

The Arc in Jefferson County Community Connections



Spring, 2003

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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.

“This is Noel’s only fundraiser for the year. Please support him as you do other children in their schools and clubs.”



From left: Diana, Gavin, Noel, and Brian with our dog Schooner. Noel was diagnosed with Angelman Syndrome on Sept. 11, 2000.

MISSION: MEMBERSHIP

By Diana Packard - Director

The evening was blustery, but it had been a good board meeting. With the night’s agenda nearly completed the air was filled with a sense of satisfaction for a job well done. Then we heard: “Your mission if you choose to accept it is to increase membership in The Arc. It is not an easy assignment, but you can do it.” There was no self-destructing tape, but we all understood the importance of our mission. We gathered up the materials provided for our task, shared some thoughts, and out we went to build membership.

You might think this an easy task, but in this time of down economy, there is no easy task regarding the request for money. So what approach could I use that would be different, that would help those outside (as well as inside) of our developmental disabilities

family understand the importance, and the benefits, of Arc membership. Then a thought began to form...fundraiser. “How could I use that? I know, Noel’s only fund raiser! No one sees any problem with buying a box of cookies, a box of greeting cards, a chocolate bar, or restaurant discounts.” I thought about all the great things members of The Arc get and I knew I had the right approach.

So out I went with membership forms, stamped return envelopes (no “out of stamps” excuses), and my idea. I compared the price of the membership to other fundraisers, explained the benefits, and said, “This is Noel’s only fundraiser for the year. Please support him as you do other children in their schools and clubs.” Then I

handed each “new member” their packet with a huge “thank you” and an, “I am happy you will be joining us”!! I have still been working on follow-up and I will be giving some individuals a second package because theirs got lost or thrown away, but no-one is off the hook.

So, next time you are approached to make a purchase or donation for fundraising for a friend’s child, remember that you, as a member of The Arc, have your own fundraiser, and consider a swap. It will help your child and all our children by raising community awareness and raising dollars to support The Arc in Jefferson County’s great services, programs, and staff!

And your mission, if you choose to accept it...

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WHOSE I.D.E.A. IS IT ANYWAY?

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA, Public Law 105-17) is the federal law mandating that all children with disabilities have available to them a free, appropriate public education that emphasizes special education and related services designed to meet their unique needs and prepare them for employment, independent living and a productive life. The law was first enacted in 1975 and has gone through a series of reauthorizations, the last in 1997.

IDEA has four major parts: Part A - General Provisions; Part B authorizes a state formula grant program and includes provisions regarding eligibility, evaluations, individualized education programs and procedural safeguards. Part B also authorizes a

preschool grants program (Section 619). Part C authorizes the early intervention program for infants and toddlers with disabilities; and Part D authorizes a series of discretionary programs, including state improvement grants, coordinated research, personnel preparation, parent training and information centers, technical assistance and dissemination, technology development, and media services.

Although the IDEA has been extremely successful for many students with disabilities over its 28-year history, too many parents of students with disabilities continue to struggle with school systems to secure an appropriate education for their child. Programs under IDEA have never received adequate Federal funding to support state and local

schools systems, and there is a growing crisis in the shortage of qualified special education and related services personnel at all educational levels. The law has also never been consistently or effectively monitored or enforced.

Parts C and D are authorized until September 30, 2003, and must be reauthorized. Part B is permanently authorized; however, both the Bush Administration and several Members of Congress have stated their intention to fully examine and propose changes to all parts of IDEA during this reauthorization. Reauthorization of IDEA is currently underway in Congress.

Reprinted from The Arc US Governmental Affairs Fact Sheet on I.D.E.A.



Some problematic concerns with H.R. 1350 include:

- Discipline provisions allowing school authorities to place students with disabilities who violate school codes of conduct in alternative education settings or suspension;
- Elimination of functional behavior assessments prior to any disciplinary action;
- Allowing up to 15% of IDEA funds for "pre-referral services" for students without disabilities with no time limits or other safeguards aimed at giving students protections under IDEA.

The Education and the Workforce Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives voted on April 10 to reauthorize the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). H.R. 1350 is entitled "Improving Education Results for Children and Disabilities Act of 2003."

The Arc and UCP, along with practically every other national special education advocacy organization, strongly believe that title is a misnomer. H.R. 1350 actually poses significant threats to students with disabilities and their families.

