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Family Services Newsletter

March/April 2010

A Shamrock in My Pocket

A Tribute to Tim Quinn

By Teresa Herbert

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Along with the snow flurries, February brings a flurry of activity as advocates race to and from Annapolis attending hearings and providing testimony working to better the lives of people with developmental disabilities. It is clear that the loss of Tim Quinn is felt everyday throughout the agency and now the feeling is especially palpable as Tim was perhaps the “fastest flurrier” of all when it came to the Legislative session.

FSS has always encouraged active advocacy and this year has been no different. In speaking with parents about the importance of testimony and supporting parents through their own journey, we are often asked how we can have a comfort speaking to elected representatives and why we strongly encourage others to do so as well.

I had the honor and good fortune to be with Tim Quinn for my first interaction with an elected official. Tim had arranged a meeting with Delegate Mary Dulaney James to give parents the opportunity to speak with her about their specific concerns. It was a rather noisy ride as Tim maneuvered through traffic with a van full of chattering moms. I was terrified as I sat furiously reviewing my notes. The ongoing banter in the van receded to the background as I clutched my papers in shaking hands and silently rehearsed what I wanted to say. I felt sick with nerves and I am certain I looked a bit green around the gills because Tim stirred me from my reverie looking in the rearview mirror asking me what the heck I was doing and why I was so quiet.

Tim said, “Put the papers down and tell me what you are concerned about. We chatted easily about my concerns and what I wanted to convey to Delegate James. By the time we boarded the trolley for downtown, I felt much better. Making our way to Delegate James’ office, my nerves were back at fever pitch. Tim seemed to know every person in the hallway and it appeared that even the security guard was an old friend to him.

As Delegate James made her way to her desk, we began to enter the room and Tim motioned for me to stop. I figured he had decided that perhaps I should not be one of the people speaking that day which would have been a great relief to me! Instead, he took my papers and whispered, “tell her what you told me”. I stopped cold and said “No! You go in! And give me my papers! I can stand behind you.” Tim chuckled and said



Timothy J. Quinn—1953—2010

“No. You know what you need to say. You live this. This is your child and your life. Go tell her what it feels like to deal with the challenges you face. Tell her about your son. These papers will just get in the way.” When I looked up I was in the room because he had been walking me in there while talking and I hadn’t even realized it!

It was the best thing he could have done for me and I am forever grateful. He believed in me and he reminded me to believe in myself. Tim envisioned a world that not only accepted my son, but also valued and celebrated him. I see that world for my son and we are moving toward it each day. I can only hope to give the support and encouragement to someone else that Tim gave to me.


This year, on Developmental Disabilities Day, ballot boxes were delivered to each of our elected representatives to signify each county’s voters who want to “end the wait”. These boxes were decorated with tiny shiny shamrocks in remembrance of Tim. That evening, I found one of those tiny shamrocks in my pocket. I will never forget the support and encouragement Tim gave to me, and in my heart and my mind I will always carry a “shamrock in my pocket”.





MARCH 2010




Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1 HC Board of Ed – Business Meeting – 7p – Pg. 5 CC Board of Ed – Business Meeting – 6p – Pg. 5	2 Foster Parent Training – 6-9pm – pg. 7	3 From Emotions to Advocacy – 6:30-8:30p – Pg. 4	4 Foster Parent Training – 6-9pm – pg. 7	5	6 IEP Workshop – 10:15a-1:15p – Pg. 4	7
8 HC Board of Ed – Business Meeting – 7p – Pg. 5 CC Board of Ed – Business Meeting – 6p – Pg. 5	9 Foster Parent Training – 6-9pm – pg. 7 I Won't and You Can't Make Me – 6-9p – Pg. 4	10 From Emotions to Advocacy – 6:30-8:30p – Pg. 4	11 Foster Parent Training – 6-9pm – pg. 7 Foster Parent Support Group – 6-8:30pm – Pg. 7 SECAC – Harford – 6- 7:30p – Pg. 4	12	13 Sibshops – 10a - 2p – Pg. 4	14
15 HC Board of Ed – Budget Work Session – 7p – Pg. 5	16 Foster Parent Training – 6-9pm – pg. 7 Autism Society – 7-9p – Pg. 5	17 	18 Foster Parent Training – 6-9pm – pg. 7	19	20 Expo for Transitioning Youth – 8:30a-1p – Pg. 8	21
22 HC Board of Ed – Business Meeting – 7p – Pg. 5 CC Board of Ed – Board Session Work – 5:30p – Pg. 5	23 Foster Parent Training – 6-9pm – pg. 7	24	25 Foster Parent Training – 9am-4pm – pg. 7	26	27 Foster Parent Training – 9am-3pm – pg. 7	28 Derby After dArc 2010 – pg. 10
29	30	31				



