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- Carol Foote-Secretary
- Carol Hinkle-Treasurer
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- Raji Damle
- Kay Goodman
- David Horton
- Linda Martin
- Lauri Sprayberry
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- Marshall West

Project Coordinators

- Bonnie Lewallen

Mission Statement

The Arc of Denton County, a non profit volunteer organization, is committed to expanding opportunities for people with any developmental disability to exercise the same rights, freedoms, and responsibilities as their fellow citizens by providing family support, public awareness, advocacy service and referral.

Phone or Fax: 800-375-4520
Phone or Fax: 972-436-8471

E-mail:
info@arcofdentoncounty.org

Website
www.arcofdentoncounty.org

A United Way Partner Agency



ARCLETTER

October 2007

Volume 07 Issue 10

ARC OF DENTON COUNTY BOARD RETREAT OCTOBER 20, 2007

The Board Members of The Arc of Denton County will have their board retreat on Saturday, October 20th.

We will use this time to see what programs are meeting expectations and if there needs to be any changes in our programs and to budget what we need to provide these activities.

The Arc of Denton County is an all volunteer group except for project coordinators that are paid by event. We are always

needing volunteers to help with activities and this is one topic for discussion at our retreat.

If you have any topics that you would like to see presented as "Special Interest Meetings" please let us know. We want the Arc of Denton to be a community group so we need to know what type of programs and events you would like to see each month..

We will discuss increasing our member-

ship and ways to involve all members in the activities we present.

Please let us know if there are any ideas you wish to share about activities.

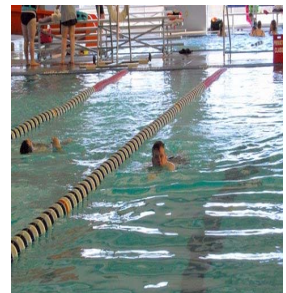


New ideas are always needed for a successful year.

PARTICIPANTS IN THE WORLD GAMES

Billy Hansbury (tennis) and Tex Nelson (aquatics) are on their way to Shanghai for the World Games for Special Olympics.

Best of Luck!!!



October 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Board Meeting	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17 Self Advocates	18	19	20 Board Retreat
21	22	23	24	25	26	27 Fall Social
28	29	30	31			

Please call the Arc of Denton County at 972-436-8471 or 800-375-4520 or email us at info@arcofdentoncounty.org for any additional information on events listed above or check our website at www.arcofdentoncounty.org.

CLEANING OUT!!



Donate to The Arc of Denton County

Get involved with Arc! If you are cleaning out, please donate clothing and household items. Call 214-337-8900 to schedule a pick up of large items. If you have clothing to donate there are deposit boxes in Lewisville at this time. The loca-

tions we have at this time are:

- Terrys Supermarket on Fox
- Albertson's on W. Main
- Lowes, close to service road
- WalMart Center on Main St (behind Payless Shoes)
- Fox Ave. and I-35 as you exit Fox
- WalMart at 3040 and 121

We will update this list as we get updates. The Arc of Denton County gets a percentage from the donated items for our programs.

THEARCLINK LAUNCHES THE NATIONAL FINDFAMILY REGISTER

For decades, parents of children with disabilities were advised by professionals to institutionalize their child and in effect “forget you ever had them”. Of the more than 500,000 people in out-of-home residential settings, experts report that a high percentage have no regular contact with their family. States are gradually replacing their institutions with smaller, community-based residential settings that support family connections, but there has been no good way, until now, to actually help make that connection happen. As a result, most people in these settings have no families to help them make decisions, no one to call them on their birthday, no one to share holidays. Now, there is an opportunity for family members to reunite. To enter information in the FindFamily Registry, go to www.FindFamilyRegistry.org

No one really knows the impact that a “disappeared” relative has on him or her until contact is finally made. In Oregon, Jeff Daly

recently documented the discovery of his sister Molly after a 47 year separation. In his documentary “Where’s Molly”,

www.wheresmolly.net
Daly did not realize that losing Molly when he was only six would effect him so profoundly, even as an adult. “When Molly went away, she was only three years old. When I found her she was about to have her 50th birthday. I can’t begin to describe the joy in singing “Happy Birthday” to her. Finding Molly made me a whole person again and Molly has enjoyed the love of an extended family including my children and grandchildren.”

In meeting the day-to-day wants and needs of the residents they support, providers usually have limited resources for casting a net to find lost family members. “We sometimes find families of some of our clients at their funerals,” explains Leslie Green, CEO of Stone Belt Arc in Bloomington, Indiana. “The lost opportunity for these indi-

viduals and their families to have meaningful relationships makes one heartsick. We hope we will be able to use this wonderful resource of TheArcLink’s Find Registry to help make these family connections.”

