The Arc Appeal

A Publication of Mid-South Arc

Empowering People with Developmental Disabilities to Achieve their Full Potential

VOLUME 17, ISSUE 1 **SPRING 2005**

March Madness

2005

Calendar of Events

5th
Appreciation Reception

4th -6th
Sabbath Weekend

7th—12th
Disability Awareness Week

12th
Family Support Workshop

15th
Legislative Awareness Day

19th
Wheelchair Basketball Jamboree

29th—31st
Career Development Workshop

March Madness Sponsors:

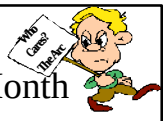
Tennessee Council on Developmental Disabilities

Nike, Inc.

Anointed Temple of Praise

Arc March Madness

In Honor of National Developmental Disability Awareness Month



The month of March has been designated as **National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month**. Developmental Disability Awareness Month is an annual observance that focuses on increasing public awareness and understanding of the issues affecting people with developmental disabilities. Individuals with developmental disabilities such as mental retardation, cerebral palsy, epilepsy and autism, can be vital and vibrant members of our communities, improving the quality of life for all of us. Now we have an opportunity to get the message out to our community in a collaborative effort.

In recognition of Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, Mid-South Arc joins chapters of The Arc and other agencies around the country to raise awareness of the issues facing individuals experiencing a developmental disability. To learn more about activities for the month, please call for information and a detailed schedule of activities (or visit our website at www.arcmidsouth.net). In appreciation of this month, a Membership Reception will be held on March 5, 2005 from 9:00 a.m. - 11: 00 a.m. at the Vine located at 1819 Madison Avenue. Awards will be presented to members in various categories. In addition, a joint proclamation from both the City and County will be presented to Mid-South Arc declaring March, Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month.

Activities for the Month:

We Give Thanks: March 5 - March Madness Membership Appreciation Reception

Sabbath Weekend: March 4-6 - Churches and synagogues around the nation will use their weekend services to focus attention to the needs and abilities of persons with mental retardation and related developmental disabilities. This weekend will also promote the involvement of individuals and their families in the church.

Disability Awareness Week: March 7-12 - Mid-South Arc agency representatives will be available for Disability Awareness Training, presentations, and speaking engagements for employers, schools, church groups, professional groups, and other interested groups.

The Waiver and Your Future: March 12 - Mid-South Arc Family Support Services Program will provide informational speakers on the changes in the Medicaid Waiver and future planning (conservatorship, guardianship, etc).

Legislative Awareness Day: March 15 – Self-advocates, families, and other interested parties will travel to Nashville to address current issues of concern with their local legislators.

It's A Jamboree: March 19 - The Ninth Annual Wheelchair Basketball Jamboree will be held at the Raymond Skinner Center located at 712 Tanglewood. Teams from the Memphis Fire Department, Wheelchair Sports, Inc., the Memphis Police Department, the Shelby County Sheriff's Department, and others will come together to play wheelchair basketball .

Career Quest Exploring Your Work Options: March 29-31 - Mid-South Arc, Career Development and Job Placement Program will host its annual three-day workshop designed to provide job readiness training (call for individuals registration or to register your school).

"BREAKING BARRIERS"

Learning about one another is the first step to understanding

If you would like more information or to participate in these events, please contact Mid-South Arc at (901) 327-2473 or by email at msarc@arcmidsouth.net.

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Parents Assisting Parents Meeting

Every month Mid-South Arc hosts a Parents Assisting Parents meeting to provide parents and family members of persons with disabilities with the information they need to serve as the best advocates for their loved one. These meetings are held on the third Saturday of each month at the Mid-South Arc office.

Speakers are brought in on an array of topics such as the Medicaid Waiver, conservatorship, guardianship, future planning for your loved one, Social Security benefits, and others. If you would like more information about these meetings or to participate, please contact Mid-South Arc office at (901) 327-2473 or by e-mail at msarc@arcmidsouth.net.

Carlene Leaper,
Executive Director

AC Wharton,
Shelby County Mayor

Harold Ford Jr.,
Congressman

Jim Jaggers,
Meteorologist

The 9th Annual Benefit & Awards Gala "A Great Success"

A great celebration took place on October 14, 2004 when Mid-South Arc celebrated its 9th Annual Benefit and Awards Gala at the Marriott Hotel by friends, supporters, staff, board members, and families of Mid-South Arc.

The evening began with a silent auction followed by entertainment and a delicious dinner. The events of the evening included entertainment from Ms. Margaret McKissick, principal of Avon Lenox, Nicholas Martin, student of White Station High School, and the Trade Off Band. Awards were given to individuals in different categories who have shown exceptional support for individuals with disabilities. A nominating committee read through various biographies and recommendations to narrow down their top choices for award recipients.