APRIL 2010



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			1	2	3	4 
5	6	7	8 SECAC – Hanford – 6-7:30p – pg. 4	9	10 Sibshops – 10a - 2p – Pg. 4	11
12 CC Board of Ed – Business Meeting – 6p – Pg. 5	13	14 From Emotions to Advocacy – 6:30-8:30p – Pg. 4	15	16	17	18
19 HC Board of Ed – Business Meeting – 7p – Pg. 5	20 Autism Society – 7-9p – Pg. 5	21	22	23	24 Social Skills and Story Time – 10a – 1p – Pg. 4	25
26 HC Board of Ed – Business Meeting – 7p – Pg. 5 CC Board of Ed – Board Session Work – 5:30p – Pg. 5	27	28	29	30		



Calendar of Events



March

- 6 Sa** **“IEP Workshop”**, a workshop for parents that gives an overview of the MD Online IEP used in Harford County Public Schools. From 10:15am – 1:15pm @ the Abingdon Branch of Harford County Public Library, 2510 Tollgate Road,, Abingdon, MD. RSVP to 410-273-2712, ext. 1401 or partners.success@hcps.org by March 3rd.
- 9 Tu** **“I Won’t and You Can’t Make Me”**, a behavior workshop for parents and educators that discuss common characteristics of children with oppositional/explosive behaviors and techniques to de-escalate their behaviors. From 6pm -9pm @ Partners for Success Parent Resource Center, 253 Paradise Road, Aberdeen. To register call 410-273-2712, ext. 1401.
- 10 W** **“From Emotions to Advocacy”**, monthly book discussion for parents about learning to harness emotions and become an effective advocate for their child. From 6:30pm – 8:30pm @ Mt. Christian Church New Life Center, 1824 Mountain Road, Joppa. RSVP to 410-273-2712, ext. 1401 or email Partners.Success@hcps.org.
- 11Th** **Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting**, from 6pm – 7:30pm @ HCPS A.A. Roberty Building, 102 South Hickory Ave., Bel Air. For more information call 410-588-5246.
- 13 Sa** **“Sibshops”**, a program just for brothers and sisters of kids with special needs. From 10am – 2pm @ Mt. Christian Church, Timothy Hall, 1824 Mountain Road, Joppa, MD 21087. For more information or to register please contact: 410-578-5169 or SibshopsofMaryland@yahoo.com.
- 20 Sa** **Expo for Transitioning Youth**, a conference for teens and young adults (and their families) with special needs facing the challenge of transition from high school to higher education, work, and adulthood. From 9am – 1pm @ New Life Center, Mt. Christian Church. For more information call 410-638-3373 (inclement weather date is March 27th)

April

- 8 Th** **Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting**, from 6pm – 7:30pm @ HCPS A.A. Roberty Building, 102 South Hickory Ave., Bel Air. For more information call 410-588-5246.
- 10 Sa** **“Sibshops”**, a program just for brothers and sisters of kids with special needs. From 10am – 2pm @ Mt. Christian Church, Timothy Hall, 1824 Mountain Road, Joppa, MD 21087. For more information or to register please contact: 410-578-5169 or SibshopsofMaryland@yahoo.com.
- 14 W** **“From Emotions to Advocacy”**, a monthly book discussion for parents about learning to harness emotions and become an effective advocate for their child. From 6:30pm – 8:30pm @ Mt. Christian Church New Life Center, 1824 Mountain Road, Joppa. RSVP to 410-273-2712, ext. 1401 or email Partners.Success@hcps.org.
- 24 Sa** **“Social Skills and Story Time”**, a workshop for parents and a story time/activities elementary school aged children to learn and practice social skills. From 10am – 1pm @ Bel Air Branch of Harford County Public Library. RSVP to 410-272-3712 x 1401.

