



The Arc Appeal

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

A Publication of The Arc of the Mid-South

VOLUME 19 ISSUE 1 APRIL 2007

March Madness 2007 was a great success!

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To commemorate the start of National Disability Awareness Month, The Arc of the Mid-South had its Annual Membership Reception and Kick-Off Celebration on Saturday, March 3rd at the Holiday Inn Select –East. This was a truly awesome event! Company "D" Dance Troupe, comprised of persons with Down syndrome, had the crowd moving in their seats as they performed to Elvis' hits.

Another highlight of the event was the recognition of several organizations and persons from the Memphis community who have helped The Arc of the Mid South sustain its mission statement during 2006. The following were recipients of this year's awards:

- Nike, Corporate Member of the Year
- Connie J. Booker, Board Member of the Year
- Trina Dowden, Membership Award
- Brown Missionary Baptist Church, Faith Based Organization Member of the Year
- Susie Robinson, Most Dedicated Parent of the Year

Sabbath Weekend:

During National Disability Awareness Month, The Arc of the Mid-South addressed the issue of accessibility in our area churches. Our Sabbath Weekend (March 9th - March 11th) survey provided churches in Memphis and the surrounding areas the opportunity to raise awareness of the needs and abilities of people with developmental disabilities. This weekend provided church personnel with an opportunity to see how their facilities can affect the daily lives of individuals with disabilities. Congratulations to the Church of the Holy Spirit for their hard work and willingness to adapt to those in need! The Church of the Holy Spirit maintains a number of amenities for a person with a developmental disability. From wheelchair ramps to the handicapped accessible bus, this church has been able to create an atmosphere of acceptance for individuals with disabilities.

11th Annual Wheelchair Basketball Tournament:

We had a great turnout for our 11th Annual Wheelchair Basketball Tournament. We had 8 teams from various organizations throughout the Mid-South participate in this event.

The following organization participated in this year's tournament:

- The Memphis TACT Unit
- The Shelby County Sheriffs Department
- Sam's Club # 8258- Getwell Road –Memphis, TN
- Sam's Club # 8292- Covington Pike –Memphis, TN
- Sam's Club # 6256- Winchester Road –Memphis, TN
- Sam's Club # 6260- Hwy. 64- Bartlett, TN
- Sam's Club # 4740- Goodman Road – Southaven, MS
- The Rollin' Grizzlies

We thank each and every one for their support!



Congratulations to our winning team
"The Rock"- Sam's Club #8258 on Getwell Road.

3-Day Workshop:

The Annual 3-day Workshop was also a success. There were over 50 students, represented by 8 different area schools and organizations, to attend our job readiness seminars and job fair. The topics of discussion ranged from Communication and Social Skills to Dressing for Success. This year this annual event was held at the Anointed Temple of Praise on Riverdale Rd. A big thank you goes out to the staff at A.T.O.P. for your space and your willingness to help us with our events! Students and Teachers, we also thank you for your participation and we can't wait until next year!

Director's Corner



Board of Directors:

Merle Smith- *President*
Connie J. Booker- *Treasurer*
Corey Young- *Secretary*
Maria Randall
Kathleen N. Gumes
Diana Abdul Rahim

Staff Directory:

Executive Director-
Carelen I. Leaper
Administrative Aide-
Freda Fowler
Administrative Assistant-
Deborah Littlejohn
Administrative Aide-
Roberta Henderson
Director of Family Services &
Career Development-
Karen McQueen
Asst Mgr. of Family Services
& Career Development-
Brandi Sharp
Case Manager-
Billie Jo Martin
Case Manager-
Raquel Woodard
Community Advocate-
Megan Long
Admin. Family Services-
Debbie Slack
Asst. Mgr. Career
Development-
Johnnie Ijames
Vocational Developer-
Rashanda Lawyer
Program Coordinator-
Benjamin Davis
Job Counselor-
Matthew Creekmore
Job Counselor-
Michael Billingsley
Director of Human Resources-
Eric Conway
Human Resource Assistant-
Lare Allen
Human Resource Trainer-
William Story
Payroll Clerk-
Andrea Brantley
Financial Manager-
Sandra Watkins
Bookkeeper Assistant-
Trina Dowden
Bookkeeper Assistant-
Glenn Hayes
Project Assistant-
Chandrika Prahalathan
Marketing/ Events Coordinator-
Ndi Onukogu
Marketing Specialist-
Katie Atkins

Members and Friends,

It is hard to believe we're almost halfway through 2007! Thanks to all our supporters, members, parents, service recipients and staff who have all contributed to the success of the agency.

