

Legislation Creates Volunteer Advocates Program, Improvement in Medicaid Spend Down

2006 Legislative Wrap-Up

The Indiana General Assembly adjourned *Sine Die* at the stroke of midnight, Tuesday, March 14, to end the 2006 short legislative session. The short session began with 880 pieces of legislation being introduced but, in the end, only 193 measures were passed on to the Governor to be signed into law.

The majority of the session was taken up by the Governor's Major Moves proposal which will lease the Indiana Toll Road for 75 years for a fee of just under \$4 billion. Other hot topics included property tax reform and telecommunications reform.

In the developmental disability arena, few pieces of legislation were introduced as many groups feared that they would be playing defense on a number of issues. Following is a recap of some of the most important issues this session:

Disability Issues

HEA 1023 Addiction treatment facilities. Allows certain addiction treatment facilities to be located in a county that is contiguous to a county with an existing facility.

SEA 33 Volunteer advocates for incapacitated adults.

Creates a volunteer advocates for incapacitated adults program to represent and protect for a limited period the interests of an incapacitated or protected person who is at least 18 years of age. Requires a volunteer advocate for incapacitated adults to report to the court and make recommendations regarding the incapacitated or protected person. Provides civil immunity for a program or an employee or a volunteer of a program.

SEA 36 Commission on mental health.

Creates a statutory 17 member commission on mental health until June 30, 2011 to study the delivery of mental health services in Indiana. (The commission was originally established by a noncode provision that expired January 1, 2006.)

SEA 41 Division of Aging and long term care.

Establishes the division of aging as a division separate from the division of disability and rehabilitative services. Re-establishes the self-directed in-home care program that expired July 1, 2005. Requires the office of the secretary of family and social services to report to the legislative council before November 1, 2009,

Kelly Tate, Stone Belt Arc, gives a high five to Governor Mitch Daniels on Valentine's Day, 2006. Over 85 people from local chapters of The Arc traveled to the State House to personally deliver Valentine's Day cards to their legislators, Governor Daniels and FSSA Secretary Mitch Roob.



on the implementation and outcome of the program. Requires that 51% of a center for independent living's board must have a significant disability to be considered to have consumer control. Requires the office of Medicaid policy to study certain programs and expenditures concerning long term care and report the findings to the select joint commission on Medicaid oversight.

The majority of the session was taken up by the Governor's Major Moves proposal

HEA 112 Transfer of first steps program.

Creates the bureau of child development services within the division of disability, aging, and rehabilitative services. Places the infants and toddlers with disabilities program (First Steps) under the bureau of child development services. Reorga-

nizes language regarding the co-payment schedule and co-payment requirements. Specifies the health records to which the division has access in administering First Steps. Requires families participating in First Steps to consent to allow the division to bill third party payors. Requires the division to waive a family's co-payment in any month for which the division receives payment from the family's health insurance coverage.

SEA 308 Medicaid income spend down.

Allows the office of Medicaid policy and planning to apply for federal approval to amend the state Medicaid plan to include a pay-in option under which a Medicaid recipient may satisfy the state's income spend down requirements by paying to the state the spend down amount each month.

Prevention Issues

HEA 1314 Substance and alcohol use during pregnancy. Requires the state department of health to study the use of drugs, alcohol, and tobacco

by pregnant women. Requires the study to be completed and a report to be submitted to the legislative council and the health finance commission before October 1, 2006

Education Issues

HEA 1347 Various education matters.

Adds financial hardship and illness to the reasons a student may withdraw from high school before graduating. Requires an annual review of a student's career plan and requires remediation programs if needed. Allows an excused absence for a student who attends an educationally related non-classroom activity. Allows a student to graduate from high school without passing the graduation examination, subject to certain requirements.

SEA 333 Professional Licensing.

Includes a provision classifying a school psychologist as a "practitioner" for services included within a student's IEP (Individualized Education Program). Permits a psychologist to refer students to a speech-language pathologist or an audiologist for speech, hearing and language disorders, or an occupational therapist for occupational therapy services. Allows school to seek Medicaid reimbursement for referrals.

Miscellaneous issues

HEA 1261 Housing and community development authority.

Changes references to the Indiana Housing Finance Authority to the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority. Renames the low income housing trust fund the affordable housing and community development fund. Limits the neighborhood assistance tax credit to persons who con-

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The Arc of Indiana 2005 Lifetime Achievement Award



The Honorable Robert D. Garton

The Arc was pleased to present Senator Robert Garton with The Arc of Indiana's 2005 Lifetime Achievement Award.

Senator Robert Garton was first elected to the Indiana State Senate in 1970; in 2002, he was reelected to his ninth four-year term. He has served as President Pro Tempore, the top leadership post in the Senate, since 1980, the longest tenure in Indiana history.

It is not often that the leader of the Senate gets personally involved in the passage of legislation. However, Senator Garton has been very active in the many issues facing people with developmental disabilities.

In the early 1990's, Senator Garton supported SB 30 that paved the way for Medicaid Waivers to be implemented in Indiana. Without these waivers,

people with developmental disabilities would not be able to live successfully in the community.

