

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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Meet The Arc Advocacy and Family Support Team

Welcome to the first issue of our combined Advocacy & Family Support Newsletter. We hope that by combining the information that many of you have received in separate mailings over the years into this new format will make it easier for you to find the valuable information and resources that you have come to depend on from us. This new format will also make it possible to receive this information electronically if you wish.



Below you will find a list of programs and services available through The Arc of Spokane Advocacy & Family Support Team.

Programs and services available through The Arc Family Support Team:

Parent to Parent gives emotional support and information to parents about their child's disability or special health care needs. The program provides parent matches, monthly parent support groups, newsletters, sibling support groups called SibShops and other workshops on issues important to families. Contact Terry Villalovoz at

(509) 328-6326 or P2P@arc-spokane.org

Spokane County Parent Coalition offers information, education, resources, and advocacy to families.

Important issues are addressed through workshops, conferences and mailings. Training is provided for advocacy at the local, state and federal levels. A scholarship fund is available for families to attend workshops. Contact Lance Morehouse or Kate Jackson at (509) 328-6326 or lance@spokaneparentcoalition.org or kjackson@arc-spokane.org

Individual Advocacy provides support and advocacy to empower individuals with developmental disabilities and to help them alleviate or avoid crisis situations. The individual advocate aids in protecting legal and civil rights, assessing and collaborating with existing community services, offering guidance in paperwork and listening to challenges related to independent living. Contact The Arc at (509) 328-6326 or familysupport@arc-spokane.org

OUR READERS

Advocacy & Family Support is produced monthly and provides information to parents, grandparents, guardians, and other adults who have a child with special needs in their life.

Readers are encouraged 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 **May 14** to:

Terry Villalovoz
The Arc of Spokane
127 W. Boone
Spokane, WA 99201
(509) 328-6326
p2p@arc-spokane.org

MAILINGLIST

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

To receive the newsletter in PDF format via email, visit www.arc-spokane.org/ mailinglists.htm and click on the link for *Advocacy & Family Support*.

DISCLAIMER

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



Members of the Advocacy & Family Support Team are (from left) Cathie Griffith, Lance Morehouse, Terry Villalovoz and Kate Jackson.

Team

Continued from Page 1

HomeOwnership Opportunities

coordinates and assists qualified applicants in the process of owning their own home. An action plan will break down the complex tasks into manageable pieces such as finding down payment and low interest loans. Classes and resources on maintaining the home are also offered. Contact Cathie Griffith at (509) 328-6326 or cgriffith@arc-spokane.org.

Family Educator Partnership Project encourages families, educators and community agencies to work together to ensure educational success for children with disabilities. FEPP sponsors workshops, provides scholarships to conferences and sends electronic newsletters to families, special education directors and other personnel.

Contact Kate Jackson at (509) 328-6326 or kjackson@arc-spokane.org.

Spokane Fathers Network

provides opportunities for fathers to share the joys and challenges of raising children with special needs. Support and resources to fathers and families of children with special health care needs are provided. Contact Hugh Kelly at (509) 939-6513 or hkelly@fathersnetwork.org.

The **Senior Parents Support Group** meets monthly to assist families who have sons and daughters over the age of 30 with developmental disabilities to plan for the future. Parents discuss the challenges they face and hear from guest speakers on topics and issues important to their lives. Contact Lance Morehouse at (509) 328-6326 or lmorehouse@arc-spokane.org.



THE MISSION OF PARENT TO PARENT

Parent to Parent programs offer emotional support and information about disabilities and community resources to parents who are just learning about or seeking new information on their child's disability, illness or special health care needs.

Through implementation of the Parent to Parent model: We utilize trained veteran parents of children with disabilities and/or special health care needs called "Helping Parents" who provide one-on-one emotional and/or informational support to new or referred parents who have a child with similar needs.

DDD offers Mini Assessment

Individuals who are enrolled in the state Division of Developmental Disabilities (have gone through the eligibility process) and who receive no paid services from DDD, are being assessed by DDD case managers.

The case managers are using a new assessment tool called the Mini Assessment. These Mini Assessments are being done on people who call and ask for it or who call and ask for a service.

The Arc urges all parents to call and request this assessment so that the needs of your son or daughter are documented with DDD. In Spokane, the number for the DDD is (509) 329-2900.

Confused by the new Medicare Prescription Drug Program?

