



"working to include all children and adults with cognitive, intellectual, and developmental disabilities in every community"



The ARC of Greater Beaumont

Newsletter January 2011

Happy New Year



As 2010 ends and 2011 begins it's time to look back at all the accomplishments of The Arc and explore the new and exciting things that are yet to come. In 2010, the Arc introduced four new tracks of service. Through these tracks, many Arc programs

were expanded and developed.

Through the **Education and Leadership Development Track**, the Arc hosts the new *Southeast Texas Self Advocates (SETXSA)*. In 2010, SETXSA members met with different speakers who spoke on topics including leadership, voting rights, and to how to advocate for your wants and needs. The group went to Moody Gardens in October and helped deliver canned food to Some Other Place in November.

The **Recreation and Socialization Track** encompasses the *Arc Adult Social Club*. In 2010, monthly events included, a trip to see a Mavericks Basketball Game, a trip to see a Lamar Cardinals Game, Wii Competitions, line dancing, and singing Christmas Carols at Hotel Beaumont. The Arc has partnered with some wonderful organizations including DuPont Goodrich FCU and The Junior League of Beaumont to provide volunteer support for these events.

Through the **Fun and Fitness Track**, the Arc hosted six *dances*

with themes including a Mardi Gras Ball, a 50's Sock Hop, and a Country HoDown.

The **Family Program Track** encompasses our quarterly *family fun events*. Both parents and siblings are invited to enjoy events with other Arc Members. Our recent Fall Festival was held at the beautiful home of one of the Arc's Board Members. Along with being a beautiful location, this successful event offered hayrides, fishing, pumpkin painting and carnival games.

With 2011 here, The Arc anticipates continuing its successful programs and expanding the services it offers. Our vision is to provide the Golden Triangle community with an Arc of Greater Beaumont resource center that would enrich the lives of individuals with disabilities and their families by building a community of support. We cannot do it without your support. As our attendance and our membership grows, we will hold more activities. Inside this newsletter, you will see what the first of 2011 has in store for The Arc. We are looking forward to your continued participation as the Arc grows its presence and programs for adults and children with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Southeast Texas.



Self Advocate Spotlight

A showcase of the outstanding men and women whose leadership, community service, and positive attitudes exemplify Self Advocates in Southeast Texas

Shane Henry is an active member of the Arc and the Southeast Texas Self Advocates. Shane was a model in the 2010 Stars of the Arc Celebrity Style Show and Dinner and was a 2010 Cards for a Cause card artist. He is the Chaplin for the Southeast Texas Self Advocates. "Shane opens every meeting with an inspirational prayer" says Brandi Herron, the Southeast Texas Self Advocate President. Shane works at St. Giles Worksource Center and loves his community service projects. Shane's favorite part of the Arc is "being a model in the Style Show every year."



Shelby Evans is an active member of the Arc and Southeast Texas Self Advocates. Shelby was a model in the 2010 Stars of the Arc Celebrity Style Show and Dinner and was a 2010 Cards for a Cause card artist. Shelby is the historian for the Southeast Texas Self Advocates. Shelby writes poems and stories. Her favorite artist is Michael Jackson. Shelby works in the LEAP department at Spindletop Center and loves selling snacks and drinks at the LEAP canteen. Shelby's favorite part of the Arc is "having the freedom to be yourself. (The Arc) is like having a second family."