Also in the early 1990's, Senator Garton was a key advocate passing legislation that implemented the First Steps Program, assuring all infants and toddlers with disabilities or at risk of disability receive early intervention services.

Late in the 1990's, The Comprehensive Plan for People with Developmental Disabilities, better known as the 317 Plan, was successful with the support of Senator Garton. Senator Garton played a critical role in making sure appropriations were implemented to move people off the long waiting lists for Medicaid Waiver services and that people in emergency situations receive necessary services.

In 2001, Senator Garton stood up to insurance companies and supported an insurance benefit mandate for children and adults with pervasive developmental disorders. This mandate is helping hundreds of people get access to therapies and services to help them mainstream into their communities and schools. This is an ongoing battle, and we are fortunate to have had Senator Garton supporting families with loved ones on the autism spectrum.

In 2004, Senator Garton supported legislation requiring small children to be restrained in booster seats while riding in motor vehicles. This important legislation is having an impact on decreasing the number of children with cognitive and developmental disabilities.

Senator Garton has demonstrated that his door is always open for people with mental retardation and developmental disabilities. He is an outstanding leader in the Senate.

Henry John Schroeder, Jr.



May 6, 1933-November 30, 2005

Henry Schroeder, 72, a leading advocate in Indiana for people with disabilities, died peacefully on Wednesday, November, 30, 2005.

Schroeder began his career working with people with disabilities as a Speech Therapist and Special Education Teacher in Kokomo from 1963-1966. He served as Director of Special Education, first in Kokomo and then in Washington Township. In 1971 he was appointed Acting Director of Indiana University's new Developmental Training Center, now known as the Indiana Institute on Disability and Community, and became the permanent Director in 1972. He served in that capacity until his retirement from Indiana University in 1997.

Under his leadership the Developmental Training Center grew and developed a national reputation as a life-span research and training Institute focused on individuals and their families. He served as Secretary of the Indiana Council of Administrators of Special Education, and as Chair of the Central Conference of University Training Programs in Developmental Disabilities.

A lifelong advocate for individuals with disabilities and their families, Schroeder was a founding member of Indiana's Council of Volunteers and Organizations for Hoosiers with Disabilities, was three times appointed to the Governor's Planning Council for People with Disabilities, was an active member of several professional associations, and a consultant to a range of state, regional, and national disability initiatives.

Schroeder received the Distinguished Achievement Award from the American Association of University Affiliated Programs, the highest honor given by the Association, for distinguished lifetime contribution on behalf of people with developmental disabilities. He was also honored by United Cerebral Palsy of Indiana and recognized as a Distinguished Hoosier by Former Indiana Governor Robert Orr.

Congratulations to The Arc of Indiana's 2005 Awards Recipients

Employment Award

- ★ **McCurdy Healthcare & Rehabilitation Center**
Evansville

Education Award

- ★ **Angela Lange**
Vincennes

Outstanding Advocate Award

- ★ **The Hammond Urban Enterprise Association**
Hammond

Community Living Award

- ★ **Mephibosheth Ministries**
Cicero

Development of The Arc Award

- ★ **George and Eric Seidensticker**
Carmel

Public Policy Award

- ★ **Representative Craig Fry**
Elkhart

Media Award

- ★ **WAOV Radio**
Vincennes

Cathleen Clark Professional Service Award

- ★ **Beth Richardson**
Solsberry

Outstanding Professional Achievement

- ★ **Anita Holmes Young**
Portland

Citizenship Award

- ★ **Katie Cortelyou**
Indianapolis

Sycamore Award

- ★ **Mark Kevitt**
Columbus

Executive Director's Column



John Dickerson

Reforms give new hope for those on waiting lists, in crisis

Many families and providers are declaring, "enough already," regarding the many reforms of programs and services for people with developmental disabilities that have been initiated over the last six months. However, these reforms will have a positive impact on the waiting list of over 15,000 people, on wages and benefits for direct care workers, on investment in staff training, and on the development of a real crisis support system in Indiana.

Annual Plan Produces Savings

As the transfer to an annual plan concept for people on the Medicaid Waiver continues, the savings generated by this effort—approximately \$18 million—has been pledged by FSSA leaders to be redirected to critical areas. These funds, along with other savings generated by FSSA, will make a significant impact on those waiting and those in emergency situations.

Plans are underway not only to bring people off the waiting list but also

address critical emergency situations—specifically caregivers over the age of 80 (see box) and young adults who have left special education and need funding for vocational or developmental programs. In addition, FSSA is working to find a way to address ongoing costs of serving people in the system with an increase in base funding for all providers and support staff.

Silvercrest

The May closure of Silvercrest, the state operated facility for children, has led to the development of a new model for serving children with significant behavior challenges. Three agencies of state government will be involved: the Department of Education, FSSA, and the Indiana Department of Health.

