

THE ARC OF BENTON
COUNTY
ADMINISTRATION OFFICE
1885 NW 9TH STREET
CORVALLIS, OREGON
97330
PHONE:
541-753-1711
FAX:
541-758-1354
WEBSITE:
WWW.ARCBENTON.ORG

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

The Arc Board 1st Thursday	7:30 PM
Membership Committee Louise Teater's Home 1st Tuesday	9:00 AM
Resale Committee Arc Office 3rd Monday	10:00 AM
Equitopia Committee Arc Office 1st Thursday	6:00 PM
Bingo Committee Springfield 4th Monday	11:30 AM
Public Policy Arc Office 3rd Thursday	8:30 AM
Finance Comm. Arc Office Wednesday before The Arc Board meets.	6:00 PM



Advocate

Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

March 2006

Take It To The Arc

For nearly thirty years, The Arc Resale program has turned your donated used goods into advocacy and services for people with developmental disabilities. We quietly celebrate the people who started the stores and those who currently sustain the system. They all have similar characteristics of high hopes, a capacity for hard work, and a genuine commitment to the mission of The Arc. The Arc of Benton County is and has been a stable company because of the foresight and follow-through of people who care.

We are counting on our clients, their families and their friends, to keep the organization prospering and the services responsive to community needs. You have benefited by the advocacy of The Arc, for instance through in the original IDEA and ADA laws, through the Staley Settlement that brought the Brokerage supports to you, by the direct assistance and subsidized recreation activities of The Arc/Benton, by the information and resource guides or the networking opportunities of your Arc.

The Arc Resale stores invite you to join their ranks of supporters as an advocate, telling others about the stores and the work of The Arc, as a volunteer, as a used goods donor, and/ or as a shopper. We know you care; show your heart. Support the

Spring Cleaning?

Clearing out the offending clutter can be easy...

Take it to The Arc!





Upcoming Events

The Arc of Benton County Annual Meeting

Wednesday
April 5, 2006
7:30 P.M.

Walnut Community Room
At Fire Station #5

For all members of The
Arc of Benton County.

Town Hall Meeting
to address the coming crisis for DD 24-hour supports.

Find out how to help!

Wednesday, April 5th
2:00-4:00 pm
Salem Senior Center
1055 Erixon Street NE
503-588-6303

Be sure to attend the first of seven town hall meetings
to be held throughout Oregon regarding the crisis in
Comprehensive Funding for DD Services.

Hosted by Oregon Rehabilitation Association &
Oregon DD Coalition

The 6th Annual Pacific Northwest
Conference on Dual Diagnosis
May 11 & 12, 2006
Portland State University

This conference offers two full days of the highest quality
training and leading edge information on developmental
disabilities, mental illness, and chemical dependency. 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 or multiple
diagnoses. Also included are sessions on the critical issues of
caring for the caregiver-supporting staff and avoiding burnout.

Come join other professionals from the northwest in this
must-attend event.

Sponsored by the Oregon Rehabilitation Association

Register before 4/14: \$175 per person. After 4/14: \$195

Call for Photographs

The 2006 Oregon Conference on Direct
Supports is seeking submissions to the
Photography Contest and Exhibit.

Deadline for submissions is
May 15, 2006.

Call The Arc for more details, 753-1711.

The Arc of Oregon
2006 Convention
April 28-29, 2006
Hood River, Oregon

For more information about attending the
convention, call Marcie Ingledue, 503-581-
2726 or Barbara Sackett, 753-8687.

Early Registration Due by April 1, 2006
Best Western Hotel Reservations due by
April 10, 2006.

Sophie's Run '06

April 29th, the 2nd Annual 5K Run/Walk to
raise awareness of Williams Syndrome will be
held at Willamette Park in Corvallis. Proceeds
will also go towards providing Sophia Gerding
with a future needs fund. Sophie has WS, a
rare genetic condition which causes medical
and developmental problems.

For more information, contact Amy Smoker at
JNSmkr@aol.com or call 541-753-1550 or
541-602-1049

Corvallis Transit System Training

Originally scheduled for March 11, this
class has been RE-SCHEDULED for
April 22, 2006.

For more information, contact Michelle
Rhoads, 754-1761 or

Are those brief breaks in the
clouds allowing the sun's rays
to highlight the dust on that
forgotten, unused chair in the
corner? You can keep the
dust, but as for the chair....

Take it to The Arc!

