

THE ARC OF BENTON
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The Arc Advocate

February 2004

A NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
ADVOCATING FOR AND
PROVIDING SERVICES, AS
NEEDED, TO
INDIVIDUALS WITH
DEVELOPMENTAL
DISABILITIES AND THEIR
FAMILIES.

Regular Meetings

Membership
Committee 9 AM
Louise Teater's
Home
1st Tuesday

The Arc Board 7:30 PM
Meeting
1st Thursday

Resale 10 AM
Committee
Arc Office
3rd Monday

Safety 10 AM
Committee
Arc Office
3rd Tuesday

Bingo 11:30
Committee AM
Springfield
4th Monday

Finance Noon
Committee
Arc Office
1st Monday

Dollars Available for Your Home Modification or Equipment

In 1999 the Oregon legislature passed a law that said when Fairview had no more residents, the property was to be sold and the money used to create a Trust Fund to make community housing more accessible for persons with developmental disabilities. According to the law, 5% of the Fairview sale price and all the interest the account earns can be spent. 95% of the money stays in the Trust to earn more interest for future housing needs.

A group of persons with developmental disabilities, their family members, advocates and professionals wrote rules determining how the Trust will work. They decided that the money should be used for grants for housing modifications and equipment for persons with developmental disabilities living in residences that are not licensed. That means people living in their own home, a family home, or an apartment qualify, but modifications cannot be made to group homes or foster homes with these funds. The rule also says that the housing modifications or equipment must contribute to the health, welfare or safety of the person, or increase his or her independence.

The total initial amount that will be available for grants in the Mid-Valley Region is \$28,902. The maximum amount of a trust award is \$5,000. The grant application is available at The Arc, can be emailed, or at www.dhs.state.or.us/disabilities. The application must be returned between March 15th & April 15th, 2004.

The Arc of the United States' Website Aids Advocates

The Arc's Action Center site <http://capwiz.com/thearc/home/> helps you keep track of what is going on in Congress and your State legislature – and it helps you communicate with your elected representatives.

It is easy to use. Full directions are at the bottom of this page. You don't have to be a member of The Arc to use the site .

You can use the site:

- to write your own email on any topic to a member of Congress or to a state officeholder;
- to look up disability-related legislation and the Congressional calendar;
- to respond to an action alert with an automated response, if you agree with it – or to write your own response on the topic;
- to look up officials in your State;
- to check on voter registration deadlines, and primary and election dates; and
- to register to vote;

If you enter your name and address once, you can tell the site to “remember” you so you don't have to retype the info every time.

It looks up your elected representatives based on your zip code, so you don't have to find any addresses (you might need zip+4 in some districts).

There is a button to allow you to sign up to receive action alerts by email, too, so you don't have to remember to log on -- and since a response takes like 45 seconds (or less) -- maybe five minutes if you write your own response -- it is now possible to actually take immediate action when you get the alert. You can also sign up for Capitol Insider and Washington Watch.

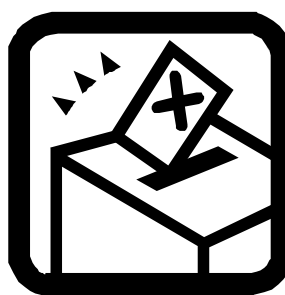
Tax Credit Information

Find out about the 2004 Oregon Tax Credit Outreach Campaign to help spread the word about tax credits for low income working families and other families with children. You can download flyers and envelope/payroll stuffers to educate workers, families and customers or clients, and can even hear Governor Kulongoski talk about the importance of the credits in a one-minute radio advertisement that will start airing shortly. This year, the Oregon Working Family Child Care Credit is refundable, which means families get the full value of the credit regardless of their tax liability. Go to <http://www.ocpp.org/2004/tc.htm> and help with the outreach.

Coming Events!

