

William M. BeDell
Achievement and Resource Center
Newsletter

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October 2009

Serving individuals with a disability since 1957

The ARC is a not for profit organization as stated under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service Code. Donations are tax deductible according to IRS standards.

Thank you...

to the individuals or organizations listed below who recently made contributions to the ARC:

County Appliance, Bryan and Laura Taulbee, Highland Knights of Columbus, William & Bonnie Peck, Shaun and Qianna Jefferson, Dollar General, Kent Schuette, Alton Foundation, Diane Walton, Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Curren, William Haine, Kathleen Duncan, Jeff & Dorothy Ebbeler, Sam Roberts, On the Spot Car Wash, Patrick & Laura Shansey, and Kiwanis Club of Wood River Township.

We have also received donations in memory of **Margaret Logan, Dylan Howell, Claire Purcell, Jim Elliott, Randy Nichols and Jeanne Walters.** We extend our sympathy and thanks to each of these families for remembering the ARC.

We are very appreciative of the generosity of these individuals, which helps us fulfill our mission:

To provide the highest quality of services and programs to children and adults who have a developmental disability that reside in Madison County.

The Annual ARC Benefit Dance is **November 7, 2009 at the Bethalto Knights of Columbus Hall.** **Mondinband** will be our band. They did a great job last year, and we look forward to having them again in 2009. Tickets are available at the Main Office – call Jeanne at 251-2175 for

more information. Hope to see you there for an enjoyable evening.

Special Olympics Bowling was held August 23 and 30 in Fairview Heights. John N. and Jerry B advanced to Sectional Bowling on Sunday 10/18. John N tied for a gold and will go to the State Bowling Competition in Peoria on December 5 Jerry B received a 3rd place. Congratulations and good luck to these athletes. The Track and Field Special Olympics will be held May 1 at SIUE. We'll give you more information as that event approaches.

Each year, many of our staff participate in **Tootsie Roll Drives sponsored by area Knights of Columbus Councils.**

The Wood River Tootsie Roll Drive was held September 11. Bethalto and Alton's Tootsie Roll Drive was September 18. All of these KC groups are very generous in their donations to the ARC with the proceeds of these events.

ARC has been actively addressing the risks associated with the seasonal flu and the H1N1 (Swine Flu) Virus. The Infection Control Committee met early in the summer to address the national outbreak of H1N1 and how it may affect the individuals served by ARC along with the staff who are responsible for their care. Each program has taken steps to identify and educate individuals about the risks. Staff took part in

numerous inservice trainings, families received informational flyers, and all programs participated in a presentation called “Clean Hands, Healthy Bodies” presented by the U of I Extension. Several classrooms at the school created a display and played games associated with staying healthy. Hand sanitizer has been readily available, those who are sick have been asked to stay home, and everyone has been encouraged to get the seasonal and H1N1 flu vaccines in order to minimize the potential risks. The cooperation of families and staff in these efforts is greatly appreciated.

The **U.S. Department of Labor** launched **Disability.gov**, the federal government’s website for people with disabilities, their family members, veterans, caregivers, employers and others. The new site, previously called DisabilityInfo.gov, features comprehensive information about disability-related programs and services, as well as social media tools to better serve the more than 50 million Americans with disabilities.

Disability.gov’s social media tools encourage interaction and feedback from visitors and offer new ways to organize, share and receive information. Visitors can sign up for personalized news and updates, participate in online discussions and suggest resources for the site. New features include a Twitter feed, RSS feeds, a blog and social bookmarking. Additional social media tools will be added in the months ahead.

The new site includes user-friendly ways to get answers to questions on finding employment, job accommodations and other topics. The site is organized into ten subject areas: benefits, civil rights, community life, education, emergency preparedness, employment, health, housing, technology and transportation. By selecting a category, visitors are directed to useful information on federal and state government programs and services, news

and events, grants and funding opportunities, and more.

