

THE ARC OF BENTON  
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ADMINISTRATION  
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The  
**Arc**<sup>®</sup>

# Advocate

April 2004

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

## Regular Meetings

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

The Arc Board  
Meeting  
1st Thursday 7:30 PM

Resale  
Committee  
Arc Office  
3rd Monday 10 AM

Safety  
Committee  
Arc Office  
3rd Tuesday 10 AM

Bingo  
Committee  
Springfield  
4th Monday 11:30 AM

Finance  
Committee  
Arc Office  
1st Monday Noon

## Art in Our Community

**Elizabeth Black, The Arc's Master Art Teacher, holds workshops on Wednesdays and Saturdays for individuals with developmental disabilities. These classes are in Corvallis. She also teaches "Art for Life" at LBCC in Albany (details on page 4).**

**Students such as Tony McCarley (right) produce art that has been shown on several occasions in our community. A handful of Elizabeth's art students have won awards in judged showings.**



**In May, Elizabeth is planning the students' second show at the 2nd Street Beanery and a display at The Corvallis/Benton County Library, in the meeting room.**

**The Arc's Workshop Artists will also be displaying their work at LaSells Stewart Center during the Oregon Conference on Direct Supports in July. (Conference information is on page 3).**

**For more information about Art classes please call Elizabeth at The Arc Office, 541-753-1711.**

# The Administration's Section 8 Proposals

President Bush's Administration's FY 2005 HUD Budget proposal submitted to Congress this past February has two major components:

- First, the proposal calls for more than \$1 billion in spending cuts for the Section 8 program for FY 2005, beginning just six months from now on October 1, 2004. These cuts could eliminate 250,000 vouchers currently in use, including an estimated 55,000 vouchers currently assisting people with disabilities.
- Second, the new program proposed by the Administration—which they are calling the Flexible Voucher Program—would eliminate features of the Section 8 program that are vitally important to people with disabilities. The new program would target higher-income households, raise tenant rents, encourage time limits on assistance, and eliminate policies that currently target over 50,000 vouchers exclusively to people with disabilities.

Members of Congress need to hear from you as soon as possible! Be sure to let them know how important the current Section 8 voucher program is to people with disabilities. The Section 8 Program is one of the most successful federal housing programs ever created, and there is no compelling reason to change it. The program has been a "life line" for people with disabilities who want to live in non-segregated housing of their choice in the community.

*Opening Doors*  
*A housing publication for the disability community*

Contact members of Congress today!

Ron Wyden	Phone: 202-224-5244	Email: <a href="mailto:senator@wyden.senate.gov">senator@wyden.senate.gov</a>
Gordon Smith	Phone: 202-224-3753	Email: <a href="mailto:oregon@gsmith.senate.gov">oregon@gsmith.senate.gov</a>
Peter DeFazio	Phone: 202-225-6416	Email: <a href="mailto:peter.defazio@mail.house.gov">peter.defazio@mail.house.gov</a>
Darlene Hooley	Phone: 202-225-5711	Email: <a href="mailto:darlene@mail.house.gov">darlene@mail.house.gov</a>

## Oregon Conference on Direct Supports "The Power of One"

*focusing on how one person can make a difference in the lives of many*

A conference for direct support workers, self-advocates, and families, sponsored by the Oregon Developmental Disabilities Coalition in collaboration with the Oregon Rehabilitation Association.

July 29th & 30th, 2004  
Pre-Conference Training July 28th  
LeSells Stewart Center

The Oregon Conference on Direct Supports is hosted by the Oregon Developmental Disabilities Coalition and the Oregon Rehabilitation Association, in collaboration with agencies and professionals throughout Oregon. The conference will offer close to 100 concurrent sessions.

More details will be available at a later date.

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## Transition for Students with Disabilities; A Closer Look at Post-Secondary Education and Employment

**May 11, 2004 in Albany at the  
Fairmont Building,  
1005 Springhill,  
from  
6:30 to 8:30 PM.**

This is an opportunity for a more in-depth look at two possible components of a high school transition plan: Post-Secondary Education, and Employment. The training will begin with a brief overview of transition requirements, look at other agency involvement, and then move on to our focus areas.

Both Post-Secondary Education and Employment options take much fore-thought and planning. Let us help you organize your thoughts, and connect with organizations

and resources to help you.

