

75 Volunteers Making a Big Difference

The Arc of Clay and Platte Counties is an affiliated chapter of The Arc of the United States, the largest organization in the US working for the rights and full participation of all children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The Arc of Clay and Platte Counties has been able to contribute over 1.3 million dollars to agencies and programs in our counties over the past ten years.

The Arc of Clay and Platte Counties is comprised of about 75 dedicated volunteers working together and, except for operating expenses, all funds received are disbursed to programs, agencies and public schools in Clay and Platte Counties in support of activities and special projects that benefit individuals with mental retardation and related developmental disabilities, their families and the professionals who work with them.

In addition to supporting agencies and school programs, there are four exclusive initiatives by The Arc for those with disabilities: a weekly Bowling Program, Toy Lending Library, Summer Camp and an annual All Agency Picnic.

The Toy Lending Library facility operates from the main office in Gladstone, and is equipped with 500-plus specialty toys and equipment for use with and by children with mental and related developmental disabilities.

This year's Summer Camp was attended by 120 campers and staff the week of June 9th at the Rotary Youth Camp in Lee's Summit. Campers were accommodated in cabins with 8-10 per cabin. At least one counselor and usually a counselor in train-

ing shared the cabin with the campers. Daytime activities included crafts, sports, walks, activities in and around the pool and entertainment by the Shriners clowns and "Wings of Love." Evening activities include dancing, barbecue, talent competi-

(please continue on page 2)



Volunteers are the heart of The Arc. They include (from left) Marge Rash, Terry Blanks, Evelyn Blanks, Evelyn Deller and Trish Adams.

Inside Pathways	
Arc	3
Tri-County	3
CCI	4
CEADD	5
Immacolata	6
MCDD	7
NEEC	8
PCBS	8 & 9
Triality	10
VSI	11

(continued from Page 1)
tion, pool-side events and awards recognition.

The All Agency Picnic was held on September 9th at Macken Park in North Kansas City for the intellectually and developmentally challenged in our two counties and as a "thank you" to the staff and volunteers of the agencies whose serve them.

Arc President Terry Blanks assisted by his wife Evelyn have unstintingly volunteered their time and talents to help The Arc reach its goals. Terry retired from a position as President of an international corporation ten years ago and since that time has overseen the many activities of

The Arc, including opening additional thrift stores in Smithville and Liberty, which have resulted in an ability to steadily increase donations to the agencies and activities serving the handicapped.

The many activities of The Arc are dependent on the continual necessity to rejuvenate the group of volunteers-friends working together to fulfill Arc goals. Everyone concerned about assisting in the contribution that The Arc is making to our Clay and Platte County programs for the handicapped is urged to ask about volunteering. They do need your help.

The Arc is currently operating three Thrift Stores which generate the bulk of the funds for the programs they support. The stores are all staffed by volunteers who are dedicated to selling good quality clothing, home furnishings, electronics and books at tax-free bargain prices.

- The store locations are:
- Gladstone: 7400 N. Oak Trafficway
 - Liberty: 137 N. Stewart Rd.
 - Smithville: 118 N. Bridge St.

Pathways

Pathways is published quarterly for Clay and Platte County residents with developmental disabilities, their families and other interested persons. Funding is provided by participating agencies which include the Arc of Clay and Platte counties, CEADD, Concerned Care, Inc., Immacolata Manor, Northland Early Childhood Education Center, Platte County Board of Services, People First, Triality and Vocational Services, Inc. Contributing occasional articles will be Down Syndrome Guild, EFECT, Tri-County Mental Health Services, the Maple Valley State School and MCDD.

Editorial contributions are welcome. Content is intended to be positive and informational. Material may be edited and will be printed as space allows.

If you wish to receive Pathways and do not, contact Betsy Keleher at 437-3043. We also appreciate help eliminating duplicate issues at a single address or unwanted issues.

Calendar

The Immacolata Manor Christmas Party will be Sunday, Dec. 6, from 2-6 p.m., Pleasant Valley Civic Building.

Space is limited, residents and staff on duty only. Please RSVP (with names of attendees & number of staff) at 781-4332 x223 or e-mail dwhite@imanor.org.

Summer Camp an Lively—and Filling—Experience

The Arc annual picnic for persons with developmental disabilities in Clay and Platte counties was held on the evening of Sept. 9 from 5 until 8 p.m. in the shelter house at Macken Park in North Kansas City.