May

- 8 Sa** **“Sibshops”**, a program just for brothers and sisters of kids with special needs. From 10am – 2pm @ Mt. Christian Church, Timothy Hall, 1824 Mountain Road, Joppa, MD 21087. For more information or to register please contact: 410-578-5169 or SibshopsofMaryland@yahoo.com.
- 12 W** **“From Emotions to Advocacy”**, monthly book discussion for parents about learning to harness emotions and become an effective advocate for their child. From 6:30pm – 8:30pm @ Mt. Christian Church New Life Center, 1824 Mountain Road, Joppa. RSVP to 410-273-2712, ext. 1401 or email Partners.Success@hcps.org.
- 13 Th** **Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting**, from 6pm – 7:30pm @ HCPS A.A. Roberty Building, 102 South Hickory Ave., Bel Air. For more information call 410-588-5246.
- 18 Tu** **“Financial Planning Workshop”**, a workshop that teaches parents of children with disabilities how to plan for their financial future. From 6pm – 9pm @ The Arc Northern Chesapeake, 4513 Philadelphia Road, Aberdeen, MD. RSVP to Partners for Success at 410-273-3712 x 1401 or email Partners.Success@hcps.org.



Ongoing Monthly Meetings



Autism Society of America Harford County Chapter, 7:00 - 9:00 pm

Meets every 3rd Monday at McFaul Activities Center, Bel Air, MD
Call Ruth Good at 410-879-4643 or 410-836-7177 ext.617.

Deaf Education Advancement Foundation, 7:00 - 8:30 pm

Meets monthly at the Bel Air Library. For information on meeting dates please email at deafoundation4md@yahoo.com or call 410-790-3619.

Board of Education of Harford County, 6:30 or 7pm – 9pm

Meets in the Harford County Public Schools Administrative Bldg on Hickory Ave., Bel Air. Published agendas are subject to change. For accommodations call 410-838-7300 voice, 711 TTY or e-mail Don.Morrison@hcps.org at least 3 days prior to event

Monday, Mar 8	Board Business Meeting	7pm
Monday, Mar 15	Budget Work Session	7pm
Monday, Mar 22	Board Business Meeting	6:30pm
Monday, April 19	Board Business Meeting	7pm
Monday, April 26	Board Business Meeting	6:30pm
Monday, May 10	Board Business Meeting	7pm
Monday, May 17	Board Work Session	7pm
Monday, May 24	Board Business Meeting	6:30pm

Harford County Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee, 6:00pm- 7:30pm. Meets on the 2nd Thursday of the month at the Harford County Public Schools Administration Building, 102 S. Hickory Ave. PLEASE VERIFY MEETING DATES WITH THE SPECIAL EDUCATION OFFICE AT 410-588-5246. Dates of upcoming meetings are: Mar 11; April 8; May 13; June 10.

Cecil County Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee, 6:30pm – 8:30pm. Meets at the Elkton Branch of Cecil County Public Library. For more information please email fieldsofffaith@gmail.com.

Board of Education of Cecil County, 5:30pm – 8pm

Meets in the George Washington Carver Education Leadership Center, 201 Booth Street, Elkton, MD. Published agendas are subject to change. For accommodations call 410-996-5555 at least one week prior to meeting date.

Monday, Mar 8	Board Business Meeting	6pm
Monday, Mar 22	Board Work Session	5:30pm
Monday, April 12	Board Business Meeting	6pm
Monday, April 26	Board Work Session	5:30pm
Monday, May 10	Board Business Meeting	6pm
Monday, May 24	Board Work Session	5:30pm

March is National Social Worker Month

Since its inception, the social work profession has worked to improve life for millions every day. Social Workers operate from values that recognize each person as relevant to society and believe that, when needed, society should help each person achieve his or her fullest potential.

No Limitations. People choose careers in the social work profession because they believe they can make a significant impact in the lives of others through individual and group assistance. But they also recognize that effective social work practice with individuals, families and communities is affected by institutions, customs and laws that may limit the success of many.

Our Legacy. A commitment to fairness, and an intense interest in seeing others succeed by removing personal and public barriers, distinguishes social workers from other like-minded helping professionals. These values-coupled with tangible social science skills-have led social workers in history to create essential safety net programs such as unemployment insurance, health insurance,

income assistance and child protection services, and to fight for a range of human and civil rights in the United States.