Need help sorting through all the plans to find the right plan for you? Come meet with a SHIBA representative who will sit down with you and the computer and help you find a plan that meets your specific needs. Bring your list of medications and the dosages to:

Aging and Long Term Care of Eastern Washington
1222 N. Post St., Spokane
9 a.m. to 5 p.m. every Tuesday through May 9

You will be helped on a first-come, first-served basis.



For more information,
call Kathy or Leslie at (509) 458-2509
Statewide Health Insurance Benefit Advisors

*Pathways to Early Learning
Early Learning Workshops*

**What Do I Do
With a Child Like This?**

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, May 20, 2006

Guest Speaker:
Ginny Cronin

Behavior Intervention Services

Learn how to set attainable goals and practical strategies to guide, manage and control outrageous behaviors and even prevent the rest of the classroom from joining in!

Cost: \$25 per class; 4 STARS credits/certificate of attendance available

Northeast Child Development Center
4001 N. Cook St., Spokane
RSVP: (509) 444-0374

**The Mobile Medical Clinic
Community Health Enhancement and
Support Services (CHESS)**

Our Family Practice will
come to your home

We do urgent care visits in
the home



- Blood draws
- Renew prescriptions
- Acute care/urgent care treatment of ear infections, sinusitis, strep throat, bronchitis and pneumonia
- Small medical procedures in-home (such as suturing and splinting)
- Physical assessments and well exams
- Diagnostic testing (X-ray and EKG)
- Counseling Services
- Preventive care and well exams
- Specialist referrals as needed
- Children, too!
- Medicare, Medicaid, most major insurances, private payment
- As about our private payment scale for patients without health insurance

**Appointment Line
(509) 220-3048**



Catalyst Center website offers healthcare resources

The Catalyst Center is a national center dedicated to improving health care insurance and financing for children and youth with special health care needs (CYSHCN). They are funded by the Division of Services for Children with Special Health Care Needs of the Federal Maternal and Child Health Bureau.

The Center partners with a broad range of stakeholders to:

- Expand health insurance coverage of CYSHCN across the country
- Close the gaps faced by underinsured families
- Develop and disseminate innovative financing strategies at the community, state and national levels; and
- Enhance knowledge and collaboration among key stakeholder groups around financing issues

Visit www.hdwg.org/projects/catalyst.htm for expanded information on the Catalyst Center, the latest edition of their newsletter on their activities related to health insurance and financing of care for children and youth with special health care needs.

*Pathways to Early Learning
Early Learning Workshops*

Under the Sea

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, June 17, 2006

Guest Speaker: Linda Loomis
Director of Children's Services
Northeast Child Development Center

Expand your curriculum on the ocean. Bring your best tricks to share. Increase your literacy, social skills, communication, math, and gross and fine motor strands. Bring your favorite fish tale!

Cost: \$25 per class; 4 STARS credits/certificate of attendance available

Northeast Child Development Center
4001 N. Cook St., Spokane
RSVP: (509) 444-0374

Check out these websites for families

Families Together for People with Disabilities in Pullman received a state grant and has redesigned its site, www.familiestogether.org

Washington State Yellow Pages for Kids with Disabilities: You will find educational consultants, psychologists, diagnosticians, healthcare specialists, academic tutors, speech language therapists, advocates and attorneys. You will also find government programs, grassroots organizations, special education schools, and parent support groups. Go to www.yellowpagesforkids.com/help/wa.htm for more information.

Infant/Toddler Early Intervention Program (TEIP) is pleased to share the following website resource for providers from the TRACE Center at the Orlena Hawks Puckett Institute: www.tracecenter.info/index.php. The major goal of TRACE is to identify and promote the use of evidence-based practices and models for improving child find, referral, early identification and eligibility determination for infants, toddlers and young children with developmental delays or disabilities, who are eligible for early intervention or preschool special education.



**Meydenbauer Center, Bellevue, Wash.
May 12 & 13, 2006**

Featuring:

Lori Ernsperger: Proactive Strategies for Addressing Problem Behaviors for Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders

Dr. Bill Shaw: Multifactorial Causes of Autism
David Kirby: New York Times journalist and bestselling author of "Evidence of Harm: Mercury in Vaccines and the Autism Epidemic, A Medical Controversy"

Taylor Cross & Mom, Keri: co-director of documentary film, "Normal People Scare Me", sharing the journey through autism

For more information and to register, visit www.autismevents.com or call toll-free (866) 838-3687

Epilepsy Foundation Northwest's Camp Discovery set for Aug. 27-30

Camp Discovery is a program for children with epilepsy who might otherwise miss out on a childhood experience most take for granted. Camp Discovery provides these children with an opportunity to participate in camp activities and take normal childhood risks in a safe, supervised environment. Siblings can ask questions and learn about epilepsy while addressing their unique feelings and concerns about living with epilepsy. Camp Discovery promotes a sense of adventure and self-confidence, while helping children with epilepsy avoid isolation and work toward their full potential.