Children moving out of Silvercrest are receiving support and follow-along funding. In the past, transition funding for children once they left Silvercrest often remained unaddressed. Dr. Judith Monroe, Commissioner of the Indiana Department of Health, has led an important initiative to develop a first of its kind model of preventative and crisis supports for children and adults across the state. FSSA has been instrumental in this effort and is looking at

pooling resources with DOE and the Department of Health to implement the plan.

Huge Challenge Remains

These are positive steps forward, but much remains to be done. Even if

we are able to bring supports to 2,000 families over the next year through the combination of these efforts, the waiting list far outstrips the resources available. We are already at work planning grassroots advocacy efforts in preparation of the 2007 legislative session.

Politicians Asking for Your Vote—Ask Them Where They Stand

This summer and fall, local, state and national candidates will ask for your support. Ask them where they stand on critical issues that face your family and thousands like you. Issues impacting people with developmental disabilities and their families have never been, and will never be, a partisan issue. We need supporters on both sides of the aisle. But they need to hear from you.

As we celebrate The Arc of Indiana's fifty years of service to people with developmental disabilities and their families, the faces of many old friends come to mind. We also think of faces of new families and self-advocates who will achieve great things in the next fifty years. God bless all of you for what you do every day to help make our state and nation a better place for all.

400 PARENTS OVER 80 HAVE SONS AND DAUGHTERS AT HOME

The Arc of Indiana conducted a sample study with the help of Arc BRIDGES, the local chapter of The Arc in Lake, Porter, and LaPorte Counties. By doing an actual head count of families in their area who have a son or daughter living at home, and projecting that out based on population; the study determined that more than 400 parents over the age of 80 continue to provide care for sons and daughters with a developmental disability. It further estimates that 50% are single parents.

The criteria for receiving emergency/crisis services includes the death or long term disability of a caregiver or loss of a home. The Arc is working to add that caregivers over 80 are eligible for emergency in-home supports. We thank Executive Director of Arc BRIDGES, Kris Prohl, and her staff for conducting this study.

The Arc of Indiana and The Arc Master Trust Staffs

The Arc of Indiana and The Arc Master Trust staff has grown and changed to better meet the mission of The Arc.

Betty Williams long time leader of Self Advocates of Indiana, former member of The Arc of Indiana Board of Directors and The Arc of the United States, has joined The Arc of Indiana as our **Coordinator for Consumer Education and Training**. Betty will be working with residents of Fort Wayne State Developmental Center as they transition to homes in the community, and will travel with Kim Dodson this summer to conduct workshops on how to be an effective advocate.

Mark Kevitt, long time volunteer for The Arc at the local, state, and national level—and the recipient of

The Arc of Indiana's 2005 Sycamore Award—has joined the staff as **Director of Outreach**. Mark will provide support and service to local chapters of The Arc, membership development, and outreach to families who have never been connected to The Arc.

Abby Gross, who we met through her work with TheArcLink, and as a graduate of Partners in Policy Making, is our **Special Projects Coordinator for Fiscal and Resource Development**.

Cory Hunt has joined **The Arc Master Trust** as **Administrative Assistant**.

We also have some changes in job titles—**Kim Dodson** is now our **Associate Executive Director**; **Melissa Justice**, is our **Controller**; **Cathy**



Betty Williams



Mark Kevitt



Abby Gross



Cory Hunt



Kim Dodson



Melissa Justice



Cathy Trieschman



Sonya Grace



Tim Ardillo



Sally Morris



Nanette Whightsel



Shane Service



John Dickerson

Trieschman, Executive Assistant; and **Sonya Grace, Executive Assistant for The Arc Master Trust**.

Tim Ardillo, our **Director of Development**, recently received his distinction as a Certified Fundraising Executive, CFRE®, and **Sally Morris, Director of Communications**, will graduate from a leadership training program, Leadership Johnson County, in May.

Nanette Whightsel remains The Arc's **Director of Family Education and Community Resources**. **Shane Service** continues as **Trust Director**, The Arc Master Trust. And finally, last but not least, **John Dickerson** is **Executive Director**.

LEGISLATIVE WRAP-UP, from page 1

tribute to neighborhood organizations that provide neighborhood assistance. (Current law permits tax credits for persons who engage in providing assistance.) Changes defini-

vantaged areas. Moves the following programs from the family and social services administration to the lieutenant governor: (1) The housing assistance act of 1937. (2)

grams. (7) Emergency shelter grant programs. (8) Shelter plus care programs.

SEA 132 Correction of 2005 child services legislation. Provides that a person may not operate a child caring institution and a child placing agency may not operate a foster family home if the number of children exceeds the number authorized by the license or if the children are maintained in a place not designated by the license.

SEA 168 Medicaid fraud. Specifies that a prosecuting attorney may refer a case involving abuse or neglect of a Medicaid patient, in addition to Medicaid fraud, to the attorney general for prosecution.