As adopted by the Committee, the bill goes to great lengths to appease school administrators while seriously eroding the rights of students with disabilities and their families.

Reprinted from The Arc of Aurora newsletter, News You Need To Know, April 2003.

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES SET TO VOTE ON BAD I.D.E.A. REAUTHORIZATION BILL



H.R. 1350 IS NO FRIEND TO CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

There are dozens of major problems with the bill, stemming from the repeal or weakening of key provisions of current law or new provisions which create a maze of options for parents as they seek to protect the rights of their child.

The bill also allows for the use of substantial amounts of IDEA funding for purposes other than serving students with disabilities, despite the fact that no state has ever fully complied with the law. Of great concern is a revised Federal monitoring and compliance system that fails to assure strong enforcement of the law.

Among the most problematic concerns with H.R. 1350 are the following:

- Discipline provisions allowing school authorities to place students with disabilities who violate school codes of conduct in alternative education settings or suspension without taking into consideration whether or not the behavior was related to the disability. These provisions will likely lead to wholesale removal of many students from being educated in regular classes in their

neighborhood schools. If alternative settings are unavailable, the child's home will be the only remaining setting.

Over IDEA's 28-year history, too many parents of students with disabilities struggled with school systems to secure appropriate education for their children. HR 1350 proposes to exacerbate these problems.

- Elimination of functional behavior assessments prior to any disciplinary action.
- Potentially onerous qualification requirements for teachers and related personnel, some of which weaken existing standards and others which increase qualification standards to the point that few individuals would enter the special education field.
- Allowing up to 15% of IDEA funds for "pre-referral services" for students without disabilities with no time limits or other

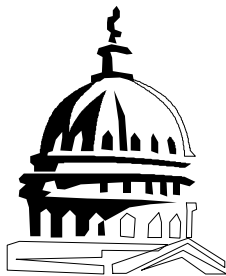
safeguards aimed at giving students protections under IDEA.

- Parents are provided with new choices to resolve issues with the school system, many of which will confuse them and make it more difficult and time consuming before they can pursue due process. These procedures include:
 - raising the bar for parents to be more specific about their requirements;
 - a required meeting between the parents and the school system to try to resolve issues raised by a complaint by the parent;
 - voluntary mediation;
 - voluntary binding arbitration; and
 - filing a due process request.
- Numerous other constraints/requirements are placed on parents, which will chill their willingness to pursue due process protections.



Reprinted from The Arc of Aurora newsletter, News You Need To Know, April, 2003.

MEDICAID IN COLORADO AND ITS IMPACT ON CITIZENS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES



In March 2003, the U.S. Senate passed a non-binding "Sense of the Senate" amendment to the Senate Budget Resolution that calls for \$15 billion to be provided to states over the next 18 months through a temporary increase in the Federal Medicaid matching rate (FMAP). If this is enacted, Colorado would receive \$139.9 million in additional Medicaid funding.

Source: Preliminary estimates by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.

Medicaid is a federal/state program that provides health, community based and institutional long-term care services and supports for children and families, the elderly, and people with disabilities. In 2000, more than 377,000 Colorado residents received services through Medicaid, including 65,460 people with disabilities.

As the national economy has weakened and as Colorado struggles to balance its budget and provide critical and life-saving services for its residents, The Arc of the United States and United Cerebral Palsy, national organizations that provide a voice for persons with developmental disabilities, have compiled information to help the public understand the essential role of Medicaid in providing critical services and supports to Coloradans with developmental disabilities.

MEDICAID PROVIDES ESSENTIAL SERVICES AND SUPPORTS

Health care and long term services and supports, including community-based services provided by Medicaid, are among the most important ways that Colorado demonstrates that

it values all of its residents. Medicaid services help to keep people healthy and enable individuals to lead personally enriching lives by contributing to the communities around them. In addition to physician, hospital and clinic services, Medicaid provides a vital—and sometimes the only—funding source for critical services. These include:

EPSDT Services for Children

A provision of the Medicaid program, called Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) ensures that children in Medicaid receive regular health screenings, and when problems are diagnosed, treatment services are provided. These services prevent and minimize disability by intervening early. For children with developmental disabilities, this critical Medicaid benefit can make a huge difference in people's lives. This early investment in children can save money by enabling children to maximize their development and educational attainment.