It was a wonderful affair despite an occasional light rain, which didn't discourage anyone from attending and having a good time. There was plenty of picnic food – hot dogs, hamburgers, potato

State Cuts Proposed

Missouri Governor Jay Nixon has announced plans to cut an addition \$204 million from state spending during the current fiscal year to address falling state revenues in the face of an eroding national economy.

The following summarizes the cuts to the Division of Developmental Disabilities, the primary funding source for services for people with developmental disabilities:

- \$1.3 million in salaries/operating to Division personnel, which will be offset by limiting staff travel, supplies, non-direct care staff vacancies will continue, and funding for Division facility direct care staff overtime has been reduced.

- \$1.5 million in community program dollars will be offset by the Division providing only case management services to new individuals eligible for services and any new waivers will have delayed implementation until July 1, 2010. Individuals currently receiving services funded by the Division will continue to receive those services.

- Medicaid cost containment will be implemented with strategies to include additional collections from third party insurers and other non-General Revenue sources to support services currently funded by Medicaid and other strategies developed to reduce Medicaid expenditures.

Arc

chips, baked beans, soft drinks, etc. - and music in the background provided by the "Country Gentlemen" who donated their time and talent for the event.

Because of the high humidity and light rain, smoke from the barbeque supplied by the Sprenger family drifted lightly over the shelter house conveying the mouthwatering odor of the cooking hotdogs, and hamburgers. It provided a fitting atmosphere for everyone's enjoyment.

After the food was served and consumed the rain stopped and the area before the band pavilion was used by many of the participants for dancing or just standing and enjoying the music until the grand raffle of prizes for those receiving care. The raffle was the highlight of the evening for the consumers who went away with some very nice prizes. Every one of them got a prize of some sort.

Persons receiving care from Concerned Care, Inc., Triality, Immacolata Manor, Creative Support, the Platte County Board of Services, Vocational Services Inc., their staffs, friends and families attended.



The Arc annual picnic was obviously a big success in 2009. A great turnout enjoyed a good time and lots of food!

Area Leader Honored for Community Efforts

Phil Jeffries was presented the "Karl Morris Legacy Award" at the October annual dinner/auction event held by Concerned Care. Jeffries served on the Concerned Care Board of Directors for over 15 years and as President in 2007 and 2008. He is presently serving on the board of Arc and is a weekly volunteer at the Liberty thrift store.

Phil was born in Worcester, Massachusetts and graduated from St. Johns High School in Shrewsbury, MA. He received his Bachelor of Science degree from Kansas State University and earned his masters in fisheries biology from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst. After graduation he worked for the Kansas Fish and Game Commission and later worked 26 years for the Missouri Department of Conservation as the Kansas City Urban Fisheries Biologist. Phil and Irene have been married 38 years and have three sons, Nathan, Stuart and Spencer. Phil's hobbies are photography, fishing, boating and golf.

Phil Jeffries exemplifies the criteria for the Karl Morris Legacy. He supports people with developmental disabilities through his volunteerism, financial contributions and advocacy.

Star Achievement Award

Concerned Care announced a new award this year created to honor a consumer for self-advocacy and achievements. The 2009 honoree is Sarah Oyen of Liberty. Sarah has worked at the Liberty Price Chopper for several years but contributes her active social life to Concerned Care's Recreation Program. She enjoys going out to dinner, movies, hiking, out of town trips and bowling...especially bowling. So much so the annual bowling tournament is now called the "Sarah Oyen Classic".

Since 2001 she has been the top fund raiser for the annual bowl-a-thon raising

CCI

close to \$20,000. Each year she sets her goal higher. Sarah keeps all her records on her computer, designs her own brochures, prepares her mailings and often goes door to door for sponsorship.

The Star Achievement Award is presented for outstanding accomplishments, self-advocacy, leadership and inspiration to others.



Phil and Irene Jeffries at the CCI annual dinner/auction.



Ken, Sarah and Joyce Oyen were on hand for Sarah's reception of the new Star Achievement Award.

CEADD Marks Success For Semester

College Experience for Adults with Developmental Disabilities (CEADD) just completed an exciting fall semester.

Among the highlights, students and staff were invited to a campus-wide storyteller event. CEADD also had guest speakers in several classes.

They had competition in computers, created science experiments, made an abundance of crafts, and learned how to endure in any relationship, about our bodies and Missouri. They also experienced pioneer life through a book, movie and a violinist.

Spring CEADD will begin Jan. 30 and end March 6. Registration forms will be mailed the first week in January and due Jan. 15.

