



the ARC Linkletter

www.waynearc.org

March / April 2007

From David Calhoun, our Executive Director :

Important Dates

March - Developmental Disabilities Awareness & Membership Month

April 6th - Agency Closed in observance of Easter

April 17th & 18th - United Way presentations

April 20th - Food Auction 4pm in the VanBuren Street cafeteria

April 26th - Take Our Sons & Daughters to Work Day

May 22nd - Annual Awards and Election of Officers Meeting

May 25th & 28th - Agency Closed in observance of Memorial Day

June 25th - 25th Annual Golf Tournament

“Imagine a world of diversity and interdependence where people are respected simply for who they are; where our commonalities are recognized and bring us closer; and where differences are celebrated for what they provide; opportunities to bring something unique and individual to our community.”

Please submit entries for the next Linkletter no later than May 14th to Tracy Clingerman via email at clingermant@waynearc.org

March is Developmental Disabilities Month, I thought it would be appropriate to give a brief overview of the history and the mission of The Arc our national organization.

In 1933, the Cuyahoga County (Ohio) Council for the Retarded Child was established. In 1936, the Children's Benevolent League was organized and later became the Washington Association for Retarded Children. The National Association of Parents and Friends of Retarded Children was first registered as a nonprofit organization in 1953 and named the National Association for Retarded Children. In 1964 the Wayne County Association for Retarded Children was founded by a group of five parents. In 1973, the National Association for Retarded Children changed its name to the National Association for Retarded Citizens and in 1981 to The Association for Retarded Citizens of the United States. The most recent change was in 1992 when the national organization became known as The Arc.

Dr. Salvator George DiMichael, the first executive director, of the National Association

of Parents and Friends of Retarded Children was hired when the headquarters was opened in New York City on January 2, 1954. During that year President Dwight D. Eisenhower proclaimed National Retarded Children's Week. The Association issued a variety of publications and stepped up its public information program.

By 1955, the membership reached 29,000 with 412 local affiliates. By 1960 the membership of NARC totaled 62,000: the organization had become nationally respected. By 1964 the membership of NARC reached 100,000. The association convened the First Inter-organization Conference on Mental Retardation which had representatives from 28 national organizations. NARC in 1968 took a definitive stand on the subject and stepped up its insistence on immediate eradication of inhumane treatment and improvement in the quality of care in state institutions and communicated this belief publicly. Beginning in the early 1970's NARC and state associations assisted in the preparation of court suits to defend the rights of the mentally retarded in state

institutions. It became a strong supporter of "deinstitutionalization" and "normalization."

By 1974, NARC had grown to include well over 225,000 members affiliated with more than 1,750 state and local affiliates. Because it did not wish to perpetuate the misconception that the mentally retarded person will always remain a child, NARC in 1974 changed the word "Children" in its title to "Citizens."

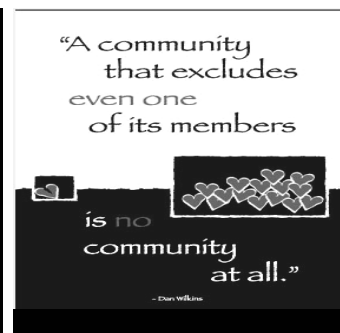
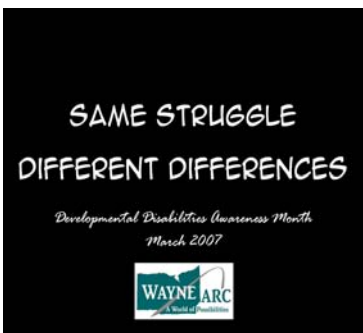
Today the Arc continues to be the leader in the field of developmental disabilities and advocating for the rights and inclusion of all people with cognitive and intellectual disabilities.

The Mission of the Arc is "The Arc of the United States works to advance federal public policy in the interest of protecting and enhancing the vital programs and services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families."

For additional information see www.TheArc.org, www.nysarc.org, and www.mnddc.org, "Parallels in Time: A History of Developmental Disabilities."

Developmental Disabilities Awareness

Many activities have been taking place this month in an effort to raise awareness about Developmental Disabilities and the programs and services of Wayne ARC. Newspaper and radio ads have been running. Civic groups have been addressed. The Newark Middle and High Schools have opened their doors to us to work collaboratively to address the first challenge presented to the students and community via 'Rachel's Challenge' - ELIMINATE PREJUDICE. To learn more about Rachel's Challenge visit www.rachelschallenge.com.





Across the Canal ...

RCC held a Picture Day for the children this month - most all of the children were smiling. The RCC fundraiser Jerry's Tees raised \$3000.00 for Roosevelt this year.

It's a Contest!—Name our Committee

Wayne ARC has a new committee and we are looking for a name. The committee is for community inclusion and we are part of the Institute for Social Change. Our mission statement is "To actively facilitate, involve and integrate individuals into the community through the use of natural supports." We have ten members; Donna Granger, Diana Lagenor, Craig Arnold, Brenda Caves, Mary Buisch, Diane Peters, Heather Harvey, Mishelle Nudd and Valerie Curtis.

Similar committees are being formed at many agencies all over New York State. Primarily, we are looking to do two things: 1). Assist the individuals that we serve to identify and then participate in community activities independently; and 2). Honor the staff members at WARC that help our consumers do this. We are offering a \$25.00 gift card for the best name selected for our committee. Please submit entries to either Valerie Curtis or Mishelle Nudd by Monday, April 23rd. Names will be judged about originality and ability to reflect the committee's mission statement.

News from our Clinic ...

As of April 2nd, 2007 our Article 16 Clinic will no longer be a satellite of the FLDDSO. We will begin functioning as a freestanding clinic with a satellite at the Arc of Orleans. Same quality services - same quality people ! We welcome all of the staff joining us from the Arc of Orleans and we especially welcome our new Medical Director, Dr. Michael Henderson.

the Jeffery Road IRA is OPEN!

Residential Services is celebrating the opening of our newest residence, located at 3405 Jeffery Road in Palmyra. This program serves five, very active, young gentlemen. The house is staffed twenty four hours a day. The development of this IRA created 11 new employee positions for the agency. The home itself is located on 22 acres which will be used for future day programming and farm related activities. An open house will be scheduled for sometime this spring. A special thank you to all those who assisted in the project.

GED Classes in Session

Wayne ARC has joined many local progressive employers in offering GED classes to staff to help them experience personal and professional growth. We are working with FLCC to conduct classes on site at 150 VanBuren Street for GED preparedness. The classes started on March 14th and are twice a week for two hours for a minimum of ten weeks. We currently have 8 people attending the classes. The subjects that are covered are math, reading, social studies, science and writing. The instructor will focus on individual areas of need. If you are interested in a future session or have your GED or HS Diploma but wish to simply take classes for a refresher in a certain subject, please contact Morgan Horton at ext. 206.

United Way

The United Way Campaign kicked off on March 21st with a breakfast which unveiled this year's campaign video. The video this year included the story of a young girl served by the Assistive Technology Department at Roosevelt.. Special thanks to Laura Clark who was instrumental in assisting the United Way in capturing this amazing story. The video will be shown at sessions throughout the day on April 17th and 18th. Please take the time to view the video and share in this remarkable success story.



Following the breakfast several volunteers came to both VanBuren Street and Roosevelt to assist with projects and to learn more about the works of Wayne ARC. We are very grateful for their contributions. Thanks go out to all of our staff who assisted in developing and carrying out the projects of the day .



Stay tuned for more detail surrounding this year's United Way