Our Impact. Social workers are close to the critical events that shape the quality of American life. We are on the frontlines, developing, advocating and delivering social programs that are responsive to such human needs as homelessness, poverty, family break-up, mental illness, disability, alcohol and substance abuse, domestic violence and many other issues. Social workers help people live more rewarding lives.

This year's Social Work Month celebration showcases the expertise and dedication of professional Social Workers in helping to improve community life. The chose theme for this year's celebration is "Social Workers Inspire Community Action".



Upcoming Events

Foster Parent Appreciation Dinner



Save the date: Thursday, May 6, 2010. This year's celebration will be held at the MARYLAND GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB from 6:00pm—9:00pm. Respite will be provided at The Arc Main building from 5:30pm—9:30 pm. Details will follow shortly...WATCH YOUR MAILBOX!

May is National Foster Care Month!

May is National Foster Care Month, an opportunity to recognize the generosity and commitment of our foster parents and to raise awareness about the need for more families who are willing to open their homes and hearts to children in need.

Please join The Arc Northern Chesapeake Region as we celebrate the momentous occasion. Details will follow shortly...WATCH YOUR MAILBOX!



Foster Parent Training Spring 2010

Harford County

2010 Dates

Tuesday, March 2: 6-9pm
 Thursday, March 4: 6-9pm
 Tuesday, March 9: 6-9pm
 Thursday, March 11: 6-9pm
 Tuesday, March 16: 9am-4pm
 Thursday, March 18: 6-9pm
 Tuesday, March 23: 6-9pm
 Thursday, March 25: 6-9pm
 Saturday, March 27: 9pm-3pm

Monday, June 14: 6-9pm
 Tuesday, June 15: 6-9pm
 Wednesday, June 16: 6-9pm
 Thursday, June 17: 6-9pm
 Saturday, June 19: 9am-4pm
 Monday, June 21: 6-9pm
 Tuesday, June 22: 6-9pm
 Wednesday, June 23: 6-9pm



*Live DEEPER. Love WIDER.
 Leave BIGGER.*

Become a Foster Parent.

Please call Kathy Pitrat at 410-836-7177, ext. 345 or email to kpitrat@arcncr.org to reserve your space in the training.

Unfortunately, we cannot allow children to come to the class. Please make personal arrangements for childcare.

Light refreshments are served each evening.

Foster Parent Support

One Step Forward...Two Steps Back



Paula Scheye is a Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor who specializes in attachment and bonding issues in children. This session will focus on understanding how sometimes, when you feel you have made progress and your child is headed in the right direction, either something bad happens or a solution to a current problem only deepens the situation, making it appear that you have taken "One Step Forward...Two Steps Back."

Date: March 11, 2010

6:00—7:00—Potluck Dinner
 7:00—8:30—Presentation

Respite Provided—You must RSVP.

Please RSVP to Terri Augustine by March 9, 2010 via email at taugustine@arcncr.org or via phone at 410-8936-7177 Ext. 381.

We're on Facebook

Keep up with The Arc and with all that's happening with our foster care and adoptions program on Facebook! The Arc's facebook page highlights recent activities and fundraising events. The Treatment Foster Care page has the latest training dates, open houses, and information sessions in the area.



For info and events at The Arc, check out our Facebook page: **The Arc Northern Chesapeake Region, Inc.**

For news about foster care and adoptions at The Arc, check out our group: **Treatment Foster Care in Northeastern Maryland** on Facebook. We also share our favorite internet sites and resources on foster care adoption.

Expo for Transitioning Youth



SATURDAY, MARCH 20, 2010*

8:30 AM – 1:00 PM

New Life Center of Mountain Christian Church
1824 Mountain Road (RT. 152), Joppa, Maryland

*inclement weather date: Saturday, March 27, 2010

Focus 2010 ~ Guideposts for Success*: A **FREE** conference for transitioning teens and young adults with special needs, their families, and professionals. Visit with representatives of agencies, organizations, and support groups and attend workshops which address critical issues in the transition process from high school to the adult world. Whether you're college bound or planning to join the workforce after graduation, Expo 2010 is for you!

WORKSHOP SESSIONS: Workshop topics include: employment, including applying for Federal jobs and summer internships; college; driving; Social Security benefits and working; money management; etc.