SEA 208 Medical alert on licenses or identification cards. Provides that if an applicant for a driver's license, a learner's permit, or an identification card submits information concerning the applicant's medical condition to the bureau of motor vehicles, the bureau shall include an identifying symbol and a summary

of the information on the driver's license, learner's permit, or identification card. Requires the bureau to inform an applicant that submission of medical information is vol-

SEA 374 Child passenger restraint systems exception. Provides that the laws relating to the use of passenger restraint systems for children do not apply to the operator of a mo-



Governor Mitch Daniels greets Betty Williams, The Arc of Indiana's new Coordinator for Consumer Education and Training, as Kelly Tate, Stone Belt Arc, looks on. Governor Daniels and FSSA Secretary Mitch Roob met with consumers, parents, and staff from local chapters of The Arc on Valentine's Day.

tions in the neighborhood assistance tax credit to specifically include services provided to economically disadvantaged households that may be located outside economically disad-

Community services block grant. (3) Home energy assistance programs; (4) Weatherization assistance. (5) Food and nutrition programs. (6) Migrant and farm worker pro-



Staci Grimes, Achieva Resources Corporation, meets Governor Mitch Daniels at The Arc of Indiana's Valentine's Day State House event, as Rita Fister, also from Achieva, waits her turn to meet the Governor. Achieva is the local chapter of The Arc in Fayette, Franklin, Union, and Wayne counties.

untary. Removes from the statutes the provisions for including an applicant's blood type on a driver's license, learner's permit, or identification card.

tor vehicle used in the following: (1) A funeral procession. (2) The return trip to the funeral home. (3) Both the procession and the return trip.

Medicare Beneficiaries Urged to be on the Lookout for Phone Scams

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) warns seniors and people with disabilities to be aware of a scheme that asks Medicare beneficiaries for money and checking account information to help them enroll in a Medicare Prescription Drug Plan.

This scheme is called the "\$299 Ring" for the typical amount of money Medicare beneficiaries are talked into withdrawing from their checking accounts to pay for a nonexistent prescription drug plan. Consumers can report these cases to their local law enforcement agencies or 1-877-7SAFERX (1-877-772-3379).

Medicare has received complaints from Indiana, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts New Jersey and Georgia. Complaints have been made against a number of different companies, but authorities believe that the companies are the same and are typically based outside the

U.S. As soon as CMS receives these complaints, they are investigated and referred to federal law enforcement authorities.

No Medicare drug plan can ask a person with Medicare for bank account or other personal information over the telephone. No beneficiary should ever provide that kind of information to a caller. They should contact their local police department if they believe someone is trying to take money or information from them illegally.

People with Medicare should also remember that they should be on the lookout for anyone trying to take advantage of them and take steps to protect themselves by remembering:

- No one can come into your home uninvited.
- No one can ask you for personal information during their marketing activities.

- Always keep all personal information, such as your Medicare number, safe, just as you would a credit card or a bank account number.
- Whenever you have a question or concern about any activity regarding Medicare, call 1-800-MEDICARE.

In addition, legitimate Medicare drug plans will not ask for payment over the telephone or the Internet. They must bill the beneficiary for the monthly premium. Typically, that amount is set up as an automatic withdrawal from the beneficiary's monthly Social Security check. Beneficiaries may also opt to pay the monthly premiums in other ways such as writing a check or setting up automatic payments from their checking accounts.

Assistance Offered for Down Payment on Home Purchases

Indiana Housing is now offering a program parallel to the Fannie Mae HomeChoice program for borrowers using FHA, VA or USDA as their loan type.

Help with 10% of purchase price down

This program will allow persons or households with a disability to get a full 10% of the purchase price in down payment assistance up to \$14,999.

The borrower must qualify for a minimum of 5% down payment assistance through the First Home program, and they will be given the full 10%. Indiana Housing will require proof of the disability to be included in the application package.

The documentation required must meet the Fannie Mae HomeChoice guidelines. The disability income must continue for at least three years.

For more information contact the Indiana Housing & Community Development Authority, (800) 872-0371 or (317) 232-7777. Request a Brochure: (800) 669-4432 or (317) 232-3564 or call the Buying a Home Information Line: (317) 232-3556.

Former FWSDC Residents Thrive in Lake County

As of April 1, 2006, 168 people continue to live at Fort Wayne State Developmental Center (FWSDC)—Indiana's last remaining state institution for people with developmental disabilities. The state plans to have all residents moved from FWSDC by June 30, 2007. Following are two stories of former residents of FWSDC who now live in community residential programs operated by Arc BRIDGES.

Hardie and Cubie Hollingsworth

Hardie and Cubie Hollingsworth, brother and sister, have a combined 55 years as recipients of services from Arc BRIDGES, a combined 39 of those years in Arc BRIDGES residential program.

Hardie and Cubie both were born with mental retardation and spent many years living at Fort

Wayne State Developmental Center (FWSDC). Hardie says he lived at FWSDC for 20 years. Cubie entered Arc BRIDGES' Day Services in 1977. Hardie was right behind, in 1978. Cubie became a resident of Arc BRIDGES' group home in 1982; Hardie followed in 1989.

Many things have changed in their lives over the years. Friends and family have come and gone; their father passed away just last year. Each has lived in different Arc BRIDGES group homes, moving as their abilities and needs changed.