Do No Harm

With budget cuts a reality for the 82nd Texas Legislature, the Arc of Texas is advocating the legislature DO NO HARM. If the legislature cuts current funding for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Texas not only will the interest list for Medicaid Waivers grow longer, but those who are currently receiving Medicaid Waivers may be in danger of losing their services. The proposed budget submitted by the Texas Department of Aging and Disabilities Services (DADS) does not include funds to serve 13,368 individuals who are currently receiving Medicaid Waiver services or are expected to receive Medicaid Waiver services by the end of the 2011 Fiscal Year. This is not the fault of the DADS, as they were following budget writing instructions from leadership offices; however, it is critical that individuals who benefit from Medicaid Waivers show legislators how valuable the programs provided through Medicaid Waivers are. Below are the Legislative Priorities for the 82nd Texas Legislature adopted by the Arc of Texas. These include the Do No Harm Platform, the termination of the "R" word, and improvement on the public education for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

The Arc of Texas: Legislative Priorities for the 82nd Texas Legislature

Long Term Services & Supports: Do No Harm, Protect the Health and Welfare of Texans with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities by Maintaining Current Service Levels

Preserve your investment in the service delivery system for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. Maintain the course to maximize the number of Texans with intellectual and developmental disabilities provided quality services and supports in typical homes and communities through Medicaid Waiver Programs, Consumer Directed Services and Safety-Net Services. Address the ongoing waiting list and increasing needs of the state through innovative approaches such as self-directed opinions via Medicaid Waiver Programs offered by the Federal Center for Medicare and Medicaid. Efforts to evolve the current service delivery system for Texans with intellectual and developmental disabilities must include every element of the service delivery system, including institutional and community-based services and supports.

Terminology: Adopt Respectful Language in State Law

Words are very powerful, and inappropriate use of a medical diagnosis, mental retardation, with words such as "retard" and "retarded" are extremely hurtful and demeaning to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and can be an invisible barrier to community inclusion. Although mental retardation remains a medical diagnosis, the term has become a negative connotation in our society's everyday language. Efforts are underway to replace "mental retardation" with "intellectual disability" in federal and state law across the nation. Join our efforts to change Texas law so that it also references persons with intellectual disabilities appropriately and respectfully. The budget neutral legislation will not affect in any way eligibility, services or supports under the programs within the reach of the bill.

Education: Improve Public Education for Students with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

Ensure Texas youth with intellectual and developmental disabilities are given every opportunity to lead successful, productive adult lives by providing them with a first rate, inclusive education that addresses standards-based academic instruction, functional skills and positive behavior supports. Ensure students begin receiving meaningful transition information at the time they enter special education services and transition planning by age 14 that will prepare them for further education, employment and

independent and healthy living. Endorse legislation that fully implements the Individual with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) which requires that students with disabilities receive a free and appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment.

The legislative priorities have been developed, but they cannot be heard without your help. Below are some ways you can help advocate for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Texas.

How Can You Advocate?

The Arc of Texas offers the following steps for you as an individual or a family to advocate for the rights of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Texas.

1. Write your story: A personal story can be one of the most powerful ways to advocate. Below are tips for writing your personal story or you can contact gmayeaux@thearcoftexas.org for assistance with your story.
2. Get to know your legislators and other policy makers: What better way to advocate than talking to those legislators who live in your area. You can schedule a meeting with a local legislator, introduce yourself, tell your story, and always remember to send a thank you note. Find out who represents you at www.fyi.legis.state.tx.us
3. Be informed. Join local, state, and federal email/mail lists and participate in action alerts: Visit www.thearcoftexas.org to sign up to receive their action alerts.
4. Connect to the local media and stay informed: Read and watch the news for articles that are beneficial and accurate information on or for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Remember, knowledge is power.
5. Inform others: Challenge yourselves to tell at least three people about the above ways to advocate.

Telling your Personal Story

Use the format and tips below to develop your personal story.

1. Give your name and where you live— If you are a parent, tell the legislator that you are representing your family member and give the name/relationship of your family member with a disability.
2. Describe several positives about yourself/your family member. This can include job, hobbies, skills or any other details you feel may be important.
3. Describe you/your family member's disability and how it affects daily life and hopes for the future.
4. Describe the supports and services that you/your family member need and what those supports will mean to you/your family member.
5. Ask the legislator to support a specific action. You can choose from one of the three Legislative Priorities mentioned above, or call The Arc of Texas 1-800-259-9729 and they can assist you with what to ask for.
6. Thank the Legislator for his past support and time.