The gala was graced with the presence of two exceptional and respected speakers, Shelby County Mayor, AC Wharton and Congressman, Harold Ford, Jr. Mayor Wharton enlightened us by speaking on the need for encouragement of people with disabilities in the community, while Congressman Ford discussed inclusion. Before leaving the gala, Congressman Ford contributed $1,000 to the efforts of Mid-South Arc and its mission. Their speeches were uplifting and gratifying to those who work with individuals with disabilities.

The Moderator of the evening was Jim Jaggers of Channel 3 News a renowned meteorologist in the Mid-South for over 27 years. Mr. Jaggers delivered many smiles as he and Reggie Williams of the Memphis Red Birds presented nominees and awards to the winners.

With over 300 in attendance, Mid-South Arc had another record breaking event. Mid-South Arc would like to thank the 2004 gala event sponsors: Laidlaw, Aging Commission of the Mid-South, American Disabilities Consultants, Autozone, Brown Missionary Baptist Church, FedEx, Fred's, Nike Inc., SW Distributing & SW Beverage, and St. Francis Hospital. A special thanks to the committee members, judges, and volunteers for their time and efforts in selecting the award recipients for 2004. Thanks to all the community agencies, members and gala attendees that support Mid-South Arc and the Awards Gala. To the nominees and winners of the awards, congratulations and thank you for your dedication and support to those with disabilities. May you never grow weary in making a difference!

Awards & Recognition 2004

Humanitarian of the Year
Martha McGinley (Avon-Lenox)

Media Award
Allyne Luciano (WYPL-TV 18)

Employee of the Year
Randy Alexander (MCIL)

Elizabeth Boggs Award
Jennie Poag-Lewis (Avon-Lenox)

Advocate of the Year
Thomas F. Wilds (St. John's Comm. Ser.)

Employer of the Year
Dr. Ralph Pope (Pope Animal Hospital)

Wilson Dietrich Award
Juanita Voss (Avon-Lenox)

Professional of the Year
Felecia Robinson (SRVS)

Artist/Performer of the Year
Vernon Quince (Mid-South Arc)

Empowerment Award
Tandrea Wooten

Winners Not Pictured →	Distinguished Community Service Award	Volunteer of the Year
	Hilton Hotel Corporation	Michael Drew

(Left) Weatherman, Jim Jaggers and Reggie Williams (Memphis Red Birds) presenting awards to winners!

(Right) Margaret McKissick (Avon Lenox) and Nicholas Martin (White Station High School) entertaining Gala guests.

Continued on page 7

Thank you for your generous support throughout the year.

Your involvement makes a great difference!

Sponsors

$10,000+

Children's Foundation
DRS
DMRS
United Way of the Mid-South

$1000+

Federal Express
Harold Ford, Jr
LaidLaw Educational Services
Church of the Holy Spirit
Community Foundation
Hilton Hotels
Madonna Circle Project
Ralph Newton Brown
Gavin M. Murrey
Nike, Inc.
TN Knights of Columbus
Delores Voigt

$500+

American Disabilities Consultants
Arc of Tennessee
Connie Booker
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Functional Independence
Holiday Inn Select
Memphis Police Federation
Sam's Club Foundation
AGS
Aging Commission
Anointed Temple of Praise
Arc of Tennessee
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Southwest Homes
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$200+

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Judith M. Larson
Memphis Fire Department
Hershey Foods Corporation
Memphis Police Department
Neil's Restaurant
Ryan's Hope
Shelby County Government
Shelby County Sheriff's Office
Wellington & Joanne Mock

$50+

Altria Group, Inc.
Doris Thomas Hill
Nancy Koehler
Julie M. Poole
Deborah C. Plemmons
Disability Pathfinder
Beverly Mathews
United Way of Allegheny County
Collins Chapel CME Church
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Charles & Lorraine Cordera
Methodist Healthcare Corp
Elvernice Davis
Camille Dolan
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MATA
SRVS
Memphis Area Legal Service
Memphis Redbirds
William Miller
Mt. Lebanon Baptist Church
Frederick Palmer
Personal Assurance
Reliable Insurance Solutions
Shelby County Government
Tennessee Disability Pathfinders
Tennessee Home Defense
Richard Townes
United Way of the Allegheny
Wunderlich Securities
Planned Administration Mgmt.