The Arc Annual Meeting
April 22nd, 2004
First United Methodist Church
7:30—9PM

The Arc Annual Awards Banquet
May 13th, 2004
Officer's Club, Adair
6:30—9PM



Voter Registration Drive

10:30 AM to 2:30
PM, Benton county
Courthouse, Fourth Street. The Ben-
ton County Democrats will register
voters at the Courthouse on the first
Saturday each month and at other
locations on other Saturdays. Infor-
mation: Carol Sweeney, 753-2464

Public Hearings Being Held by the Legislative Committee on Tax Reform

Eugene

Public Hearing
Tuesday, February 25th 5-8 PM
Campbell Senior Center
155 High Street, Eugene

Portland

Pre-Hearing Meeting
Wednesday, February 25th 7-9 PM
Multnomah County Building
Board Hearing Room

Newport

Public Hearing
Tuesday, February 24th 5-8 PM
Best Western Agate Beach
Moss/Rainbow Room
3019 N Coast Highway, Newport

Beaverton

Pre-Hearing meeting
Tuesday, February 24th 7PM
City Council Chambers, Beaverton

For more information contact chris.coughlin@comcast.net

Speak Up!

The Arc's is a membership-based organization which should be getting its political strength, direction, and support from the people in the community who want and/or need our activity at the State or National Capitol. This is a request for just that kind of help.

The number one effective strategy for influencing others is the *story*. Every individual with DD has a compelling story of successes and challenges. Share your story with The Arc. Step into the spotlight and shine.

Please see the insert in the center of this newsletter. Read the actions you can take to help influence public policy. Circle the actions that you will take. Write your name on the bottom of the form, fold it, tape closed, stamp it and mail it back to us. We will assist in every way we can to support you in expressing yourself in a powerful way.

Early Intervention & Individual Family Service Plan

This training is a collaborative effort of the Linn-Benton ESD and the Oregon Parent Training and Information Center

This workshop will cover how children birth to kindergarten qualify for special education services.

Other areas of discussion will include: evaluation, related services, parent rights and responsibilities, IFSP components and other topics. Parents, family members, teachers, caregivers, and community leaders, are encouraged to participate in this FREE workshop.

Please call Judy Rinkin at 541-928-3611

or email jrinkin@orpti.org for more information or to **register** for this workshop.

This workshop is FREE, but we encourage you to register early to ensure that there will be enough materials for everyone.

Date: Monday—March 8th, 2004

Time: 6:30 to 8:30 PM

Place: Dixie School
33461 SE Peoria Road
Corvallis, OR 97333



The Arc of Oregon Annual State Convention Eugene Hilton May 7th and 8th, 2004

Fast Facts:

- ◆ Hotel Reservations Deadline: April 4, 2004—call today! 800-937-6660 or 541-342-2000. (Be sure to mention The Arc of Oregon Conference to obtain the group rate of \$83 per night.)
- ◆ **Early-Bird Conference Registration Deadline: April 16, 2004**
- ◆ Exhibits will be open throughout the conference
- ◆ Registration Desk opens on Friday, May 7, 2004 at 12:00
- ◆ Up to thirty-two break out sessions plus exhibits!
- ◆ Scholarships for registration will be available for people with developmental disabilities and their families who have not received these funds within the last two years. For more information please visit the website at www.arclane.org/scholarships.htm or call Pam at (541) 343-5256.

Keynote Speakers

Rachel Simon, Author of *Riding the Bus with My Sister*. Rachel's sister Beth is a spirited, independent woman who has mental retardation. For years, Beth has ridden the bus, finding a sense of meaning and connection that she has ever known. Rachel rode with Beth for a year. *Riding the Bus With My Sister* is a loving, honest account of that remarkable time, and how it changed both sisters lives.

Mike Remus, Director of Special Ed in Portland. Mike will address special education issues on both the state and federal level.

Workshop Topics:

Leading experts are being selected to cover the following topics, and more!

Integrating Accessible Technology
Transportation in Rural and Urban Areas
Advocacy
Music Therapy
Self-Determination
Family Support
Fairview Housing Trust Fund
Self Advocates as Leaders

Art Workshop

The Arc's Art Workshop has become so popular we've added another day of classes. Elizabeth Black and Julie Hardenburger conduct The Art Workshop on Wednesdays and Saturdays for a total of five 1-hour classes a week.

Students of The Arc Workshop have enjoyed "showing off" their work at several local Art shows including two separate shows at The Beanery, the show

in March focused on large acrylic paintings, the show in October featured water-colors, collages, & drawings. Some of the collages are in The Arc Gallery. Students have also participated in the Sacred Art and the Fiber Art shows at The First United Methodist Church. Each of these exhibits lasted a full month.

