addition, if your son / daughter is receiving social security benefits, he / she may be able to claim an Impairment Related Work Expense (IRWE). This is a work incentive designed to assist people with disabilities in paying for expenses that are needed to work. Specialized transportation is one such expense. Basically, a person can deduct the cost of services and items needed to work and reduce the amount of countable income. When Social Security calculates how much a person will receive in the monthly check, an IRWE allows him / her to keep more money than if there were no work expenses. While he / she will not get all of the cost of transportation covered through the work incentive, your son / daughter should have more money available than if not working or working in extended employment options (sheltered workshops).

Question: Well, that raises another serious concern! My son / daughter can't lose Social Security benefits and Medicaid. The reality is that he / she needs the benefits and health care coverage.

Answer: The answer is to get informed! You should contact your local Social Security Administration Office to locate a Benefits Planning Assistance and Outreach Specialist. This person can sit down with you to explain the basics of how work will impact your son's / daughter's monthly benefit check. You also will need more information on work incentives. These incentives were developed to encourage Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) beneficiaries to become self-sufficient. The IRWE is just one of the work incentives that can help your son / daughter. Others include the Earned Income Exclusion, PASS (Plan for Achieving Self Support), and Section 1619 (a) and (b).

Under Special SSI Payments for People Who Work: Section 1619 (a) and 1619 (b), a worker can continue to receive Medicaid. Under Section 1619 (a), your son's / daughter's check could be reduced as low as one cent due to work income, and he / she would receive Medicaid. Eligibility continues as long as your son / daughter meets the basic eligibility requirements and the income and resources tests. Under 1619 (b), Medicaid coverage continues even when earnings become too high to receive a SSI payment but there are threshold levels in each state. Some states have eligibility rules for Medicaid that differ from SSA's. This is information that you will need to discuss with a Benefits Specialist to find out exactly how work will impact your son's / daughter's benefits.

However, he / she can always earn more money working than by just receiving benefits alone. If you still feel unsure after meeting with a representative, talk to other family members who have adult children with disabilities who receive SSI and are working in the community. You can also download a booklet produced by the Social Security Administration, *The Redbook*, which provides more information and sample calculations on how work can impact benefits at <http://www.ssa.gov>.

Question: My son / daughter has friends in the extended employment program. Going to work would mean losing those

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(Continued from page 8)) **“To Work or Not To Work”**

friends.

Answer: If the opportunity to make friends is important to your son / daughter, then this along with other key information would be taken into consideration during negotiations with employers. Every workplace culture is different. For instance, some are friendly and others are not. To understand the workplace culture, the person representing your son / daughter would ask the employer questions and look for signs that the workplace is friendly and supportive. For example, employees who appear to be enjoying their jobs may signal a pleasant place to work.

Developing a good fit between a person and the social characteristics of a workplace is as important as learning how to perform a job. Many people with significant disabilities report making new friends at work and an overall, satisfaction with employment. Your son / daughter would have support establishing relationships with coworkers. Social activities that are available to other employees would also be available to him / her. Going to work also does not mean that your son or daughter has to give up friends from the workshop. They can still socialize outside of the workshop setting. Working should expand his / her social opportunities and not limit them.

Question: What if my son / daughter loses the job? Can he / she go back to the workshop?

Answer: Negotiating a customized employment opportunity for your son / daughter hopefully will prevent this from happening. Rest assured that staff will work hard to solve any problems that come up during employment and to address any support needs that could lead to job loss. This includes re-negotiations with the employer, if necessary, to further customize your son’s / daughter’s job.

But, of course people still lose jobs. If this occurs, staff will work with your son / daughter to find a new job in the community. A new position will be negotiated based on what is learned in the first job about his / her interests, work skills and support needs. Remember, our program staff is always willing to talk with you whenever you have additional questions!

Information for this FAQ sheet came from T-TAP: Training and Technical Assistance for Providers Project. Contributors for this issue include Dr. Katherine Inge, Project Director and Ms. Pam Targett, Training Associate. For additional information, you may contact ODEP at (202) 693-7880 or T-TAP, kinge@atlas.vcu.edu or (804) 828-5956. For more information on T-TAP, please visit <http://www.t-tap.org>.