But their emotional bond has remained constant. With Hardie moving to a different group home last year, they now live just one mile apart. Both also attend Day Services at Arc BRIDGES East Center. The first time they saw each other they embraced, thrilled by the realization that they would see each other at work every day.

Both Hardie and Cubie attend the SAIL program—Senior Activities for Independent Living.

Renee Vauz

Born with mental retardation and a seizure disorder, Renee Vauz lived with her mother until she was 18 years old. At that time, it became increasingly difficult for her mother to meet Renee's needs. This began thirty years of placement after placement—living in Highland, Logansport, Indianapolis, Fort Wayne, Michigan City, and then Fort Wayne again. Renee spent years at Fort Wayne State Developmental Center (FWSDC).

Renee's mother kept in touch with her as best she could, but it was difficult with Renee living hours away. In early 2002, the transition process began for Renee to move to an Arc BRIDGES group home. For the next several months staff from Arc BRIDGES made many trips to FWSDC to

meet with Renee's interdisciplinary team, observe Renee throughout the day, and coordinate numerous preplacement visits at the group home so Renee and her future housemates could get to



Renee gets to see her mom now.

know each other. Finally, in August, 2002, Renee moved from FWSDC to her new home in Lake County.

"I get to see my mom every weekend and can call her whenever I want," Renee, who is now 53, says with a smile. Mrs. Vauz is equally happy to have her daughter nearby. Although visiting her family is her favorite activity, Renee also likes completing word search puzzles and watching "Wheel of Fortune" with her three housemates.

Renee enjoys being in the SPICE program—Supports for Promoting Independence and Community Experiences. Renee says, "I like it here better!"



The Hollingsworths, brother and sister

Significant Changes Made to First Steps Program

Several changes have been made in the First Steps, Early Intervention program for infants and toddlers with disabilities or at risk of disability.

Following is information on these changes provided by the Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) for the First Steps program.

In the 2005 legislative session, a new sliding fee scale was adopted by the Indiana General Assembly. Families who currently have a co-pay are being notified of their new co-pay amount, effective May 1, 2006.

Also effective May 1, 2006, families will be required to provide information to First Steps on their private health insurance. However, private health insurers are not mandated to pay for First Steps services. It simply means that if a private carrier pays for therapy services, First Steps can be reimbursed by the carrier to pay for the therapy. It is important to note that state law requires that services reimbursed by private health insurance *cannot* be applied to lifetime caps of the policy. If this occurs, families should contact their Service Coordinator for First Steps and the Department of Insurance (1-800-622-4461).

Changes are also being made in service coordination, effective July 1, 2006. Service Coordinators will become employees of the System Point of Entry (SPOEs).

The ICC is concerned that the new cost participation schedule may cause families to end First Steps services if it becomes cost prohibitive. Families who feel that the cost prohibits them from participating should e-mail the ICC at: iccindiana@att.net, as well as their Service Coordinator for First Steps. This information will be used to document concerns. Families who do not have a concern about the new cost participation guidelines are also encouraged to contact the ICC.

Please note the following safeguards that are designed to protect families with the new changes to the system:

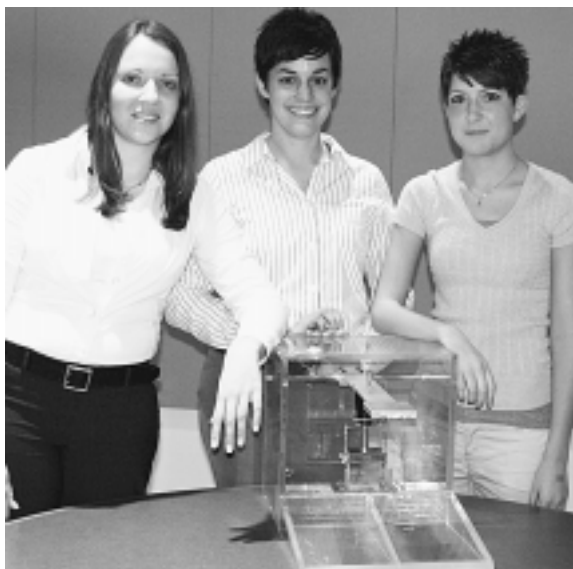
- If your private health insurance reimburses First Steps for services, your family co-pay will be waived for that service.
- The requirement to provide private health insurance information to First Steps may be waived, on a case by case basis, if you can demonstrate that this will cause personal or financial hardship to your family.

- Your private health insurance cannot apply any First Steps reimbursements to your child or family's lifetime insurance caps. Contact the Department of Insurance immediately if this should occur. (1-800-622-4461)
- For those families who have a co-pay, you can deduct ALL family medical expenses to determine your income level. Make sure you let your Service Coordinator know if this has changed recently as your co-pay may need to be adjusted.
- First Steps cannot stop services to your child while you dispute co-pay amounts.



First Steps families should contact their service coordinator and ICC if problems are encountered.

Making A Difference: Developing a tag stamping device that aids persons with disabilities for the Knox County Association for Retarded Citizens were Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology senior biomedical engineering students (from left) Megan Lafferty, Kara Jackson and Megan Whitaker.