Under $50

I AM NETWORK, INC.
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Belz Foundation
Mr. & Mrs. James Johnson
Margaret's
LDA of Greater Memphis
Sandra's Booking & Tax Service
Ritzee Florist Class of Designs
Vardman Hamilton
Martine Hobson
Tom Lyons
SRVS
John Stokes
Mt. Lebanon Baptist Church
Judge James Swearengen
United Methodist Church
Annie Spencer

Auction Donors

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Lenny's
Providence Place
Blue Line Investigations
Buster's Liquor
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Folk's Folly
Gold Strike Casino
Gould's Day Spa
Dallas Cowboys
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Huey's
Hollywood Casino
Betty Johnson
Jay Etkin Gallery
The Tonight Show
Laser Quest
Malco Theatres
Mednikow Jewelers
Pancho's
Perkins Restaurant
President George Bush
Roebuck & Associates
SRVS
Sam's
Sears
Sharon's Soul Food
Star Games
Terry Bradshaw
Theatre Memphis
The Orpheum
University of TN Boling Center
Verizon Wireless
Younique Wellness Spa

In-Kind Donations

Perkins Restaurant
Baptist Home Health
Baskin Robbins
SchoolTrans
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Chick-Fil-A
Don Don's Hot Wings
Dunkin Donuts
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Fannie Jones
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International Paper
Lenny's
Methodist Healthcare Corp
Schnucks
Malco Theatre
Papa John's
Pizza Hut
Sam's Club
Signature Memphis Athletic
Sonic Drive-In
Stringer Nursery
Subways
Wal-Mart
Walgreen's
VideoFX Productions
The Vine
PepsiAmericas
Frito Lay
Regional Medical Supply, Inc
Health Strategies Group, Inc

Members

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Adrien & Richard Alsobrook
Elaine G. Amis
Larry & Carol Ashlock
Cecelia Bacchus
Cynthia Banet
F. Louise Barksdale
Vera Batts
Steve & Carol Baucum
Pat & Randy Beane
John & Joyce Bell
Jackie A. Belton
Barbara P. Bolton
Matthew & Carmen Bond
Robert & Connie Booker
Paul & Dorothea Boucher
Devie F. Brandes
Bennie Braswell
Bettye Brock
Almarie Brooks
Lloyd & Susan Brooks
Lavern & William Brown
Ralph & Jacqueline Brown
Sherilyn B. Brown
Alan Bullard
Patricia Burke
Evorna Butler
Flora Campbell
Charles E. Carpenter
Evelyn Carter
Donna Cash
Harold & Mary Chism
Kay F. Catterton
Patricia & Van Cochran
Lajuana & Keith Cole
Complete Moving Service
Amanda & Craig Compton
Charles & Lorraine Cordera
John & Michelle Cordera
Elvernice Davis
Rosanna Davis
Thomas & Margaret Densford
Genevieve DePriest
Camille Dolan
Iris Donjoian
Paul & Anne Drake
Bridgette Driver
W. B. Dunavant Jr
Roger & Linda Duke
Marinda & Glenda Dye
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Jerry Farley
Becky Fik
Jeffrey & Rebecca Fik
Eleanor M. Finlayson
Shirley Flowers
Martha Sue Ford
Natasha Gadison
Bob Gammon
Ronald & Myrna Gammon
Frank Garavelli
Linda Garrett
August & Jean Givens
Laura E. Goodyear
Elliss & Dorothy Goss
Elizabeth Gray
Velma Gray-Reed
Carol & William Greenwald
Kay Guenther
Ralph & Gladys Hamilton
Tim & Michelle Haney
Rick & Celia Harbour
Mark & Deborah Harder
David Johnson
Wellington & Joanne Mock
Freddie Harris

Thank you for your generous support throughout the year. Your involvement makes a great difference!

Joyce E. Harris
Marlon Green Harris
Freeman & Mary Harvey
Shanita Harvey
Dr. Dennis Haslip
John & Penny Heffermon III
James Heldenbrand
Kenneth & Karen Hill
Martin Hobson
Clyde & Ida Holliway
Tonia Z. Honeycutt
Eddie & Patricia Hudson
Jean Ibosh
Mike & Earlene Ike
Lucy L. James
Carol & Matthew Johnson
Frankie Johnson
Ernest & Shirley Jones
Fannie M. Jones
Gloria Jones
Lena M. Jones
Stella W. Jones
Marcus & Freida Katz
Valerie Kimbrough
Diane Kiner
John & Lydia Kingsley
Elvis & Theresa Kirksey
David Kube
Mr. & Mrs. William Lake
Melissa & Gene Ragsdale Lamar
Jane Lambert
Carmon Lawrence
John & Agnes Lawrence
Carlene Leaper
Gertrude & Reginald Lee
Jim & Merilyn Lewellyen
Gloria Lindsey
Debra Seals Livingston
Christene Lloyd
Ronald & Carolyn Lloyd
Mary Longoria
Patrick Lovelace
Dwain Lynch
Mae Powers
Daris Mann
Wanda Marchie
Karen Marks
Beverly Mathews
Sherry L. Marlow
Forestine Mason
Jawanda & Jonathan Mast
John Matthews
Larry McKenzie
Felecia Mattila
Minnie McEwen
Timothy & Judy McGee