Everyone should note that as of Dec. 5, 2009, the CEADD phone number will change from 816-437-3043 to 816-604-3043.



CEADD



A Couple of "Great Guys" Join Manor Crew

Immacolata Manor has been serving women with developmental disabilities since 1981. Of the 28 women served, 13 have lived at the Manor since its inception.

Immacolata Manor is the only habilitation facility in the Kansas City metro area that does not serve both men and women...until now. In 2008 the Board of Directors changed the Immacolata Manor mission statement from "serving women" to "serving persons" with the intent of some day opening an Individualized Supported Living (ISL) Home to serve just a few of the more than 400 men with a developmental disability in the state of Missouri on a waiting list.

In June of this year, Immacolata Manor was contacted by the Kansas City Regional Office of the Division of Developmental Disabilities with this opportunity. Immacolata is now pleased to announce the opening of Immacolata's second individualized supported living facility, G House, on July 22, to serve two young men with developmental disabilities.

As you can imagine, setting up a new apartment for a college student takes a lot of effort, resources and funding. Now imagine setting up a similar apartment for two college age men who are challenged physically, mentally, and medically with the goal of creating as independent an environment as individual capabilities would merit.

One young man Immacolata is serving, Nathan, was involved in a gun shooting accident at 12 years old, resulting in a spinal cord injury. With a diagnosis of quadriplegia (paralysis resulting in the partial or total loss of use of all limbs and torso), Nathan spent the last five years of his life in a nursing home, needing constant care and assistance in activities of daily living. Now at 19 years of age, Nathan, like other young men his age, is

Immacolata

gaining his independence and has moved into his own apartment.

Nathan's new roommate, Steven, is 23 and has worked at VSI since graduating high school. He lived at home until the recent death of his mother and primary care taker. When these two young men met for the first time, Steven was excited to learn that Nathan knew how to "read food" so he could order pizza! The two also bonded when they agreed to help each other get girlfriends. Since moving in, these two Great Guys (accompanied by IM staff) have attended a Kansas City Chiefs football game and a NASCAR race at the Kansas Speedway. Though it has taken some bit of adjusting, for both the guys and staff, the overall results have been very positive.

The staff at Immacolata Manor is grateful for all the donations and gifts that helped to make this apartment a home. The only thing missing, according to the guys... a big screen TV!

Pathways on the Internet

Remember, you can download a free copy of *Pathways* online and also sign up to have a copy e-mailed to you directly!

We urge all readers of *Pathways* to use these digital deliveries in order to help us save postage and other resources. To sign up or download, go to www.dginform.com/Pathways. The PDF requires a copy of the free Adobe Acrobat Reader. Instructions for obtaining the reader are also on this page.

Legislative Roundtables Bring Diverse Results

In an attempt to connect legislators with their constituents, the Metropolitan Council on Developmental Disabilities sponsored two Legislative Roundtables this September.

Representatives Michael Brown, Jeff Grisamore, Paul Lavota, and Chris Molendorp attended the Roundtable event held at EITAS on Sept. 19. Discussion focused on health care issues and the 10 percent drop in state revenue. Rep. Grisamore is again sponsoring the Autism Insurance Bill, for which a hearing will be held in KC this October. Rep. Molendorp commented that he is the only representative in the Missouri House that is an insurance agent. He urged constituents to email him with their concerns and issues. All of the legislators endorsed the need for continual communication to advocate for those with developmental disabilities.

Unfortunately, no legislators were able to attend the Roundtable held at the Clay County DDRB office in Liberty on Sept. 26; however, there was a wonderful discussion between providers and guests regarding some of the services provided in the northland and the role each plays in the advocacy process. Again, the need to continue communication with your legislator regarding your personal issues was emphasized. As term limits require a change in representatives it is important to remember to keep in contact with the staff in the legislative offices as they are the people that usually remain stable through transitions.

Dental Funds

As reported in the last Pathways, MCDD has been awarded a \$3,300 grant from the Soroptimist International of Greater Kansas City to support unmet dental treatment for persons with Developmental Disabilities. Through this grant eligible persons will receive up to \$200 for one-time dental services.

MCDD

MCDD will review all requests submitted through the case-management system, and if approved, the check for services will be dispensed upon a billing request from the dentist. Contact Nadine Gordon for more information at: 816-889-3422. At this printing several individuals have already accessed this service, and that opportunity still exists. MCDD hopes to provide this important health benefit to many other consumers.