Camp is staffed by Epilepsy Foundation Northwest specialists, health care providers from epilepsy centers in the Northwest and other committed, trained volunteers. The ratio of camper to counselor is approximately 2:1.

Activities may include swimming, boating, archery, hiking, arts and crafts, sports, campfire games, special entertainment, signing, and epilepsy education.

Camp Discovery is open to children with epilepsy and their siblings. All children must be between the ages of 7 and 17. Children of all abilities are encouraged to attend.

Cost is \$200 per child for Epilepsy Foundation Northwest members and \$250 for non-members. Scholarships are available and an application will be included with your registration packet. For more information email ahancock@epilepsynw.org or phone toll-free (800) 752-3509 Ext. 105.



the Kids' Korner
Resources for Your Child

American Lung Association of Washington's

Asthma Walk - Spokane Saturday, May 20, 2006

Check-In begins at 8:00 a.m.

Walk starts at 9:00 a.m.

This 5K Walk will begin at Mirabeau Park off North Pines Road on Euclid walking east on the Centennial Trail.

Event Goal: \$50,000

www.mrsnv.com/evt/home.jsp?id=981

FREE KPBX KIDS CONCERT

Broadway!

Local performers Janean Jorgensen, Kendra Kimball, Darin Jones and Tony Caprile join pianist Carol Miyamoto in an introduction to musical theater

1 to 2 p.m. Saturday, May 13

The Met
901 W. Sprague Ave., Spokane

If you are looking for a safe and fun place for your young adult with a developmental disability to go in the late afternoon, look no further than...

For students with developmental disabilities in middle and high school (including those in transition)

Monday - Friday • 2:30 - 6:30 p.m.
Local School Calendar

DD funds and Family Support dollars are accepted

For more information, call Maria Goff
at (509) 789-2247

The After School Club



We Offer:

- Arts & Crafts
- Snacks
- Gym Time
- Pool Table
- Cooking Classes
- Computers
- Reading & Story Time
- Music & Videos
- Outings

We Promote:

- Choice
- Communication
- Friendships
- Appropriate Social Interactions
- Personal Growth
- Responsibility
- Positive Attitudes



Website offers transition tools

The Personal Data Wizard is a website developed by the transition specialist of the Humboldt County Office of Education in California. It provides numerous tools to help students with a range of transition activities including creating resumes, cover letters and household budgets, as well as help them identify employment preferences and interests.

The Personal Data Wizard features an online interest assessment for students to identify their career interests and a bank of more than 500 photos of work activities allows students to identify their employment preferences by clicking on the photos of the jobs they prefer. In addition, the website also provides tips and tutorials

for activities such as banking and purchasing a vehicle. Any school can purchase access codes for a group of students that students may use even after they exit school. In addition, schools are able to customize and post materials to the website that are relevant to their own communities or schools. For \$1/year any student across the country can access the site.

Visit the site at www.hrop.org/wizard. Additional background and contact information on the Personal Data Wizard can be found on the Transition Coalition website: www.transitioncoalition.org/cgiwrap/tcacs/new/collaboration/mos/index.php?page=datawiz

How to obtain a service dog

Service dogs are individually trained to perform tasks for the benefit of a person with a disability, to allow that person to function more independently. Service dogs are not simply pets; they serve a vital function in the life of an individual with a disability.

Service dogs may be obtained through established programs or an independent trainer. For more information on service animals, contact Nan Roberts at Coalition for Responsible Disabled (CORD), phone (509) 326-6355.

Parent to Parent Family Night Pot Luck

Friday, June 23 ☀ 5:30 to 7 p.m.

The Arc Community Center and Gym
116 W. Indiana Ave., Spokane

(Parking behind building on Shannon Avenue)

- * Fun for the Whole Family!
- * Meet Other Special Needs Families!
- * Eat Great Food!
- * Crafts & Games for the Kids!



We'll Bring Burgers, Hot Dogs
and Drinks

Please Bring a Side Dish or
Dessert to Share!