As the parent of an adult with intellectual disabilities, Sue Swenson knows a lot about family issues. “We know every family is different, every person is different-and every state is different, too. FindFamily can only go so far to help families connect. You will probably need an advocate or a lawyer to make a real connection happen. Sometimes a trusted friend or counselor can help too. We hope to help find missing loved ones, but reconnecting will almost certainly not be easy. We know there will be frustrations...and fear. We believe these will be balanced by joy...and love.: Swenson is Executive Director of The Arc of The United States.

“In the Registry, people can easily give basis information on

themselves and the people they are looking for. We will contact them if we find a match,” said Elbert Johns from TheArcLink. “We will make sure that the person with a disability either has the ability to give consent to release personal information, or is properly represented by a person who can. We will also make sure that the family member who is seeking contact has a legitimate reason for doing so.” Online searching of the Registry will not be offered. TheArcLink is a joint venture with TheArc, and both organizations are initiating a broad appeal to families and providers to encourage them to enter information into the Registry.

For more information, contact Elbert Johns. ejohns@thearc.org or Laura Hart, hart@thearc.org



HELP THE ARC EARN MONEY

Donate to the Arc of Denton County while surfing the net



There is a new and easy way to raise money for The Arc of Denton County—just by searching the Internet with GoodSearch.com.

It's simple. You use GoodSearch.com like any other search engine-the site is powered by Yahoo!-but each time you do, money is generated for The Arc. Just be sure to fill in "The Arc-Denton County" and click verify for the GoodSearch field "Who do you GoodSearch for?"

Last year, search engines generated close to \$6 billion in revenue from advertisers. With GoodSearch, part of the advertising revenue will now be directed to our organization.

We hope that you will not only use GoodSearch as your main search engine from here on out, but that you will also pass this message on to your friends and family. If you go to GoodSearch.com there is a sample email you can use to

ask your friends and family. The more people who use this, the more money The Arc of Denton County will receive.

This is a good way for you to contribute to your favorite charity (Arc, we hope!) with no money directly out of your pocket and no extra time involved. This can be used at most work places and at home when you are searching the net.

Membership forms on back page of newsletter

Join The Arc of Denton County and receive local, state, and national newsletters.

NEW OR RENEWING MEMBERS FOR SEPTEMBER

- | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| Laura Stracke | Don and Bonnie | Sharon Coutryer |
| Art and Barbara Green | Lewallen | Natalie Massengale |
| Jean Kingery | JoAnne Fell | Bob Gathings |
| Ben Moturi | Barbara Goswick | Susan Standish |
| Mary Lynn Schoolfield | Carolyn Sczepanski | Carol Foote |
| Edwin Slimp | Kay and Bob Goodman | Frank and Louise Ferry |
| Mary Smith | Renee Blanchard | |
| Dorothy Minter | Gail Nunn | |
| Linda Martin | Charles Kyker | |

THE ARC'S CLASSIFIED ADS



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RE/MAX DFW Associates II**

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- RE/MAX International Hall of Fame
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www.teamyocum.com
teamyocum@bigfoot.com

Each office independently owned and operated

Thanks to Staples in Lewisville for printing our newsletter, the "ArcLetter".

Their generosity allows us to send our newsletters to Denton County families with children with disabilities, adults with disabilities, and concerned citizens.

THE ARC OF DENTON COUNTY'S WISH LIST

- 11 x 17 copy paper for newsletters
- Paper goods for adult activities (cups, napkins, plates)
- Holiday craft ideas and supplies
- HP ink cartridges 48 75 21 22 58
- Prizes or gifts for Holiday parties for men, women and children

Put your business card or other information in our newsletter. We distribute 1800 newsletters monthly.

NOTES OF INTEREST

Mailing List

If you receive our newsletter home from school and want to receive it in the mail, please call or fax us at:

800-375-4520
972-436-8471

Or email us at:
info@arcofdentoncounty.org

We will be glad to put you

on the mailing list!

Techno-Tote

We are in the process of updating our Techno-Tote equipment and will have an updated list of items when this is done.

Please don't hesitate to call and check to see if a certain idea is available.

"It's a New Idea"

Download or view a copy of the revised manual on the Arc of Texas website at www.arcoftexas.org

This has information you need before attending an ARD at your school.



Ads

\$15 a month

\$150 a year

PROM, PARTY, BRIDESMAIDS DRESSES NEEDED!!

