

The Arc of Benton
County
Administration Office
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***A non-profit
organization
advocating for and
providing services, as
needed, to individuals
with developmental
disabilities and their
families.***

The Arc Board 7:30 PM
1st Thursday

Odd numbered months:
Executive Board
(Officers of the Board).

Even numbered months:
Full Board of Directors
(Officers and Directors)

Finance Comm. 6:30 PM
The Arc Office
1st Thursday

Membership 9:00 AM
Committee
Louise Teater's
Home
1st Monday

Resale 10:00 AM
Committee
The Arc Office
3rd Monday

Public Policy 8:30 AM
The Arc Office
3rd Thursday

Bingo 10:00 AM
Committee
Springfield
3rd Wednesday

The Arc Advocate

August 2007

INCLUSION: MORE THAN A BUZZ WORD

For 17 years we have lived with The American Disabilities Act (ADA) and we may take for granted some of the physical changes in our community—ramps, curb cuts, accessible entrances and bathrooms. But there is another kind of accessibility we may not give much thought to: Social accessibility. Or, as jargon has it, inclusion. Another way of putting it is simply being together.

In Corvallis we have a wonderful way of putting ourselves into an activity which is open to all of us regardless of our abilities or age. We do not have to wait for a community-wide event at which "Arts for All" is available with its pogo stamps, giant rollers, and mural paper half a city street long. Now, all we have to do is show up in our swimsuits at Osborn Aquatic Center on Thursday afternoons for Creative Movement, an in-the-water class, at 4 pm. We do not need to enroll; class is open invitation with usually about 15 participants.

Julie Hardenburger, experienced fitness and movement instructor, leads the 45-minute workout to music, encouraging people to work at their own pace. She says the point of the class is to feel good—to do something to make our bodies happy and to have fun while we're doing it. Offered through the Corvallis Parks and Recreation, the class is held outdoors in the summer and when weather turns cooler, probably in September, the class will move to the large indoor pool.

Admission is \$4.25 or with a booklet of ten admissions, \$4.00. We encourage all to participate and spread the word about inclusion.

See the page 3 for more information about how The Arc of Benton County is strengthening inclusion in our community.

Acts of Kindness



— FOUNDATION —

A gift from The Portland General Electric Foundation for \$1,000 was awarded to The Arc of Benton County's ArtFocus and Art Careers programs by Gwyneth Gamble Booth, the Chairperson of the PGE Foundation. We are especially pleased to have been given a

Chairman's grant which was awarded on the merit of the letter of inquiry alone. The funds are for purchase of supplies for the art programs. Elizabeth Black, the programs' director, has made a bountiful trip to Utrecht in Portland where she has replenished paint supplies and obtained paper and canvases for the artists' new works.

We thank the grant writer, Ramona Wallace, who donated her efforts to The Arc of Benton County in the successful pursuit of this award.

Our Thanks To...

- *Maurice's* in Timberhill Shopping Center who gave The Arc Resale Corner a beautiful display case and a set of shelves for the store.
- *The Corvallis Rotary Social Service Committee* who surprised The Arc with a \$200 donation and an expression of appreciation for our work in the community.
- *Michelle Damen of Hewlett-Packard's recycling center*, who found a new home for two commercial racks at The Arc's ArtFocus Program. The racks have been much-needed for drying and storing artwork.

In Memorium

Ralph Batchelor died on July 10, 2007 just a few days short of his 95th birthday. Ralph was a long time member of The Arc of Benton County and was one of the founders of The Arc of Oregon. The organizational meeting for the then Oregon Association for Retarded Children was held on September 20, 1953 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Merriam, Jr. in Salem. (They are also long time members of The Arc of Benton County.) Ralph, who was a member of The Arc of Lane County at that time, was elected Treasurer at that meeting.

Ralph was also one of the founders of The Arc of Benton County. The Articles of Incorporation were filed with the state on May 8, 1958 with Ralph signing as the Vice President. Ralph and his wife, Virgie, made many contributions to The Arcs' over the years and were especially concerned regarding conditions and supports in the state institutions. Their son Ralph, Jr. (Skeeter) was a resident at Eastern Oregon Training Center until his death several years ago. Virgie also preceded Ralph in death. Two daughters, a son and their families survive.

Ralph also loved skiing, sailing and photography. He always had a smile and was willing to assist in any activity.

A Whole Community Event: Moving Beyond Nominal Inclusion

In October 2007, The Arc of Benton County will host a forum on Inclusive Recreation which is a different kind of participation than Special Recreation. The focus of the forum is to brainstorm and create action plans to turn our area into a truly inclusive community—one in which activities and classes pro-actively include people of all abilities.

The forum is spearheaded by the Public Policy Committee of The Arc of Benton County and anticipates participation by the City of Corvallis, City of Philomath, the Department of Parks and Recreation of Corvallis, Oregon State University School of Health and Human Services, Kid Spirit, the Benton County Board of Commissioners, various City of Corvallis advisory boards, representatives of the state-wide organization Self-Advocates as Leaders (SAAL), Corvallis People First, and all interested family members of children and adults with developmental disabilities.

The specific date and location of the forum will be announced. If you know any organization or individual who has ideas and wants to contribute to building an inclusive recreation community, let them and us know. Call Nancy Jamieson, Office Assistant at The Arc of Benton County: 753-1171.

DD Advisory Forums

Benton County Developmental Disabilities

YOU'RE INVITED!

Come join an Advisory Forum

Sponsored by the Benton County Developmental Disabilities Program to discuss what DOES and DOES NOT work within our programs.

Let's talk about how we can best meet your needs!

WHEN: Vocational Programs

-Thursday, September 13th; 3:00-4:30 pm

Consumers & Families

-Tuesday, September 18th; 3:00-4:30 pm

Residential Programs

-Thursday, September 20th; 10:00-11:30 am

Direct Care Workers

-Tuesday, September 25th; 10:00-11:30 am

WHERE: Benton County Health Department 530 NW 27th St.– Corvallis
Mary's River Room

*Creative,
Inclusive
"Arts for All"
at DaVinci Days:*
School boys paint
the mural.

The "Arts for All" event was run by The Arc's staff of the Recreation Guild and by individuals who participate in its programs. The Arc of Benton County was delighted to be an official part of the festival.



Photo by volunteer Peggy Gibson