Please **RSVP** so we can plan for food. Call Terry at (509) 328-6326.



Monthly Support Groups and Meetings

Autism Society of Washington GENERAL MEETING AND ADULT SOCIAL GROUP

The May family support meeting will feature a program on "Can Physical Therapy Help My Child?" Presenter is physical therapist Jenny Greenwood.

Wednesday, May 17 ♦ 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Rosauers Center Room 112, corner of Boone Avenue and
Dakota Street on the Gonzaga University campus
Message Line: (509) 624-3323

Down Syndrome Family Network

THURSDAY GATHERING

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

Thursday, May 4 ♦ 9:30 a.m.
Garland Alliance Church, 2011 W. Garland Ave., Spokane
Contact: Carolyn Wright, (509) 455-7439

Epilepsy Foundation Northwest EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR

All people with epilepsy/seizure disorders are welcome, as are their friends, families, community members and professionals. May topic is "Epilepsy and Your Rights." Donna McKereghan, Ph.D., ethicist and motivational speaker, delights and inspires audiences across the U.S. She has been overcoming epilepsy with wit, wisdom and tenacity since childhood.

Wednesday, May 24 ♦ 6:30 to 8 p.m.
Lindaman Center, 315 W. Mission Ave., Spokane
Contact: Sharon Johnston, (509) 325-1128

Evergreen Spina Bifida Support Group

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

Call for meeting time and location.

Contact: Ed Kennedy, (509) 326-6355,
or Susan Curalli, (509) 892-6756

Support group sought

Looking for other parents who have children with **Atopic Dermatitis** who would like to be in a support group. Call Louri at (509) 218-5363.

Lean on Me PARENT/CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

Potluck dinner and meeting. Childcare is provided. Christian-based meeting. To ensure appropriate childcare, families should RSVP to Ron Lloyd, (509) 325-8363.

Saturday, May 27 ♦ 6:30 p.m.
Life Center North, 202 E. Lyons Ave., Spokane
Contact: Ron Lloyd, (509) 325-8363

Parent to Parent SUMMER BARBECUE AND POTLUCK

Meet other families. Crafts and games for the kids. We'll bring burgers, hot dogs and drinks. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share! Please RSVP so we can plan for food.

Friday, June 23 ♦ 5:30 to 7 p.m.
The Arc of Spokane Community Center, 116 W. Indiana
RSVP to Terry Villalovoz, (509) 328-6326

Parent to Parent MONTHLY SUPPORT GROUP

Open to any parent/guardian who has a child with special needs. Refreshments provided.

Tuesday, May 23 ♦ 6:30 to 8 p.m.
NE Community Center, 4001 N. Cook St.
Contact: Terry Villalovoz, 328-6326

Senior Parent Support Group

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

Wednesday, May 17 ♦ 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
The Arc/IERR Community Building, 116 W. Indiana Ave.
Contact: Helen Leighton, (509) 448-0392

Spokane Fathers Network

For fathers of children with special health care needs. Meets the first Wednesday of each month.

Wednesday, May 3 ♦ 6 p.m.
The Arc of Spokane, 127 W. Boone Ave.
Contact: Lance Morehouse, (509) 328-6326



What is the Parent Coalition?

The Spokane County Parent Coalition is an organization designed to provide information and resources to families who have sons/daughters with developmental disabilities. The purpose of the Parent Coalition is to provide information about:

- Services and supports available in our local community.
- Education, health, housing, transportation and other resources.
- Local parent support groups, meetings, conferences.
- Current Legislative issues local, statewide, and federal.
- How to become involved in the legislative process.

Other activities of the coalition include:

- Identify concerns of people with disabilities and their families in Spokane County.
- Advocate for the collective concerns of families.
- Provide a local contact for additional information.
- Provide presentations/workshops on issues important to families.
- Present a family perspective on policy issues.
- Provide a Family Scholarship Fund available to parents.

Respite and Crisis Care Coalition seeks input on respite priorities

This past fall, the Respite and Crisis Care Coalition of Washington (RCCCWA) hosted a series of regional meetings titled, "A Community Conversation about Respite." The meetings were held in Spokane, Everett, Olympia, Yakima and Walla Walla.

Participants were asked to review the goals and vision of the RCCCWA; to provide input on some of the issues and barriers in the current system of respite care in Washington; and to make recommendations to improve the system.

