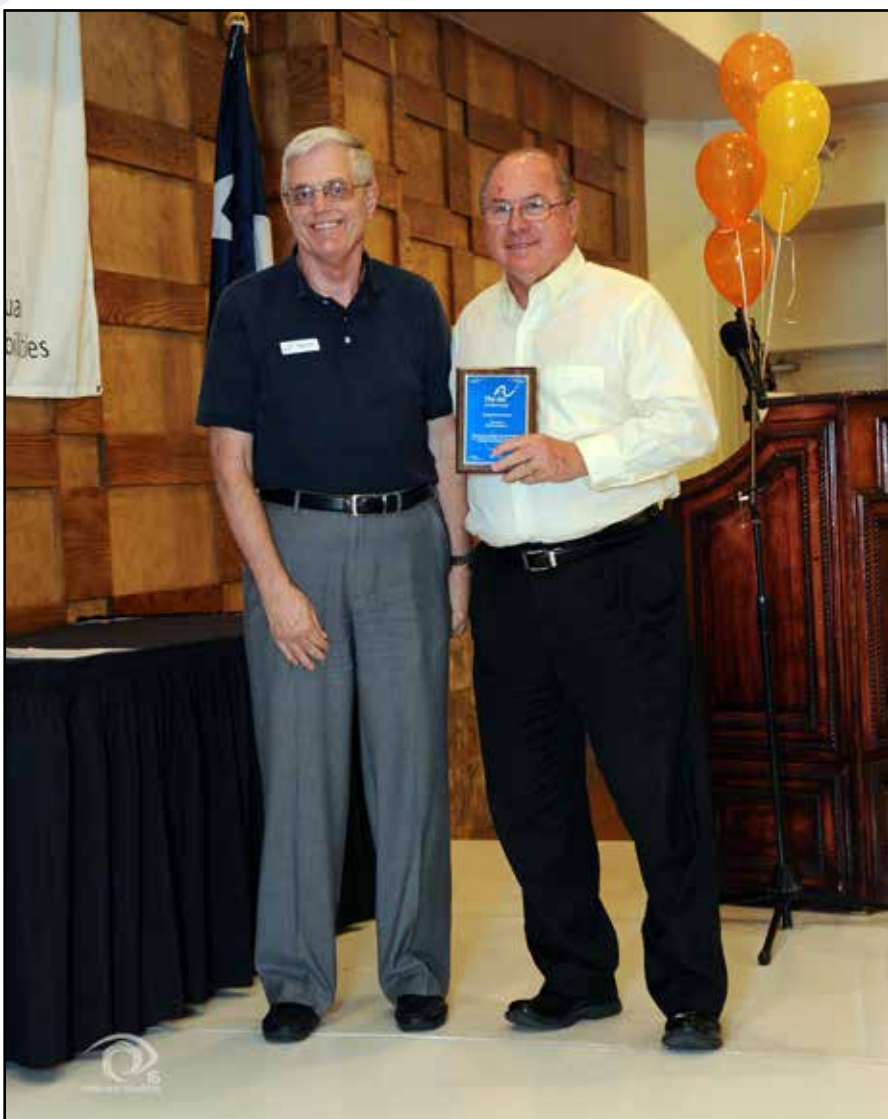


Rick Cushenberry Receives "Barbara Penrod" 2015 Award

Save the Date

**Special Needs
Conference
& Resource Fair**
September 26, 2015
Dulles High School

Best in the West
November 21, 2015
George Ranch Arena



Donate your vehicle today!
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OUR MISSION

The Arc of Fort Bend County ensures opportunities for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to maximize their quality of life within our community.

**The Arc of Fort Bend County
Board of Directors 2015-2016**

EXECUTIVE BOARD

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Stewart Jacobson
- Vice Chairman**
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- Himesh Gandhi
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- Laurel Wendt
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Laura LaVigne