Patricia McKay
Joann Meegan
Sidney & Shirley Melton
Wanda Miller
William Miller
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Alberto Morales
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Jane H. Morgret
Edna Morris
Jeff Morris
Savannah Morris
Johnnie & Settle Moss
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P. J. Murphy, MD
Kim Murray
Pattie M. Myers
Nita Melton Nichols
Baretta Northern
Thomas & Kathleen Nunnikhoven
Susan Oehmen
Linda S. O'Leary
Drs. Herman & Maxine Patterson
Daryl Keith Payton
Dana Percer
Father Eric Peterson
John & Joan Phebus
Nancy & Richard Piretti
Kathy Pledge
Karl & June Pommer
Mac Powers
Carl & Kathy Price
Gary & Lana Prosterman
Helen Prewitt
Gary Puckett
James & Nancy Puckett Jr
Ronald & Nan Raffanti
Mary Raggett
Andrea Reynolds
John & Susan Riccardi
Beverly A. Rice
Gwendolyn Richmond
Hubert & Evelyn Rogers
Larcenia S. Ricks
Edward & Linda Roberson
David & Ruth Roberts
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Connice Ross
David & Jane Ross
Donald & Marion Rossman
Bessie Rudd
Joyce Rush
Laurel & Allan Ryan

Clemente Washington
Norman Ware
Bettye Sargent
Marvin & Amy Schaefer
Ron Scharf
Ed & Joanna Schwartz
Mounir Shazly
John & Sandra Simank
Merle H. Smith
David Sorsby
Anne Spencer
David & Charlene Spiceland
St. Mary's Catholic Church
C. Cooper Stanford
Dr. Nina Jo Staples
Michael & Patryce Steele
Sam & Dawn Stewart

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Ona-Tierney Cooper
Anne & Harley Tilley
Time Warner Telecom
Faye Townsend
Barrett & Sandra Travis
Henry Bartosch Ttee
Mrs. J.D. Vance
Brenda & Patrick Vanderpool
Delores Voigt
Emily A. Vergho

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Duncan & Stefanie Ware
Michael & Nora Ware
Katrina Watkins
Lisa Webb
Matthew Webb
Richard & Karen Wheeler
Ethel B. Whitten
Donald Williams
Sandra Williams
William & Carl Wilson
Lavena Williams
Mr. & Mrs. L.V. Witt
Queen Helen Wright
Maureen Yarborough
Reva & Stephen Ziskind

In Honor Of:

Michelle & Johnny Cordera
In Honor of :
Camille Dolan

Paul & Anne Drake
In Honor of:
John Barzizza

Paul, Anne and Mary Drake
In Memory of:
Mr. Tom Slattery

In Memory Of:

Paul, Anne and Mary Drake
In Memory of;
Hannah Carlene Dennis

Camille Dolan
In Memory of:
Hannah Carlene Dennis

Paul, Anne and Mary Drake
In Memory of:
Mrs. Nell Massa

Paul, Anne and Mary Drake
In Memory of:
Walter Dugan

Welcome New Members

Thanks to the following new members for joining Mid-South Arc and supporting our mission of:

"Empowering People with Developmental Disabilities to Achieve Their Full Potential"

Mrs. Cynthia Banet
Ms. Lorri Barkley
Mr. James Bell
Mrs. Joyce M. Bell
Mrs. Quida G. Belton
Ms. Willa Boyd
Jessica Burch
Ms. Flora J. Campbell
Ms. Christine Deener
Ms. Corinne Derenburger

Ms. Bridgette Driver
Mr.& Mrs. Rick Harbour
Ms. Deborah Harder
Mrs. Marion R. Haynes
Ms. Patricia Hudson
Mr. Robert Kirksey
Ms Diane Malone
Ms. Wanda Marchie
Ms. Forestine Mason
Ms. Beverly Mathews
Mr. John L. Matthews

Mrs. Joanne Boucher Mock
Ms. Patricia Nunally
Mr. Henry Rogers
Dr. Kathleen N. Spears
Ms. Annie C. Spencer
Ms. Barbara Thompson
Ms. Wanda Wilbanks
Ms. Lillie Wilson
Mrs. Carol C. Wilson
Ms. Queen Wright

Special thanks to our dedicated Committee Members & Judges who made the Gala possible:

Nachelle Hubbard
Julie Boles
Camille Dolan
Cheryl Charles
Theresa Crider
Connie Booker
Delores Voigt

Cora Washington
Robin Hughes-Moore
Faye Townsend
Doris Gordon
Corhonda Bolton
Laverne Mason King

Cynthia Alexander
Michael Adrianne Davis
Brenda Farley
Renee Ford
Beverly Shaw
Reggie Williams
Debra Wright

Creating Careers for A Brighter Future

In 2004, Mid-South Arc Career Development and Job Placement Program was very successful in achieving their goal of providing persons with disabilities the knowledge and ability to obtain and maintain a job in the community. These goals were achieved by providing job readiness training both in the classroom and in the community. After completion of the training course, each individual is placed within a position that is both consistent with their abilities and interests. If assistance is needed, a job coach will be provided to supply instruction and support in an effort to increase job sustainability. As the individual becomes more comfortable with their new surroundings and the duties of their job, the job coach is progressively removed, leaving the individual in an independent employment situation.