“Deaf Culture”

Vicki Moseley – Deaf Presenter

Wednesday, June 4th

Location: SCC Lair Bldg 6; Sasquatch Room

11:30-12:30 pm

– Q&A Reception with Presenter

1:00-3:00 pm

– Presentation

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: SALLY HILLEBRANDT 533-8881

SHILLEBRANDT@SCC.SPOKANE.EDU

FREE Event!

SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS WILL BE PROVIDED.

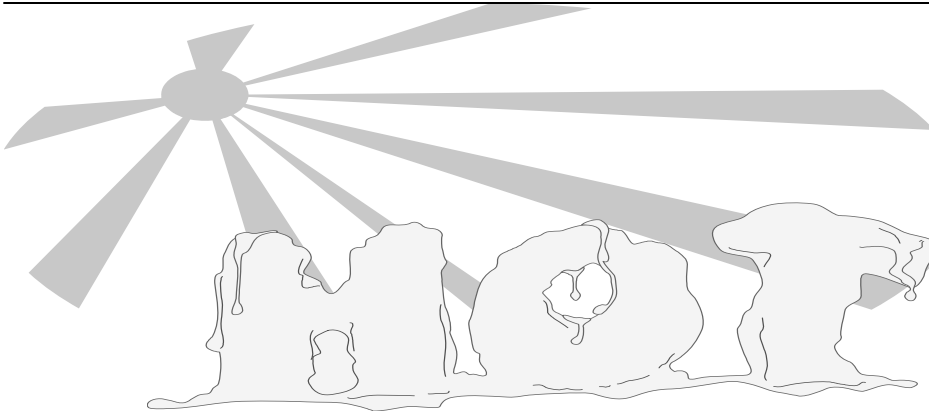


SCPC Family Scholarship Fund



The SCPC Family Scholarship Fund was established in 1999. The purpose of this fund is to assist parents, foster parents, guardians, siblings, or other family members of children with developmental disabilities in Spokane County to attend workshops, conferences, seminars, or other trainings specific to the disability of their family member. Funding can be used for registration fees, respite care, travel expenses, fuel expenses, and/or lodging involved with attending an approved event.

For more information contact Lance Morehouse at (509) 328-6326. Or mail your applications to: Arc of Spokane, 127 W. Boone, Spokane, WA 99201



A Very Special Riverside High School Reunion

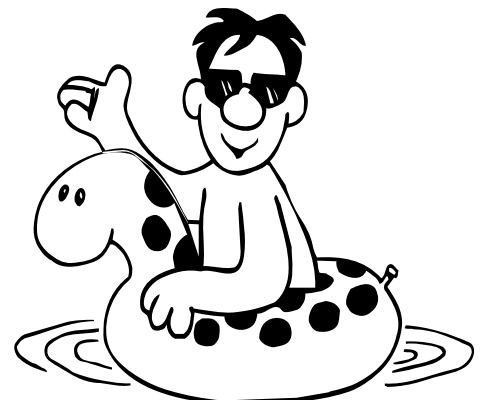
For all students who participated in the Developmental Learning Center at RHS:

**Please join us on
Wednesday, June 11, 2008 at 1:00 PM
Riverside High MPR**

We'll have snacks and time to visit. You can catch up with old friends and send Mrs Scott and Mrs Inch on to their retirements. RSVP 464-8549

Street Law

Street Law is an opportunity to talk to an attorney for free. Please refer your clients to this free legal information and referral program. Your clients may ask any legal question. No questions are out of bounds. Street Law will run on Saturdays from May 24th to August 30th (except for Hoopfest weekend) from 1:00-4:00pm in Riverfront Park on the South Howard Bridge. Each Saturday you can expect to see 3 volunteer attorneys answering legal questions for free. Join the Center for Justice and the Spokane County Bar Volunteer Lawyers Program at Street Law 2008! If you have any questions or would like flyers to post at your organization call Holly at the Center for Justice at 509-835-5211 or email



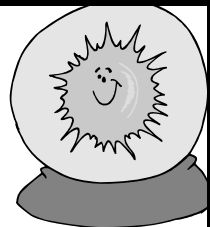


Parent to Parent Family Night Pot Luck

Friday, June 27, 2008 □ 6:00 to 7:30 pm

We'll bring Burgers, Hot Dogs and Drinks
Fun for the Whole Family
Meet Other Families Special Needs Children
Crafts & Games for the Kids!