Long-Term Services

Unlike private health insurance coverage, the

benefits provided by Medicaid address the major issues and challenges facing people with developmental disabilities. In particular, Medicaid provides coverage for long-term services that are rarely provided by most private health insurance programs. These services include residential living in people's own homes so that families can stay together and also in facilities. Long-term care services also include: speech, language and hearing services, occupational therapy, and physical therapy. Medicaid also provides for home health services and personal care services that help individuals to perform activities of daily living, such as dressing and feeding themselves.

SIGNIFICANT FEDERAL FINANCIAL RESOURCES GO TO COLORADO

The federal Medicaid program reimburses the state Medicaid program for a share of the services provided under the state's Medicaid plan. The federal share ranges from a low of 50 % to a high of 83%. This percentage is known as the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP). In Colorado, in 2003, the

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federal share of costs is 50%. In other words, for every state dollar spent by Medicaid, the state brings in \$1.00 in federal funds. Additionally, Medicaid spending is good for the state's economy through the jobs generated and other economic benefits.

THERE ARE ALTERNATIVES TO HARMFUL MEDICAID CUTS

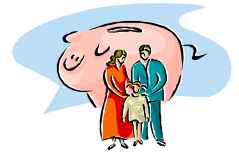
As Colorado's economy struggles, more people become

eligible for Medicaid. Cutting state support for Medicaid would only make the problem worse, leading to more job losses. The President has offered a "Medicaid Modernization" proposal that is wrong for Colorado. Instead of providing short-term relief to states with a plan to solve Medicaid's long-term financing challenges, the Administration offers limited short-term support only if states agree to cap future funding.

This can only lead to loss of

eligibility for some people in Medicaid or cuts in critical services. The President's proposal would allow Colorado to cap optional services, including the Medicaid Waiver. The best result for Colorado is to sustain its commitment to Medicaid. Bipartisan proposals in Congress would provide a temporary increase in the FMAP, making it easier for Colorado and other states to avoid cutting Medicaid.

Excerpted from The ArcUS and UCP Public Policy Collaboration.



Begins September 11, 2003

When your child is identified as having special needs, it's almost like entering a new world. There is so much to learn and do...where do you start?

"Mobilizing Families" can provide information on supports and resources in the community and an opportunity to connect with other families.

All sessions will be held from 6 to 9 p.m.
at The Arc in Jefferson County
8725 West 14th Ave., #100, Lakewood



Sessions will include:

- Identifying the Dream
- Education
- Developing Resources in the Community
- The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
- Building Relationships at Home and in the Community
- Becoming an Effective Communicator
- Accessing Insurance and Medicaid Benefits
- Impacting Legislation Which Affects Your Family

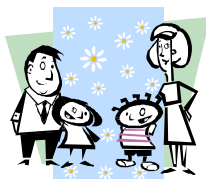
Sessions will be held on the following Thursday evenings.

Sept. 11, 18, 25
Oct. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

♦
Session materials and training will be provided at no cost to participants.

♦
A light supper will be served at 6:00

♦
Limited childcare will be available. Stipends are offered for home care.



**To RSVP or
for more information,
please call (303) 232-1338**

Free at Last, Oh Lord, Free at Last: Self-Determination in Colorado

By Marcia Tewell,
Executive Director of

Colorado Developmental Disabilities Council



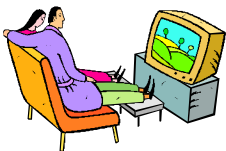
As the state once again embarks on developing a new system of delivery of supports to persons with developmental disabilities, self-determination in this case, it is critical that our constituents look at the idea with a close magnifying glass.

They need to:

- 1) determine why we cannot or have not currently implemented the changes necessary to the proposed outcome;
- 2) define what the expected outcome is so that we are not using different phrases to describe the same thing or worse yet, the same phrase to describe something different, and
- 3) project the potential unintended consequences so as not to repeat the past perversions of previous system change.



We can bring to mind the initial concepts of both the family support program and supported living services to note the current reality of the programs (dependence) vs. the original well-intended descriptors of the programs (independence).



Many states across the U.S. are implementing the idea of “self-determination” within

their developmental disabilities system. The four basic tenets of the idea are *freedom, authority, responsibility, and individual choice*. If any of our readers have been through system changes in the 1970s, they might reminisce on the terms from Normalization theory: social integration, equal treatment, dignity of risk, and respect.