Tag Stamping Device Designed for Knox County ARC

Device Earns National Workplace Innovation Award

Article provided by Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology

An enterprising biomedical engineering project by three Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology students for the Knox County Association for Retarded Citizens (KCARC) has earned the 2006 National Scholar Award for Workplace Innovation and Design from NISH, a national nonprofit agency whose mission is to create employment opportunities for people with severe disabilities.

Seniors Kara Jackson, Megan Lafferty and Megan Whitaker designed a tag stamping device that aids persons with disabilities to affix a lot number on military clothing manufactured at KCARC's facility in Vincennes.

The device allows persons to perform a job that they would not normally be able to complete, improves the person's self-worth and quality of life, and increases the person's income potential.

The Rose-Hulman design team will receive \$10,000 and were honored at NISH's National Training and Achievement Conference in May in Chicago. KCARC and Rose-Hulman's Department of Applied Biology and Biomedical Engineering will also be

awarded \$10,000.

In preliminary testing, the device made it possible for more people with disabilities to perform the stamping task at KCARC. A person with severe hand tremors, who couldn't work in the tag stamping area previously, processed three tags within a two-minute period by using the device.

The device, which was designed after 16 different testing procedures during its seven-month development cycle, was developed and assembled for \$200, using volunteer and student labor. The device could be reproduced for \$655.

"The opportunities this device opens are tremendous," admits Bob Harbison, KCARC's director of manufacturing. "The device breaks down barriers, allowing people with severe disabilities to work in the tag stamping area. These people can now learn skills that can open up other opportunities for them in the future."

Rose-Hulman students also created a device that trims threads off military clothing produced at the KCARC manufacturing facility, and a device that assists KCARC employees in turning military shirts right side out during the production process—previously a painstaking and time-consuming process that needs to take place prior to packaging and shipping.

Adam Haste, a senior biomedical engineering student at Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, demonstrates how the Shirt Master 3000 device will assist Knox County Association for Retarded Citizens' employees in turning military shirts right side out during the production process.



Silvercrest to Close in May

The Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) plans to close Silvercrest Children's Developmental Center in New Albany by mid-May, 2006.

Silvercrest was established in 1974 in a former tuberculosis treatment facility. The goal was to bring together educational, medical, social and psychological specialists to diagnose problems and prescribe solutions. Over time the model of service was adapted for "short term" placements of twelve to eighteen months and changed from a facility serving children with severe physical and/or mental handicaps to a facility focused more on serving children with developmental delays and behavior issues.

ISDH first announced their plans to close Silvercrest in November, 2005 after four separate/independent studies were completed by the Family and Social Services Administration, the Department of Education, the Department of Administration and The Arc of Indiana.

The Arc of Indiana report was developed by a team that included a behavioral consultant, a former special education teacher who now is a behavioral consultant, The Arc of Indiana's Director of Family Education and Community Resources, Nanette Whightsel, and John Dickerson, The Arc of Indiana's Executive Director.

Three of the team spent two days shadowing staff and children at the facility on all shifts. The team then interviewed staff, families of children and the directors of special education from the children's home school districts. Interviews were also conducted in cases of several children who had been discharged from Silvercrest to learn what happened once they returned to their homes.

Many families talked about the lack of support before they had to make the gut-wrenching decision to place their child at Silvercrest—about how schools, community agencies and others all turned them down. Others talked about the lack of transition planning as their child left Silvercrest, and the lack of services after their child was discharged.

Following the closure announcement, State Health Commissioner, Dr. Judith A. Monroe, convened a roundtable of parents, physicians, schools, advocacy groups, care coordi-

nators, and government officials to identify and develop additional means by which children and their families can be served.

The group, which includes John Dickerson, proposed initiatives that include urgent and preventative services, parent mentoring and training, call centers staffed by experts, and evaluation mechanisms for continuous improvement.

Dickerson said, "The closure of Silvercrest has been very emotional for families who found Silvercrest to be the only hope when all else failed. Even though placement at Silvercrest is short term, it has literally been a life saver and family saver for these families. However, we sincerely believe we can do better for them and their children, and for those who will face crises in the future.

"We believe Indiana can do better by using resources more effectively to intervene long before families make a decision for out of home placement, such as at Silvercrest, and can provide funds to schools to support not just 50 children per year but many more."

The current budget for Silvercrest is over \$8 million—all state dollars. When those state dollars are matched with federal funds, over \$24 million can be leveraged to support families before the need reaches a crisis. These funds also can provide schools with supports to educate children with significant challenges and provide home supports when needed.

Dickerson said, "Our support of the closure of Silvercrest is tied not only to assuring that the needs of children and families currently at Silvercrest are fully addressed, but also assuring that a new way of funding and serving children and families with significant challenges is implemented.

"The Arc of Indiana is pleased with the coordinated efforts led by the Indiana State Department of Health, Indiana Department of Education and Family and Social Services Administration on the successful discharge of students and the continuity of services. We look forward to continued partnership with the State of Indiana on developing ongoing alternatives for children with special needs."