Mid-South Arc has changed its name to The Arc of the Mid South. (Why have we changed our name?) The new name signals our evolving mission. The Arc of the Mid South now serves individuals with disabilities other than mental retardation. In addition, people with developmental disabilities and their families now have greater expectations concerning self-advocacy, inclusion and personal fulfillment. The Arc of the Mid South must respond to those changing needs. "Arc" echoes our continuing relationships with The Arc of Tennessee (the statewide organization of which we are a chapter) and The Arc of the U.S. (the national organization with which we are affiliated). It also symbolizes our mission, which is to bridge gaps and build supportive connections between those we serve and their communities. As I look ahead at the next few months, I see great opportunities for people across the state to dramatically impact the lives of people with developmental disabilities. The potential to create change is surpassed only by the energy and dedication of so many people to make that change become reality.

On behalf of the Agency, thank you for taking the time to read about our latest news and activities. We look forward to continuing to make headway, keeping you informed of current issues and achieve our goals together! In this addition you will hear of the many upcoming events for the year.

Due to the increase number of requests and information and referral calls, The Arc of the Mid South is expanding the Community Advocacy Program to include a resource library. The purpose of the Resource Library is two-fold:

1. to increase community capacity to support and include people with developmental disabilities, and
2. to enhance quality of life by identifying, maximizing, and supplementing the existing supports through utilizing expertise within the services system. (The library should be set up September 1, 2007)

Other initiatives and training opportunities will focus on issues related to older adults with developmental disabilities, but not limited to the following:

- relationship building
- care giving
- housing
- transportation
- health and wellness
- age-related diseases
- long term planning, and
- end of life care

It is also the philosophy of this Community Advocacy Program to employ the Personal Outcome-based model of organizing services around the whole person. The agency has an onsite staff to assist parents through the maze of the service systems and with the process of the Medicaid waiver program and other service requests.

The Agency takes particular pride in our commitment to the principles on which this country was founded. After all, this is the land of Abraham Lincoln; a man who firmly believed, as the Declaration of Independence stated, that we were all created equal, and that we have inalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Our goal is to assist individuals with developmental disabilities and their families gain access to resources and services throughout Tennessee.

To receive updates by e-mail including highlights of each week's legislative information, sign up for The Arc E-News by sending an e-mail to katkins@arcmidsouth.net.

Sincerley,

Carelen I. Leaper
Executive Director

NEW Staff at The Arc



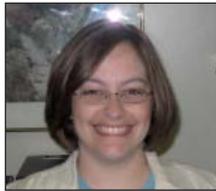
Glenn Hayes
Bookkeeping Assistant

Glenn joins our team with over eight years of accounting & finance experience. He recently worked for the accounting department at Titan Security here in Memphis. He is a HUGE Ole Miss football fan, and does not miss a game in Oxford.



William Story
Human Resource Trainer

William joins our team with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from Delta State University along with a Master of Arts degree in Industrial & Organizational Psychology from Louisiana Tech. University. Before joining The Arc of the Mid-South's staff he was a Grant training coordinator at Louisiana State University. He is a member of ASTD (American society of Training and Development) as well an associate member of SHRM (Society of Human Resources Management).



Katie Atkins
Marketing Specialist

Katie joins us with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication and Journalism from the University of Memphis (GO TIGERS!) and over 3 years of graphic design and internal communication experience. She, her husband, and new baby girl recently moved back to the Memphis area from Fort Worth, TX. While in Fort Worth, she worked at RadioShack's corporate headquarters in their visual merchandising department.



Ndi Onukogu
Events & Development Coordinator

Ndi is originally from St. Louis, Missouri. Before coming to The Arc of the Mid-South, she was a Retail Sales Representative for CROSSMARK Sales and marketing; a third party consumer goods broker. She also worked on a variety of events and promotions while residing in St. Louis. Ndi graduated from University Of Missouri-Columbia with a Bachelors of Science in Business Administration with an emphasis in Marketing in 2002. Currently, she is attending Webster University to receive her Masters in Business Administration with an emphasis in Media Communications.



Megan Long
Community Advocate

Megan Long joins us with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Early Childhood Education with a specialization in Special Education. Prior to her arrival at the Arc, she spent the last two years at home as a stay-at-home mom. Prior to that that she spent two years working with Head Start in Illinois as the Homebased Advocate for their homebased program.