We have all been working for many years toward the ideal of participation in the community on an equal playing field, i.e. the concept is not new. The reality is that control by families and individuals in major decisions that affect their lives has been a goal for as many decades as I can remember. “Nothing about us without us,” has been on our individual plans for a long time without even a short-term objective having been met - just carried over from year to year onto the next year’s plan. We change the terms we use, but the substance is still void in this arena.

The idea of self-determination once again will attempt to bring to reality this goal. It is possible that we are using strategies that are not/have not worked or, as Norman Kunc so clearly

proposes, “We are using a refrigerator to get to the grocery store when we really should be using a car.”

It is critical to identify prior to implementation not only how we define self-determination, but also to have markers along the way that can identify perversions as they occur and make changes as needed. A friend recently indicated that a member of her son’s planning team called to say that the dream page was not in the file and could it be faxed over as soon as possible. How soon will it be that we are trivializing and requesting that the “freedom” and “choice” pages are faxed over for the files because an auditor from CMS is on their way on July 13th?

There is an assumption that as we develop the “new” idea of self-determination there will be some obfuscation along the way. The attached chart hopefully helps delineate the potential differences in interpretation. The reader may note that many of the differences in the two columns relate to fiscal issues and control over how funds are used. We may all agree on the outcome of “choice” and “freedom,” but

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there could potentially be issues relative to strategy, control and who implements the option in addition to who gets how much money from whom for what. If there are staff members whose tasks are vestigial, who gets the cost savings?

On a practical front, the idea of self-determination/direct funding is that a person with a disability will direct their services personally, have the ability to hire and fire those who provide their supports, be that a job coach, a home health aide who assists with daily living tasks, or a provider of residential supports.

Thus far, all of Colorado's self-determination projects have left out

individuals with cognitive disabilities. However, current proposals allow such individuals to get support from family and friends as they participate. The individual will not receive money directly themselves. There is a more direct line between an individual and the money in that a fiscal intermediary will cut the check to the support person or place, thus easing out the expensive middle persons we have currently in many systems and agencies.

Central to the idea of self-determination is the use of a fiscal intermediary for the purposes of dealing with the IRS, FICA, worker's compensation, performing the role of employer of record,

buying liability insurance, and cutting checks to people and places that families and individuals have chosen to serve them.

The determinant in families choosing an intermediary is one of who will do this for the least amount of money and how quickly the support services can be reimbursed for their work. In essence, it is more of a cash subsidy model than the current layered system. Please check Arc of Colorado's website www.thearcofco.org for their current proposal to the state to implement a direct funding model in the state.

This article has been reprinted from the Spring 2003 edition of the Colorado Developmental Disabilities Council newsletter, Between the Lines.

Self-Determination: Freedom, authority, responsibility, and individual choice

IS

Using paid or non-paid supports to enable meaningful work and activities

Having personal roots and building history in your own home/neighborhood/community

Enabled by person-centered planning and person-centered budgets

Using specific resources determined independently of services or supports selected including a process to make timely adjustments as needed

A lifestyle that allows ALL to control where, with whom, and how they live their lives

Obtains financial efficiencies - self-determination uses fiscal intermediaries and direct funding

Supports/companionship

Occurs when person produces income in a job of their choosing or determines how to spend their day personally

Only possible when independent/third party service coordination or case management exists, thus avoiding a potential conflict of interest from actual service provision

IS NOT

Simply a choice between service providers

Moving from one agency - owned/leased setting to another

Risk pooled budgets based out of an agency and derived solely from allocation formulas

Current support funds determined on historical provider costs, based on traditional service designs and based on deficit/categorical assessments

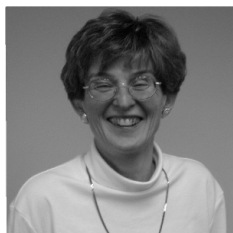
Program/placement within an array of services, mostly for people who have family members and strong advocates in their lives

Application of traditional/standardized funding of individuals without regard for individual needs or outcomes

Services/hourly underpaid staff

Only when a person's existence produces income for human services personnel

When service coordination and provision are linked and therefore rife with potential conflicts of interest on many fronts



Louise Todd-Stoll
Director of Individual
& Family Supports

Membership: Encourage A Friend to Belong Because...