In 2011 the Texas Legislator will be addressing a \$25 billion shortfall as they write the state's next budget. It is critical that we share our personal stories and ask legislators that current DADS services be maintained. After waiting 10, 11, and 12 years, it would be devastating to have those services taken away from deserving individuals and families.

Information provided by The Arc of Texas



Arc Program Activities

January

Arc Adult Social Club

What: Wii Competition, Photography Lessons, & Scrapbook Making

When: Thursday, January 20th

Where: Spindletop Center Rec. Room

Time: 6:00 to 8:00 pm

Cost: \$3.00 for Arc & SETXSA members / \$6.00 for non-members

RSVP by January 18th

Mardi Gras Ball

When: Friday, January 28th

Where: St. Giles Worksource Center

Time: 7:00 to 9:00 pm

Cost: \$3.00 for Arc & SETXSA Members / \$6.00 for non members / \$2.00 for pictures

Live Music by Center Stage

RSVP by January 26th



February

Arc's Got Talent Show

What: Show us your talent, or come watch as your friends at the Arc wow the crowd with their performances!

When: Thursday February 17th

Time: 6:00 pm

Where: Trinity United Methodist
3430 Harrison
Beaumont, TX 77706

Cost: Free



March

St. Patrick's Dance

When: Friday, March 18th

Where: TBA

Time: 7:00 to 9:00 pm

Cost: \$3.00 for Arc & SETXSA Members / \$6.00 for non-members
\$2.00 for pictures

RSVP by March 16th

Spring Has Sprung Family Day

What: Easter egg hunt, pictures with the Easter Bunny, arts & crafts, & games!

When: Saturday, March 26th

Where: Spindletop North Campus

Time: 2:00 to 5:00

Cost: \$3.00 for Arc & SETXSA members / \$6.00 for non members

RSVP by March 23rd

Social Club and dances are for adults with disabilities age 16 and older. Reservations are required.

Please RSVP with Caitlin Kruger by the deadline date noted for each activity.

Call (409)784-5556 or email caitlin.kruger@arcofbmt.org

Arc Family Fun Night

Come join the Arc in some fun for the whole family. Events for children as well as parent networking and support!



Spring has Sprung!

Visit with the Easter Bunny, Easter Egg Hunt, Outdoor Games

When: Saturday March 26th

Time: 2:00 to 5:00pm

Where: Spindletop Center North Campus

Cost: \$3.00 for Arc Members, \$6.00 for non-members

RSVP by March 23rd

Calling all Talent!

For the

Arc's Got Talent

Talent Show

Thursday February 17th

6:00 pm

* May do group or individual numbers

* All numbers must be under 2 1/2 minutes

* All talent must attend the Dress Rehearsal on Tuesday February 15th

* All talent must be registered no later than February 7th NO EXCEPTIONS

* Music and talent must be approved by the Arc before February 15th

Be Creative and have fun!

Southeast Texas Self Advocate Meetings

Affiliated with Texas Advocates, the Southeast Texas Self Advocates' mission is to empower its members through leadership, self-advocacy, and continuing education. Members who have disabilities, age 18 and older, meet once a month, on the first Thursday of every month.

Contact Teri Hawthorne at (409)784-5544 for more information

Meeting Dates

Thursday, February 3rd - in the Spindletop Center Training Room 7:00 to 8:00 pm

Thursday, March 3rd - in the Spindletop Center Training Room 7:00 to 8:00 pm

Thursday April 7th - in the Spindletop Center Training Room 7:00 to 8:00 pm

Southeast Texas Self Advocates Trip to Moody Gardens

On October 9, 2010 the SETX Self Advocates eagerly boarded a charter bus and headed to Galveston for a day at Moody Gardens. The group explored the Moody Gardens Aquarium, took in a 3D Imax Video, explored Galveston Bay on an old fashioned Paddle Boat, and enjoyed dinner at Golden Corral. In addition to enjoying their time together, members of the Southeast Texas Self Advocates were complimented by Moody Gardens staff for their "positive attitudes." The Moody Garden staff praised them by saying they were "one of the best groups we have had in a long time" The group lived up to their name by showing exceptional leadership and self-advocacy during the trip.