Participants identified a number of issues which need to be addressed if the vision of the coalition is to be realized. During the fall and winter of 2005, a survey of caregiver needs was also disseminated statewide which asked caregivers about their experiences caregiving; the barriers they face in accessing respite care; and what their top respite care needs are.

Based on the input from the survey and the community meetings the coalition has identified a list of potential target areas we could work on to improve the system of respite services and supports in Washington.

We would like your help in prioritizing specific target areas to work on to improve the system. A total of 26 targets were identified. Please help us by prioritizing the five you think are most important.

You can identify your five priorities by completing an online survey at www.arcofkingcounty.org/respite/survey. Please identify only five from the 26 priority statements on the survey. Select "1" for the most important, "2" for the next most important, and so on. Please do not rate more than five different statements.

If you prefer, you can request a form to complete and email back. Request a survey by sending an email to mjmagruder@arcofkingcounty.org or writing:

Mary Jo Magruder
The Arc of King County
233 Sixth Ave North
Seattle, WA 98109

If you have questions call Mary Jo (206) 364-1613 Ext 7010 or send an email to: mjmagruder@arcofkingcounty.org.

View the RCCCWA
Respite Resource Guide online
at www.arcofkingcounty.org/respite



Residential Care Services cites Lakeland Village after March drowning

OLYMPIA — The Residential Care Services Division of the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) has cited Lakeland Village, a state-run institution near Spokane for people with developmental disabilities.

The victim, a 52-year-old female client with developmental disabilities, was found unconscious in the bathtub on March 21. Resuscitation efforts by facility staffers and emergency aid workers failed. The death is under investigation by Medical Lake Police, who are awaiting the results of lab findings that may take up to 12 weeks.

DSHS extends its sympathy to the loved ones of the drowning victim.

This week, DSHS Residential Care Services cited Lakeland Village, located in Medical Lake, for failure to follow federal regulations, which DSHS enforces. The citation said the facility staff failed to provide the client one-to-one supervision at all times while she was bathing.

The facility also was cited for not doing a thorough investigation to protect other residents. After Residential Care Services initiated its own investigation, Lakeland Village administrators took steps to ensure that all staff were re-trained in their duties to provide adequate supervision for all clients while bathing and implemented a monitoring system to ensure staff are following the correct bathing procedures.

The Lakeland Village employee involved has been reassigned to a job that does not involve contact with residents while the police and Lakeland Village investigations continue.

Lakeland Village has been ordered to verify by July 3 it has conformed to federal regulations. Residential Care Services inspectors from DSHS will re-survey the facility for compliance to ensure all corrections have been made.

Mental Health Needs Assessment available on state DOH website

The Washington State Children's Mental Health Needs Assessment is now on the state Department of Health website and available to download. Included in the document are:

- The role of public health in mental health as defined by key informants
- Statewide mental health data
- Recommendations and strategies provided by key informants to improve the mental health of children in Washington
- Concerns about mental health in Washington as provided by key informants

The document is available for download at: www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/mch/documents/CMH_Needs_Assessment.pdf. For additional questions/comments contact Mickey Kander at mickey.kander@doh.wa.gov.



DD Employment Conference

June 21-23, 2006
Central Washington University
Ellensburg

If you have a teenager or an adult and want to learn more about employment programs, this is the conference for you! There are parent stipends and you can bring your son/daughter along. Stipen requests must be received by May 26. Contact Washington Initiative for Supported Employment (WISE) for more information or visit www.theinitiative.ws.

To learn more about this conference and to download a registration packet go to www.theinitiative.ws/files/docs/REG2006.pdf



ACTION ALERT

Action needed for budget resolution supporting people with disabilities

When Congress returned to our nation's Capital on April 25, the House Republican leaders, led by Majority Leader John Boehner (R-OH), were expected to resume negotiations on the House's Fiscal Year 2007 Budget Resolution, which includes significant cuts to programs and services important to people with disabilities and their families.

But as the House continues its work, we must keep the pressure on House Members to pass a budget blueprint that sets total discretionary spending limits at sufficient levels to increase funding for our programs and services.

Ask Your House Members To Adopt A FY 2007 Budget Resolution Supporting People with Disabilities

Background: The House Budget Committee approved its \$2.8 trillion Fiscal Year 2007 Budget Resolution on a party-line 22-17 vote on March 29. The Budget Committee proposed funding cuts for domestic "discretionary" (or non-entitlement) programs by \$8.8 billion in fiscal year 2007 and \$169 billion over five years, and reduce entitlement program spending by \$6.8 billion over five years. The Committee proposed significant increases to defense-related spending as well as \$228 billion in tax cuts over five years.