Director of Youth Programs
Cheryl Sewell

Director of Transition Programs
Margo Pasko

Director of Adult Programs
Nancy Dobert

Administrative Assistant
Cheryl Olivier

Account Manager
Jenny Schulte

Committee Assignments and Job Descriptions are available on our website

CORE VALUES

1. Awareness: greater awareness about individuals with disabilities increases understanding about the abilities of individuals with disabilities, and greater understanding increases opportunities for individuals with disabilities, so we work to achieve greater awareness to achieve greater understanding to expand opportunities.
2. Diversity: we must serve all individuals with intellectual and related developmental disabilities and their families in this county.
3. Respect: we must be understanding of and sensitive to the concerns of individuals with disabilities about their identity and how we describe them.
4. Ownership: it is important to have community members serve on our committees and board, and support our association, but our association should remain an "individuals with disabilities and their families" organization.
5. Advocacy: with limited resources, if we become primarily or solely a provider organization, our association will never do more than make only a limited impact on the quality of life of a few individuals with disabilities.
6. Cooperation: advocacy and programs that benefit individuals with intellectual disabilities and their families in many cases will also benefit individuals with other disabilities.
7. Good Stewardship: as an association, we must be fiduciaries of the talent and resources that our volunteers and community supporters entrust to us.

OUR GOALS

The Arc's goals were chosen to be directed toward Mission and Vision and build on our strength and success.

- I. The Arc shall advocate for appropriate individualized educational programs/opportunities for people with I/DD in all stages of life.
- II. The Arc shall advocate for a variety of vocational/employment options for people with I/DD.
- III. The Arc shall advocate for public and private community institutions to become more responsive to the individual needs of people with I/DD, thereby promoting quality of life for all.
- IV. The Arc shall advocate for and promote a variety of appropriate and inclusive social, cultural and fitness/wellness opportunities in the community.
- V. The Arc shall continue to invest in properties that are self-sustaining and provide facilities for our constituents.
- VI. The Arc shall provide effective leadership and fundraising efforts to accomplish our mission.

To Send a Special Tribute

In Memory of or In Honor of

Pay tribute to a friend or family member while also supporting services and programs that benefit the Arc of Fort Bend County with your donation.

Person's Name _____ Occasion _____

Send acknowledgement to:

Name _____

Address _____ City, State, Zip _____

Please make checks payable to:
The Arc of Fort Bend County
123 Brooks Street, Sugar Land, Texas 77478

Rick Cushenberry –2015 Barbara Penrod Award Recipient

Laura LaVigne

This award is given in loving memory of Barbara Penrod, who gave tirelessly of her time, and her outstanding contribution to the movement of The Arc. This award is the highest honor given to an individual who has given outstanding service over a long period of time to The Arc and has made significant contributions to the total growth and programmatic efforts of The Arc's goals and mission statement.

Rick Cushenberry exemplifies this award. He has always given his **time, talent and treasures** to support The Arc of Fort Bend County – continuously and generously.

Time:

Rick has served on The Arc Foundation's Board of Directors since its inception in 2002, offering his knowledge of investing strategies. He has served on The Arc's board almost continuously since the 1980s, providing steady guidance for the programs and services we offer. As a long-time member, Rick often provides the necessary history and culture of The Arc of Fort Bend County to the new board members. He has volunteered for Special Olympics, chaperoning athletes on out-of-town competitions and volunteers at nearly every event sponsored by The Arc. This means he spends hours on evenings and weekends – as needed – helping us succeed.

Talent:

Every November, Rick assumes the responsibility of scheduling the delivery and then actually erecting the drapes and poles used to build the 10 silent auction corrals in the George Ranch Arena for the Best in the West. This three-day process begins on Friday, placing the poles and hanging the drapes. It continues with leveling the entire corral area, by hand and shovels mostly, so that the tables can be set up on an even surface. On Saturday morning Rick is back helping his family stock two corrals with 100's of items to sell. Saturday night, long after the last guest has left, Rick and his wife, Beverly supervise loading the 100's of auction items that were not taken home, into a panel truck which he drives to The Arc office on Sunday morning to be unloaded. He then tears down the corrals back at the ranch, so that the poles and drapes can be returned to the vendor.

Treasure:

As a licensed Real Estate Agent & Broker, Rick has completed every purchase and/or sale of every property owned by The Arc. He uses his vast knowledge of the Fort Bend County real estate market to select nice homes in thriving communities and then works directly with the prospective providers, showing the properties so they can choose the one that best fits their needs. He then spends hours negotiating and completing the purchases. And – Rick has not accepted any money in return. He donates his commission back to The Arc after each purchase/sale.