SETX Members at the Moody Gardens Aquarium.

Community Calender

January

1/10– Arc of Greater Beaumont Board of Directors Meeting– 5:30 pm Spindletop Center Training Room

1/20– Arc Adult Social Club Wii Tournament, Scrapbook Making, and Photography Lessons. 6:00 to 8:00 pm Spindletop Center Rec. Room. Call (409)784-5556 for details.

1/28– Mardi Gras Ball at St. Giles Worksource Center. 7:00 to 9:00 pm call (409)784-5556 for details.

February

2/3– Arc Celebrity Style Show and Dinner Finale Practice. 6:30 pm Spindletop Center Rec Room

2/3– Southeast Texas Self Advocate Meeting. 7:00– 8:00 pm Spindletop Center Training Room. Call (409)784-5544 for details

2/7– Deadline to register for The Arc's Got Talent Show. Call (409)784-5556 for details

2/11– Valentines Day Dance (for Spindletop Center and Arc Members only)

2/15– Arc's Got Talent Show Dress Rehearsal. 6:00 pm Spindletop Center Rec. room

2/17– Arc's Got Talent Show 6:00 pm Location Trinity United Methodist Church. Call (409)784-5556 for details.

March

3/3– Arc Celebrity Style Show and Dinner Finale Practice. 6:30 pm Spindletop Center Rec. Room

3/3– Southeast Texas Self Advocate Meeting. 7:00– 8:00 pm Spindletop Center Training Room. Call (409)734-5544 for details.

3/14– Arc of Greater Beaumont Board of Directors Meeting- 5:30 pm Spindletop Center Training Room

3/18– Arc St. Patrick's Dance 7:00 to 9:00 pm. Call (409)784-5556 for details.

3/25– Spindletop Center IDD Day Event

3/26– Spring has Sprung Family Day 2:00 to 5:00 pm Spindletop Center North Campus. Call (409)784-5556

April

4/7– Arc Celebrity Style Show and Dinner Finale Practice. 6:30 pm Spindletop Center Rec. Room

4/7– Southeast Texas Self Advocate Meeting. 7:00 to 8:00 pm Spindletop Center Training Room. Call (409)784-5544 for details.

4/19– Mandatory Rehearsal for Stars of the Arc Style Show and Dinner Participants. Spindletop Center Rec. Room 6:00 to 8:00 pm. Pizza and drinks will be provided.

4/29– Arc Celebrity Style Show and Dinner. 6:30 to 9:00 pm Holiday Inn & Suites Beaumont Plaza. Call (409)784-5556 for ticket information.

Related IDD Events

Every Monday– Special Olympics Bowling 6:00 to 8:00 pm. Contact Louise Linder-Hall louise.linderhall@silsbeeisd.org for more information.

Coming In January– Special Olympics Basketball. Contact Pam Folsom at pfolsom@hotmail.com for more information

Stable Spirits offering Equine Comfort Care

Stable Spirits is offering Equine Comfort Care and currently has grants to provide services to children who live in Port Arthur. If you are interested in this opportunity or learning about other services Stable Spirits provides visit www.stable-spirit.org for details.