The Program has improved the lives of many people with disabilities in 2004. Through the assistance of dedicated staff members, the program provided 360 hours of job readiness training to over 70 persons, with 17 persons receiving Certificates of Completion in June from the Program. These individuals received training on an array of topics such as completing the application process, interviewing skills, and proper etiquette on the job.

In addition, the Career Development and Job Placement Program received an average of three referrals a month requesting entrance into the program. These statistics show that the Program is in high demand due to its progress in providing persons with disabilities with stable employment in the Mid-South community.

In 2004, the Program established employment for 15 people in an array of businesses throughout the community. The Program provided 1,820 hours of job coaching to assist the individuals' transition from the classroom to their new employment. These services proved very successful in improving the retention rates of employment for persons with disabilities.

In 2005 the Program plans to increase their hands-on-training program by supplying individuals with a better understanding of the employment community. As well as provide an opportunity to observe their interests and abilities in specific fields. The Program plans to expand to provide instruction on basic computer skills. This training will make them marketable for technical employment positions.

The Career Development and Job Placement Program would like to thank you for your continued support as they venture in to 2005. If you have any questions or would like more information about the successes of the Career Development and Job Placement Program in 2004, please feel free to contact our office.

Submitted By: Career Development & Job Placement Program

Building Stronger Families

Mid-South Arc Family Support Services Program is dedicated to providing support to families in need. The program provides personal assistants, in-home respite care, out-of-home respite care, community participation, weekend retreats and summer camps to persons with disabilities and their families throughout the Mid-South. Through the dedication of caring staff, the Family Support Services Program grew in 2004 to serve over 103 persons with 80 personal assistants. These personal assistants provided over 46,257 hours of care to families in need of support.

The weekend retreats and summer camps were a great success in 2004. These events provided an opportunity for families in need to receive respite care for their loved ones, while still providing a safe and recreational environment. Each event was fully staffed by trained and dedicated caregivers who provide socialization, independence, and fun. 14 people participated in each monthly retreat and 26 persons participated in the summer camps. Through these events, over 13,654 hours of respite care were provided to families. These events supplied families with an opportunity to focus on their needs and grow both independently and as a family.

In 2004, the Family Support Services Program also assisted people throughout the community by serving as advocates in 35 Individualized Client Agency Planning (ICAP) meetings, 4 Individual Education Plan (IEP) meetings, and 33 Individual Support Plan (ISP) meetings. In addition, the program provides monthly "Parents Assisting Parents Meetings." These meetings are accessible to families and individuals in need of information about available services and support throughout the Mid-South. Specialists are provided covering a range of information such as guardianship, Social Security benefits, and TennCare. These actions help to ensure that persons and families with disabilities have the knowledge of and access to many services.

In 2005, the Family Support Services Program is planning to increase the number of families they serve through the many facets of the program. Due to this large increase, the Program will also be increasing the number of personal assistants which they employ to meet the needs of the new families. In addition, the Program will expand its presence in the community as a strong advocate for those in need by increasing Mid-South Arc's attendance to ICAP, ISP, and IEP meetings for individuals and families throughout the Mid-South.

Submitted By: Family Support Services Program

Tennessee Disability

MEGACONFERENCE

Fifty Tennessee disability organizations have partnered again to host the third annual Tennessee Disability MegaConference, Wednesday, June 1 through Sunday, June 5, 2005 at the Nashville Marriott, 600 Marriott Drive, Nashville, Tennessee. Exhibit space is available Thursday, June 2, 12:00 noon until Saturday, June 4, 12:00 noon. Our shared purpose in creating this conference is to strengthen our bonds and promote understanding as we move forward together, united in our desire for independence, choice and dignity for all people. Last year's conference was a resounding success with over 500 attendees. *Conference evaluation forms indicate that they want more exhibitors of devices and products that aid people with disabilities!*

Exhibit Fees are as follows:

- Exhibit table, for-profit businesses $200.00
- Exhibit table, not-for-profit business $50.00

If you would like to sponsor an event or purchase an advertisement in lieu of an exhibit table, please contact Michelle Taylor at (615) 248-5878 ext. 17 or by email at mtaylor@thearctn.org.