The Arc of Indiana's complete report on Silvercrest can be found on our web site at: <http://www.arcind.org/silvercrest%20evaluation.htm>.

THE ARC OF INDIANA

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www.arcind.org and www.TheArcLink.org

Help Build The Arc's Endowment

Major Funding Effort Underway to Secure The Arc of Indiana's Future

Do we take the existence of The Arc of Indiana for granted? Not in a malicious way, but in a way that says, "The Arc will always be there for me and my family." As much as we hope that The Arc will always be there, we must work to *ensure* that The Arc of Indiana will be here 50 years from now.

As we celebrate our 50th Anniversary this year, we are kicking off a major fund-raising effort to secure our future. This two-pronged campaign will help build our endowment (security for the future) and our annual giving program (funding for day-to-day operations.) You, the donor, decide how we use your donation.

Are you unfamiliar with an endowment? The Arc has formed an endowment fund where we raise money that is permanently set aside—it's held in perpetuity. We will never, can never, touch the principal but only use the investment income to help fund operations. The larger the endowment the more investment income we earn. Organizations with successful endowments are strong and instill confidence in donors, constituents and the community-at-large.

It is through the generosity of the Knox County ARC that we start our endowment fund. The leadership and board of KCARC made a pledge of \$250,000 to get things going. The first \$125,000 has been received and the second half will match, dollar-for-dollar, the gifts we receive from our chapters around the state.

Local chapters of The Arc that have participated thus far are:

President's Circle

\$25,000 and above

Arc Opportunities
Arc BRIDGES
Noble of Indiana

Leadership Circle

\$15,000 and above

Peak Community Services

Supporting Circle

\$5,000 and above

Daviess-Martin Rehabilitation Services*
Greene County Arc*
Sullivan County Area Rehabilitation Center*
(* includes a match from Four Rivers Resource Services)

Endowment funds can come from any source—chapters, individuals, families, etc. In fact, we will welcome all the opportunity to participate. We are also

working to have 100% participation in the endowment from chapters, The Arc board members, and staff.

To date we have secured over \$450,000 in cash and pledges for the endowment. The goal is to secure \$2 million by the end of 2009.

This two-pronged campaign will help build our endowment and our annual giving program

As far as building the annual giving program, everyone can participate. Sponsor an event, respond to a mailing from The Arc of Indiana, attend events, and participate in the silent auction. All of these funds are used to achieve *our mission*:

To help people with mental retardation and other developmental disabilities realize their goals of learning, living, working, and playing in the community.

Other ways to support The Arc of Indiana financially are to make a gift in memory of someone or in lieu of flowers, make a gift to The Arc, and we'll send a note to the family notifying them of your generosity. Also, you can make a provisions for The Arc in your estate plans. The simplest way to support The Arc of Indiana in your estate is to make a bequest at the time of your death. It's often the time when you can make the largest gift, thus having the biggest impact on The Arc of Indiana's future ability to serve families. Speak to your tax or financial advisor about charitable giving through your estate.

For more information on these and other forms of support to The Arc, please contact:

Tim Ardillo, CFRE
Director of Development
(317) 977-2384
tardillo@arcind.org.

Official Name:
The Arc of Indiana, Inc.
Federal Tax ID:
35-1075886
Tax Status:
501(c)(3) organization

All contributions to The Arc of Indiana are tax-deductible to fullest extent of the law.

Web Address: www.arcind.org

Local chapters of The Arc of Indiana generously contributed funds to help found the endowment fund. Representatives from founding chapters who gathered at our annual Appreciation Dinner in November 2005 include, seated: Knox County Arc: Carroll Hamner; Laura Vieck; Mike Carney, Executive Director. Standing: Arc BRIDGES: Kris Prohl, Executive Director; Suda Hopkins; Judy Abbott. Arc Opportunities: Deb Seman, Executive Director; Charla Fought, Jeff Bassett. Noble of Indiana: Mike Howland, Executive Director.



The Arc of Indiana Master Trust...



When I die, how will my child's personal needs be met?

Many parents who ask this question are finding that The Arc of Indiana has a dependable answer, The Arc of Indiana Master Trust I. Trust I has operated continuously and successfully since 1988.

Trust I lets you leave funds for your disabled son or daughter without endangering eligibility for government programs such as Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Medicaid, group homes, and Indiana's Supported Living Program. To protect eligibility, The Arc serves as the intermediary with government agencies on all trust related matters. Family members need not worry about learning regulations and dealing with government bureaucrats. Trust I assumes these responsibilities.

How are we doing? Our trust program may be the largest of its kind in the country. Currently, we administer over 300 funded Trust I accounts and over 850 families are enrolled in Trust I. (Trust I accounts are usually funded at the death of a family member.)

If you want experienced and knowledgeable representation for your child who is disabled, Trust I might be appropriate.

We also administer over 650 Trust II accounts. Trust II accounts are usually funded by persons who are themselves disabled. Like Trust I, Trust II continues eligibility for benefits like SSI, Medicaid, group homes, and Supported Living.

