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## The Arc of Fort Bend County's **BEST IN THE WEST**

**DINNER AND DANCE  
SILENT AUCTION, BID BOARD  
& LIVE AUCTION**

**NOVEMBER 22, 2014  
GEORGE RANCH ARENA**

**BBQ - 6:00PM - 9:00PM  
LIVE BAND - 7:00PM - MIDNIGHT**

**DRESS - CASUAL (BOOTS AND JEANS)**

**DO YOUR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING AT THE  
BIGGEST SILENT AUCTION IN  
FORT BEND COUNTY!**

**TICKETS - \$50  
TABLE FOR 10 - \$500  
SPONSORSHIPS STILL AVAILABLE  
Benefiting The Arc of Fort Bend County  
For more information, please call  
281-240-1313 or 281-494-5920**

**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 2014-2015**

**EXECUTIVE BOARD**

- Chairman**  
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- Vice Chairman**  
Jack Molho
- Treasurer**  
Jenny Gortney

**Secretary**  
Becky Geary

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**Executive Director**  
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**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



For Info call The Arc office  
**281-494-5959**



**Raffle**  
**\$100**  
**Club Car**  
**Utility Vehicle**

# **Best in the West**

## **Dinner & Dance**

Only 350 tickets  
to be sold

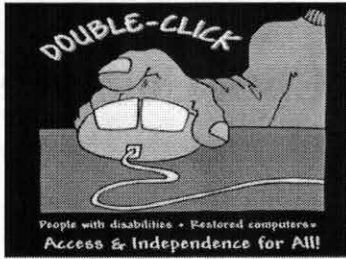
Benefiting  
**The Arc of Fort Bend County**

Need not be  
present to win

Drawing to be held

**November 22, 2014 - George Ranch**

Donated by: Fairway Golf Carts Owner John Grzywa & Johnny Tedder



Please return the application to:  
 Easter Seals Central Texas  
 c/o Double-Click Project  
 1611 Headway Circle, Building 2  
 Austin, Texas 78754  
 Phone: 512-615-6860  
 Fax: 512-615-7121  
 Email: dc@eastersealstx.org

**COMPUTER ACQUISITION APPLICATION**

The Double-Click Computer Acquisition Project provides eligible persons with disabilities living in Texas with a low-cost, desktop computer. Computer specifications include a minimum **1.60GHz – 2.6GHz Dual Core Processor**, standard Dell tower case, **DVD-RW Drive**, **2GB – 4GB RAM**, and a minimum **80GB Hard Drive**. Each computer ships with **Windows Vista Home Edition**, preinstalled, speakers, monitor, keyboard, mouse and **Libre Office** preloaded for word processing, spreadsheet and database needs. The computers are shipped to each Double-Click recipient within Texas. The cost of the refurbished computer is **\$120 with a 17" LCD Monitor**. **Each computer comes with a 90 day warranty for hardware and a 30 day warranty for software.**

In addition, the Double-Click Computer Acquisition Project provides a companion loan program to provide financial assistance for the acquisition of a refurbished computer through Double-Click. The loan program serves as a resource for people with disabilities that have no other financial resource to attain a refurbished computer.

**APPLICANT INFORMATION (PLEASE ENTER WHO THE COMPUTER IS FOR)**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF BIRTH: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

CURRENT ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

GENDER	MALE	FEMALE	RACE:	AM. INDIAN, ALASKAN NATIVE	ASIAN	BLACK	HISPANIC	WHITE	OTHER
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**NATURE OF DISABILITY (CHECK ALL THAT MAY APPLY, CIRCLE PRIMARY DISABILITY):**

COGNITIVE	HEARING	MOBILITY	SPEECH	VISION
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**HOW WILL COMPUTER DESCRIBED ABOVE MEET YOUR INDIVIDUAL NEEDS?**

COMMUNITY LIVING	EDUCATION	EMPLOYMENT	DATE APPLIED:	DATE RECEIVED (Office Use Only):
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____

**HOW WILL YOU BE PAYING FOR YOUR REFURBISHED COMPUTER?**

PLEASE ENCLOSE CHECK OR MONEY ORDER TO : <b>EASTER SEALS CENTRAL TEXAS</b>	\$ _____	CHECK BOX IF YOU NEED TO APPLY FOR A DOUBLE-CLICK COMPUTER ACQUISITION LOAN	<input type="checkbox"/>
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The Double-Click Project is funded by the Assistive Technology Act of 2004 and made available through the Texas Technology Access Project, a part of Texas Center for Disabilities Studies at The University of Texas at Austin.