I have only touched upon a few of things Rick Cushenberry has done and continues to do – all for the benefit of The Arc. Rick is the person who sees the need and steps in to handle it.

*"If there be any truer measure of a man than by what he does,
it must be by what he gives."*

- Robert South

From:



By MICHELLE DIAMENT
June 23, 2015

IRS Proposes Rules for New ABLER Accounts

Six months after a federal law paved the way for tax-free savings accounts for people with disabilities; officials are providing details on how they expect the new program to operate.

In a proposed rule issued Monday, the Internal Revenue Service unveiled guidelines for the Achieving a Better Life Experience, or ABLER, Act. The federal law is designed to allow people with disabilities to save money without risking their government benefits.

The proposal offers specifics for the first time on how the new accounts should function and clarifies what types of expenses money saved in an ABLER account could be used for.

Advocates say they're pleased that the IRS took a lenient view in determining what counts as "qualified disability expenses" under the law. Though the ABLER Act mandates that money can be used for specific purposes including transportation, housing and education, the law also allows for "other expenses" and it is up to regulators to determine what should qualify.

"The Treasury Department and the IRS conclude that the term 'qualified disability expenses' should be broadly construed to permit the inclusion of basic living expenses and should not be limited to expenses for items for which there is a medical necessity or which provide no benefits to others in addition to the benefit to the eligible individual," the proposal states.

The view that expenses must merely offer a quality of life benefit for a person with a disability - rather than be of medical merit - is significant, said Heather Sachs, vice president of advocacy and public policy at the National Down Syndrome Society.

"We're glad to see that a person with a disability would not have to justify the purchase of an iPhone or something similar as a medical expense," Sachs said.

Other details within the proposal are causing concern, however. The reporting and oversight requirements outlined go beyond those governing 529 college savings plans that the ABLER accounts were modeled on and could make the disability savings vehicles onerous to administer or utilize, advocates and state officials say.

"As I read the proposed regulations, every time individuals with disabilities want to spend even a single dollar of their money, from their own ABLER accounts, they have to file paperwork with the state demonstrating that each is a 'qualified disability expense,'" said Nebraska State Treasurer Don Stenberg. "This is a slap in the face of Americans with disabilities, is an unreasonable and unnecessary burden on them, and will create administrative burdens that will increase the costs qualified individuals will need to pay to use the program."

The proposed rules will be up for public comment for 90 days before the IRS issues final regulations.

In the meantime, several states are working to make the ABLER Act a reality for their residents. Despite the federal law, each state must put their own regulations in place before making the accounts available.

Currently, the ABLER Act has been enacted in 22 states, according to the National Down Syndrome Society. Each of these states, however, is still working out details related to administering the program.

Sachs said she expects that states will likely wait for the final IRS rules to be issued before allowing financial institutions to begin offering ABLER accounts.

Senate Bill 507 passed – Requires Video Surveillance Cameras in Special Ed Classrooms