The Arc Community Center and Gym
116 W. Indiana Ave., Spokane
(Parking behind building on Shannon Avenue)



Please bring a side dish or dessert to Share!

Please RSVP so we can plan for food.

Call Terry at (509) 328-6326.

FRIENDS IN THE NEWS...

Bryden Mattoon

Bryden Mattoon is an intelligent, active, happy young man who is 7 years old. Bryden is in the second grade and has a bright future! He has a dog named Missy and a cat named Sugar. Bryden would choose to eat cake for his favorite dish. He also likes the color blue and the movie "Pirates of the Caribbean". Bryden likes to go sledding, camping, and playing with Missy. You may also find Bryden reading and playing video games.

Recently, Bryden learned how to whistle. Now you can find him anywhere, just follow the whistling! Note: Dad and big brother are a bit jealous because they don't know how to whistle ☹. When Bryden grows up, he said he is going to be a fisherman. Bryden's sees his big brother, Bryce as the "coolest" person on Earth. Bryden wants to be just like him.

The Information in a Box program has been helpful for the Mattoon family; first, having a Parent Advocate come to their home to deliver the box and talk about the things their family were facing, and it has given them a wonderful organizational tool for all of the papers they are collecting.

Michele is the mother of Bryden. If you would like more information on Pervasive Developmental Disorder (PDD), please contact Families Together for Michele's contact information.

Way to Go, BRYDEN!



Bryden (left), with his Companion at a Family Enrichment Weekend.

Information in a Box Mission

The Information in a Box program supports loving, caring parents of children with disabilities by providing resources, information, and friendships so parents have more time to focus their energy on meeting the needs of their children.

Contact Us:

Families Together for People with Disabilities®
Washington State University

Smith Gym 213, Box 641410

Pullman, WA 99164-1410

Phone: 509-335-2321 Fax: 509-335-7339

Toll Free: 1-866-326-4864

www.familiestogether.org

E-mail: ftpd@familiestogether.org

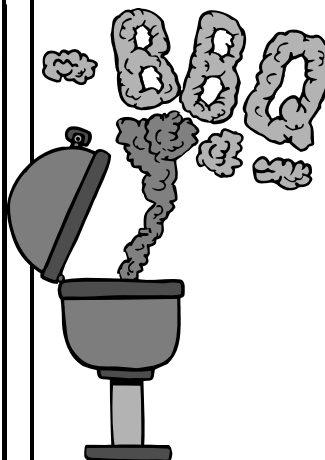


Spokane Father's Network & Spokane County Parent Coalition

Annual Families' Picnic & BBQ

July 19th
11:30—2:00 pm

Thornton Murphy Park
3105 E. 27th Ave.



We will supply
the burgers, hot
dogs, & drinks
You bring a
salad or desert

Games
Pool nearby
Activities for
kids

QUICK-LOOK CALENDAR

JUNE 2008

- 4 Deaf Culture Presentation
- 12 Riverside HS Reunion
- 18—20 Employment Conference @ Ellensburg
- 21 Epilepsy Foundation NW Walk/Run
- 20—21 Youth Conference @ Ellensburg
- 25 Camp For a Day
- 27 Parent to Parent BBQ & Picnic

JULY 2008

- 11 Sacred Heart Golf Tournament
- 31 SE WA Autism Conference @ Kennewick



June 21, 2008

Event Information

Northwest Run/Walk for Epilepsy is the Epilepsy Foundation Northwest annual epilepsy awareness walk. Now in its 6th year, the walk raises money for EFNW programs and services and increases public understanding about the disorder.