The deadline to reserve your exhibit space is March 1, 2005. If you would questions, please call our Exhibit Committee Chair, Teresa Turnbo at (615) 936-5118, email at teresa.turnbo@vanderbulit.edu. Please visit our Tennessee Disability MegaConference website at www.tndisabiltymegaconference.org

Earned Income Tax Credit

The Earned Income Tax Credit provides a tax deduction to assist families who earn less than $35,458.00 annually. Based on a recent study, 25% of eligible families in Memphis and Shelby County failed to claim over $46 million dollars of Earned Income Tax Credit funds.

Sites have been set up throughout Shelby County to provide free assistance with tax preparation. For the free tax preparation centers, please call (901) 512-2700.

Tennessee's 15th Annual Employment Conference

The 15th Annual ACES Conference will be held March 29-31 at the Nashville Airport Marriott. It will provide the opportunity to learn innovative practices in community employment for job seekers with significant disabilities. The information will be delivered from a national perspective with a demonstration of the practice, along with outlined strategies and techniques to assist you in implementing these innovative practices. You will also learn about available community employment resources and how to forge links to the services necessary to assist job seekers with disabilities to achieve employment outcomes. For more information, please visit http://www.utmem.edu/bcdd/training/events/events.htm .

All Aboard for Legislative Awareness Day!

On March 15th, in honor of Legislative Awareness Day, people and organizations across the state will travel to the state capitol to speak to legislators about issues concerning persons and families with developmental disabilities. Mid-South Arc will provide a bus for Mid-South Arc members, self advocates, family members, and other interested. If you would like to participate, please contact Mid-South Arc office at (901) 327-2473 or by e-mail at msarc@arcmidsouth.net.

Exceptional Parent Connection Tutorial Services

EPC offers tutoring in grades K-12 to students with disabilities, as well as typical developing peers, within Memphis and Shelby County. The program offers individualized and small group instruction, with a strong academic emphasis on reading and math. In addition to these services, certified staff provides instruction on the Gateway Exams, Terra Nova and homework provided by the classroom teacher.

Exceptional Parent Connection

P.O. Box 40974, Memphis, Tennessee 38174

Phone: (901)452-5287 Fax:(901) 452-5287

Email:patnually@aol.com

LDA 42nd Annual International Conference

On March 2nd-5th, the largest meeting on learning disabilities (LD) in the world, featuring over 300 workshops and exhibits, will be held at John Ascuaga's Nugget Hotel in Reno, NV.

For more information please visit http://www.ldanatl.org/conference/index.asp.

Tennessee Disability Pathfinder

Assisting people with disabilities and family members comes with unique challenges. Tennessee Disability Pathfinder is a statewide information and referral service focused on helping individuals identify community resources and covers all disabilities and ages.

Disability Pathfinder has phone referrals, printed directories, and a website in English and Spanish to connect the Tennessee disability service community with service providers.

www.familypathfinder.org

615-322-8529 Nashville area

615-322-7830 Español Nashville area

800-640-INFO [4636] -TN toll-free (English & Español)

800-273-9595 TTY

Interdisciplinary Leadership

Training Series, Spring 2005

Developmental Disabilities and Aging

Training will address quality of life issues across the life span for persons with disabilities, children with special needs, and their families. All sessions will take place at the Boling Center, located at 711 Jefferson Avenue in Memphis.

Dates & Topics:

February 3 - Dentistry and Oral Health

February 17 - Women's Health Issues

March 3 - Cerebral Palsy

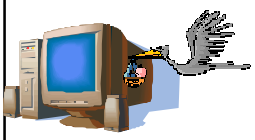
March 17 - Chronic Health Issues

April 7 - Leadership and DD Policy

For additional information, *contact Dr. Ruth Roberts, rrobert8@ utmem.edu, or Levader Jones, ljones41@ utmem.edu; telephone (901) 448-2660 or toll-free (888) 572-2249.*

CONGRATULATIONS

It's A Computer!



On December 1, 2004, the Career Development & Job Placement Department welcomed a new addition….the birth of their brand new Computer and Office Lab. Our goal is to provide an actual business setting for our clients while also giving them the hands-on training needed to make a successful transition into professional society. We are proud to announce that not only will we training on computer basics; but we will also include tutorials on all aspects of working in an office setting. With our new Computer Lab up and running, this will surely propel our clients into the future with the necessary skills needed to become fully employable citizens. Our future plans include allowing parents, organization members, and board members full access to the lab for needed information, upcoming events, or just to browse Mid-South Arc's website.