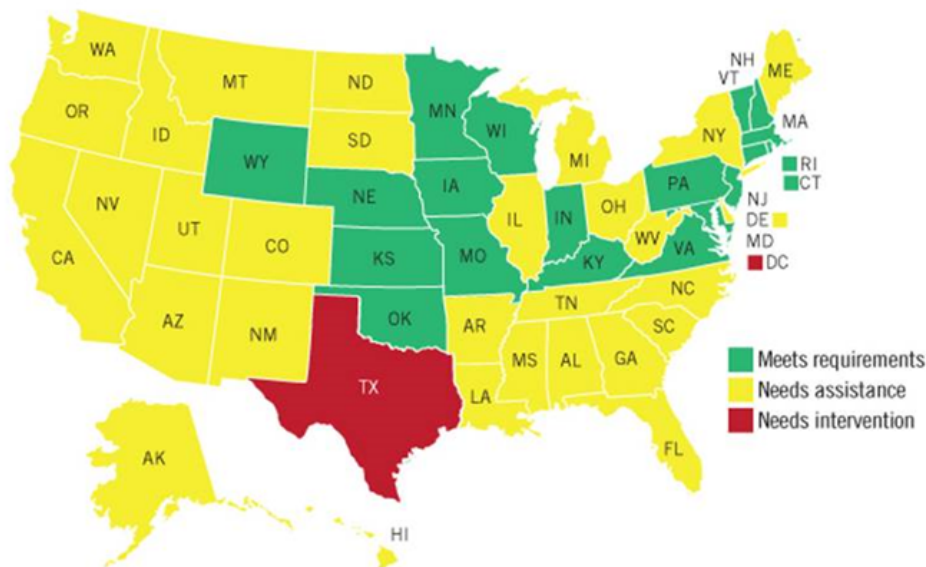
Cheryl Sewell

Governor Greg Abbott signed SB 507 into law in 2015, mandating surveillance cameras in self-contained Special Ed classrooms in Texas. Senate Bill 507 and a similar bill in the last session were strongly supported by Lt. Governor Dan Patrick who was inspired to file legislation after seeing multiple accounts of Special Ed abuse in Houston area schools. The legislative fight drew powerful testimony from the parents of dozens of victims around the state as well as reports from Fox 26 News' Greg Groogan. The bill sailed through the Texas Senate and survived a challenge in the Texas House. The measure takes effect for 2016 school year.

The cameras must cover all areas of the classroom except for the bathroom or any place where a student might change. They will only be placed in classrooms where students spend 50 percent of the day. Schools will be required to keep the video for at least 6 months. This is a non-funded government mandate so the question will be who will pay for the cameras. The Texas Education Agency believes that the cost will fall upon the school districts.

STATE SPECIAL EDUCATION RATINGS

In June 2015, the U.S. Department of Education released its most recent evaluation of how well states are meeting the requirements of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, covering the 2013-2014 school year. No state received the lowest ranking, needs substantial intervention. However, several states fell into the needs assistance or needs intervention categories for two or more years, which triggers certain enforcement actions from the department.



SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, office of special education programs

EDUCATION WEEK

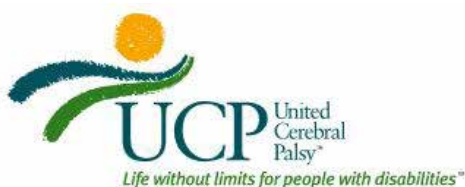
The Education Department usually publishes on its website the [special education office's "state determination" letters](#), which outline exactly where states not in the top category have fallen short and what they need to fix their problems. Visit <http://www2.ed.gov/fund/data/report/idea/2015-ideafactsheet-determinations.pdf>

United Cerebral Palsy's 2014 Report: The Case for Inclusion

A few points to ponder:

- All states still have room for improvement, but some states have consistently remained at the bottom since 2007, including Arkansas (#47), Illinois (#46), Mississippi (#51) and Texas (#50).
- 38 states now meet the 80/80 Community Standard, which means that at least 80 percent of all individuals with ID/DD are served in the community and 80 percent of all resources spent on those with ID/DD are for community support. Those that do not meet the 80/80 standard are Arkansas, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Nebraska, New Jersey, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Texas, Utah and Virginia, although Nebraska, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Utah and Virginia are very close.
- As of 2012, 14 states have no state institutions to seclude those with ID/DD, including Alabama, Alaska, Hawaii, Indiana (new this year), Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, West Virginia and Washington, D.C. Another 11 states have only one institution each. Since 1960, 219 of 354 state institutions have been closed (10 more in the past year alone), according to the University of Minnesota's Research and Training Center on Community Living. Another 16 more are projected to close by 2016. Texas has 12 State Supported Living Centers.
- 18 states now meet the 80 percent Home-like Setting Standard, which means that at least 80 percent of all individuals with ID/DD are served in settings such as their own home, a family home, family foster care or small group settings like shared apartments with fewer than three residents. The U.S. average for this standard is 77 percent. Just eight states meet a top-performing 90 percent Home-like Setting Standard: Alaska, Arizona, California, Kentucky, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico and Vermont.
- Seven states report at least 10 percent of individuals using self-directed services, according to the National Core Indicators survey in 19 states. These states include Connecticut, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Kentucky, Michigan and Ohio.
- Waiting lists for residential and community services are high and show the unmet need. Almost 317 people are on a waiting list for Home & Community-Based Services (HCS/HCBS). This requires a daunting 4 percent increase in states' HCBS programs. However, 22 states report no waiting list or a small waiting list (requiring less than 10 percent growth program).