# Major Medicaid Breakthrough Announced For Autism

**WASHINGTON, DC** (July 8, 2014) -- In a major victory for Medicaid coverage of autism, a federal agency has directed the states to cover medically necessary treatments for autism for children and young adults, including behavioral health treatments such as Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA). An estimated one-third of all children with autism receive primary coverage through Medicaid.



The announcement by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) makes clear that autism treatment must be addressed under Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) services which cover Medicaid-eligible children up to the age of 21.

Dan Unumb, the executive director of the Autism Speaks Legal Resource Center, said the new CMS guidance "is extremely useful in providing a road map for Medicaid coverage of autism treatments, including ABA, and admonishing the states that their obligation to provide all necessary medical care under EPSDT applies with full force to children with ASD."

Because Medicaid is a joint state/federal program, benefits can vary widely from state to state. EPSDT, however, is mandatory.

"The time for walling off EPSDT from autism is over," said Melissa Harris, a CMS official who briefed the Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee on the changes today.

"All children, including children with ASD, must receive EPSDT screenings designed to identify health and developmental issues, including ASD, as early as possible," the CMS guidance directs. "EPSDT also requires medically necessary diagnostic and treatment services. When a screening examination indicates the need for further evaluation of a child's health, the child should be appropriately referred for diagnosis and treatment without delay.

"Ultimately, the goal of EPSDT is to assure that children get the health care they need, when they need it – the right care to the right child at the right time in the right setting," according to CMS.

Among the autism treatments referenced were speech, occupational and physical therapies.

"Public health insurance programs like Medicaid are critical to the healthcare of children with autism," said Stuart Spielman, Autism Speaks' senior policy advisor and counsel. "The bulletin provides assurance that these programs will provide the kinds of medically necessary services families are seeking."

According to Unumb, the guidance also makes clear that services can be delivered by licensed practitioners as well as appropriately credentialed non-licensed practitioners. This is important for states that do not license providers such as behavior analysts, but instead rely on national certification for credentialing.

# Just call me “Grampa” at Unified Care Group

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Cheryl Sewell

*The Arc does not endorse, promote nor recommend any therapy, institution, professional system or service. Our desire is to bring together families and those interested in meeting the needs of people with disabilities. Please call to discuss your concerns and perform “due diligence” when seeking a service provider.*

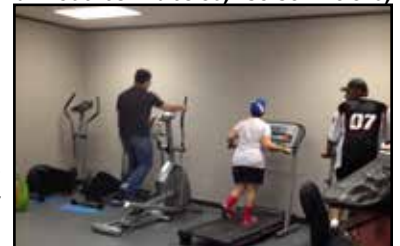


I turned left onto Park Two Drive and drove slowly until the “820” sign came into view at the very end of the circle drive. The building looks rather small. A van pulled into the handicapped space near me and out came several “consumers.” An older gentleman wandered up to me, showed me his two water bottles, his white cap and shoes. I introduced myself and he said, “Oh, just call me grampa, everybody just calls me grampa.” So . . . that was my introduction to the new day habilitation facility owned by Unified Care Group (UCG) in Sugar Land.

Looks certainly can be deceiving! The building is HUGE. The building is so big in fact, that UCG has moved all of their administrative operations to the location. Julie Kelly, Unified Care Group’s Vice -President of Clinical Operations indicated the facility opened in April 2014 and serves 100 individuals. They also operate seven HCS group homes and one ICF-ID group home in Fort Bend County.

