

# The Arc in Jefferson County

# Community Connections



## *You are Cordially Invited to Attend*

## *The Arc in Jefferson County's*

## *Annual Membership Meeting*

## *November 18, 2003*

**Fall, 2003**

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Lakewood, CO  
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*The newsletter of The Arc in Jefferson County, a local unit of The Arc of the United States and the Arc of Colorado, supporting persons living in Jefferson, Clear Creek and Gilpin counties with cognitive developmental disabilities.*

Footballs are flying and the colors are turning so it must be time for the General Membership Annual Meeting for The Arc in Jefferson County. This year, in an effort to honor the accomplishments and service of those who formed the “grass-roots” of the organization, the board of directors has commissioned this year’s event as *Homecoming*—a reunion of former board members and other significant contributors over the years.

The event is scheduled at 6 p.m. Tuesday, November 18 at Lookout Mountain Community Church. The change in location from prior years is based on the fact that the fastest growing area of membership has come from the mountain-area communities, but the church is still only a short drive up I-70 into the foothills.

Keynote speaker will be Fred DeCrescentis, the director of the Colorado Division of Developmental Disabilities. He will highlight the strategic plan for developmental disabilities in the next few years, which includes a focus on Self-Determination. Mr. DeCrescentis and his wife Carol are members of The Arc in Jefferson County and live in Evergreen.

To reach Lookout Mountain Community Church—From eastbound I-70, take Exit 254 (Genesee Park). Take a right and an immediate left onto Genesee Trail Road approximately .8 of a mile. The church is on the left. *(Please refer to the map on page 2)*

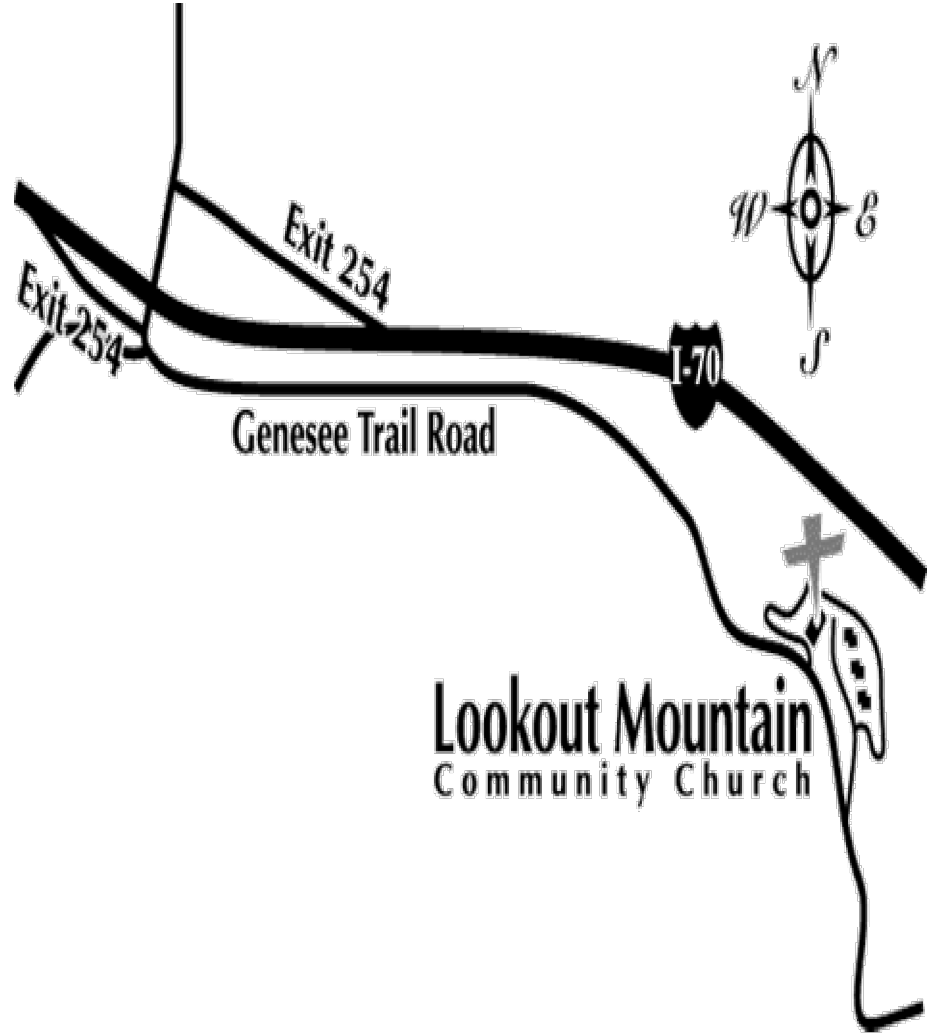
From westbound I-70, take Exit 254 (Genesee Park). Turn left over the bridge crossing the interstate. Turn left onto Genesee Trail Road and travel approximately .8 of a mile. The church is on your left. *(Please refer to the map on page 2)*