Among the states having no waiting lists or small waiting lists are: Alabama, Arizona, California, Delaware, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Dakota, Oregon, Rhode Island and Vermont. Note: Arizona, Rhode Island and Vermont offer HCBS through Section 1115 waivers rather than through Section 1915(c) waivers and Hawaii transitioned all non-Intellectually/Developmentally Disabled Section 1915(c) waiver participants to a Section 1115 waiver in 2009. <http://kff.org/health-reform/state-indicator/waiting-lists-for-hcbs-waivers/#note-1>





A non-profit 501(c)3 serving people with intellectual and developmental disabilities..

2015 “AU to Z” Special Needs Conference & Resource Fair

Saturday – September 26

Dulles High School

550 Dulles Avenue • Sugar Land, Texas 77478

On-Site Registration starts at 8:00 am.

Free Event

Rain or Shine

Pre-Register for FREE sessions at www.arcoffortbend.org

Pre-pay for CEU or CPE Credits at www.arcoffortbend.org

Information for: Families/Educators/Therapists/Providers/Social Workers/Students/Caregivers of children/adults with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities. General Public Welcome.

ID/DD may include: Angelman..Asperger..Autism Spectrum...Cerebral Palsy..Down Syndrome..Encephalopathies..Fragile X..Panda. . Spina Bifida..Williams..XXYY..Zunich-Kaye and many other conditions regardless of IQ.

Special Education: Life Skills, Resource, Inclusion, Co-Teach or “Self-Contained” classes such as FLITe/SILC/SIP/ABC/ACAP/ATP/etc.

Light refreshments available

****FREE!****

Child & Adult Care

Supervised by
2 behavior specialists
and high school volunteers.

Pre-registration for childcare at
www.arcoffortbend.org

Resource Fair 8:00 am to 1:00 pm

Vendors:

- Behavior therapy
- Local Private Specialty Schools
- Community Fun/Sports/Leisure Activities
- Faith-Based organizations
- Childcare & Private-Pay Adult Day Habilitation Centers
- And other agencies providing supports & services to persons with special needs

(Light refreshments available)

2015 Annual



2014-2015 Board of Directors - *Not pictured: Stewart Jacobson & Diana Rushing*



Chairman's Award - Charles Swihart



Larry Sharp Service Award - Dream League



Community Awareness Award - Lee Vela



Special Recognition Award- Robert Pourciau



Outstanding Employer Award - Krogers



Outstanding Employer Award - Panera Bread, Tommi Higgins

Awards Dinner



Special Recognition Award -
Larry Lobue



Special Recognition Award -
Danielle Garrison



Advocacy Award - Allan Harris, Sr.



Outstanding Educators Awards



Outstanding Employee Award -
Jalyn Dimmitt



Family of the Year Award -
Parkinson Family



Family of the Year Award - Bell, Bathe, Smith, Patterson,
& Holdsworth Families



Volunteer of the Year Award -
John Null



Special Olympics 2015 - 46th Annual, Statewide Summer Games in Arlington, TX

Margo Pasko



The Memorial Day weekend's rain deluge put only a bit of a crimp in the Special Olympics 46th annual, statewide, Summer Games in Arlington, May 21-24. Summer Games continued to be the biggest Special Olympics event in Texas!

From across the state, an estimated 3000 athletes in 7 sports attended, with 760 coaches and 3,700 volunteers making the experience a safe and fun weekend for all. The 7 represented sports included athletics (track and field), basketball, cycling, equestrian, gymnastics, soccer and tennis. In addition to the sports competitions, there were "Healthy Athlete" screenings where athletes received free hearing and eye exams with free prescription, sports goggles and glasses, as prescribed. At Athlete Village and at the Victory Dance, participants enjoyed karaoke and posing for more pictures with beauty queens than could be counted. The experience of going to the state games (Fall Classic, Winter Games and Summer Games) is much more than

just a sports competition!

This year, our track and field program was The Arc's sponsored sport to go to Summer Games. Head Coach, Cathy Zepeda, was assisted by Head of Delegation, Larry Lobue, assistant coaches, Gaylon and Jackie Butler, Debbie Patton, Gary Schottle, Charles McLaren, Jenny Webb, Don Duyka and "Ball Return Specialist/Social Ambassador" Reed Beck. The athletes who traveled to Arlington were Lucas, Tank, Mohammed, Jimmy, Cesar, Kimberly, Blaine, Kenneth, Russell, Sharon, Whitney, Wayne, Johnny, Davis, Allan, Darius, Aaron, Michael, Trevor, Desney, Allan, Darius, Justin, Amy, SanJuanita, Bridget and Meredith.