Combined enrollments for Trust I and Trust II now total over 1,500.

For a free copy of our material call or write:

The Arc of Indiana Master Trust
P.O. Box 80033, Indianapolis, IN 46280-0033
(317) 259-7603 or toll free (877) 589-8848

Save These Dates!

Be sure to mark your calendar for workshops, seminars, and fun planned by The Arc of Indiana in the upcoming months. Go to our website, www.arcind.org and click on *Upcoming Events* for details.

June & July, 2006

Coming to a Town Near You!

How to Be an Effective Advocate

Presented by The Arc of Indiana

June 23, 2006

Steve Green's The Arc of Indiana 2006 Benefit Golf Tournament

The Legends of Indiana, Franklin

Sponsored by: Liberty of Indiana Corporation



Hole-In-One Prize
2006 Ford Fusion
Sponsored by: Burd Ford



August 9-10, 2006

Indiana Statewide Transition Conference *Road to Results*

Sheraton Hotel, Keystone at the Crossing, Indianapolis

August, September, & October, 2006

Positive Behavior Supports, Functional Behavior Assessments

Presented by Kelly Hartman on behalf of The Arc of Indiana

Evansville, August 30 Indianapolis, September 14
Elkhart, September 21 Merrillville, September 28
Bloomington, October 12

September 7-8, 2006

Self-Advocates of Indiana Statewide Self-Advocacy Conference

Bloomington Conference Center, Bloomington, IN

November 16, 2006

The Arc of Indiana Topical Conference

Appreciation Luncheon & 2006 Annual Meeting

Hyatt Regency, Indianapolis

and

The Arc of Indiana's 50th Anniversary Gala

The Indiana Roof! Downtown Indianapolis

Banding Together: Every Member Plays a Part

March 2006 Membership Campaign

The Arc of Indiana, in collaboration with local chapters of The Arc throughout the state, conducted a March Membership Campaign entitled "Banding Together: Every Member Plays a Part." The theme of the campaign parallels the Governor's Council for People with Disabilities' Awareness Campaign, "BAND TOGETHER Everyone plays a part."

Many local chapters used materials from the Governor's Council and added a membership development aspect to planned awareness activities. Chapters were provided a membership awareness booklet and materials developed by The Arc's Member and Chapter committee. Each chapter developed local activities to increase the awareness and membership of The Arc.

Several chapters initiated another campaign, *Form a Quartet*. This effort depends on active members recruiting three new members. By recruiting the new members a *quartet* is formed.

Chapters came up with some very creative activities. One chapter purchased bracelets (similar to the yellow Lance Armstrong bracelets) and distributed the "wrist BAND" to every new member recruited.

Another chapter held a Dinner for Two gift certificate drawing for each member who recruited three new members as well as a dinner drawing from among all of the new members.

One local board has asked each board member to commit to form a quartet. That will result in more than 50 new members, not to mention \$1,000 in new revenue. And there's the chapter that held a "Band Together Dance Together" dance to wrap-up its month long activities.

Other chapter activities across the state included reducing membership dues, providing complimentary one-year gift memberships, and holding special events such as open houses, parent-training programs on special education laws and rules, roundtable discussions for teachers and direct care workers—on issues facing persons with disabilities and their families, methods to impact change, and the need for advocacy.

This campaign is part of The Arc of Indiana's overall strategy for 2006 and adheres to The Arc's Strategic Plan that calls for an annual member-

ship campaign in March of each year. The Arc's Director of Outreach, Mark Kevitt, visited with ten local chapters to discuss ideas and activities. The Arc staff is assisting many of the chapters with activities.

The Arc Expands into Porter and LaPorte Counties

At its February board of directors meeting The Arc of Indiana approved a request by Arc BRIDGES, long time local chapter of The Arc in Lake County, to expand its chapter to include Porter and LaPorte Counties. Arc BRIDGES plans to focus efforts in the two new counties by reaching out to family members, self-advocates, and teachers with emphasis on advocacy, membership and support.

At that same meeting the board adopted a "New Chapter Affiliation Packet and Process." The content of the packet outlines the process an organization is to follow if interested in affiliating with The Arc of Indiana and The Arc of the United States.

Interested organizations would complete an application packet and submit it to The Arc's Member and Chapter Committee for review and recommendation to The Arc Board. The development of this process is based on The Arc's Strategic Plan to implement a start-up program for new chapters.

*A new packet outlines
how an organization can
affiliate itself with The Arc*

2005 statewide Membership total 6,483

There are 6,483 members of The Arc in Indiana according to end-of-year reports from The Arc of the United States. Although down slightly from 2004, the total reflects large support around the state for The Arc.

One must go back to the late and mid-seventies to see statewide totals that equal or exceed the membership level of 2005. The top five chapters for membership in 2005 were The Noble Arc of Greater Indianapolis (2,221), Johnson County ARC (1,094), Arc BRIDGES (788), The Arc of Bartholomew County (430) and Evansville ARC (215).