SPEAKERS: Get the facts from representatives from Harford Community College, Harford County Public Schools, Maryland Department of Disabilities, Division of Rehabilitation Services, Workforce Technology Center, Susquehanna Workforce Network, etc., as well as from young adult self-advocates who will share their success stories.

EXHIBITORS: Talk to representatives of service agencies, organizations, and support groups from Harford and surrounding counties. Learn more about products and services that can benefit you and your family. Exhibitors will be available to answer questions throughout the day.

SPONSORED BY: Harford County Department of Community Services (Commission on Disabilities and Local Management Board); Harford County Public Schools' Office of Special Education; the Arc Northern Chesapeake Region; Maryland State Department of Education, Division of Rehabilitation Services; Abilities Network; and the Office on Mental Health.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER, contact Disabilities Coordinator,

Sharon Grzanka, at 410-638-3373 voice/tty or visit

www.harfordcountymd.gov/services/disabilities/expo.html.

David R. Craig, County Executive

Mary F. Chance, Director, Department of Community Services



The Arc of Maryland Convention 2010



The
Arc
of Maryland, Inc.

THE ARC OF MARYLAND
2010 STATE CONVENTION

FRIDAY, MAY 21, 2010

Crowne Plaza Baltimore
Timonium, Maryland

BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS

THE ARC OF MARYLAND 2010 STATE CONVENTION



BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS

2010 State Convention
Friday, May 21, 2010

9:00am
Registration & Exhibits Open

9:30am - 11am
Plenary Session

11:30am - 1pm
Awards Luncheon

1:15 - 2:45
Breakout Sessions

1:15-5:00
Next Chapter Book Club Training

2:45 - 3:15
Break with snacks and drinks

3:15 - 4:45
Breakout Sessions

5:00 - 6:00
Board and Annual Meeting

6:00-7:30
President's Reception

PLenary SESSION

From Rosewood to Community Tony Records, T.R.A. will moderate our plenary session dedicated to the one-year anniversary closing of Rosewood Center. The plenary begins with a showing of clips from the recently produced Rosewood Documentary, a film created by Videopress of University of Maryland School of Medicine funded by the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council. Special features include Rick Edwards Rosewood photographic exhibit accompanied by fictional stories and Rosewood success stories as told by people with disabilities selected by Local Arc Chapters who've moved from the Rosewood Center to the community and made the transition successfully with a newfound independence.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Apprentive Inquiry - Duane Hinden, PhD, ACC, President Management Consulting and Coaching. In this engaging participatory workshop you will discover and celebrate examples of effective, positive communication in The Arc chapters across Maryland, and explore opportunities for using those positive experiences to strengthen future communication in your organizations.

Eliminating Barriers in Maryland - Diana Director, statewide Training Coordinator and Housing Specialist, Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA). The DDA will provide an update on where implementation efforts stand and will discuss their perspectives on restructure elimination efforts.

Communication is as Close as your Pocket - Susan Carber and Janice Crox, Maryland Technology Co-op. With recent advances in technology and communication strategies, individuals with disabilities have increased opportunities to find their voice and become more active and assertive in their relationships with their outside world. Come learn about these latest advances and you may find your voice is as close as your pocket.

Maryland Budget Outlook - State budget expert Neil Bergman, MANO, explains the challenges facing the state budget, how the current state budget was financed, what are the prospects for the future, and how all this affects services for Marylanders with disabilities.

The Way to Work: Connecting People to Employers and Jobs - Richard Luecking, ELD, TransCen, Inc. A key principle of any sincere employment initiative is the presumption of employability for all people with disabilities. This presentation will review some of what we know about contemporary effective employment strategies so that optimism and confidence guides employment initiatives, regardless of the economy.

Universal Design for Learning - Michael McLaughlin, University Design for Learning (UDL), Universal Design for Learning (UDL) is a framework for designing curricula that enable all individuals to gain knowledge, skills, and enthusiasm for learning. You will learn the principles of UDL, advocacy strategies and what you can do now.

New Chapter Book Club - Unlike other book clubs, the Next Chapter Book Club (NCBC) provides adults and adults with intellectual disabilities the opportunity to read and learn to read, talk about books, and make friends in a fun, community setting. In this half day training, NCBC staff from The Ohio State University Navigator Center will conduct the workshop, which includes an extensive overview of the NCBC model and a demonstration book club so you can see a Next Chapter Book Club in action.