The committee's Budget

Resolution would require reconciliation savings from eight committees — with Ways and Means (\$4 billion) and Education and the Workforce (\$1.3 billion) providing the bulk of the savings. None of the savings is expected to come from Medicare, where the President had proposed almost \$36 billion in savings. However, the fact that the Ways and Means Committee has to find \$4 billion in savings could make SSI vulnerable for cuts.

Rejected by the committee were 18 amendments offered by Democrats to boost funding for various domestic activities, including an amendment to apply "pay-as-you-go" rules to all mandatory spending increases and tax cuts. Another amendment introduced by Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) that would have added \$7 billion in advance appropriations (a similar amendment to the Senate's Specter-Harkin amendment that was adopted) failed on a party line 22 to 14 vote.

Status: Floor debate on the House's Budget Resolution began on Thursday, April 6. However, the House Republican leadership did not have the necessary votes to pass the Budget Resolution and decided to send House Members home for the two-week spring recess.

The House will resume its Budget Resolution work after the

recess and again, many amendments will be introduced at that time. We are hopeful that these amendments will increase funding for discretionary and entitlement programs. House Members should be urged to support these measures and vote against measures that cut discretionary and entitlement programs.

Take Action: Call/e-mail your Member of the U.S. House of Representative today and help The Arc of the United States and United Cerebral Palsy fight for America's disability program and service priorities.

Use this toll-free number: (800) 459-1887 (a special thanks to the American Friends Service Committee for providing this toll-free number) and tell your House Member to:

- **Pass** a House Budget Resolution that sets total discretionary spending limits at sufficient levels to increase funding for programs and services for people with disabilities and their families;
- **Reject** the Budget Resolution's reconciliation instructions that would force Congress to cut funds from much needed disability entitlement programs; and
- **Set** America's budget priorities straight - Adopt a Fiscal Year 2007 Budget Resolution that supports Americans with disabilities and their families.

Scenes from first Family Support Conference



Leilani Dela Cruz of Spokane County Community Services and Terry Villalovoz of Parent to Parent lead a breakout session for parents of young children.

March 11 marked our first Family Support Conference, “Celebrate Success” at Mukogawa Fort Wright Institute in Spokane. Robert and Griselda Perretz-Rosales were keynote speakers. Attendees chose from six breakout sessions throughout the day and had plenty of time to network with one another. Plans are already under way for the second annual conference.



The generosity of sponsors made the conference possible.



From left, Debra Wilde moderates the opening family panel consisting of Lara and Mike Lavoie, J.J. and Don Moody, and Aruna and Prakash Bhuta.



Members of the Junior League of Spokane provide volunteer assistance at the registration table.



Betty Shanks, president of The Arc of Spokane, welcomes Jon and Betty Newquist of Toppenish.



**The Spokane County Parent
Coalition and
The Arc of Spokane**

invite you to learn about the



Developmental Disabilities Life Opportunities Trust



Where: The Arc of Spokane Community Building, 116 W. Indiana Ave.

When: Thursday, May 25, 2006 - 10 a.m. to noon and/or 6 to 8 p.m.

Sound financial planning is vital for families with children with developmental disabilities. The Life Opportunities Trust is an easy and effective way for you to plan for the future and offers a cost-effective start-up and matching funds on your contributions. Patti Bell from The Arc of Washington will be joining us to share information about this valuable resource available to families.

For more information call Lance Morehouse at The Arc of Spokane, (509) 328-6326

The Arc of Spokane Community Assembly is an attempt to bring together people from the community who care about people with developmental disabilities and their families to address priority concerns in their lives. There have been a series of meetings across the community in people's homes during the month of April, and the concerns that surface out of those meetings will be brought to this Assembly. We invite you to attend this assembly to help prioritize the concerns and commit to work to resolve them.

