

THE ARC OF BENTON
COUNTY
ADMINISTRATION
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Advocate

July 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
9 AM
1st Tuesday

The Arc Board Meeting
7:30 PM
1st Thursday

Resale Committee
Arc Office
10 AM
3rd Monday

Safety Committee
Arc Office
10 AM
3rd Tuesday

Bingo Committee
Springfield
11:30 AM
4th Monday

Finance Comm.
Arc Office
Noon
Monday before
BOD Meeting

Children's Services Gain Attention

Your Arc, with The Oregon Developmental Disabilities Coalition and FACT, Family Action Coalition Team, have advocated strongly for greater support for children with disabilities and their families. Gary Weeks, Director of the Oregon Department of Human Services, constrained by budget realities, has responded with the following:

Management changes within the Office of Home and Community Supports now consolidate responsibility to a single manager for all children's supports including Residential Services for Children, Children's Intensive in-Home Services, Family Support, and Lifespan Respite. Kathy Labadie is that children's supports manager, along with her other duties.

One new program staff will be added to provide technical assistance for family support, staffing the Oregon Family Support Council, and researching strategies to provide greater supports for children with disabilities. The posting for this position should be out this week.

Cindy Becker will take the lead in re-establishing the Oregon Family Support Council. She will identify key policy managers to be ongoing members of the Council and will assist in the designation of other stakeholders as Council members.

Gary Weeks believes these changes will position the Department to better identify critical issues that children with disabilities and their families experience. Weeks wants the Department's creative energy put into developing long term, sustainable solutions.

Special Olympics

July 31 – August 1, 2004

Police Torch Run

All are welcome to carry a flag!

3pm Friday the 30th

1st and 4th on Monroe St.
(down town)

Softball –Williams Field
Track –CVHS

Gymnastics – OSU-Gill
Coliseum

Golf – Trysting Tree

9:00-4:00 Saturday

9:00-2:00 Sunday

Call Harold for any
questions:
926-9481 days or
754-0388 evenings

SAVE THE DATE! CELEBRATE WELLNESS

Celebrate Wellness V is back in 2004 and introducing for the first time a Region X Conference on the Americans with Disabilities Act, Informational Technology, and Education

October 7th and 8th (Thursday & Friday)

Access the Future: A Pacific Northwest Conference on the ADA, Accessible Information Technology, and Education

October 7th, 8th and 9th, 2004

Embassy Suites – Portland Airport
7900 NE 82nd Ave, Portland, OR 97220

October 9th (Saturday)

Celebrate Wellness V: A Conference Promoting the Health and Wellness of Oregonians with Disabilities

Easy On and Fun to Wear Sportswear
Clothing for Physical Limitations
877-6 ADRIAN (877-623-7426)
adrians1@infostations.com

Benton Plaza appreciates donations of soup and meals in a can such as chili and tuna, as well as paper products for their low income residents who are seniors and / or disabled. Call 753-4411 for information

WHEEL CHAIR VAN FOR SALE

1993 Dodge Caravan Entervan Braun Wheelchair ramp. Excellent condition. Automatic, AC, Remote door opener. New transmission. Extra set of studded tires. Have all maintenance records. 112,000 miles. \$8900 or best offer. 929-4033 (Philomath)

Camp Attitude: Reaching Dreams and Living Life

Ron Heagy is an inspirational speaker who travels across the country talking to all types of people, young and old. Ron became an inspirational speaker after he was involved in a surfing accident his senior year of high school that left him quadriplegic. At age 39, Ron targets the areas of self-confidence, achievement, humor, and goal-setting in his presentations.

After traveling and meeting so many children with disabilities, he realized that a dream for many children was to be able to attend a summer camp that allowed them to fish, raft, and enjoy an outdoor experience. So, with the help of his wife, Ron created "Camp Attitude," Oregon's first fully accessible youth camp, located in Sweet Home, OR. "Camp Attitude" opened last August and is a dream come true for so many children. There are six cabins that sleep 120 children, a large crafts and activities center, a covered sports pavilion, and more than two miles of paved trails. Ron's non-profit agency, Life Is An Attitude, Inc. raises all the funds on its own. Besides funding "Camp Attitude," the organization also helps purchase power wheelchairs and adaptive computers for various children with disabilities, so they too can pursue their dreams and goals as Ron did. With a belief, a dream can become a reality. "With visions, dreams, determination, and enthusiasm," Ron says, "you can accomplish just about anything."

For Ron Heagy's full story as well as "Camp Attitude's" calendar of events, contact information, and directions, please visit: www.campattitude.com

Partners supporting parents in the IEP process

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 School
 - * Behavior and Discipline in Schools
 - * Statewide Assessment 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 e-mail: orptikaren@aol.com

Training Dates:

Salem--July 20th & 21st

Location: OHAC 3896 Beverly Ave NE
Bldg. J room 6

Hood River--Sept. date to be set

Lincoln City—Oct. date to be set

Cost: Parents \$25.00; Pros and Others \$50.00

OUR PLACE

Come hang with us at the First United Methodist Church
Community Center, 11th & Jackson

Drop-in Center for any young adults, over 16, who can manage their
own behavior

Tuesdays 3-5 pm; Fridays 6:30-8:30 pm
Open Every Week -- \$10/month registration fee

Call Phyllis Reasoner at 753-8219 evenings or 752-2491 days for more informa-
tion

Air Hockey

Ping-Pong

Board Games

Visit with Friends

Watch Movies

Pool

Foosball

Cards

Eat Popcorn

Get Crafty

Let this be your place

Listen to music you bring

Bring your favorite games to share

Bring your photo and make a mural

Invite your friends

Speech Camp Still Has Openings!