The Arc of Benton County Board of Directors Nominations

At the Annual Meeting on April 5 we will be electing board members. If you are a member of The Arc, please be sure to attend this meeting and place your vote. The nomination ballot will include:

Mike Hoffman for Director (current director)
 Harold Harris for Director (current director)
 Verlene Melero for Director (new)
 Kimberly Cleveland, for Vice President (current director)



Adair Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 15
 Benton County Park in Adair
 9:30am Sharp!

6 categories: 0-3, 4-6, 7-9, 10-12, Wheelchair, Open

Featuring plastic eggs filled with candy and toys. Larger raffle prizes. Escorts (buddies) will be provided for children needing assistance. Bring an umbrella in case it rains. Please contact Ray Shimabuku, 754-9317, if your child uses a wheelchair so that appropriate support will be provided.

The Egg Hunt is a collaborative project of the Kiwanis Sunrisers, Morning Rotary, The Arc of Benton County, Corvallis Kiwanis Foundation and City of Adair Village.

FAMILY SUPPORT NETWORK

March has been a very busy month for us! It is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month and we have had many things going on. Our Papa's Pizza fundraiser was very successful and we raised \$214 for our group. A big THANK YOU goes out to Papa's Pizza for hosting the event and also a big THANK YOU to everyone who came and supported the Family Support Network.

The Family Support Network is finalizing the welcome packets for new families as well as beginning to put a parent contact directory together. The group is looking into ways of growing and offering more support to families. If anyone has an idea to share we would love to have your input. Contact Andrea Rogers at 740-7906 or andrea@arcbenton.org.



Looking Ahead:

In April you can go on-line and get a copy of the new EASY TO READ VOTING GUIDE. This guide will be for the May elections and there will be a guide coming out later for the November elections. Go to www.oradvocacy.org/voting. To get a print copy, call 503-244-3898 and to get a large-print or audiotape copy, call 1-800-452-0292.



Do you own one of those things you thought you would use (or someone else thought you would use) that add more to the chaos than the convenience in your life?

Take it to The Arc!

Beware... .

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) sent out a warning about a phone scam targeted at seniors and people with disabilities that asks for money and checking account information to help beneficiaries enroll in a Medicare Prescription Drug Plan.

This scheme is called the "\$299 Ring" due to the typical amount of money that is requested to enroll the Medicare beneficiary in the non-existent drug plan.

If you receive one of these calls, hang up and call the local police, 766-6924 or 1-877-772-3379.

A Message from Bruce Goldberg, Director, Department of Human Services

Our budget shortfall has challenged us to find ways to work smarter and more efficiently. I'm very proud of the efforts that are being made and the spirit with which everyone is working. Regrettably, that same cooperative spirit is absent from our federal partners.

Providing health and human services to our citizens, whether Medicaid or child welfare, public health or long term care, mental health or just about every one of our programs has long been a shared partnership between the states and the federal government. When Oregon passed its balanced biennial budget in August of 2005, it was with the understanding that this long-standing partnership would continue. Our budget was based on those long-standing agreements.

However, now the federal government is changing the rules midstream. At a time when we are working to improve our accountability, the federal government is less accountable to its agreements with states. That's no way to run a business.

The past few months have seen efforts by the federal government to shift more of the responsibility for human services onto the states. This comes at a time when our human services needs are increasing.

This past week, I went to Washington, D.C., with the Governor to attend the National Governors Association meeting to work with other states in combating these changes, to meet with federal officials, and to brief our congressional delegation on the situation and solicit their support. The delegation shares our concern and will work to do what they can to forestall and prevent federal cuts. There are a number of opportunities to do so in the rule-making process and other avenues. We will be exploring each and every one, and with your help and support I will work vigorously and determinedly to stave off any reductions.

The following are just some of the examples of the reductions in federal support and the human consequences Oregonians will experience if proposed changes are enacted:

- * The Deficit Reduction Act, passed by congress last month, will make cuts to a number of our programs. It will impact the lives of many of our most vulnerable citizens. The changes are many. Among the most troubling are reductions in our federal support for targeted case management and changes to the TANF program.
- * Targeted case management services assist in providing coordinated access to services for child welfare, self-sufficiency, developmentally disabled, high-risk infants, and other populations. Targeted case management saves future dollars by providing preventive services now. It helps move people to self-sufficiency, independence and better lives.
- * The Deficit Reduction Act of 2006 contains TANF provisions that could significantly harm Oregon's TANF clients and cause the state to lose millions of dollars. Much of the success of Oregon's TANF program is attributable to the flexibility it allows individuals with significant barriers to employment (addiction and mental health issues) to count treatment and rehabilitation for those issues (at least in part) toward their work participation requirements.
- * The Deficit Reduction Act changes that. It will most significantly impact those clients who are most difficult to employ, impairing their ability to meet the new work participation standard. It will also significantly impact those individuals who cannot meet the work participation requirement because of their own disability, or the disability of the child they care for. If work requirements are not met, clients will move off of TANF, joining the ranks of the unemployed and the uninsured and putting pressure on other social service programs. In combination with loss or reduction of targeted case management, they will not have the tools to provide their family with basic care. Kids may move into the child welfare caseload and we may see additional homeless families.
- * Then on top of that there is the President's proposed Federal Fiscal Year 2007 budget. It contains changes to provider tax regulations that will impact funding for OHP Standard and nursing facilities. In addition, there are reductions in public health program support and changes to eligibility criteria that may reduce the number of Oregon households eligible for food stamps.

Well, I had meant to provide you with a brief update of federal matters and my trip to D.C., but as you can see, I am quite zealous about this issue and I went on a bit more than planned. In fact, I was also going to tell you about the Center for Family Success and the wonderful collaborative effort between DHS, the Department of Corrections and community partners. That will have to wait until next week.

The Arc of Benton County Annual Awards Noteworthy Nomination Form

Instructions: If you know an individual, organization or business in our community that you feel is deserving of special recognition, please complete this form and submit it to the The Arc of Benton County at 1885 NW 9th, Corvallis, OR 97330. Please include letters of support*, if possible, to assist the Committee in their deliberations.

Awards Nomination Forms must be submitted by April 15th, 2006. If you have questions, please call 753-1711.

AWARD NOMINATION

Name of Award: _____ Nominee: _____

Reason for nomination: _____

Submitted by: _____ Phone: (H) _____ (W) _____

*Individuals nominated by more than one person are likely to be given more consideration for an award. As part of the ceremony we present the winners with all the letters of support received during the nomination process.

AWARDS

The Arc Distinguished Service Award – A parent, volunteer, professional or self-advocate who has given consistent outstanding service that has positively impacted the lives of people with MR/DD. The most prestigious award from The Arc of Benton County.

Honor Roll – One or more volunteers who have given years of outstanding, consistent and sustained service to The Arc of Benton County or to the people served. The recipients of this award are honored with their names on a plaque permanently displayed at The Arc office.

First Citizen Award – A person with MR/DD, 18 years of age or older. The person must have demonstrated exceptional personal growth and independence or a unique community contribution.

Martha Mumford Volunteer of the Year Award – An unpaid service provider (direct or indirect) who, by virtue of that service, has made outstanding contributions to the lives of people with MR/DD.

Direct Service Provider Award – A full-time employee providing direct services. Examples: classroom paraprofessional, direct care staff in residential, vocational or recreation program. At least half the work time must be devoted to direct service (i.e. instruction, counseling, programming).

Employer of the Year Award – An individual, business, industry, or a government agency that has employed a person or persons with MR/DD for a minimum of one year.

Good Neighbor Award – a person or fraternal, civic, church or auxiliary organization that performs a special service or in some way improves the quality of life for people in Benton County with MR/DD.

Arc Ambassador Award – A business or corporation that has performed special service to people in Benton County with MR/DD.

Educator of the Year Award – An individual who has made significant educational contributions in Benton County through any of the following: classroom teaching, teacher training, research, or model program development.

Kids First Award – An individual who has uniquely enriched the lives of pre-school children with MR/DD.

1885 NW 9th Street
 Corvallis, OR 97330

I WANT TO JOIN THE ARC!

Name, Address, & Phone _____

Do you have a relative with developmental disabilities? _____ If yes, name & relationship _____

I would like to donate to the Membership Assistance Fund. \$ _____

Please Check One:

- \$10 Self-Advocate \$20 Regular
- \$10 Senior \$10 Student
- \$35 Family \$50 Patron
- \$100+ Benefactor \$500 Lifetime

Make Checks Payable to:
 The Arc of Benton County
 1885 NW 9th Street
 Corvallis, Oregon 97330
 541-753-1711
 www.arcbenton.org

I would like to be active as:

- an advocate
- a resale volunteer
- an advisor on a committee
- a special events volunteer