Disability.gov, an effort led by the Department of Labor’s Office of Disability Employment Policy, contains thousands of links to reliable, trusted information from numerous federal agency partners, as well as educational institutions, non-profit organizations and state and local governments. It is an important resource not only for Americans with disabilities, but also for the parents of children with disabilities, employers, workforce and human resource professionals, veterans, military families, caregivers, and many others.

At this time of year, we **recognize our staff for their accomplishments.** Each month dedicated employees’ names are placed in a drawing to win the Perfect Attendance Award which includes a cash prize. During the past year, the **Perfect Attendance** recipients are:

Elizabeth Johnson (School Program)
Linda Henry (School Program)
Barbara Montgomery
(Administration) – she won twice!
Andrea Welsh (School)
Dave Logan
(Administration/Residential) – he won twice!
Carol Basden (DT)
Mike Mellenthin (Maintenance)
Nichole Delehanty (Residential)
Cindy Lowe (School)

We continue to recognize three **Employees of the Month.** These cash awards are given 6 times a year in 3 different groupings (School, DT, and all other employees). During the past year, these people have received Employee of the Month recognition:

School Program: Becky Simmons, Linda Henry, Mikitra Thomas, Karin King, and Kassie Fillback.

DT Program: Angel White, Carolyn Howard, Charlotte Davis, Angie Becker and Kathie Steiner.

All Other Employees (Residential, FSU, Administration, Maintenance): Barbara Montgomery, Nita Whitten, Marie Cavasher, Rosjean Custer and Jean Standefer.

Employees of the Month are nominated and selected by their peers for their outstanding work performance.

Employees are also recognized for their **years of service at 20, 25, 30 and 35 years.**

Employees who have received these awards are:

- 35 years:** Cheryl Blaha
- 30 years:** Audrey Fithen, Cindy Lefferson, Jeanne Johnson, Gary Osborne, and Terri Schulte
- 25 years:** Jan Tolliver, Jean Standefer, Dave Logan, Bob Hunt, Donna Bailey, Stephani Meyer, and Barbara Basile
- 20 years:** Becky Simmons, Vicki Gentry, Grace Daubman, Bob Walters, Jr., Carolyn Howard, Joe Crawford, Kathie Henderson, Christy Osborne, Carol Basden, Becky Jellen, Bill Lawson, Wendy Holliday, and Darlene Cox.

The ARC recognizes the dedication of these employees and values their many years of service to the ARC!

The ARC continues their **recycling efforts** in collecting

Aluminum can tab tops

6 pack plastic rings

Old cell phones (no accessories or chargers)

Used printer cartridges (no toner from copiers)

Newspapers, magazines, catalogs, notebook paper, office paper (no cardboard or phone books)

Box Tops for Education – Cut the symbol off the product package and send them in to ARC. Each one is worth 10 cents!

The e-scrip program at Schnucks – Schnucks will contribute up to 3% of your

purchases to the ARC. Call 800-931-6258 or visit escrip.com/schnucks.jsp. You can designate William M. Bedell ARC, account 500015423. Then present your card to the cashier before your transaction each time you shop.

www.goodsearch.com is a Yahoo search engine that generates money for our school through searches or online shopping. Register our school as “The Arc-William M BeDell (Wood River, IL)”

We are no longer collecting soda, juice or milk bottle caps. If you want more information about our recycling efforts, please call Mary Tanner, our recycling coordinator, at 618-251-2175.

As the holidays approach, we realize they can be a fun, exciting time of year. However, they can also be very stressful and exhausting. With today’s struggling economy, money doesn’t always stretch far enough to meet our needs, let alone enough to do what we would like for Christmas. Community agencies are offering assistance to help families relieve some of the stress the holiday season causes. If you or someone you know is interested in finding out more information about assistance that is available, please contact Andrea or Stephani, at 251-2175. Our Social Service Department sometimes receives donations of toys, clothing or money to help our families. Please don’t hesitate to contact us, and we will do what we can to meet your needs.

THE WILLIAM M BEDELL ARC
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WOOD RIVER IL 62095