Please RSVP to Carole at (303) 232-1338 with the number attending and choice of menu by Tuesday, Nov. 11. The meal is free of charge but those wishing to make a donation to cover meal costs are encouraged to do so. Please tell Carole your choice of

*(Continued on back page)*

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# Nominees to The Arc in Jefferson County Board of Directors will be selected at the annual membership meeting in November.



One order of business for members of The Arc in Jefferson County attending the November membership meeting will be to vote on the slate of nominees for the board of director positions that will become vacant after December 2003.

Following are the nominees for The Arc in Jefferson County board of directors who will begin serving their new terms January 1, 2004.

*Marilyn Broughton ..... Director*

*Beth Lidvall ..... Director*

The nominees will be introduced at the membership meeting. Voting will take place during the annual business meeting which will be held after dinner. The Arc in Jefferson County board of directors and staff look forward to seeing you at the meeting. **Remember to call The Arc before November 11th to make your reservation!**

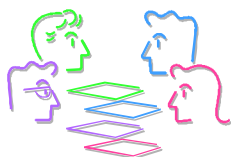


**The Arc in Jefferson County was the recipient of a generous contribution from The Knights of Columbus, Council #125670 of Littleton. Making the presentation are Knight Tom Lehnerz, left, Grand Knight Darwin Hultgren, center, and Knight Larry Montano, right. Accepting the contribution on behalf of The Arc is Todd Lowther, Executive Director, center left.**

**The Arc is grateful for the continued support for its programs by the Knights of Columbus.**

# You Should Know!

## PEOPLE FIRST/ SPEAKING FOR OURSELVES



- **STATE-WIDE Self-Advocacy Conference to be held: Sat.-Sun. -November 1 and 2, 2003**  
Peaceful Valley Ranch  
Lyons, Colorado  
Cost: only \$85.00  
Pre-registration is required.

Mary is a music therapist who has worked with children with developmental disabilities and autism for the last 25 years.

In May 2003, Mary became a Certified Relationship Developmental Intervention Provider. On Thursday, November 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. she will be presenting on RDI at The Arc in Jefferson County.

If this sounds like something you would like to learn more about call Jo Lynn Osborne at 303-232-1338 to register for this free workshop.

## There's Still Time to Sign Up!

Training for Transition (T4T) has five weekends scheduled to choose from for an in-depth workshop for parents, educators and students on an IEP seeking to maximize the transition experience from school to adult life.

The training schedule is:

- Oct. 24-26, 2003
- Jan. 9-11, 2004
- Feb. 20-22, 2004
- Mar. 5-7, 2004
- Apr. 16-18, 2004

All sessions will be held at Rocky Mountain Village in Empire with the exception of the March session which will be held at the Lakewood Holiday Inn. This session is for parents and educators only. No childcare or youth programs are provided. For complete information, call 303-233-1666, ext. 222.



- **COOKBOOKS** are available for only \$20.00  
Collection of favorite recipes from self-advocates across the state. Dozens of these books have already been sold and the edition is in its third printing.

**For more information, call: Jeanne, (303)232-1338.**

## Relationship Development Intervention – RDI

Have you heard of RDI? It is a well-designed method for working and playing with people on the autism spectrum. In the Summer edition of Community Connections there was an article on page 6 entitled, *For Children on the Autism Spectrum* by Mary Erickson, MT-BC.