Community Awareness Calendar

Mid-South Arc's Community Education Committee has come together to develop the PACE Project. The Providing Awareness, Communication and Education (PACE) Project has been developed to promote education of the law through awareness activities. Monthly, Mid-South Arc and the Community Education Committee will highlight an area of interest to persons and families with disabilities. Events, Lectures, Town Hall Meeting, Fairs and other activities will be held in honor of that month's topic. Mid-South Arc staff, committee members, and others will appear on the local television and radio stations to provide information about that month's area of interest and about the activity being held in its recognition.

COMMUNITY AWARENESS CALENDAR

July	ADA Awareness
August	Aging
September	Transportation
October	Employment
November	10th Annual Gala
December	Housing
January	Health Care
February	Special Needs Ministry
March	March Madness
April	Parent Resources
May	Education
June	Recreation & Leisure

For more information, please contact Mid-South Arc office at (901) 327-2473 or by email at msarc@arcmidsouth.net.

Congratulations to the
2004 Annual Community Services Awards Nominees

Rita Porter	Joy Hale
Nancy Wilder	Christie Williams
George Bacon	Felecia Robinson
Sharron Hightower	News Radio 600 WREC
Juanita Voss	Mr. Goeff Calkin
Deborah Harris	Maria Black
Vernon Quince	Allyne Luciano
Robert Woodard	Aging Commission of the Mid-South
Martine Hobson	Hilton Hotel Corporation
John Barzizza	Eric Jeeter
Ona Cooper	Martha McGinley
John Walker	Barbara Bolton
Jennie Poag-Lewis	Ruthie Fitzgerald
Federal Express	Estella Williams
Holiday Inn Select	Randy Alexander
Dr. Ralph Poe	Wendy Saulsberry
Thomas Wilds	Michael Drew
Wesley Page	Mary Claire Griffin
Teresa Smisor	Robert Wright
Dr. Anne Troutman	United Commercial Travelers
Betty Anderson	Hollie Raggett
Katie Huggins	Bruce Lanham
Tandrea Wooten	Savannah Morris

IN FOCUS:

We Hear You

By: Savannah Morris

Some of us look different to the people of the world, but we're not,
Some of our motor skills are limited because of the disability we have.
But just like you, we still have a brain. We feel, taste, see, hear, and smell.
And even those five things have their limitations in the world.
We don't all see the same. Because there are so many people being judgmental of one another.
We all don't hear alike because our ears are closed to the things that we need to hear.
We're so busy tasting a lie when we need to be upholding the truth.
We don't receive constructive criticism very well because our feelings are easy to get hurt.
We can't smell the roses, because of the dirt that surrounds it, if you know what I mean.
There's so much evil among us that the bad out weighs the good.
So don't take this like I'm putting you down, because I'm not.
I speak for all the people with a disability.
Don't judge us if you don't want to be judged.
Let us be free, let us be a part of this world, too.
Don't look down on us unless you can feel what we're feeling.
We feel just as you do.
We hear the things you say about us.
We need someone we can look up to and trust.
Stand up for us that can't stand,
Wave for those who can't wave their hands,
Talk for those who can't speak.
Give some love and understanding for those whom are weak.
Give strength to those who can't see, hear, taste, feel or smell.
Reach out and touch,
Your life and mine means so much.

Savannah is a student of Mid-South Arc's Career Development and Job Placement Program. She is very dedicated to helping those less fortunate than herself. Ms. Morris also volunteers for Mid-South Arc's administrative staff.

(This section is open to any member of Mid-South Arc for publication in our next issue) Send information to msarc@arcmidsouth.net or fax (901)327-2473.

What A Difference Support Makes!

"I didn't know what I was supposed to do…* (Mid-South Arc) *explained everything I needed to do to make sure I received my benefits and helped me get started on the Medicaid Wavier Program."

Meet Sherry Shaw a new recipient of the Medicaid Wavier program and Mid-South Arc's Family Support Services Program. We first met Sherry in 2003 when her mother attended one of our Parents Assisting Parents Meetings. Ms. Kiner was desperate for services for her daughter, but didn't know what was available for her family. They had never heard of the Medicaid Wavier Program or any other Family Support Programs. The family was struggling to survive daily without the needed supports. Sherry was confined to her bed and home. Not only was Sherry confined, but her mother also has a disability which restricts her to a wheelchair. Also, seeing the great need, Mid-South Arc proceeded to assist the family in obtaining services. Sherry became a recipient of the Medicaid Wavier program in 2004. She now receives 24 hours of personal assistant services. As you can see from the photo above, Sherry is no longer confined to her bed or home. She is now a part of the community and is exploring new avenues each day. Sherry is looking forward to moving out on her own within the next two years. This true example shows that it is worth the time, the effort and the fight. It should never be said that things can't change, Sherry is our testimony. Because of this success story and many others Mid-South Arc will always "Empower People with Developmental Disabilities to Achieve Their Full Potential."