In addition to the coaching staff, the volunteers who helped make the trip possible were Bobby Caruthers, Allan and Minnie Harris, Terry Pelz, Glenn and Willie Cheeks, and Burnette Thompson. Jenny Webb put her career of nursing skills to work managing the medications for the traveling athletes.

The torrential rains in Texas over Memorial Day weekend did cause schedule changes for the competitions. However, the travelers remained upbeat and flexible. In the post-trip survey, the group said the trip was fantastic, weather notwithstanding!

The Arc and the athletes appreciate the volunteer and financial support that makes participation in Summer Games possible! Next trip up: Softball teams hit the road to Fall Classic in College Station in October.



Athletic Banquet for Bowling and Special Olympics held at Safari Texas Ranch

Margo Pasko

June was an extremely busy month for The Arc! Our best attended event of the year was held on Sunday, June 14, at Safari Texas Ranch - The Arc's Athletic Banquet for Bowling and Special Olympics. There were at least 250 bowling league members, athletes, families, caregivers and volunteers in attendance for barbecue from Charlie's Barbecue, bowling and athlete awards, volunteer gifts and dancing.

Allison Wen, owner of Safari Texas Ranch, donated the use of the beautiful facility! The attendees were delighted with the picturesque venue of the Safari Lodge banquet room, complete with the view of the deer in the pond. Jack Molho, member of The Arc's board of directors, arranged for the barbecue donation from Charlie's mouthwatering barbecue. Delicious! Members of The Arc's board of directors and Sugar Land Rotary Club served the meals, drinks, and desserts so that the volunteers who were being honored could truly relax and enjoy the party. It was an event to remember thanks to Allison Wen, Jack Molho, Rotary volunteers and The Arc's board volunteers.

Larry Lobue recognized 90 athletes for their participation in 9 sports, handing out trophies to those in attendance. (Contact Margo if you weren't there to receive your trophy!) The nine sports include aquatics, bocce, softball, volleyball, bowling, basketball, athletics (track and field), golf and soccer.

Bowling League Leaders Avis Goldy, Carolyn Spiceland, and Gardenia Burton recognized the bowling skills of the members of their very popular Saturday afternoon bowling league, awarding all with trophies.

The bowling and Special Olympics volunteers were thanked and presented with black and white umbrellas, emblazoned with The Arc's logo. Everyone commented that they certainly will use the umbrellas this year with all the rain we've been having! The Butler Family was recognized as the Area 22 Special Olympics Family of the Year. Outgoing bocce head coach Robert Pourciau delivered a heartfelt, goodbye message, as he and Janet prepare to move to Virginia. Larry Lobue recognized his head coaches with special certificates. The afternoon festivities concluded with dancing to the tunes spun by popular DJ, Ben Avery.

What a wonderful afternoon it was! The Arc family does matter!



Our Volunteers



Special Olympics Athletes



Bowlers

Soccer Team wins Silver Medal at Area 4 Spring Games

Margo Pasko



Olé, olé, olé, olé! The soccer chant is used around the world, including here at The Arc of Fort Bend County! The Arc's Special Olympics soccer team just finished its inaugural season with a silver medal win at the Area 4 Spring Games in Humble on May 9. Congratulations!

Our team is called the Grizzly Bears—and they are ferocious! The team was led by head coach Vanessa Luna. Coach Luna has coached for the Fort Bend Falcons, so she already knew many of our players. She was assisted by Joseph Reed, Carl LaSala and Susie Sims. Annette LaSala was also a big part of the new team effort, helping with uniforms and equipment! Wally Martinez was the “ball return specialist” and the rumor is that he will also coach next year. We hope so! The athletes who participated are Tyler Sims, SanJuanita Soto, Nicole LaSala, Chris

DeLaPaz, Nathan Kail, Whitney McLaren, Rafael Fajardo, Michael Cushenberry and Kristi Oujesky. SanJuanita took a shot to the face, but soldiered on—yes, she was ferocious! The athletes enjoyed an end of season party at Cici's pizza on May 12, arranged by Susie Sims.