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed it is the only thing that ever has."

source: Margaret Meade

Did you know that many people are not aware that The Arc is a membership organization? With Margaret Meade's above quote in mind, please consider inviting someone you know to become a member of The Arc in Jefferson County. After all, membership is yours and your friend's voice and vote within The Arc organization that impacts local, state and national policy.



Membership within The Arc is more important than ever this year. As in years past, we have experienced an increase in requests for both systemic advocacy and individual support. With the current state budget cuts, we expect a dramatic increase of requests in 2003.

Our involvement is rarely a one-time effort. Some circumstances take many hours and several meetings to resolve. Many individuals and families need on-going assistance.

Additional benefits that you can remind others include:

- Newsletters from your local, state and national affiliates of The Arc
- Trainings which are designed to increase your knowledge and skills regarding disability issues
- An electronic newsletter to keep our membership alerted to breaking news in the disability arena
- Opportunities to connect and mobilize with other members at our annual

picnic in July and annual meeting in November.

Should anyone be unable to afford a membership, they can contact Carole at The Arc office, 303-232-1338. A family has been kind enough to make some scholarship funds available for this purpose.

Please, do take a moment TODAY to reach out to someone you know and encourage a membership in The Arc. Likewise, if you are interested in being part of a phoning outreach committee, please contact Louise at ext. 207. THANK YOU!

Action Alert: For Families and Interested Parties Involved with Early Intervention and/or the Family Support Services Program



As you may be aware the current Colorado budget crisis means many programs are being examined closely to determine if they are making the best use of public dollars. The Colorado legislature has requested that the Department of Human Services insure that

resources in Early Intervention and Family Support are targeted toward "families that are most in need." The department is requested to provide "options for appropriate programmatic changes for the early intervention and family support programs."

Therefore, the Children's Developmental Disabilities Unit is requesting your help in generating ideas about how to define families in need and what program changes you would like to see. After they

receive brainstorm ideas from a wide range of people, a task group will generate several options that will be circulated for comment. The task group is representative of various groups with an interest in these programs and services. Please e-mail your comments to Louise Todd-Stoll at louise@arcjc.org or mail them to The Arc in Jefferson County, 8725 West 14th Ave #100, Lakewood, Colorado 80215, attention: Louise.

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All comments need to be submitted no later than June 13, 2003. If you prefer, you can send your input directly to: Sheila Peil, 3824 West Princeton Circle, Denver, CO 80236.

Questions to be answered for both Early Intervention Services and Family Support include:

- 1) Are you (please check as many as apply)
 - A parent who has or is currently receiving Early Intervention Services/Family Support (circle) from a Community Centered Board
 - A parent receiving

services from early childhood connections/family support

- An employee of a community centered board
- On the board or a volunteer of the community centered board
- An advocate for children with disabilities
- An employee of a program that works with children with development disabilities
- A concerned community member
- Other:

2) What factors do you think should be considered when defining Families in Need?

- Finances
- Level of disability
- Family circumstances
- Risk of out of home placement
- Other (please be specific)

3) What do you think are the most important parts of Early Intervention/Family Support? (please circle which program you are responding to)

4) What would you like to see improved?

5) Other comments?



Person Centered Planning

You have probably heard the term many times. And if not, perhaps other terms that generally mean the same thing: an individualized planning session, a personal futures plan, MAP or a PATH plan (planning alternatives for tomorrow with hope). This creative and facilitated person centered planning process helps focus on planning actions that lead to a desired future for both young and older persons with disabilities.

Generally, during a two hour session the family, friends, neighbors, professionals and other

significant people in a person's life come together over refreshments and, with the guidance of a facilitator, the group explores what the individual's dreams are and how to achieve those dreams.

The process involves putting up large sheets of paper and having fun exploring the individual's competencies, interests and talents. From this process the team develops an action plan to help the individual achieve his or her dreams. This process is on going since the plan can be reviewed periodically as others are invited into the person's circle of friends.

We have seen amazing results from this approach

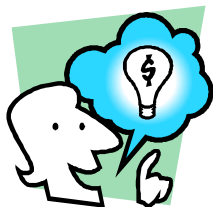
such as IEP goals and objectives being totally written so that relevant steps are incorporated into the student's plan.