# You Should Know!

## IEP Mysteries Will Be Revealed!

Got an IEP? Come on over to The Arc in Jefferson County's office to get some of your questions answered. We will be meeting on November 6th from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. We will also be meeting on Tuesday, January 20, 2004 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. It will be an informal gathering so you and other parents can put your heads together and solve some of the mysteries within the IEP process.

Please RSVP at least 24 hours in advance by calling Ian Watlington at 303-232-1338, ext. 210. Call your friends and ask them to join us because we will need a minimum of three participants at the meetings.

## Self-Determination Summit

October 17, 2003

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

St. Cajetan at the Tivoli Center  
900 Auraria Parkway (next to the Tivoli Center)

The keynote speaker will be Tom Nerney discussing the principles of self-determination, its core values and a national perspective.

There is no cost to attend and a box lunch will be provided. Make your reservation by calling Gloria Martinez at The Arc of Denver at 303-831-7733.

## Girl's Night Out

Girl's Night Out is a social skills group for women with developmental disabilities ages 18 and older. Skills taught will be based on individual and

group needs in classroom and community settings.

*Focus areas will include:*

- peer relationships
- personal hygiene
- independent living skills
- personal safety skills
- pragmatic skills

The classes will meet on Mondays from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m. for ten weeks. For more information, please contact Erin Newton at 303-378-4054 or Allison Rooney at 303-875-4812.

## Planning for a Meaningful Life After the School Years

November 1, 2003

*How to Make the Agencies Work for You  
&*

*Take the Money and Run Your Life*

This training will be about the agencies that can be resources to young adults with disabilities, and about options for home ownership.

February 7, 2004

*Jobs and Careers*

*&*

*Creating a Roadmap for Your Future*

This training will be about employment options and creating a roadmap for the future.

## All trainings are in English and Spanish

Trainings are on Saturday from 9:45 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. with lunch and child care provided at the Wellspring Church in Wheat Ridge. Cost is \$5.00 per session. Call Agnes at 303-831-7733 for information and to register for a session.



# You Should Know!



## **2003 State Autism Conference**

*“Putting the Pieces Together: Strategies & Methodologies for Teaching Children & Youth with Autism.”*

**November 14 & 15, 2003**

Holiday Inn - DIA

15500 E. 40th Avenue (I-70 & Chambers)

**8:30 to 5:00**

**Speakers:** Dr. Patrick McGreevy, Dr. Paula Kluth, Dr. Susan Hepburn, Dr. Phil Strain, Phil Schweigert, Dr. Judy Reaven, Stephen Shore, Dr. Lewis Jackson, and many others.

**Sponsored by:** Colorado Department of Education, Colorado Autism Task Force, and the Autism Society of America, Colorado Chapter.

**Contact Information:** Gina Quintana [quintana\\_g@cde.state.co.us](mailto:quintana_g@cde.state.co.us); 303-866-6605; or Barb Bieber [bieber\\_g@cde.state.co.us](mailto:bieber_g@cde.state.co.us); 303-866-6933.



## **Mile High Visions: People with Autism Living a Good Life**

The National Conference of the Autism National Committee, an advocacy organization dedicated to “*Social Justice for All Citizens with Autism*” through a shared vision and a commitment to positive approaches.

**October 24 & 25, 2003**

The Radisson Hotel, Denver

Registration fee: \$65 per individual  
\$30 for a person on the Autism Spectrum  
Group Discount: 20%

Presentations on Living a Good Life: Inclusive schools, positive behavior supports, jobs and careers, home ownership, access to communication, self-determination, and mile high visions.