The Arc of Denton County needs dresses for our upcoming semi formal event for adults with disabilities. This will be a semi formal dance and we are trying to locate dresses for everyone. Most of these adults have never experienced a prom or formal event and we want to make this an event they will cherish for a long time to come. If you have any dresses, and we can use items for the gentlemen, that you no longer need anymore, please contact The Arc of Denton County and let us make arrangements to get them from you. The response to this has been great but we still need more and we still need all sizes.



SELF ADVOCATE LEADERS OF DENTON COUNTY

Self Advocate meetings are the 3rd Wednesday of each month and are held at 3600 E. McKinney St. Suite A in Denton. The meeting hours are 7:00 – 8:30 pm.

The meetings are open to anyone over the age of 18 with a developmental dis-

ability..

Please join us and develop leadership skills, learn more about your rights and responsibilities, and learn about voting and decision making. These are just examples of the meeting topics

Call The Arc of Denton County for more information about these meetings or for directions to the meetings.

The October meeting will be our Fall/ Halloween celebration. Costumes are allowed.

**OUR SYMPATHY GOES OUT TO THE FAMILY OF
JACK DEMPSEY HARWELL
AUGUST 26, 1924 * SEPTEMBER 12, 2007**

JACK WAS A FOUNDING MEMBER OF THE ARC OF DENTON COUNTY AND A VERY VALUABLE MEMBER FOR MANY YEARS.

Open Letter from Mark Vowell, President, Texas Advocates To Texas Advocate Board Members, Local Chapters and Advisors

September 20, 2007

To Texas Advocate Board Members, Local Chapters and Advisors:

This past weekend the Texas Advocate Board met in Lewisville, Texas for a Texas Advocate Board Meeting and SABLE Region 8 meeting with participants from Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, and Arkansas. While we were there we all participated in a Candlelight Vigil at Denton State School to support Haseeb Chisty and other self advocates who want to leave the state school. Haseeb is a young man who was beaten at the State School several years ago and his family is fighting to try to get support for him to come home and live with them in the community. It was great for Texas Advocates to stand up and take a stand and let people know what we believe. For those of you who were there please forward any pictures you took at the vigil to the group. It was a very moving and emotional experience. Haseeb's family was at the vigil and they were very thankful for our support.

About the Petition

After the vigil, everyone from Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas and Oklahoma signed a **petition to free Haseeb from Denton State School and to give him the supports he needs to live in the community**. We will send the petition to the Governor and the DADS and HHSC Commissioners. Texas Advocates Decided to try and get more names on the petition. So we are sending it to all our Texas Advocates Local Chapters and **asking you to get signatures on the petition** from your local self advocate members, Arc members, and other people in the community who may be willing to sign the petition (other people with disabilities or family members in your community, churches or synagogues, etc.) Because time is of the essence **we would like you to get as many signatures as possible and send the petition back to us by oct.5.**

For more information about Haseeb you can watch the You Tube videos on the links below

GeraldoAt Large: Haseeb & Sovereign Immunity

Geraldo At Large: Haseeb Update

Forgotten Lives: Haseeb

I am attaching the petition. Feel free to make copies so you can get as many signatures as possible. **We would like for every chapter to participate in this petition drive.**

If you have any questions feel free to call Rona Statman at 1-800-252-9729 ext.112 or email her at rstatman@thearcoftexas.org

Thanks for your participation and support,

Mark Vowell, President, Texas Self Advocates

Please go to The Arc of Denton County's website at www.arcofdentoncounty.org and click on The Alert on the home page. This will allow you to go directly to the YouTube links and will also let you print a petition.

Fax your signed petitions to the Arc of Denton County at 972-436-8471 no later than October 4th.

Membership Form

- Self Advocate \$15
 Member or Family \$20
 Supporting Member \$50

Check all that apply

- Interested citizen
 Self Advocate
 Professional in field of disabilities
 Parent/Relative of child with developmental disabilities
 Parent/Relative of Adult with developmental disabilities

Name: _____

Address: _____

City,State.Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Cash or Check enclosed for \$ _____

Payable to:

The Arc of Denton County

P.O. Box 1279

Denton, Texas 76202

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF THE ARC

The Arc of Denton County

P.O. Box 1279

Denton, Texas 76202

Phone: 800-375-4520

972-436-8471

Fax: 972-436-8471

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If you have an address change, or prefer an e-newsletter, or want your name removed from our mail list, please notify us at info@arcofdentoncounty.org or contact us at 972-436-8471 or 800-375-4520. The editor of the ArcLetter writes as a non-professional. We attempt to report items of interest to our members. These items are not necessarily endorsed by The Arc of Denton County or reflect the opinion of The United Way. The Arc of Denton County does not promote any therapy, institution or professional system. Our desire is to bring information to families in an attempt to create an informative dialogue.

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