In another instance we saw a young man securing his own home and attaining his dream job. We have seen yet others who are able to take more control of their lives by the simple act of ensuring choices to one's daily life, school and activities. Those choices in turn lead to a fuller life. Indeed, this process is for EVERYONE!!

We strongly encourage you to call us and set up a futures plan. Summer will be an ideal time. Please call Louise ext. 207 for more details.



You Should Know!



Social Security Asks for Feedback on Disabilities

In an effort to update the rules used to evaluate mental disabilities in adults and children who apply for Social Security benefits or Supplemental Security Income payments, the SSA is asking interested people and organizations to send in comments and suggestions.

The SSA is also calling for ideas on improving programs for people with mental disorders, especially those who would like to work full-time or part-time with supports. Comments must be sent in by June 16, 2003 to regulations@ssa.gov, (410) 966-2840 (Fax), or over the Internet at the SSA Program Policy Information site at <http://policyssa.gov/pnpublic.nsf/LawsRegs>

504 Training Upcoming This Fall



The Arc in Jefferson County will be hosting a workshop in September, through Peak Parent Center, about Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Section 504 requires that school districts (since they receive federal funds) provide students with disabilities a free and appropriate education. Moreover, the definition of a person with a disability is broader under Section 504 than it is with a child on an IEP and under the I.D.E.A law.

This training session is designed for professionals, parents and guardians and will address students who have need of special accommodations for their

educational experience. IEPs address both modifications and accommodations. If you are interested in this training, call Louise at 303-232-1338, ext. 207 for more information. The date for the training has not yet been determined.

Emergency Preparedness for People with Disabilities

It is especially important for people with special medical concerns or disabilities to be prepared ahead of time for unexpected emergencies and disasters. The American Red Cross has created a booklet, "Disaster Preparedness for People with Disabilities." It gives step-by-step instructions for developing a plan and a checklist of things you might need in an emergency. Call the Red Cross Center at 303-237-7785 for a copy.

The following are websites and contact numbers for local and national groups:

- www.nod.org - National Organization on Disability
- www.preparenow.org - a site in California with links on disasters and special needs
- www.nbdc.com - emergency evacuation checklist (use search bar on left of homepage to type emergency evacuation checklist)
- www.easterseals.org - S.a.f.e.t.y. first evacuation program
- www.aoa.dhhs.gov - U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services Administration on Aging
- www.redcross.org - American Red Cross website

You Should Know!

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

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

*Lea Ann Allmendinger
 Patricia Alvarez
 Nancy Smith Bean
 Kathryn Clement
 Lew & Jody Clement
 Duane & Mary Cory
 Jennifer DeVillier
 Mark & Kelli Hoefler
 Nancy Lambertson
 Cindy Post
 Jami Romero
 Marianne Vessely*

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



LESLIE J. MONTHEI MEMORIAL

*Daplyne Monthei
 Virginia Siljestrom
 Nicole Weaver
 Jeanne Weis*



PLATINUM CONTRIBUTION

Steve Clement



GOLD CONTRIBUTION

*Marian Neely Carlson
 David & Beth Lidvall*

SILVER CONTRIBUTION

Ed & Phyllis Watlington



CONTRIBUTIONS

*Elizabeth Malonson
 Clara Murray
 Daplyne Monthei
 Kathryn Clement
 Lew & Jody Clement*



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.

- **COOKBOOKS** are available for only \$20.00
 Collection of favorite recipes from self-advocates across the state.

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



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Community Connections

The Arc in Jefferson

8725 West 14th Ave., Suite 100
Lakewood, CO 80215

303-232-1338
FAX 303-232-9370
Home Page: www.arcjc.org
Email: info@arcjc.org

**We're
inviting
you to join
us for the
fun...**



All New! All Fun! The annual ArcJC picnic in July!

This year the event will be held on Tuesday, July 15th in Prospect Park on West 44th Avenue in Wheat Ridge. (The park is on the south side of West 44th Ave. between Quail and Robb west of Kipling and east of Ward Road)

The fun begins at 5:30 pm.

Join The Arc in Jefferson County board of directors and staff for a delicious picnic barbeque. Bring the family and enjoy an evening of fun in the park, chatting with old friends and meeting new ones. There will be entertainment for the kids and a playground is nearby.

Invite a potential new member as your guest!

There is close-in parking and plenty of tables

Please RSVP by July 7th by calling 303-232-1338.

There is no charge for the dinner

