

The Arc in Jefferson County Community Connections



*Americorp*VISTA volunteers, Emily Porter and Jamie Teague of Teaming for Technology have just given Ian Watlington, Director of Educational Supports, the IBM certificate awarding The ArcJC new computer hardware.*



Summer 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.

Teaming for Technology Grant for The ArcJC

The Arc in Jefferson County was a recent recipient of four computer systems and a printer from the IBM sponsored project Teaming for Technology (T4T). T4T is a collaboration between IBM, Americorps*VISTA and Mile High United Way. The Arc in Jefferson County received the new equipment as a result of successful participation in the T4T/ IBM Hardware Grant Program. The Program included monthly computer trainings, formation of a technology committee, and completion of a technology plan.

The technology committee, led by board

president Robert Cherryhomes, produced a long-range strategic plan that is designed to give The Arc in Jefferson County a blue-print for addressing its technology needs.

Teaming for Technology, which is staffed by Americorps*VISTA members, was designed to assist nonprofits in effectively using technology to increase the impact of their mission in the low-income communities they serve.

Denver is one of seventeen sites across America hosting a Teaming for Technology project. Teaming for Technology Denver is

currently in its sixth year. Since its inception Teaming for Technology Denver has given nonprofits over \$300,000 worth of computer hardware from IBM.

Teaming for Technology acts as a catalyst towards integrating technology within nonprofit organizations serving local communities. T4T's Grant Program has been renamed to The T4T TechLaunch Program for 2004. For more information on how to apply for TechLaunch visit T4T online at www.t4tdenver.org.

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What Could Be Better Than a Picnic in July?



Joan Jurann cheerfully waits to help guests sign the register during the annual July picnic hosted by The ArcJC with George Giles ready to assist.



Greg Erickson, Louise Todd-Stoll, David Vincent and Mark Lancaster are enjoying some after-dinner conversation and fun.





Just arriving for an evening of good food and fun are Jantiny E. Van Herwaarden with the Barnes family, Paul, Janice and Austin.



There's no better place to just kick back and relax than at a picnic in the park and Greg Erickson, David Vincent and Brett Billings show us how to do it.



Why Not Start Your School Year With Mobilizing Families



**Jo Lynn Osborne,
Assistant Executive
Director**

The end of summer and the beginning of a new school year brings families everywhere to yet another transition. Just today, I had the opportunity to walk through the halls of an elementary school and see the excited faces of students, teachers and parents. Then I thought about the Mobilizing Families training that would be starting soon at The Arc in Jefferson County.

This training provides a wonderful opportunity for parents of students with developmental disabilities. It's a place where you can learn, grow and build a network of friends. Not only is valuable training provided, the whole family can attend.

The evening begins with a light supper at 6:00 p.m. Then the training starts at 6:30 p.m. While parents are learning about valuable resources, the children are having a great time playing with other kids. Yes, childcare will be provided.

Let me give you a little background on Mobilizing Families. It has been in existence since 1989. Since then about 400 participants have gone through this training right here in Jefferson County.

In 1999, The Arc recognized Mobilizing Families for excellence at both the State and National level.

If this sounds like something you would be interested in, read on. The time to register is now.



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

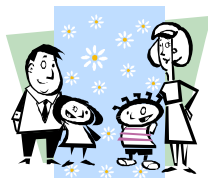
Sessions will be held on the following Thursday evenings.

**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**

Now in its 3rd year

Training for Transition (T4T)

An in-depth weekend workshop for parents, educators and students on an IEP seeking to maximize the transition experience from school to adult life.



Here are some questions to ask yourself...

- *What happens when my child/student leaves the school environment?*
- **Will my child/qualify for and be able to access Social Security Benefits?**
- *What are the service options for my child/student during the transition period ages 14-21?*
- **Why do some families receive services while others must wait for those services to become available?**
- *Since there are no mandated services after age 21, do you have a plan to gain the supports your child/student needs?*
- **Considering the maze of information and regulations regarding transition to adult life for students with disabilities, are you ready?**
- *During transition, just how important is the I.E.P.?*

If you, as a teacher or parent, cannot answer these questions satisfactorily, *Training for Transition* is for you.

WHEN: Five weekends to choose from: Oct. 24-26, 2003; Jan. 9-11, 2004; Feb. 20-22, 2004; Mar. 5-7, 2004; Apr. 16-18, 2004

WHERE: **Rocky Mountain Village** is owned and operated by Easter Seals Colorado. It is one hour west of Denver on I-70 at an elevation of 8,350 feet. Expect a rustic mountain setting with home-style meals. Camp counselors will be assigned to your child upon request. The weekend of **Mar. 5-7, 2004 the training will be held at the Lakewood Holiday Inn.** No childcare or youth programs provided.