RISE Workshop

RISE Project will be holding a workshop to discuss ways they can provide assistance to children with special needs and their families throughout their educational endeavors. This will serve as a great resource not only in the school setting but also in the community. The program is free.

If you would like more information or to make reservations, please reservations (901) 541-5455.

Executive Director's Report:

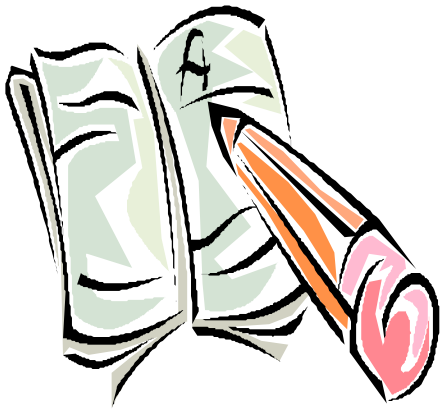
Building Lives, Improving Communities
Report Card

With every effort we undertake at Mid-South Arc, our priority is to improve the lives of all individuals with Developmental Disabilities. Our programs, services, and publications not only serve our members' immediate health and benefit needs, but also provide assistance throughout their lifetimes.

Mid-South Arc puts the needs of our families and consumers at the forefront of our initiatives. This report card describes many of the ways we worked in 2004 to improve lives and build futures for our members, as well as all people with disabilities. As we look at our accomplishments over the past year, it is clear that throughout our entire program we always keep in mind the broader consequences. When Mid-South Arc takes action on behalf of a member, we know the outcome could affect the lives of their family. When we advocate and work to remove barriers, we improve quality of life for all people with disabilities. They are the foundation through which our mission of service to our members is met year in and year out. We are also grateful for the personal and corporate contributions, supporters, and donors. The Mid-South Arc families could not accomplish all that they have, without your support.

Our mutual goal is a shared commitment toward achieving a better tomorrow for our members. Our programs reach out and serve people all over the world. Without the dedication of our national and state office, personal assistants, board members, committee members and community partners, we would not be able to accomplish so much on behalf of people with disabilities. As you read this report, you will feel a sense of pride and know that Mid-South Arc has worked hard this past year. The board and I look forward to the work before us next year and are very confident in the Mid-South Arc team to master any challenge. There have been many specific endeavors and accomplishments which have been instrumental in furthering the basic goals of the agency. Last year through the support of United Way of the Mid-South, Corporate Sponsors, Stakeholders and Community Partners, Arc provided support to many families and individuals needing services.

2004 Accomplishments:



- 103 families received 46,257 hours of care through personal assistance
- 53 children and adults with disabilities enjoyed the weekend retreats
- 134 individuals attended the summer camps
- Over 13,654 hours of respite care
- With the assistance of the VISTA volunteers, the summer camp was a success with 40 campers in attendance
- A number of Camperships made it possible for those who otherwise would not have had the opportunity to attend camp to attend
- Over 70 individuals received 360 hours of job readiness training
- 34 job placements were obtained
- 80 people were assisted in maintaining employment
- Information and referral services were provided to over 1,027 people who have nowhere to turn
- Published its first Disability Resource CD
- Acted as advocates for those who cannot speak for themselves or need a little encouragement
- Established a communication line with the Juvenile Court System to help ensure that the rights of individuals with a disability are not violated
- Increased membership from 163 to 203
- Held over 40 community presentation and speaking engagements
- 354 new families received information packet and the Disability Resource CD's and the list goes on...

In conclusion, Mid-South Arc has developed many partnerships and consults with social workers, nurses, physicians, physical therapists, and others in the community to identify individuals with developmental disabilities and make sure they are aware of the benefits and services available to them.

Carlene I. Leaper, Executive Director

Ryan's Hope

Hippotherapy Program Starting

Registration Packets are now being accepted for

Ryan's Hope

Hippotherapy Program to start March 7. Time slots are filling up fast!

Grand Opening of the Riding Center Saturday, February 26 @ 3:00pm…
tickets on sale NOW!

Come meet sponsors, families, staff and volunteers. For event information contact Jacqueline McGhee @ 603-8090.

For more ***Hippo*** information please contact

Michelle Stevens @ 937-1915

2005 Recreation & Leisure Activities

Weekend Retreat Dates

January 14-16	Raymond Skinner Center
February 18-20	Raymond Skinner Center
March 4-6	Raymond Skinner Center
April 8-10	Raymond Skinner Center
April 22-24	To Be Announced
May 20-22	To Be Announced
August 19-21	To Be Announced
September 16-18	To Be Announced
October 14-16	Raymond Skinner Center
November 18-20	Raymond Skinner Center
December 9-11	Raymond Skinner Center

Summer Camp Dates

June 12- June 18	Wall Doxey State Park
July 24- July 30	Wall Doxey State Park

Mid-South Arc

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