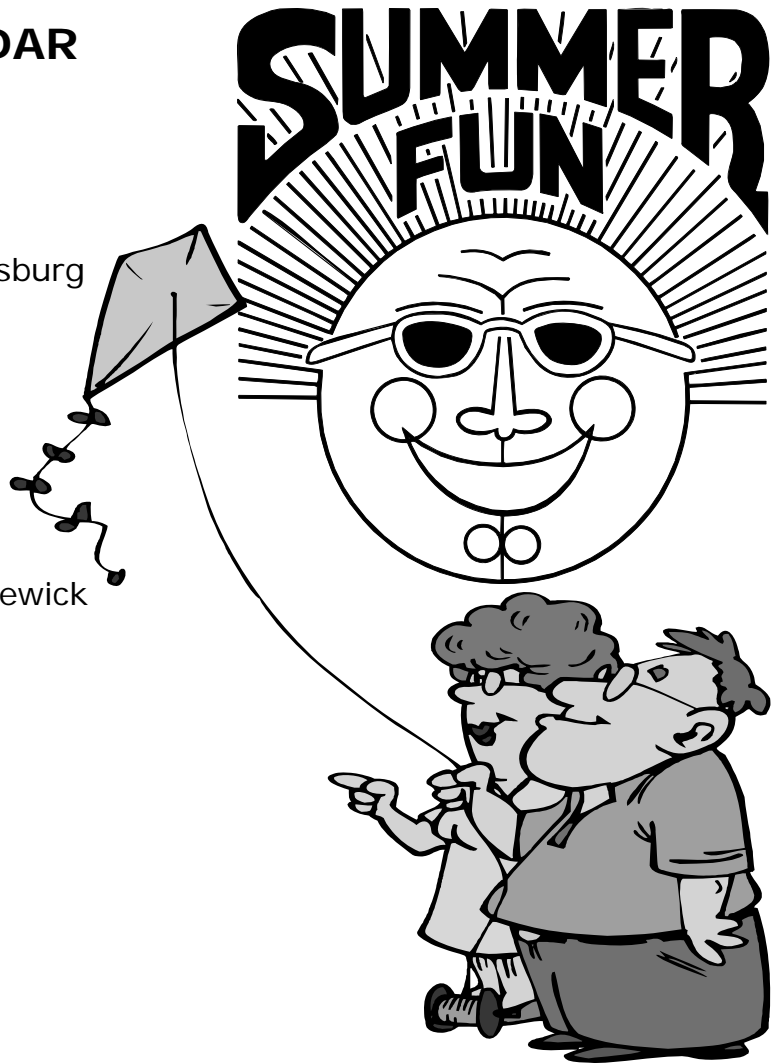
Spokane Riverfront Park 9:30—12:30 pm

Registration	6/21/2008	9:30 am - 10:00 am
Opening Ceremony	6/21/2008	10:00 am - 10:30 am
Run/Walk	6/21/2008	10:30 am - 11:30 am
Closing Ceremony	6/21/2008	12:00 am - 12:30 am

Individual: \$25.00 General Registration

For more information contact:

Ryan Oelrich Program Manager Epilepsy Foundation Northwest Spokane Branch Office (509)325-1128 Roelrich@epilepsynw.org



Epilepsy Foundation Raffle
The Epilepsy Foundation Spokane will be hosting a raffle as a fundraiser thanks to a generous volunteer. Raffle tickets are available 1 for \$5 or 3 for \$10 by replying to this e-mail or by calling (509)325-1128. Raffle tickets will also be available the day of the Epilepsy Walk which is when the items will be auctioned off. Only 200 tickets will be sold. The items being raffled are as follows: 1. \$50.00 Macy's Gift Card, 2. \$100.00 Gatchalks Gift Card, 3. Wine Basket (several bottles of fine wine, wine opener, wine glasses, and chocolates) valued at \$100, 4. Movie Lovers Basket (portable DVD player, DVD, popcorn, etc.) valued at \$100, 5. Mystery Box valued at \$100 All proceeds



1st Annual Children's ER Championship Player Registration

You have been invited to come and play in this fantastic tournament for a great cause. On Friday, July 11th 2008, take the afternoon off, come over to Hangman Valley Golf Course, and enjoy a beautiful summer day on the greens.

Recently opened with the idea that kids need special care and consideration when coming to an emergency room, the Children's ER at Sacred Heart Medical Center is the **ONLY** emergency room in our area that specializes solely in treating our little loved ones. Let's support the Children's Emergency Room so the doctors, nurses and medical staff can take better care of your children. Annually they will need funds to provide the little things that make your child's experience less traumatic. **SHOW YOUR SUPPORT JUST BY PLAYING GOLF!**

Entry Fee Includes: -Green Fees -Dinner -Cart -Range Balls -Welcome Packet -Fun on a Friday Afternoon!