COST: **\$75 per person** includes training/seminars, lodging, meals, resource manual and recreation activities

INFORMATION: Call 303-233-1666, ext. 222 or outside Denver, 800-335-2598. Visit www.arcjc.org/transition.htm.

*Some financial assistance is available upon request.
Credits or units are available for educators through Colorado State University.*

Partnering Agencies

- Colorado Department of Education
- Easter Seals Colorado
- The Arc in Jefferson County





For Children on the Autism Spectrum

by Mary Erickson, MT-BC

I am a music therapist who has worked with children with developmental disabilities and autism for the last 25 years. I want to share with you

Relationship Development Intervention - RDI, a method designed by Dr. Steven Gutstein and his wife, Dr. Rachelle Sheely.

They work at *The Connections Center* in Houston, Texas, www.connectionscenter.com. RDI is a new

developmental program that opens the door to lifelong social and emotional growth.

In May 2003, I was excited to become a Certified Relationship Development Intervention Provider.

What is RDI?

- “It is a *joyful collaboration* between an adult or peer, and an individual on the autism spectrum.” Dr. Steven Gutstein
- It is learning to share emotions with others.
- It is a way for families and individuals to play together within a specific framework as

they share emotions and develop relationships.

- It is about a child on the spectrum learning to have a friend, and to be a friend.

In my experience implementing RDI with children with autism and aspergers over the last year and a half, I know that it can work.

How does it work?

A Relationship Development Assessment (RDA) is needed to determine the developmental level and stage of your child. The RDA is administered by me. I then work with your child as you watch. Then you work with your child on a specific activity as I watch.

Parents receive support and training in RDI through this method. Parents continue to learn how to play with their child within a framework given to them by me.

Parents know their child best and will soon learn to add little changes. Parents must make a commitment to provide daily sessions of play.

Where do we start?

Prior to scheduling an RDA:

1. Have a free 30 minute telephone consultation with me at a prearranged time.
2. Either read the book, *Solving the Relationship Puzzle* by Steven E. Gutstein, or go to a session presented by Dr. Gutstein.

Implementation of the RDI

RDI sessions are an hour long including 45 minutes of work with RDI and 15 minutes of consultation. During the session, I will work with your child as you watch. Then you will work with your child as I watch. I will support you as you learn to work with RDI. You will get a new assignment sheet after each RDI session.

For more information about RDI, please call me, Mary Erickson, at 720-270-4892.

Friendships Our Forte



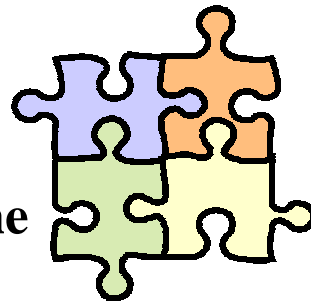


The Autism Society of Jefferson County? A Great Idea!

Would you like to be a part of something important in serving the needs of children with autism in Jefferson County?



We believe that the ASJC - a local chapter to serve Jefferson County- is an idea who's time is now. We are looking for parents of children with autism spectrum disorders, educators and professionals who provide services to them who are interested in helping to establish the ASJC. The ASJC would provide information, referral and support at the local level needed for effective assistance.

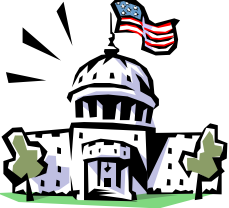


A local chapter to serve Jefferson County is an idea who's time is now.

For more information, please contact Betty Lehman, Executive Director of the Colorado Chapter at 720-214-0794 or Therese Wrangham, President of the Autism Society of Boulder County at 720-272-8231.



You Should Know!



October Legislative Advocacy Training

Be a Champ for Children - Legislative Advocacy Training at The Children's Hospital. The speaker will be nationally known grassroots advocacy expert, Nancy Amidei of the Civic Engagement Project in Seattle. **Free!** Friday, October 10, 2003. This is a great opportunity for beginner advocates to get comfortable with the basics of advocacy. A boxed lunch can be ordered for \$10. Call 303-861-6555 for more information.

Boulder Autism Conference



Pathways to the Future, Autism Society of Boulder conference. Saturday, September 20, 2003. Boxed lunch and beverage are provided. Space is limited. Call 720-272-8231 for cost and registration information.