Please Complete the Registration Information Below:

Registration deadline April 20, 2010.

Name _____ Organization _____

Address _____

Phone _____ email: _____

Do you require a sign language interpreter? (Please circle one) Yes No

Do you need a sign language interpreter? (Please circle one) Yes No

Friday \$125 includes lunch and sessions all day

I will attend the Next Chapter Book Club Session.

Next Chapter Book Club Session Only \$15

President's Reception \$30

Mail your check and this form to:

The Arc of Maryland
49 Old Solomons Island Rd, Sx. 205
Annapolis, MD 21401
410-374-5021 (fax)

Questions? 1-888-272-3449
Register online at www.thearcmd.org

Contact Hotel for Room Reservations
(\$100 per night)

Crowne Plaza Baltimore
2004 Cremoning Drive
Timonium, MD 21103
410-352-7373

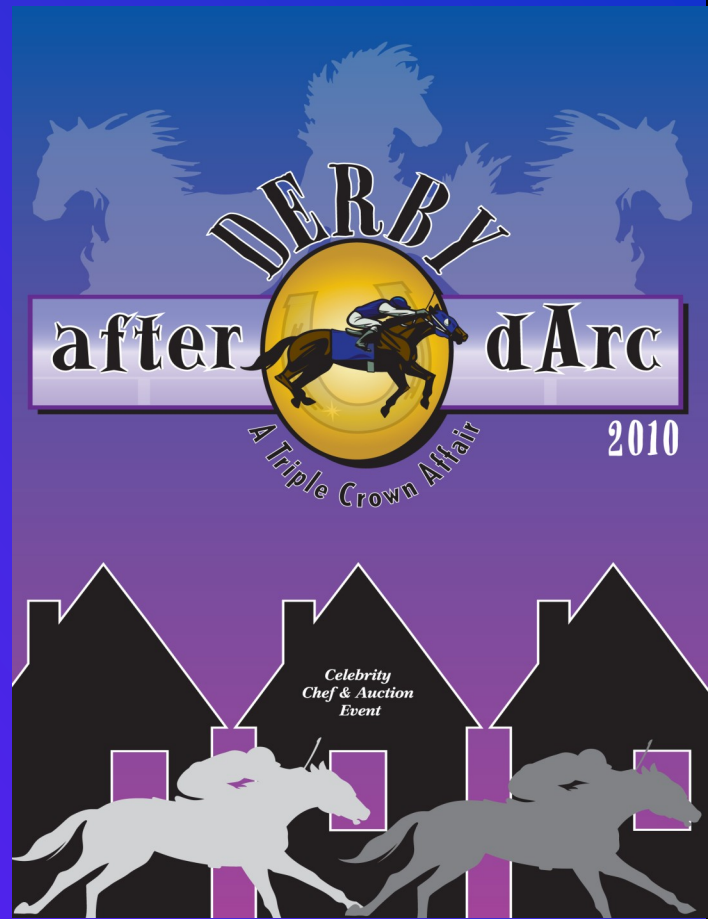
Derby After dArc 2010

A Triple Crown Affair

Tickets are now available for the 6th Annual After dArc Celebrity Chef & Auction event scheduled for Saturday, March 27, 2010 at Maryland Golf & Country Clubs to benefit The Arc Northern Chesapeake Region. The Arc welcomes Smyth Jewelers back again as the presenting sponsor and Jennifer McCullough & Rhoula Monios as this year's Co-Chairs along with Honorary Chairs, Billy & Barbara Boniface and Scott & Georgeanna Garceau.

Maryland Golf & Country Clubs will be transformed into a Derby/Preakness style atmosphere complete with games and entertainment including a silent auction and music and dancing to the sounds of DJ Saxman. Local "celebrity chefs" will be at the club to show their hospitality-Triple Crown style. The event will culminate with the drawing of a raffle for tickets to the Preakness, dinner, and one night stay at a local hotel. This year's raffle is sponsored by Jones Junction Automotive Group in Bel Air and WXCY Radio.

We invite you to attend the event or consider being a sponsor for the event. Sponsorship can range from receiving ad space and two free tickets to having a major presence at the event. The event



provides all of our sponsors the unique opportunity to increase visibility and awareness of their business or organization.