2008 ENTRY		
Team Name/Company _____	Main Contact: _____	
Address _____	City, State, Zip _____	
Phone _____	E-Mail _____	
Player Names: _____	Shirt Size _____	Shirt Size _____
_____	Shirt Size _____	Shirt Size _____
Division: <input type="checkbox"/> Open	<input type="checkbox"/> Co-Ed	<input type="checkbox"/> Senior (55+ average age)
Entry Type:	<input type="checkbox"/> Team + Hole Sponsor \$500	<input type="checkbox"/> Team + Long Drive Sponsor \$600
	<input type="checkbox"/> Team + Mulligan Sponsor \$700	<input type="checkbox"/> Team + Food Sponsor \$800
	<input type="checkbox"/> Team + Welcome Packet Sponsor \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> Team + Shirt Sponsor \$1200
	<input type="checkbox"/> Full Team No Sponsor \$300	<input type="checkbox"/> Single Player \$80 (Find me a team)
		<input type="checkbox"/> Team + KP Sponsor \$600
		<input type="checkbox"/> Team + Cart Sponsor \$1000
		<input type="checkbox"/> Team + Executive Sponsor \$2,000
		<input type="checkbox"/> Two-Some \$160 (Find us a team)

www.charityseriesofgolf.com

Send all entries and payments to:

"Par 5 Events"
6704 S West Terrace Dr
Cheney, WA 99004

or 800-360-3059 (fax)

Check Credit Card

exp: ____ / ____

Total Amount: _____

Signature: _____

The 31st Annual Employment Pre-Conference

June 18th, 2008 9:00 am – 3:00pm

Hal Holmes Center 209 N. Ruby St., Ellensburg, WA 98926

REGISTRATION FORM

The cost of this pre-conference is \$85.00 with lunch provided

Male

Female

Name Day Phone

Address City State Zip

County Organization email address

ADA ACCOMODATIONS:

If you have need for any special accommodations, such as interpreters, please let us know before **MAY 30th**.

ALL REGISTRATIONS ARE DUE BY JUNE 6TH, 2008.
NO REFUNDS ARE ALLOWED AFTER JUNE 13TH, 2008.

RETURN ALL REGISTRATIONS WITH A CHECK PAYABLE TO WISE TO:

Washington Initiative for Supported Employment

100 South King Street, Suite 260
Seattle, WA 98104
Fax 206.343.2078



Save the Date!

Southeastern Washington Autism Conference

Thursday, July 31 - Friday, August 1, 2008

Keynote Speakers:
Temple Grandin, Ph.D.
Paula Kluth, Ph.D.

Presented By:
The Neurological Resource Center

Location:
Three Rivers Convention Center
Kennewick, WA

To download brochure:
www.SpectrumTrainingSystemsInc.com/sewashington

Medical Assistance Administration (MAA) Premium Payment Program

This program offers payment of private insurance premiums when it is cost effective to do so. Most Medicaid programs are eligible for this program. MAA has found that, in most instances, it is more cost effective to pay for a clients private health insurance than to pay fee for service or Healthy Options premiums if a client is on a program that qualifies them for Healthy Options.

MAA does not find insurance policies for clients. They must already have access to insurance. The client can call MAA about paying the premiums or the Community Services Office (CSO) can contact MAA. MAA also receives data match forms completed by employers.

The plans MAA pays for varies. MAA pays premiums for people who are employed but have to pay for their own insurance coverage and for anyone who has had a private policy before receiving Medicaid and wishes to continue with this coverage. Often, when a person is employed, we can pay to put the whole family on the policy for a very reasonable rate. There is also COBRA, which is a federal program that requires employers with 25 employees

or more to offer continuation of the group health insurance to employees who leave employment.