DDRC 2003 Run, Walk, and Roll

There's something for everyone...a 5-mile run or a 1-mile walk and roll. This event will be held during the 78th annual Arvada Harvest Festival on September 6, 2003 at McIlvoy Park in Olde Town Arvada. Enjoy all the activities and fun and support DDRC (Developmental Disabilities Resource Center) through your participation. For more information, go to www.ddrcco.com or call Ron Marquez at 303-462-6623.



CHADD 15th Annual International Conference on ADHD

Register now for the conference to be held October 29-November 1, 2003 at the Adams Mark Hotel, Denver. Information and resources for pros and parents, contact www.chadd.org or 1-800-233-4050 for details. Don't forget to ask for parent scholarships.

SPEAKING FOR OURSELVES

WHAT: SPEAKING FOR OURSELVES CONFERENCE:
"SELF DETERMINATION"

WHEN: NOVEMBER 1ST AND 2ND, 2003

WHERE: PEACEFUL VALLEY RANCH

NEAR LYONS, COLORADO

WHY:

- To learn about self determination
- Election of Speaking for Ourselves officers
- Visit with friends from all over the state
- **Fun activities**

COST: \$80 includes a bed, lunch and dinner on Saturday, and breakfast on Sunday. **Money due in October.**

For registration information, contact:
Jeanne Weis
People First/The Arc in Jefferson County
8725 W. 14th Ave., Suite 100
Lakewood, CO 80215
Questions: 303-232-1338

HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THE CONFERENCE!

You Should Know!

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

*David E. Clemens
Linda Mullen
Connie Casias
David Lienhos
Betty Dreesen
Terri Reichert
Jan Beckett
Benton & Patricia Fulton
Shawna Bellone
Nancy Crandall
Mike Jackson
Richard Van DeWeghe
Alan Feuer
Steven Feuer
Zach Badgett
George Giles
Greg Erickson
Mark Lancaster
Kelly Goeken
Christopher Dierking
Amanda Murray*

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



PLATINUM CONTRIBUTION

Louise Todd-Stoll
☺

GOLD CONTRIBUTION

Tom & Helen Stroud
☺

SILVER CONTRIBUTION

*JoAnn Roberts/High Plains Pediatric
Therapy
Frank & Merry Valentin
Martha Bay*
☺

CONTRIBUTIONS

*Ruth Cato
Harriett Wilkinson
Susan Johnson*
☺

ELIZABETH M. ERICKSON MEMORIAL

In Honor of Lynelle Whitlock

Wayne Whitlock
☺

A Special "Thank You" to Our Extra Special Volunteers

*Jerry Stoll
Gerrie Frohne
Pat Jurann
Will Gabel
Elonna Casaday
Carol DeCrescentis
Paula Lowther
Jennifer Brennan
Stephanie Dillworth
Joan Jurann
Diane Jurann*

*Thank you all very much for so
graciously giving of your time.*

Mission

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

The Arc Board

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Sherri Potter
Vice President

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Secretary

Raejean Stotler
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Director of Individual
& Family Supports

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Educational Support

Ann Moulton
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Email: info@arcjc.org



Come Join Us!

Did you know? The Arc in Jefferson County has a Membership Committee! The committee is made up of two Arc staff members, Louise Todd-Stoll and Carole Turre, and three Arc board members, Marilyn Broughton, Beth Lidvall and Barbara Young. This Committee is charged with developing strategies for membership growth and potential fund-raising opportunities

The past few months, the Membership Committee took a look at existing marketing materials for The Arc in Jefferson County, and updated them to reflect the current mission of The Arc. We had found through informal discussions with the public that The Arc in Jefferson County was having an identity crisis! For example, many people did not know that we are a membership-based organization – they simply knew us as the organization that took their charitable donations for the local thrift stores. Other people thought that either we are a part of Developmental Disabilities Resource Center (DDRC) or that we are in competition with DDRC – and of course, the truth is that The Arc in Jefferson County does neither! These two organizations provide different and complementary services for individuals with disabilities and their families.



So the Membership Committee has taken these issues, and tried to focus our current message to the public about what The Arc is and what services we can provide to them and their family members. It is our hope that a new, streamlined image of The Arc will generate a new energy and interest that allows us to increase membership and thereby increase our ability to serve the developmentally disabled community. As members, please do what you can to help us grow into the future by promoting our services to those who could benefit from them, and by encouraging friends and family members to become members, too. Thanks for your support!

By Barbara Young, Membership Committee Chairperson