Laré Allen
Human Resources Assistant

Laré Allen is from Owensboro, KY and currently resides in Southaven, MS. Before coming to The Arc she worked for Harrah's Entertainment in Tunica. There she was in the HR Department as a Regional Recruiter servicing 3 properties with over 5000 employees. Laré graduated from Murray State University (Murray, KY) with a Bachelors of Science in Sociology and a Masters of Science in Human Development & Leadership with an emphasis in Non-Profit Organizations. While attending graduate school, she created an after school mentoring program at a local elementary school in conjunction with Big Brothers Big Sisters that was called H.O.P.E. (Helping Others Pursue Excellence) which focused on academics, self esteem, and physical fitness.

Upcoming Events

MAY

- 3-4 *The Arc of the Mid-South Staff Retreat*
- 4 *Childhood Depression Awareness Day*
- 8 *The Arc of the Mid-South Board Meeting @ 5:30 pm*
- 8 *The Arc of the Mid-South Parent Training Session*
When: 6:00pm
Topic: "The Truth About TENNCare/ TENNder Care"
Speaker: Anthony Amos- Shelby County Health Department TENNder Care Program
- 10 *The Arc of the Mid-South Gala Committee Meeting @ 5:30 pm*
- 18-20 *Weekend Retreat at Nelson Woods Retreat Center*
- 28 *Memorial Day - The Arc of the Mid-South's office closed*
- 31 *Tennessee MEGA Conference in Nashville, TN*



JUNE

- 1-2 *Tennessee MEGA Conference in Nashville, TN*
- 8-10 *Weekend Retreat at Nelson Woods Retreat Center*
- 14 *The Arc of the Mid-South Gala Committee Meeting @ 5:30 pm*

JULY

- 4 *July 4th - The Arc of the Mid-South's office closed*
- 5-8 *Family Services Summer Camp at Memphis Job Corp.*
- 10 *The Arc of the Mid-South Board Meeting @ 5:30 pm*
- 12 *The Arc of the Mid-South Gala Committee Meeting @ 5:30 pm*
- 28 *ADA Celebration Golf Tournament at The Club of North Creek in Southaven, MS*

THE ARC OF THE MID-SOUTH'S ADA CELEBRATION GOLF TOURNAMENT



SATURDAY, JULY 28, 2007
THE CLUB AT NORTH CREEK
8770 NORTH CREEK BLVD. SOUTHAVEN, MS
INDIVIDUAL COST: \$100.00 (INCLUDES LUNCH)
TEAM OF 4 COST: \$400.00 (INCLUDES LUNCH)
LUNCH ONLY COST: \$20.00



March
of Dimes

WalkAmerica®

walk for someone you love™

WHEN: SATURDAY, APRIL 28, 2007; 8 a. m. Registration; 9 a.m. Walk

WHERE: Shelby Farms - Visitors Center Start Line

WHAT: WalkAmerica is the walk that saves babies. As the March of Dimes biggest fund-raiser, WalkAmerica supports research and programs to help prevent or treat premature birth, birth defects and other threats to infant health. Since its beginning in 1970, WalkAmerica has raised more than \$1.5 billion. It takes place in more than 1,100 communities across the country with nearly half a million walkers

WHO: Teams from more than 200 local families, organizations and businesses, including: FedEx, Allenburg Cotton, First Tennessee Bank, and Brother Industries; and thousands of Shelby Co. volunteers will also be available for photos and interviews

HOW: Register by visiting walkamerica.org or by calling 901-385-8580.



Memphis Academy of Health Sciences

4th Annual 5K Walk-a-thon

Saturday, April 28th @ 9:00 am

Walk-a-thon begins at the MAHS offices

3925 Chelsea Ext.

Memphis, TN 38108

www.mahsmemphis.com



Family Outreach on Employment Session:

Monday, May 7th @ 11:00 am

3030 Poplar Avenue

Memphis, TN

For more information go to www.thearctn.org



Casual Day 2007
Benefiting United Cerebral Palsy

United Cerebral Palsy's Casual Day- Friday, May 11th

United Cerebral Palsy (UCP) of the Mid-South's Casual Day is quickly approaching, and we hope your company will participate this year. On Friday, May 11th, 2007, more than 4,000 people in the Mid-South will get "Casual for a Cause." UCP not only serves people with cerebral palsy. In fact, UCP serves children and adults with all types of disabilities. With your help, the funds raised through Casual Day will make a difference in the Mid-South community and give people with disabilities the opportunity to live life without limits.

For more information, go to www.ucpmemphis.org

Family Services

Disability Day on the Hill -

A group of The Arc of the Mid-South's family and friends including those from the Memphis Center for Independent Living set out early on Wednesday, February 28th to make a difference in our community. We arrived in Nashville prepared to talk with numerous legislators and representatives in our district regarding a number of bills being introduced this session. Some of those bills include education bills related to restraints and seclusion, as well as bills regarding seizure medication. Those bills will ensure that children with developmental disabilities are being protected in our schools.