R-r-r-r-ipp into Summer!

Cheryl Sewell

Yep. Generally that ripping sound will halt a parent in their tracks and they will immediately rush to see what their child is destroying now! But this ripping was encouraged and all in good fun. Several families in the Youth Group participated in an arts/crafts activity to decorate flip flops. Tammy Dewey, a craft person who drives a special education bus for FBISD, was interested in teaching some crafts to our families. After lengthy discussions, we decided on decorating flip flops for the first session. We went shopping at Hobby Lobby to pick out flip flops and the variety of colorful bandanas with which to decorate our footwear. Tammy taught us how to cut along the bandana seam, measure, mark and cut 1 inch apart. Then we all got to rip strips of bandana with glee. Except for Abel. Abel wasn't thrilled with the ripping part. Then we tied the bandana strips onto the flip flops using double knots. You could say that we are all now Flip Flop Fashionistas!



New Bus Service for Richmond and Rosenberg

On July 1, Fort Bend County started a new bus service in the Richmond and Rosenberg area! Riders have both the benefit of a dependable bus schedule Mondays through Fridays and the ability to have direct pickup or drop-off if needed.

The Fort Bend County Point Deviation Bus Service will provide weekday service along major roadways in the Richmond—Rosenberg area, with designated stops at municipal offices, shopping, medical and community service locations. The buses can deviate up to 3/4 mile from the routes to pick-up or drop-off riders who have made reservations. These requests / reservations are based on availability. Fares are \$1.00 per person, with one free transfer ticket per fare.

For reservations and more information contact Fort Bend County Transit at 1-866-751-TRIP (8747), or visit our website at www.FBCTransit.org

Meet Wendy Chong, Our New TwentySomethings Facilitator!

Margo Pasko



Wendy joined The Arc of Fort Bend County in March as a Special Olympics volunteer with our track team. Prior to joining us, she volunteered with The Arc of Denton County since her freshman year at Texas Woman's University. She graduated with a Biology degree and is currently working as a Biochemistry/Biology/SAT tutor in Houston.

Wendy was born in Malaysia and moved to Houston in 2001. Even after enduring 22 years of the Malaysia/Houston sweat-inducing weather, she says she is still not very well-adapted to the heat! In her free time, she likes to read and dabble in photography and paint.

Wendy is very excited to work with TwentySomethings as a "Social Events Facilitator"!

Bocce Family Bid Farewell to Head Coach, Robert Pourciau

Margo Pasko



The bocce families bid farewell to Robert and Janet Pourciau on Sunday, July 17, with a party at Spring Creek Barbecue. Robert and Janet are moving to Virginia to be closer to their daughter Amanda and son-in-law Dennis. Robert founded The Arc's bocce program in 2010 and has developed it into a regionally recognized program. He also organized the first ever Area 22 bocce tournament in 2014. There were surprise going away gifts for Robert and Janet. Special Olympics Virginia, and Prince William Region Special Olympics sent t-shirts, hoping to recruit them to upgrade the bocce program there. Carla Brown made a very colorful pillow and a nice warm scarf for the cold winters up in Virginia. We will miss them!

The Arc Family Matters

Celebrations:

Debbie Patton announces the birth of her second grandchild, Aiden Anthony Demshar, son of Jason and Megan Demshar. Aiden was born on June 18, 2015. Debbie is The Arc's head Bocce coach and also volunteers with track and field. Proud great aunt is Special Olympics athlete, Sharon Schreiber.

Please keep this family in your thoughts and prayers:

Carl Phillip Favre, friend and longtime supporter of The Arc, passed away on May 11, 2015.

A Little Vanilla, a Little Orange, a Little Gluten Free Flour . . .

Cheryl Sewell



Ivan Earls, the 5th & 6th grade DECATS teacher at St. Laurence invited our Kids/ Youth Group families back to participate in another cooking class with his students. And, Chef Joel at Xoco-Latté did it again! Another tasty, gluten free cookie class was enjoyed by all!

After explaining what gluten free is and dividing us up into two teams, Joel handed us the “dry” ingredients and then the “wet” ingredients to beat and mix together. Everybody took turns using the mixers and spatulas and making a mess. New this year was adding a little bit of vanilla and a little bit of orange oil to the butter cookie dough. Oh, and sprinkles. LOTS of sprinkles! As Chef Joel commented, “maybe there needs to be a little cookie dough under all those sprinkles?”