Two daily sessions from which to choose: 9:30—11:30 and 12:30—2:30, Monday
thru Friday

All Stars Speech Camp will be available for teens and adults all summer on Tues-
days & Thursdays from 2:30—4:30.

We bill Medicaid and most major insurance companies. Family payment plans are
also available. This is one of the most affordable private therapy options of the year.

Persons interested in Speech Camp should call Rosemary Ayres, Speech Language
Pathologist, at 541-929-4568 or email her at SpeechCamp@alyrica.net.

Getting SSI or SSDI?

Passage to Independence Project

What is Passage to Independence Project?

Passage to Independence Project (PIP) is a program for people with disabilities who receive SSDI or SSI benefits. The mission of PIP is to educate individuals about their benefits so they can make informed decisions about work.

PIP provides free assistance to people with disabilities who want to understand their benefits and learn how their benefits could be affected by work.

PIP staff work one-on-one with each individual who requests assistance. This process is called Benefits Planning, Assistance, and Outreach.

Is PIP a government agency?

No, PIP is an independent program of Oregon Advocacy Center, a not for profit organization which works to defend and promote the rights of individuals with disabilities.

PIP is funded by the Social Security Administration under a cooperative agreement with Oregon Advocacy Center.

PIP provides free Benefits Planning, Assistance and Outreach services to beneficiaries of SSDI or SSI who want to look at their employment options.

Why should I consider working?

Because you may be able to:

- * increase your income
- * increase your independence
- * expand your choices for living
- * expand your community involvement

What will happen to my benefits if I go to work?

If you are able to work enough to even-

tually reach self sufficiency, your cash benefits will gradually phase out.

If you are unable to work enough to become self sufficient, your benefits can continue, or be started again if they were phased out.

Congress passed an important new law that supports people with disabilities who want to work. It is called the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999. The Ticket legislation allowed the Social Security Administration (SSA) to provide employment supports to make it easier for individuals with disabilities to work.

What are some of the benefits that may be affected by work?

- * Medicaid and Medicare
- * Subsidized housing
- * Food stamps
- * SSDI and SSI disability payments

How can PIP help me try out employment safely? PIP can:

- * Explain how benefits planning works
- * Explain your state and federal benefits and employment supports
- * Analyze your benefits and show you how working would affect them
- * Reduce your uncertainty about work

For more information about benefits planning and assistance for individuals receiving SSDI or SSI, please call Passage to Independence Project at Oregon Advocacy Center:

(503) 243-2081
 1-800-452-1694 Voice
 (503) 323-9161
 1-800-556-5351 TTY
 Email: ilrpdx@qwest.net

Visit our web site: www.oradvocacy.org

A NEW WEBSITE...CONNECTING PEOPLE

Announcing the launch of a new website for self-advocates and people in Oregon that have a connection to someone with a developmental disability:

<http://groups.msn.com/OregonDevelopmentalDisabilitiesCommunity/siteinfo.msnw>.

This site is a place online for people in our community to be of support to each other, by way of communicating with each other. The site is new right now, but it will grow and get better each time a member posts a message on a message board or adds information to one of the lists. Although the structure of the site is in place, it will take members like you to make this into a community resource that we can all benefit from.

Here are some of the ways we can connect with each other through this website:

Messages

The message boards are a place to join in conversations with other people in our community. Here is where we can talk about anything and everything. It's a place to ask questions or just share information.

Chat

The chat room is for real time discussions. Chats can be spontaneous with anyone who happens to be online, or scheduled in advance on a message board for particular times, or around particular topics.

Announcements

Feel free to post any announcement you wish here...conferences, awards, ceremonies, births, accomplishments, advocacy alerts, etc. Anything goes really.

Pictures

Feel free to share photos that are appropriate for everyone to see. Each member has a total of 3MB of space for pictures, documents and attachments.

Organizations

This is a list of organizations that may be of interest or use to people in the developmental disability community.

Resources

There are many wonderful books, videos, catalogs, cassette tapes, etc. out there. This is a good place to let others know about resources that you have found to be helpful.

Links

This is a place to post links to other websites that you think would be interesting to the



2004 VACATION CHURCH WORKSHOP with the Developmentally Disabled

August 16-20th are the dates this year, and we need some more volunteers to help with the annual VCW (Vacation Bible School) for mentally retarded and developmentally disabled teens and adults. This program is sponsored by ten Corvallis churches. We meet from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at St. Mary's Catholic Church in the school building. This is an annual week of fun, Christian fellowship and teaching, and includes very simple folk dancing (join in or watch or maybe push a wheelchair), Bible stories and lessons, music, crafts, simple dramas and closing worship and singing time. If you can help with teaching or music in a small class, or simple dramas, or crafts, or be a friend-helper, or provide refreshments for one evening, or even just join us for folk dancing from 7:00 to 7:30 p.m.

Please call Betty Olleman, Coordinator, at 752-3667. Or call for

Dear 2004 Job Scholarship Applicants:

Thanks to the many donors in our community, our 2004 Job Scholarship fundraising dinner was a success! We will be providing four Job Scholarships again this year!

If you or someone you know would like one of these applications contact Cornerstone. Please feel free to copy and distribute them.

Applications should be mailed to PO Box 973, Corvallis, OR, 97339-0973, or delivered to 1445 SE Crystal Lake Drive, Corvallis. For questions, please contact me at (541) 752-9724.

Thank you,

Teresa Stout
Administrative Services Manager
Cornerstone Associates, Inc.



**The
Arc**

of Benton County

*Advocating for People with
Developmental Disabilities
Since 1958*

1885 NW 9th Street
Corvallis, OR 97330