On Nov. 29, MCDD members were scheduled to volunteer at Longview's "Christmas in the Park", to raise funds which will support scholarships for families wishing to attend training workshops. We hope the community will support this yearly event by enjoying the lights and donating to the not-for-profit organizations that are hosting.

If you would like to attend a MCDD meeting, are interested in networking through MCDD or are interested in becoming a member of the Metropolitan Council on Developmental Disabilities, contact Nadine Gordon, 816-889-3422.



The VSI Bowl-A-Thon was a big success, even though some bowlers may have been a little surprised at being photographed! (related story on Page 11.)

Wellness Day Includes Community Groups

On Saturday, Oct. 17, from 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Northland Early Education Center (NEEC) hosted its first annual Community Wellness Day.

NEEC partnered with IDENT-I-KID, Missouri Lions Eye Research Foundation, The Family Conservancy, Clay and Platte County Health Departments, North Kansas City Parents as Teachers and the Kansas City Fire Department to provide families resources for their future health and well-being. Among the resources provided were:

- IDENT-I-KID—child rescue identification cards
- Missouri Lions Eye Research Foundation—vision screening
- The Family Conservancy—resources
- Clay County Health Department—hearing/speech screening and therapy information and resources
- Platte County Health Department—

Expansion Opens New Doors in Platte

All summer long Platte County Board of Services' administrative office and day habilitation program have been undergoing major remodeling. After only five years, the space was just too small. The building was purchased with expansion in mind but maybe not quite so soon.

The day habilitation expansion involved the addition of two new accessible bathrooms and the remodel of the former conference room on the ground floor into day habilitation space. This included adding a load-bearing floor/ceiling where there wasn't one before. The effort nearly doubles the space available and will allow room for smaller group activities.

Above the new day habilitation area is the new conference room that is about double the size it was before. This will be used mostly for board meetings and training area for staff.

NEEC

health information and resources

- Kansas City Fire Department—fire truck tour
- North Kansas City Parents as Teachers—resources

NEEC is a non-profit preschool that provides early education and/or therapeutic intervention services for children birth to five with special needs and typically developing.

NEEC provides these services in fully inclusive classrooms. NEEC looks forward to another successful Community Wellness Day in 2010.

Please view NEEC's website at www.nееckids.org for more information regarding the program or for partnership opportunities in future events.

PCBS

In the unfinished area on the second floor, there are now 10 offices, a conference room, and two storage rooms that will be used as case management is expanded.

And finally, there are two awnings installed, one on the west side that will protect people served and staff as they are dropped off and picked up at the day habilitation program. The one on the east side is smaller but will provide some protection as people come and go from that side of the building.

These changes have been accomplished to better serve more Platte County residents who have a developmental disability. (related photos on next page.)

Joy, Not Sleep Is Biggest Part of Night Job

Platte County employee Jan Sinkevich has several important responsibilities, but the one she enjoys most may be making breakfast for persons served at Raintree House near Parkville.

All Platte Countians with developmental disabilities, the people living at Raintree are under Sinkevich's care every night. Although she sometimes jokes about getting paid to sleep on the job, Sinkevich must ensure that the residents take their medications and are safe if a severe storm or other emergency occurs. Despite the potential seriousness of her responsibilities, Sinkevich said it is the small things that she remembers most.

"I like to cook them breakfast in the mornings," she noted. "Even though they can get their breakfast, I like to cook a good meal for them to start the day."

Not surprisingly, her relationship with the four women is more than a distant caregiver. She obviously shared the recent pride of one resident, an immigrant from Viet Nam, who after six years earned her American citizenship. "That was special," Sinkevich noted. "We really try to be an advocate besides just helping take care of things."

That attitude of extra effort is one of the reasons Sinkevich recently was honored as the Platte County Board of Services Employee of the Quarter for the second time. Sinkevich said she was surprised, especially considering the "competition."

"This is a good organization," she said. "It's a wonderful company to work with."

Mostly, Sinkevich focuses on her residents, even adapting to changes that often occur. The group was recently scheduled to get flu vaccines but, like many, they found it was not yet available. "Our nurse will get it for us," she noted. "He takes care of us!"

Sinkevich has taught both public and private school and, in the day, serves as

PCBS

pastor of a church in Overland Park with her husband. The congregation is also adept at diversity, with members that include African Americans, Hispanics and immigrants from Zambia, Tanzania, Cuba and other nations. It's clear, however, that much of the focus for Sinkevich is on the people at Raintree.