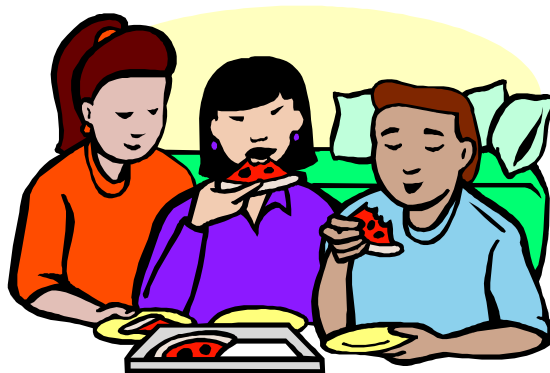
To register or for more information, please email Marna Ares at [marna.ares@state.co.us](mailto:marna.ares@state.co.us) or write to the Autism National Committee, 2003 Conference, 363 Gorham Ct., Louisville, CO 80027 or call 720-941-1538.

## **Social Skills and Friendship Class**

*For children and teens with high-functioning autism or Asperger’s Syndrome.*

The JFK Center for Developmental Disabilities is offering social skills and friendship classes. The goal of these classes is to foster friendships among participants and to help kids learn how to develop and maintain relationships at school and in the community.

The classes run for 6-8 weeks and are available year round. For information on classes for kids 6-12 years old, call Dr. Jennifer Green at 303-325-0837. For information on classes for kids 13-18, call Bonnie Dodd-Bensen at 303-315-6524.



# You Should Know!

## ELIZABETH M. ERICKSON MEMORIAL

*In Honor of Lynelle Whitlock*

*Duane C. Erickson  
Fern L. Clement*



## GOLD CONTRIBUTION

*Doug & Sherri Potter*



## SILVER CONTRIBUTION

*Lynn & Mary Carpenter  
Gail Stokes*



## CONTRIBUTIONS

*Hugh & Beatrice Adams  
Charles & Cherie Fisk  
Carmah Lawler  
Robert & Mildred Snow  
Josi Wagner Berman  
Jeanne Weis  
Michael & Barbara Young  
Ron & Pat Jurann  
John O'Dell*

*Thank you all for your generous  
contribution to The Arc in  
Jefferson County*



## WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

*Caleb Holman  
Jillana Holt-Reuter  
Jon & Diane Lesko  
R&B Living Services/Renee LaFave  
Kathy Stortz  
Steven Wiggins*

*Thank you for becoming a member of  
The Arc in Jefferson County*



## People First and Coffee House Meetings Scheduled

*People First*, a self-advocate support group of young adults, will hold its next meeting on Wednesday, November 5th beginning at 6:30 pm in The ArcJC offices, 8725 West 14th Ave., #100, in Lakewood. This is an active community oriented group that is part of a national advocacy network. Drop by a meeting sometime - you'll like it!

*Coffee House* will be held again on Thursday, November 20th. This large social group meets once a month at "Angie's Place" - The Lakewood Coffee House located at 8525 W. Colfax Ave. in Lakewood. Come prepared to enjoy music and conversation while making new friendships. Beverages and food are available for you to purchase.

### Mission

Providing leadership in addressing the choices and the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.

### The Arc Board

Robert Cherryhomes  
President

Sherri Potter  
Vice President

Peter Garin  
Secretary

Raejean Stotler  
Treasurer

John Ratz  
Director

Diane Jurann  
Director

Sandy Russalesi  
Director

Diana Packard  
Director

Marilyn Broughton  
Director

Beth Lidvall  
Director

Barb Young  
Director

Josi Wagner  
Director

Elaine Angelo  
Past President



### The Arc Staff

Todd Lowther  
Executive Director

Jo Lynn Osborne  
Assistant Executive  
Director

Jeanne Weis  
Director of Adult  
Advocacy

Louise Todd-Stoll  
Director of Individual  
& Family Supports

Ian Watlington  
Director of  
Educational Support

Ann Moulton  
Administrative Manager  
& Editor

Carole Turre



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## Membership Dinner Invitation Continued from Front Page

of dinner selection...beef, chicken or vegetarian...at the time you call with your reservation.



Also included on the agenda for the evening will be the first annual presentation of the new **Sparc Award**. This exciting award was developed by The ArcJC Board of Directors to give recognition to those *supportive people* who have made exceptional contributions toward making a difference in the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities.

The Board and staff of The Arc in Jefferson County look forward to seeing you at "*Homecoming*" and renewing old friendships.