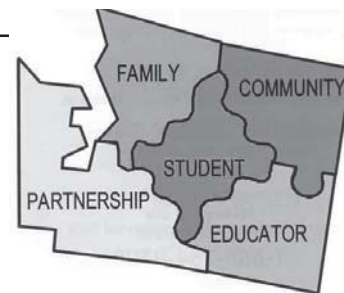
May 15, 2006 7:00 – 8:30 pm - Spokane Community College Lair, Bigfoot A & B

For more information contact Greg Falk or Lance Morehouse at 328-6326

Family Educator Partnership Project of ESD 101

127 W. Boone Ave., Spokane, WA 99201
(509) 328-6326 kjackson@arc-spokane.org

MAY 2006 NEWSLETTER



OUR MISSION

The Family Educator Partnership Project (FEPP) is funded by the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI). Our purpose is to help create partnerships between families, educators and community agencies to support children and youth that need special education services. Family educator partnerships are changing the ways that families and educators work together to ensure educational success for children with disabilities.

Training opportunities just a phone call away

By KATE JACKSON

As the regional FEPP Coordinator, I am available to provide specific training at no cost to teachers, parents and administrators in the following areas: Please contact me to set up a time for the training.

- **FEPP Guide Module:** Overview of the Family Education Partnership Project's Guide to Special Educational Resources, an OSPI publication. The Guide is an excellent resource for families new to the IEP process, new special educators and general educators. It is written with both the parent and the educators perspectives.

See TRAINING / Page 14

Students with disabilities invited to apply for youth leadership forum

OLYMPIA — Up to 45 high-school juniors and seniors with disabilities will be selected to participate in a special youth leadership forum this summer in Olympia.

Applications are now being accepted through May 15 to attend the Seventh Annual Youth Leadership Forum for High School Students with Disabilities. All expenses will be paid for the students who are selected to attend.

The event will be held Aug. 6-11 at The Evergreen State College. It is being hosted by the Governor's Committee on Disability Issues and Employment (GCDE).

The annual forum brings together students with diverse disabilities. They will be introduced to adults with disabilities who have been successful in their careers and leaders in their communities. In addition, it will be the first time that many of the students will experience college life.

They will learn about the history of the disability movement that resulted in the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act and other powerful disability legislation.

The application deadline is Monday, May 15. The application is available in alternate formats. Although the forum is geared toward high-school juniors and seniors, some exceptions may be made for sophomores with strong leadership abilities.

For more information or to receive an application package, contact Debbie Himes at (360) 438-3246 or 438-3167 TTY; or by e-mail at dhimes2@esd.wa.gov; or by mail at GCDE, P.O. Box 9046, Olympia, WA 98507-9046.

Sponsors of the event include the Employment Security Department, the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (within the Department of Social & Health Services) and the Developmental Disabilities Council.

UW offers technology internships

BY SHERYL BURGSTHALER, Ph.D.

UW Director of Accessible Technology Services and Outreach

The University of Washington has funding for the following types of internships this summer and fall:

As part of our AccessComputing project (<http://www.washington.edu/accesscomputing/>), we would like to place students with disabilities who have some interest in computing subjects/careers into internships in computing fields. Can you locate a student with a disability who would like to work with us? Can you locate a computing faculty member or someone in industry who would like an intern?

When funding is not available at the work site, we can often arrange to pay the salary of a student employed in an AccessComputing internship.

Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Alaska in STEM Fields As part of our AccessSTEM project (<http://www.washington.edu/doit/Stem/>), we would like to place students with disabilities who have some interest in science, technology, engineering or mathematics subjects/careers into internships in these fields. Can you locate a student with a disability who would like to work with us? Can you locate a STEM faculty member or someone in industry who would like an intern? When funding is not available at the work site, we can often arrange to pay the salary of a student employed in an AccessSTEM internship.

Send email to doit@u.washington.edu to help us match up interns and supervisors.

Thanks for your help in making opportunities available to students with disabilities that will increase their success in college and careers.

Training

Continued from Page 13

• **Statewide Resource Module:**

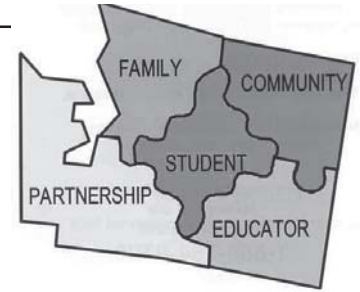
information on resources available to families, educators, and communities statewide. The resources are free and easy to access.

• **Transition Module:** Resource-based workshop about resources available throughout the State for transition to the adult world. Gives overview of why planning early for transition is so crucial to the success of every student.

• **Parent Involvement Module:**

Latest research on why parent involvement is so crucial to the success of ALL students. This module is not disability specific, but focuses on how parents of all students can participate and how school systems can support parent involvement.