Events provided by Arc Members and sebsocialcenter.com

Are Holiday Cards for a Cause a Huge Success



Miss Teen Texas International Sydney Datcher and Card Artist Annabel Schelander at the Card Kickoff event

The third annual holiday cards for a cause project raised over \$26,000 for programs provided by The Arc of Greater Beaumont. Thirty-two cards were sponsored by local businesses and designed by thirty one Arc members with disabilities ages 2-53. Cards were sold throughout Southeast Texas. In addition to being a successful fundraiser, the card artists received an opportunity to showcase their talent. On November 6th The Arc hosted a kickoff event for the project. That morning, over 150 local high school students came together to sell cards throughout Beaumont. This community event resulted in over \$5,000 worth of cards sold. That evening, card sponsors and artists enjoyed a supper provided by Cooks Two Dozen and a program hosted by Bob and Kelli Phillips. Miss Teen Texas International, Sydney Datcher, was present at the Card Kickoff to offer her support for the project. The Arc is currently offering companies and individuals an opportunity to become 2011 card sponsors. If you or your business is interested in becoming a card sponsor please call (409)784-5556.

Special Thanks to : Card Sponsors~ American Valve & Hydrant, Asbury Newton, Automatic Pump & Equipment, Baptist Hospital, Beaumont Pediatrics, Cotton Cargo, Cradle of Life Adoption Agency, Crown Pipe Shops, Inc., Donna M. Farrell, Ph.D. LSSP, Dr. & Mrs. Carl Hubbell, DuPont Goodrich FCU, Gabourel Insurance Agency, Gulf Copper/Sabine Surveyors, Hans & Jean Sheridan, Holiday Inn & Suites Beaumont Plaza, Hospice of Texas, House Calls of Beaumont, James & Lynda Kay Makin, Karen & Ray Fontenot, Kirksey's Sprint Printing, MeadwestVaco, Mike & Sarah Matheny, Paula & John Lovoi, Quality Care Inc., Reed Service Company, Regina Rogers ~ In Honor of Brandon Pieternele, Southeast Texas OB/GYN, Spindletop MHMR, Tri-Star Glass, Inc., Elizabeth, Russ, Thomas, & Sarah Waddill, Jackie Bonura Janice & Mitch Watkins~ In Memory of Paul S. Brown- James Watkins' Paw Paw, Woodard Distributing Card Artists~ Alexis Alexander, Matthew Bloodsworth, Patty Carlisle, Xavier Clarke, Brandon & Brian Corbello, Shelby Evans, Clark Gernale, Kenneth Gorsich, Daniel Hale, Marshall Hatton, Jacob Heinlein, Wesley Hendrick, Shane Henry, Faye Henry, Brandi Herron, Meredith Jowers, Austin Le, Sara Leonard, Gentry Lovett, Zack Lummus, Jamie Moffitt, Greg Morgan, Mike Morrison, Brandon Pieternele, Allison Pratt, Annabel Schelander, Timmy Schreck, Shayla Square, Gabriel & Seth Ward, James Watkins, Tamara Womack Committee Members~ Amanda Baldwin, Cindy Barnes, Connie Berry, Robert & Belinda Breau, Janet Champagne, Sherri Fredieu, Stacey Hansard, Tam Mire, Linda Davis Pate, Paula Pratt, Patrice Rabalais, Ann Sandefur, Tiffany Woodall



Card artist, Tamara Womack, and mother, Tomasine Sam at the Card Kickoff Event.

Arc Card Kickoff Sponsors~ Beaumont Pediatric Center, Black-Eyed Pea, Bobbitt Insurance Agency, Brandon & Megan South, Chick-Fil-A, Conn's, Cooks 2 Dozen Plus Inc., Dillard's, Florida Tans, Gary & Sherri Fredieu, Glen & Patrice Rabalais, H-E-B Plus, Holiday Inn & Suites Beaumont Plaza, Stacey Hansard & Tifany Woodall ~ In Memory of Dianne Hansard & Sue Woodall, Mitch & Janice Watkins ~ In Memory of James Watkins' Grandparents, J. Allen Management Company, Janet Champagne & Sandy Haynes, Jason's Deli, Josh & Amanda Baldwin, Kirksey's Sprint Printing, Linda Davis Pate, Major League Grill, Monterey House, Oak Farms, Pepsi Bottling Corporation, Rosy Guerra-Zuniga & Family, SETXsocialcenter.com, Signature Industrial Services, Smith Twins, Sonic, Southeast Texas Water, Teacup & Friends, Texas Coffee Company, Ultimate Limo, West Brook Cookie Crew