This training is free and open to the public. We welcome all who are interested and involved in the High School Transition process.

We believe that this information will be most helpful and supportive to parents and students at the Middle and High School Levels.

This training is being provided as a collaborative effort with the Oregon Department of Education and the Oregon Parent Training and Information Center. There is no charge for participating; however, to insure availability of materials, registration is required.

Register at least one week prior to the session. To register please call 1-888-891-6784 or email [rwortman@orpti.org](mailto:rwortman@orpti.org).

## Disability Services Classes 2003-2004

### Linn-Benton Community College, Albany

#### These classes are Free!

To register call (541)-917-4789, TTY: (541)-917-4703 or register in class.

To register in-class you must give your address, phone number, social security number, and birth date.

## Art for Life 1

Tuesdays & Wednesdays  
6PM to 7:50PM  
LBCC Campus, Albany  
AHSS-209

This class, taught by local artist Elizabeth Black, focuses on basic art skills. Introduces basic media, language and form. Students progress at their own pace with new media introduced based on their own interests and needs. Students who want to draw and explore the creative arts should register for this class.

*If you are interested in taking other classes at LBCC and require special accommodations, register in a timely manner, pay any registration fees and they will accommodate you. LBCC allows anyone to register for up to 11 credits without registering to matriculate.*

*When you buy a student ID card for \$5.00 the Corvallis Transit System "Linn-Benton Loop" is free.*

## Skill Building for Successful Living

Mondays & Fridays  
9AM to 11:50AM

LBCC Campus, Albany  
IA-32

Students progress at their own pace through academic study (reading, writing and mathematics) and life skill development (menu planning, budget development, money management, time management and social activity planning).

The Skill Building class was cancelled due to lack of interest. Please call the phone number listed above if you would be interested in this type of class. Tell them when would it be convenient for you. LBCC looks forward to your input.

**The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Pacific Northwest  
Conference on  
Dual Diagnosis  
Developmental Disabilities/Mental Illness**

May 13 & 14, 2004  
Brooks, Oregon

Sponsored by

**OREGON REHABILITATION  
ASSOCIATION**

***About The Conference***

The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Pacific Northwest Conference on Dual Diagnosis offers 2 full days of the highest quality training and leading edge information on developmental disabilities and mental illness. It features national and regional experts who will present state of the art research and strategies on assessment, therapy, medication, and support of individuals with dual diagnosis. Also included are sessions on the critical issues of caring for the caregiver – avoiding burnout and finding renewal at work. Come join other professionals from the northwest in this must-attend event.

***Who Should Attend?***

Everyone supporting people with dual diagnosis (developmental disabilities/ mental illness ), such as:

Managers  
Direct Care Staff  
Mental Health Professionals  
Psychiatrists  
Case Managers  
Advocates  
Guardians  
Administrators  
Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors

***Session Topics include:***

- Social Skills & Social Competence
- Mental Illness & Mental Retardation
- Emotional Disturbances
- Therapeutic Interaction Strategies
- Finding Renewal in Your Work
- Dual Diagnosis & Implications for Care
- Spotting Mental Health Symptoms
- Avoiding Burnout
- Issues in Sexuality

All sessions will be held from 9 AM to 4 PM with an one hour lunch break from Noon to 1 PM. Lunch will be provided both days. Registration/Cancellation Deadline is May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Register Early! Space is limited!

*Please inform us if you have any special accommodations requirements.*

***Register Early and Save!***

- \$155.00 per person if you register on or before April 16<sup>th</sup>.
  - \$175.00 per person if you register after April 16<sup>th</sup>.
- Register 4 or more persons from the same agency and save \$20.00 per person off the above registration fees.*

Fee includes lunch for both days.

**Mail registration form along  
with a check payable to:  
Oregon Rehabilitation Association  
1655 25th St. SE Salem, OR 97302  
(503) 585-3337  
Fax: (503) 585-3722**

# Taxes, Taxes, Taxes

April 15th: Help Oregonians Learn Where Our Taxes Go One of the biggest obstacles to tax reform is that Oregonians lack information. On April 15th we are supporting a state-wide event - in Medford, Eugene/Springfield, Salem, Portland, Pendleton, Corvallis and Astoria - to help Oregonians learn more about where their local, state and federal tax dollars go. Volunteers in each participating city will hold a series of a dozen signs at high visibility locations showing the top ten things, in rank order, that your tax dollars buy.