Proceeds from this year's event will help adults and children who receive services at The Arc build better lives one person at a time.

For more information including event tickets and sponsorship opportunities, contact The Arc at 410-879-6785 or visit www.arcncr.org.



Bowling Em' Over



For the past two years, Casaundra "Casey" Spear has been participating in the Dundalk Lanes bowling league with her dad for over two years and has developed a passion for the game. Looking back, it's hard to believe that Casey was once apprehensive about participating and would only bowl for one or two frames during a game, as Casey is now a regular on the league and currently bowls every other Saturday.

The last two years Casey has developed an increased skill level, confidence and a genuine passion for the game. When asked about bowling, Casey says, "It makes me feel good to bowl. I do a victory

dance every time the ball goes down the lane!" Bowling even made her Christmas wish list and Casey now has her own ball (blue of course!) and carrying case.

Others have noticed Casey's skills as well, this past season; Casey was awarded a trophy for outstanding effort along with a medal for teamwork. Both items are proudly displayed in Casey's room and serve as a reminder of her success with an opportunity she had once felt too intimidated to take part in. Casey can remind us all that we never know how good we can be if we don't take a chance and try something new!

DD Day in Annapolis

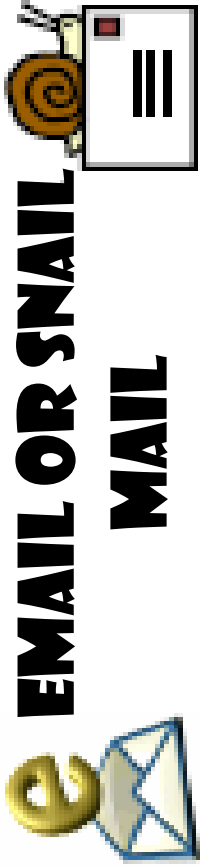
Once again, self advocates, families and professionals converged on the House of Delegates and the Senate in Annapolis to unite and have our voices heard by our elected officials. February 25th brought hundreds of individuals to advocate on issues specifically relating to bettering the lives of people with developmental disabilities. This year, people from every county in the State of Maryland met at the Lowe's Hotel in Annapolis and took part in a processional through downtown ending at The Senate and House buildings.

Each county brought "ballot boxes" labeled with their respective county and the urge to "end the wait" for funding for people with developmental disabilities written on each box. A ballot box, along with a packet outlining the bills of concern, was personally delivered to each representative in the House of Delegates as well as the Senate. Receiving a ballot box from every county in Maryland gives a visual reminder of how very important these issues are and the immense amount of voter support there is for people with developmental disabilities throughout the entire State.

The Arc NCR had over 25 people in attendance from Harford and Cecil Counties who spent the day meeting other advocates, voicing their concerns and visiting the offices of elected officials.



Although D D Day has passed, the legislative session is NOT over! It is not too late to send letters, emails and make phone calls supporting people with developmental disabilities. Please contact FSS for further information on specific bills and how to make your voice heard. We will be happy to assist you in contacting your elected representatives and strongly encourage you to do so. Silence is acceptance. If you do not voice your concerns, our elected officials have no way of knowing about the challenges families face. The entire State is facing extreme budget cuts and we must insure that we do not lose the services and funding that is so critical to bettering the lives of people with developmental disabilities. Thank you to all of the people who took their time and made the effort to attend DD Day!



WHICH DO YOU PREFER?

If the answer is e-mail AND you would like to receive the news-letter in COLOR, then email Terri Augustine at taugustine@arcncr.org with the following information:

- Your name and child's name
- Your home address and e-mail address

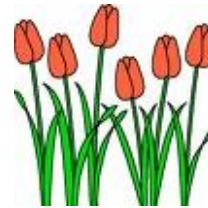
If the answer is snail-mail, check your mailbox for the latest paper edition.

THE ARC NCR
4513 PHILADELPHIA RD
ABERDEEN, MD 21001

ADVOCACY • RESOURCES
COMMUNITY BUILDING
For People with Developmental Disabilities



4513 Philadelphia Road
Aberdeen, MD 21001
410-836-7177 | 410-879-6785
F: 410-893-3909
www.arcncr.org



***Family Services
Newsletter***

MARCH/APRIL 2010