Reining Strength, Therapeutic Horsemanship

Cheryl Sewell



The Arc’s Kids & Youth Group enjoyed a morning with horses at the Reining Strength Therapeutic Horsemanship facility. Reining Strength is a 501(c)3 organization, providing therapeutic horsemanship programs for people of all ages who have physical, cognitive, social and emotional needs.

Heather Hernandez, owner and founder, gave a brief introduction and led us on a wonderful tour of the facility. We petted her beautiful horses, including the mini horse, and fed them carrots.

What is Therapeutic Horsemanship? Therapeutic Horsemanship is “people interacting with horses to teach riding skills and incorporate potential therapeutic benefits into the riding lesson.” All lessons are taught by a Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship

(PATH) Certified Instructor.

Heather explained one of the benefits of riding a horse is that the horse’s movement mimics the human movement of walking. When riding a horse, the stride of the horse actually moves the rider’s pelvis by rotating and moving from side to side, similar to the human walk. This creates a unique, neuromuscular stimulation. As the horse adjusts its gait, the rider also must adjust the speed of their own pelvic motion. Riders develop a relationship with the horse through brushing and bathing it. These movements can help improve range of motion and have a calming effect.

An individualized therapeutic program is created for each participant with the goal to help each realize their potential, evidenced by improved physical, psychological, or social skills.

For additional information, contact Heather Hernandez at 832.451.6874, visit www.reiningstrength.org or drop by their current facility located at 8811 FM 359 in Richmond, Texas





The Arc of Fort Bend County ensures opportunities for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to maximize their quality of life within our community.

Membership Form

Date: _____

Please indicate New Member Renewing Member

Member Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Home Phone: (____) ____ - _____ Cell Phone: (____) ____ - _____

E-mail Address: _____ HCS Provider: _____

I am a:

- Family Member
- Person with Disability
- Interested Citizen
- Professional who works in the Disability Field

Indicate the age of person with a disability: 0-12 13-22 23-54 55+

Membership Levels:

Individual with Disability \$20.00
 reserved for those not living at home and not included in a family membership
 receives one vote at meetings of the membership

Single \$35.00
 receives one vote at meetings of the membership

Single Lifetime \$500.00
 receives one vote at meetings of the membership

Family \$50.00
***Names of all family members:** _____
 includes all immediate members of the family living in the home
 includes a family member with a disability living outside of the home
 receives two votes at meetings of the membership

Corporate \$100.00
 receives one vote at meetings of the membership

Corporate Lifetime \$2000.00
 receives once vote at meetings of the membership

VIP
 given yearly to chairs of "Best in the West" and *Golf Classic*
 given yearly to Head Coaches of Special Olympic Sports

Additional Tax Deductible Donation: \$ _____

If you wish, you may donate to a specific program:

- Bowling
- Education
- Employment
- Self-Advocacy
- Social Recreation
- Special Olympics

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Mail form and payment to: **OR** **Join online at www.arcoffortbend.org**
 The Arc of Fort Bend County
 123 Brooks Street
 Sugar Land, Texas 77478

The Arc of Fort Bend County is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization

The Arc of Fort Bend County
123 Brooks Street
Sugar Land, Texas 77478
Phone: 281-494-5959
Fax: 281-494-5960

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Achieve with us.



Add us as your friend and
keep in touch with all
events at The Arc!
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The Butler Family - Area 22 Special Olympics Texas Family of the Year



Shh, it was a secret...until Saturday, May 2, when Gaylon, Jackie and Kimberly Butler were named Special Olympics Texas, Area 22 Family of the Year. The announcement was made during opening ceremonies at Spring Games at Clear Springs High School. The event was the annual Area 22 track meet, where hundreds of athletes and

volunteers from the Gulf Coast region gathered to compete in track and field events.

The Family of the Year award is for the family of a Special Olympics Texas athlete which has made and continues to make a unique and lasting contribution to the lives of athletes. The Butlers certainly fit this description. Since joining our delegation four years ago, Jackie and Gaylon have coached softball, volleyball, basketball and track. Athlete Kimberly, Gaylon's sister, participates in these sports, as well. Congratulations to the Butler Family!