For more information on this program, or if you would like to refer a Medicaid client to MAA to have their premiums paid, please call Sharon Black, supervisor, at 1-800-562-31—6136, ext. 753-3300 or Sharia Metheny, lead worker at 1-800-562-63-136, ext. 586-8572. You may also e-mail them at blacksr@dshs.wa.gov or methesl@dshs.wa.gov. You can also contact the appropriate Medical Assistance Specialist to assist you and the client. The caseloads are divided as indicated according to the clients last name:

main number: 1-800-562-6136

A-F Michelle Hergert, ext. 586-2499; G-N Denise Barker, ext. 664-8110;
O-Z Jeri Miller, ext. 586-2338



MONTHLY SUPPORT GROUPS & MEETINGS

Autism Society Of Washington

MOCHA MEETING

Wednesday, June 11 7pm-9pm
Those interested in diet and bio-medical issues
Rocket Market
726 E. 43rd

Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, June 18 6:30pm—8pm
St. Luke's Rehab Institution
711 S. Cowley, Room 200
Open Forum Discussion
More info: spokane@autismsocietyofwa.org

Teen/Young Adult Social Group

Bring a game to play
Will resume again in September
Service Station Coffee House
9317 N. Nevada

Autism 209 "Social Security & Medicaid" 7-9:00pm

Instructor: Atty Josh Brothers
ESD 101 Video Link
4202 S. Regal Conference Room

Adults with Asperger's Social Group

Saturday, June 14
Mini Golf at Wonderland
Contact: Spokane@autismsocietyofwa.org to get on our
Notification list

For more information
Spokane@autismofwa.org
For more information:
Spokane@autismsocietyofwa.org

Parent to Parent Monthly Support Group



Open to any parent or
Guardian who has
a child with special needs.

BBQ and POTLUCK

Friday, June 27 6pm—7:30pm
The Arc Community Center
116 W. Indiana

RSVP: Terry Villalovoz, 328-6326

Down Syndrome Family Network

SUPPORT GROUP

This is a terrific opportunity for support and networking.
Children are always welcome.

Meets every Wednesday 9:30 - 11:30am

Garland Alliance Church,
2011 W. Garland Ave., Spokane
Contact: *Carolee Spradley, (509) 499-8792*

BREAKFAST RENDEZVOUS

Saturday, June 14 9:00 a.m.

This no-host breakfast is a great way to start
your weekend. Bring the kids!

Jenny's Restaurant, 9425 E. Sprague Spokane Valley

Contact: *Carolyn Wright, (509) 455-7439*

For more information or to be added to the
Down Syndrome Family Network email list..

Contact: Carolyn Wright at 455-7439

Senior Parent Support Group & Parents For Life Support Group

A support group for parents who have an adult
son or daughter with a developmental disability.

Wednesday, June 18th, 11:30am. to 1pm

TOPIC: Independent Living Skills

The Arc/IERR Building, 116 W. Indiana Ave.

Contact: Deanna Noland, (509) 328-6326

Evergreen Spina Bifida Support Group

Call for meeting time and location.

Come discuss issues that effect persons with
spina bifida and their family and friends.

Contact: Ed Kennedy,
(509) 326-6355

Spokane Fathers Network

For fathers of children with special needs.

Saturday, June 21 10am

Frankie Doodle's
30 East 3rd Ave., Spokane
Contact: Gregg Osborne, (509) 768-1383

All new material or changes to existing materials **must** be made by the **20th** of the month preceding publication for inclusion in news-letter.



Please join us for the **2008 Valued Lives Conference**
September 24 – 26, 2008 in Yakima, Washington

- Local and national speakers
- Conference for people with developmental disabilities, families, advocates, & service providers
- Film Festival
- Casino night entertainment
- Stipends available on a limited basis

This conference includes a full day pre-conference offering three different sessions (*families and self-advocates, support staff and management*), so there is something for everyone.

We are pleased to announce that Chris Burke will kick off the conference Wednesday evening as our keynote speaker. Chris has many accomplishments and is well known for his role on Life Goes On.



Chris Burke

Rachel Simon



Another featured presenter will be Rachel Simon, the author of *Riding the Bus With My Sister: A True Life Journey*, which was honored with a TASH Image Award.

We are also very excited about the Sprout Touring Film Festival that will be running during the conference, showcasing films related to the field of developmental disabilities.



Full registration details will be mailed in June 2008. If you do not receive a conference packet by June 30th, please email your request to corporate@community-living.org or call (509) 966-1998.

Conference is presented by the Community Residential Services Association (CRSA) and The Washington State Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD).

www.valuedlives.com



Please Join Us!



Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Spokane, WA
Permit #223

Arc - Spokane
127 W. Boone Ave
Spokane, WA 99201