Debbie Slack, Rep. Coley, and Raquel Woodward



Raquel Woodward, Freda Fowler, Deborah Littlejohn, Senator Jones, and Debbie Slack



Benjamin Davis, Krystal Williams, Kristen Williams, Erica Vann, Christopher Vinson

We also took this opportunity to discuss with our legislators ways to make voting easier for individuals with developmental disabilities as well as the inclusion of individuals with autism access to programs under the department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities. Mrs. Leaper, our executive director, spoke with the Shelby County delegation to discuss the need to create jobs for individuals with developmental disabilities.

We have posted all of the legislative information on our web-site, www.arcmidsouth.net. We have also included contact information for our area representatives so that you may contact them regarding these initiatives. You have a voice, make a change. If you need additional information or do not have Internet access, please contact our offices @ (901)327-2473.



Sign-up for our Summer Camps:

July 5-9 at Memphis Job Corp.
in Memphis, TN

August 1-5 at Pinecrest Camp
in Moscow, TN

* We are still in need of Camp Staff and Camp Volunteers. If you are interested please contact Family Services @ 901.327.2473

WEEKEND RETREAT



Don't forget our Weekend Retreats:

May 18-20
June 8-10
September 21-23
October 19-21
November 16-18
December 14-16

*Our retreats are held at the Nelson Woods Retreat Center.

P.A.E.S. Lab:

Our Practical Arts Exploration System Lab has truly been an exciting achievement for The Arc of the Mid-South! We have successfully placed many people out into the work force with the potential for a successful future. Our P.A.E.S. Lab gives our service recipients hands-on experience so they can go into the workplace with the needed skills to succeed.



Cynthia Mettler is one of our current students who through our program was recently hired at Marshall's clothing store in Cordova. "Cynthia is a very studious individual who always comes to class and puts forth 100%", says Ben Davis, our Career Development Program Coordinator. Cynthia's parents, Bernard and Kathy Mettler both work very hard to provide support for Cynthia. Along with her job at Marshall's, Cynthia also volunteers once a week at a local doctor's office where her aunt is employed. In her time-off Cynthia enjoys singing songs from her favorite movie "Grease" at a local karaoke bar every Friday night.

P.A.E.S. Lab classes are now open:

Our Monday, Wednesday, and Friday class meets from 9 am to 12 am
Our Tuesday and Thursday class meets from 9 am to 11 am

For more information or to sign-up to attend, please contact Benjamin Davis @ 901.327.2743

Job Readiness Workshop:

The Annual 3-Day Job Readiness Workshop was a great success. Organizations and Professionals throughout the mid-south reached out to help us with this event and we'd like to extend our thanks. Our speakers:

Veronica McKinney - Corporate Connections
Brenda Lewis - Holiday Inn
Jennifer McNabb - FedEx Ground
Dexter Jefferies - Memphis City Schools
Mike Sass - Center on Disability & Employment
Jim Walker - DMRS
Christen Lloyd Burkes- Memphis City Schools
P.A. Bomani

Allison Burton- MATA Plus
Willie Lewis- MATA Plus
Harry Bethael - Memphis Job Corp.
Shirley Flowers- Memphis City Schools
Faye St.John- Memphis City Schools
Tashara Tolbert- UT- Knoxville
Amber McCullough- University of Memphis

Thanks also go out to all of the area businesses that donated food and other goods:

Starbucks- Germantown & Poplar
Howards Donuts- Hwy 64
Lenny's- Raleigh
Papa John's Pizza- Union Ave.
Papa John's Pizza- Summer Ave.
Domino's Pizza- Corporate Office
McDonald's- Corporate Office
Wal-Mart Corporate

Save the Date!

"Empowering through Inclusion; Delivering on the Promise"

The Arc of the Mid-South invites you
to join us for our
12th Annual Benefit & Awards Gala
on Friday, September 28th at the
Memphis Area Home Builder's Association,
located on Germantown Road in Cordova.

Our featured speaker will be
Dr. William F. Owen Jr., the 10th
Chancellor of the UT Health Science Center.

The doors will open at 6:30 pm for all VIP guests
and 7:00 pm for General Admission Tickets.
Tickets will go on sale July 2nd, so mark your calendars!

Renew or Become a New Member Today!

Log onto our web-site: www.arcmidsouth.net for
complete membership information.
The Arc of the Mid-South is a proud member of



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

The Arc of the Mid-South

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