Please call, Kate Jackson (509) 328-6326 or e-mail: kjackson@arc-spokane.org me to schedule a time and location.



A Few Helpful Links on Transition Issues

Here are links related to transition, advocacy, individual rights, career & technical education, higher ed, publications & training that you may find helpful or may provide helpful connections.

Center for Change in Transition Services: www.seattleu.edu/ccts/

Spokane County Parent Coalition: www.spokaneparentcoalition.org/Transition.htm

Washington State Skills Centers: www.washingtonskillscenters.com/

Washington State Board for Community & Technical Colleges: www.sbctc.ctc.edu/

Worksource: www.wa.gov/esd/employment.html

WA State Division of Vocational Rehabilitation: www1.dshs.wa.gov/dvr/

Higher Ed Coordinating Board: www.hecb.wa.gov/

WA State Special Education Coalition: www.wssec.org/training/

Washington Protection & Advocacy (individual rights & info): www.wpas-rights.org

Washington PAVE (state parent training & information ctr): www.washingtonpave.org

The Arc of Washington State (advocacy/developmental disabilities with numerous regional activities/groups): www.arcwa.org

Governor's Committee on Disability Issues & Employment (contact MJDavis@ESD.WA.Gov for listserve): fortress.wa.gov/esd/portal/gcde/home

Developmental Disabilities Council (state level advocacy): www.wa.gov/ddc/

Cathie's Notes

By **CATHIE GRIFFITH**

Many wonderful things have taken place in the first 18 months of our program. We have recruited a fabulous advisory board that includes professionals and self-advocates to help guide and give direction to our program. The advisory board has been meeting every other month on the last Tuesday from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Six of our clients have purchased homes in the Spokane area. It is so exciting to see their eyes light up when we go to closing because they know as soon as the sale is recorded they will get keys to their very own home. They can hardly wait to put their packed boxes in a truck and take them to their new home.

We have about 20 clients who are still working on plans leading to homeownership. Some have to correct problems with debt, others are learning how to stay on a budget so they can save the money they must contribute to purchasing.

I want to reach families who live in all parts of Spokane County. You can use our program to purchase a

home in any part of the county, not just within Spokane city limits.

Don't be afraid to dream of homeownership! Do you have a part-time job or other money that comes to you each month even though you receive a check from Social Security? Then you probably qualify to purchase a home!

Our program helps you each step of the way to reach homeownership, from the homebuyer class to closing on your new home. You aren't alone going through the process to homeownership.

With the down payment assistance programs you could receive help of between \$7,500 to \$25,000 towards your dream home.

If you are a single person with a developmental disability or a family who has a member with developmental disabilities and you want to own a home, then I want to talk to you! Call me to find out how *you* can purchase a home too! I can be reached at (509) 328-6326 x 206 or drop by the office at 127 W. Boone Ave. to make an appointment with me.



What is an Individual Development Account?

Are you interested in saving money for homeownership, to start a business, or go back to school . Would you like to have that money doubled after a short period of time?

Then you need to attend an orientation being sponsored by The Arc of Spokane and Spokane Neighborhood Action Programs (SNAP)! Join us Wednesday, May 24, from 6 to 8 p.m. Those who register will receive a location confirmation notice.

Individual development accounts can be established through a special account in cooperation with the downtown SNAP office. This is a way to save money for something important like a house and get your savings doubled when you need to use it. You will be required to save for at least 6 months on a regular monthly schedule and to take classes that will help you learn to manage money better.

If you are interested in this opportunity, please call Cathie at (509) 328-6326 Ext. 206 to register.



Kelly Haley is the proud owner of this home.

Important Dates to Remember



PARENT TO PARENT MONTHLY GROUP MEETING

Open to any parent/guardian who has a child with special needs. Refreshments provided. If you need child care, please make a reservation by May 22.

Tuesday, May 23

6:30 to 8 p.m.

Northeast Community Center
4001 N. Cook St., Spokane

Contact: Terry Villalovoz, (509) 328-6326

**The Spokane County Parent Coalition
and The Arc of Spokane**

invite you to learn about the

**Developmental Disabilities
Life Opportunities Trust**

Thursday, May 25, 2006

10 a.m. to noon or 6 to 8 p.m.

The Arc of Spokane Community Building
116 W. Indiana Ave., Spokane

See page 12 for details

**Join The Arc of Spokane – Send your \$15 membership fee today
to Membership, The Arc of Spokane, 127 W. Boone Ave., Spokane, WA 99201**

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