"I don't know any job anywhere that you get so much reward on the job," she explained. "There's a lot to do, but the people we support are such a joy to be around."

For additional information, please call Platte County Board of Services at (816) 891-0990 or visit www.pcbsdd.org on the Internet.



Jan Sinkevich received her Employee of the Quarter honor from PCBS President Bill Bing.



A new covered walkway is part of work at PCBS (related story on Page 8).

Community Events Part of Integration

Community integration is an important part of Triality's Day Habilitation program. Fun activities like the American Royal, Renaissance Festival and Carolyn's Pumpkin Patch are enjoyed by all. A visit to the Pumpkin Patch signifies the beginning of fall. Hay rack rides and picking out pumpkins are just some of the activities that everyone had to choose from. John said "The hay ride was the best part of the day."

The Renaissance Festival offered us chance to step back in time. With jousting, turkey legs, music and dancing. When Josh was asked about his day he said "Ren Fest was awesome. We got to see the princess and her court. It was wonderful."

Reconnecting with Kansas City's cow town history the American Royal rodeo is good time. It is exciting to watch the show and see what skills cowboys use to do their jobs. After the rodeo a parent called to say "Thank you for taking our daughter to the American Royal. I had promised to take her but could not because I was sick. I appreciate you making sure she could go."

These events are an opportunity for Triality clients to be a part of their community and they are looked forward to every year. Besides these big activities Triality attends music in the park at Macken Park, movies and bowling at Retro Bowl just to name a few.

In September Triality artists displayed and sold their work at the Liberty Fall Festival. It was rewarding for the artists to see the value of their work and educate the community about their artistic abilities. Triality also was feature artist at the Steeple Inn's first Fridays in October. Triality artwork adorned the Inn and was appreciated and purchased by those attending. A Triality artist also spoke about her art work and goal to crochet the world's longest scarf.

November and December will be busy

Triality

times with a Thanksgiving Dinner and Holiday party. Please join us for the festivities. The Thanksgiving dinner will be November 19 and the Holiday party will be December 17. Both events will start at 11 am. Please RSVP to Danielle Allen at 781-1888.



Events such as the Liberty Fall Festival are outstanding opportunities for community activities at Triality.



Bowl-A-Thon, Auction Roll a Strike!

Vocational Services, Inc. (VSI) held its 13th Annual Bowl-a-thon and Silent Auction Fundraiser on Oct. 17. The event was held at the AMF Pro Bowl Lanes in North Kansas City, MO, with over 100 bowlers, volunteers, and friends of VSI in attendance.

This year's event was very successful! Not only was a good time had by all but also with the support of our community, VSI raised nearly \$6,000.00. All proceeds from the event will be used to fund vocational programs at VSI, which serve over 200 individuals with developmental disabilities.

Special recognition was awarded to Mathew Hauber, Jeremy Miller and Thad Phillips for having the highest pledge amounts.

VSI graciously recognizes all of our friends from The Independent Order of Oddfellows and Rebekah's who not only donated money towards our fundraiser, but also donated items for our Silent Auction and their time volunteering at the day's event. We truly appreciate you and everyone else involved that helped to make our event successful!

VSI staff is already preparing for our 2010 events. If you would like to become a sponsor, donate an item to be used in our Silent Auction fundraisers, or would like to volunteer at one of our events, please contact us at (816) 781-6292.

Bowl-A-Thon sponsors included:

Bailey Insurance Services
Billings Construction



CLM's Antiques
Columbia IOOF #207
Cricket Wireless



Cross Corporation
David & Carol Bricker
DG Editorial Services
IOOF Youth Lodge
IOOF of Kansas
J-R Electrical Supply
Jerry Tindall
Rebekah Assembly of
Kansas
Schweitzer & Associates
Silent Auction donors were:
American Heartland
Theatre
Anderson Restaurant
Group
Carolyn's Country Cousins
Cricket Wireless
Crown Center-The Ice
Terrace

Dairy Queen
Eagle Fitness
Family Tree Nursery
First Watch
Folly Theater
Grand Country Music Hall
Hampton Inn
HomeTown Buffet
IOOF Lodge #877 Members
Isles of Smiles
Kansas City Chamber Orchestra
Kansas City Royals
Kansas City Symphony
Kansas City Zoo
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Northland Services For People
with Developmental Disabilities
**2601 NE Barry Road
Kansas City, MO 64156**