Where do your tax dollars go? Ten public services receive the largest shares of the typical family's combined local, state, and federal tax dollars:

1. K-12 Education: 18.7% of the tax dollar
2. Social Security: 12.1%
3. National Defense: 10%
4. Public Safety: 8.8%
5. Medicaid and related programs: 8.6%
6. Medicare: 7.6%
7. Higher education and community colleges: 4.1%
8. Interest on the Federal Debt: 3.9%
9. Transportation: 3.8%
10. Veterans' Programs: 1.5%

But the typical family's tax bill doesn't quite reflect the total amount of money the government spends. In terms of total money, schools receive less than Social Security and National Defense. This is because in addition to the money the "typical family" pays, there are other sources of funds that make federal programs proportionally much bigger: (1) employers pay half of Social Security taxes; (2) wealthy people and corporations pay much more in Federal income taxes than in state taxes; and (3) the federal government borrowed \$375 billion last year, whereas state and local governments have very limited borrowing ability. Budget items that each take less than 1 percent of a family's total tax bill:

1. Foreign aid: 0.34%
2. Space Program: 0.39%
3. Internal Revenue Service: 0.25%
4. Oregon Legislature: 0.1%
5. Oregon Department of Revenue: 0.2 %

How can we cut waste in government? What do Oregonians mean by "waste in government"? Learn about tools to reduce waste and make government more effective. Read our new fact sheet How can we cut waste in government?

<[http://fororegon.org/facts/fs\\_waste\\_govt.316.pdf](http://fororegon.org/facts/fs_waste_govt.316.pdf)>

# IDEA

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA, Public Law 105-17) is the Federal law mandating that all children with disabilities have available to them a free, appropriate public education that emphasizes special education and related services designed to meet their unique needs and prepare them

for employment, independent living and a productive life. The law was first enacted in 1975 and has gone through a series of reauthorizations, the last in 1997. Parts C and D were authorized until September 30, 2003 and must be reauthorized. Part B is permanently authorized. However, both the Bush Administration and key Members of Congress are proposing major changes to all parts of IDEA during this reauthorization.

The House of Representatives passed H.R. 1350, the Improving Education Results for Children with Disabilities Act, on April 30, 2003 by a vote of 251-171. Although minimally bipartisan, the legislation drew the most votes against a special education bill in the almost 30 year history of IDEA. UCP, The Arc, AUCD, AMMR, and NACDD, along with practically every other national disability organization, strongly oppose this bill. H.R. 1350 contains numerous onerous provisions that will strip students with disabilities and their parents of important rights. It creates a difficult maze of burdens and options for parents who may choose to pursue due process. Amazingly, the bill does not require school authorities to take a child's disability into consideration when a child violates school code, a provision, which is bound to foster much litigation.

The full senate meanwhile has not yet acted on a bill.

## The Arc's Recommendations

The Congress should:

- Continue to improve and not weaken IDEA (S. 1248);
- Oppose amendments to IDEA (S. 1248) related to attorney fees limits and paperwork reduction that would weaken protections for children and families;
- Support a conferenced bill that:
  - Fully maintains the civil rights of children with disabilities and their families;
  - Does not cease educational services for any children, including children with disabilities;
  - Provides the necessary supports, including positive behavior interventions, to assure a good learning environment in the classroom;
  - Ensures that parents maintain an effective voice in making decisions at every level about the education of their children with disabilities;
  - Works to decrease and eventually eliminate the critical shortage of qualified educational personnel;
  - Support mandatory full funding of Part B and index funding for Parts C and D to Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Act; and
  - Provide adequate resources to support state and Federal monitoring and enforcement procedures.

**The  
Arc**

*of Benton County*

Advocating for People with  
Developmental Disabilities  
Since 1958

1885 NW 9th Street  
Corvallis, OR 97330

**The Arc's Annual Membership Meeting  
April 22nd, 2004 7:30PM  
First United Methodist Church**



**The Annual Awards Banquet  
May 13th, 2004 6:30PM  
Officer's Club, Adair Village**