2010 Arc Celebrity Style Show & Annual Dinner

On April 29, 2011 The Arc hosts the third annual Stars of the Arc Celebrity Style Show and Dinner at the Holiday Inn & Suites Beaumont Plaza. This exciting event will include amazing food, spring styles brought to us by Dillard's and modeled by Arc members, and some special award winners. We are currently seeking sponsors for this fund raising event. Ticket information will be published soon.

- * Super Nova** **\$5,000**
Priority seating & dinner for 20. Full page ad in event program and 1 year advertising on the Arc website home page.
- * Shooting Star** **\$2,000**
Optimal seating & dinner for 20. Half page ad in event program and 1 year advertising on the Arc website home page.
- * Gold Star** **\$1,500**
Excellent seating & dinner for 10. Quarter page ad in event program 6 month advertising on the Arc website home page.
- * Silver Star** **\$1,000**
Best Seating & dinner for 10. Quarter page ad in event program.
- * Model Sponsor** **\$100**
Recognition in event program and while model is on stage.

To become a Sponsor please call the Arc Administrative Office (409)784-5556

Welcome New Arc Members

Rebecca Alford	Lydia Light
Tina Bemis	Margaret & Holly
Robi Bowman	McWilliams
Kellan Bruce	Carolyn Midkiff
Lorianna Bryant	Ralph Mitchell
Jack Butler	Sally Ordway
Shannon Copeland	Theresa Quiroz
Jan Crowell	Linda Rink
Golden Triangle	Criss Roberts
Living Centers	Amanda Salles
Wendy Johnson	Debra Troxclair
Florence Jones	Theresa Ward
Mary Jones	Deanna Wiggins
Sheree LeBlanc	Donald Wilcox
Sara Leonard	Deanna Williams

Become a Member today and receive the following benefits...Reduced fees for events, first pick on limited admission events, up-to-date information on Arc of Texas and Arc of U.S. information, and much much more!

The Arc of Greater Beaumont Board of Directors

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Dr. Debra Troxclair

Janice Watkins

Mitch Watkins

Board Meetings: 2nd Monday of Every Other Month

5:30 p.m. at Arc Administrative Office

Arc Administrative Office Hours

Monday Thru Friday– 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Caitlin Kruger– Office/Program Manager

Teri Hawthorne– Program Assistant/ Self Advocate Advisor

Honorariums & Memorial Contributions

Honor a friend, colleague or loved one or pay homage to someone's memory in a unique and wonderful way.

Make an honorarium or memorial contribution to The Arc of Greater Beaumont, a non-profit 501(c)(3) agency.

In Memory of Paul Brown

Bob & Joyce Gaskin, Donna Greenfield

In Memory of Clifton (Pa) Kraemer

Peggy Weed, Paula Pratt

In Honor of Dr. Kevin Smith

Dorothy Cogswell

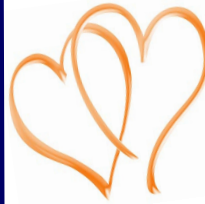
In Honor of Evie Clifton, Camille Mouton,

& Floyd McSpadden

Shannon Copeland

In Honor of friends at NRG Land Resources

Katharine Orgain



A special thanks to the Beaumont Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma, professional honorary society of women educators. The chapter collected over \$400 in donations at their annual Christmas Dinner for the Arc of Greater Beaumont. The Arc appreciates Delta Kappa Gamma's support in helping "create endless possibilities" for the special population we serve.

The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams ~ Eleanor Roosevelt



The Arc of Greater Beaumont

655 S. 8th St.

Beaumont, TX 77701

(409)784-5556

www.arcofbmt.org

Creating endless possibilities...