The Arc is planning to display more of the students' work at The Arc Gallery and even working on a webpage so their work can be appreciated world-wide!



IEP PARTNERS TRAINING

Partners Supporting Parents in the IEP Process

What is the Oregon Parent Training & Information Center (OrPTI)?

Oregon PTI is the federally funded Parent Training and Information Center for the State of Oregon.

Our mission is to educate and Support parents, families and Professionals in building partnerships that Meet the needs of children and youth with disabilities.

Some services that we provide:

- Training on many topics
- Technical Assistance
- Special ED Help Line: 1-888-891-6784
- Oregon Trainings E-mail List
- IEP Partner Training & Matching
- Lending Library
- Newsletter
- Website: www.orpti.org

This intensive 2-day training is for people who would like to help support other parents with their IEP meetings.

The Training will cover:

IDEA

IEP

IFSP

Transition from High Schools

Behavior and Discipline in Schools

Statewide Assessments Options

Principles of Communication

Parent/Professional Partnership

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act

Once trained the IEP Partners will be matched with parents wanting support at their IEP meeting. The IEP Partner will receive a stipend for every IEP meeting they attend on behalf of The Oregon Parent Training & Information Center.

For more information contact Karen Ripplinger at 1-888-505-2673 ext. 212 or Email ortikaren@aol.com

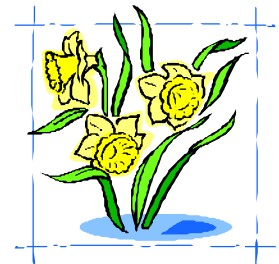
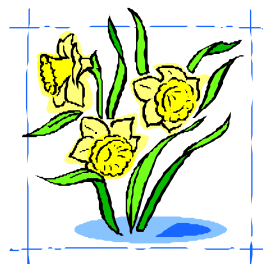
Registration Required
(Space is Limited)

Training Dates:

Hermiston—March 5th & 6th

Klamath Falls—April 30th & May 1st

Cost of Training: Parents- \$25.00/Professionals & Others- \$50.00. Make checks payable to: OrPTI.



The DD Inservice Is Back

The DD Inservice Is Back

Mark Your Calendars

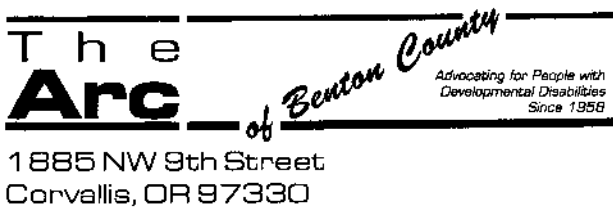
July 28-30, 2004, at OSU

“Doing What’s Right With What’s Left”

Thanks to a soon-to-be released rfp from SPD, seed money for this vital conference will be available. The Oregon Developmental Disabilities Coalition intends to apply to sponsor the conference. Our goal is to offer a statewide conference that focuses on training for Direct Service Professionals and that remains affordable (Initial budgets indicate conference costs similar to previous DD Inservices).

CALL FOR PRESENTERS—Contact Marianne Davis,
mdavis@oregonrehabilitation.org

WANT TO JOIN THE PLANNING COMMITTEE? —Same contact and committee meeting dates are in Salem: 2/12, 9:30-11:30; 3/1, 9:30-11:30; 3/16, 11-1; 3/30, 10-12; 4/13, 2-4; 4/29, 10-12; 5/18, 2-4; 6/10, 9-11, 6/22, 2-4. Subcommittees will also be created, so if you don't want to make all those meetings, just tell us what you're interested in doing.



Parent Support Groups

The Benton County Developmental Disabilities Program is offering two facilitated parent support groups beginning in March. A support group for parents of young children with multiple disabilities (developmental disabilities, medical needs, orthopedic impairments) facilitated by Susan Mentzer will meet on Mondays from 7-8:30 PM beginning March 8th. A support group for parents of young children with autism facilitated by Shannon Lawrence will meet Tuesdays from 7-8:30 PM beginning March 9th.

Both groups are for parents of children ages 6 and under and will be held at the Benton County Developmental Disabilities Program Office on the corner of 27th street and Polk Avenue. For more information, please contact Shannon Lawrence or Susan Mentzer at 766-6847.