The building is arranged into “pods” or clusters of rooms down hallways. After entering, you notice the “Wall of Champions” – photos proudly displaying UCG’s individuals enjoying activities and trips. We passed many activity-specific rooms including: the “Sensory Room”; the “Dance & Exercise room;” the “Yoga Room;” a game room; and a Senior Citizen room. There’s an Independent Living Skills room, as well. The UCG Store was closed when we passed, but Julie said the store was a big hit with everyone. They stock healthy drinks and snacks, but potato chips also make their way onto the shelves. Individuals are encouraged to practice money management skills and to make healthy choices. They contract with a General Practitioner/MD who visits every Tuesday. He has his own examination room, as do the nurses. They also have designated rooms for the Speech Therapist and for OT/PT, as needed. They have a large “movie” room where at least once a week they show a Netflix movie and serve popcorn. Wanda Irving, a UCG employee, conducts the choir in the Choir Room. There is also a “Great Room.” Julie has had different ideas on what to put in the Great Room, but it’s empty. They boast a large kitchen and dining area. There are two lunch times so it doesn’t get too crowded and noisy. There are several sets of restrooms, a laundry room and a shower room. They also tend to a small vegetable garden in the back, and harvest tomatoes, cucumbers, zucchini, and other vegetables. One of the staff said last week they harvested enough tomatoes and squash to make a delicious summer salad!

Julie believes that keeping everyone busy creates a much happier environment and having lots of room for everyone helps, as well. Although UCG no longer accepts contract work, individuals volunteer twice a week at Meals on Wheels and they contract with the DARS’ Briar Forest location to provide employment services. Several of their individuals work at NRG Stadium, Minute Maid Park, Lowe’s, Papa John’s Pizza and Marshall’s.



Unified Care Group serves Harris, Fort Bend, Brazoria, Galveston, and Montgomery Counties. They provide HCS services and Texas Home Living and ICF-ID. They are also licensed to provide services to persons with Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). One of their group homes in Harris County is dedicated to six men with TBI. All of this makes UCG one of the largest providers in the Fort Bend County area.

# The Arc Family Matters

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## Celebrations:

Justin Meyer, son of Jackie and Gaylon Butler, coaches of four Special Olympics sports, married Katie Rothman on October 11, 2014. Gaylon also serves on The Arc Board. Justin is the nephew of Special Olympics athlete, Kim Butler.

Kelley Wheeler, one of the founding coaches of The Arc's Bocce program, married Miguel Sandoval on October 18, 2014.

Hal and Desi Marshall Family were honored at Fall Classic Statewide Games as the 2014 Special Olympics Family of the Year for the entire State of Texas.

Michael Pelz, new member of The Arc and Special Olympics athlete, was honored as the 2014 Special Olympics Texas Athlete of the Year, age group 15-21. He led the Athlete Pledge in opening ceremonies for Fall Classic Statewide Games.

## Please keep these families in your thoughts and prayers:

Carl Dean Tucker, grandfather of The Arc's member Carla Brown, passed away on July 10, 2014. Carla Deann Brown was named after her grandfather by adding one letter to his first and middle name.

Donald Joseph Leonetti, friend and supporter of The Arc, left this world suddenly and far too soon on July 17, 2014.

Laura Johnson, friend of The Arc, passed away on August 7, 2014 after a 2 ½ year battle with pancreatic cancer.

Harlan W. Baldrige, uncle of The Arc's member Stephen Mowrey, passed away on September 6, 2014.

Keven Lewis, son of The Arc's member, Mary Lewis, passed away on July 2, 2014. Keven loved and was loved by many. He will be missed by all. See Keven's "Spirit of the Eagle Award" given in his memory below.

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*In Loving Memory Of*

**Keven Lewis**

May 30, 1996 – July 22, 2014

Boy Scout Troop 148

**Spirit of the Eagle Award**

Presented to Keven's Parents



# Social Recreation

## *Bay City Summer Dance*



## *St. Theresa's Dance*





# Activities

## *Gattitown*



## *Skeeters*



# Social Recreation, cont'd

## 2014 Fort Bend County Fair

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# 2014 Texas Advocates Conference



# The Fort Bend County Rodeo Association Third Annual "Exceptional Rodeo"



# Gallery Furniture Partners with The Brookwood Community

Margo Pasko



Have you heard the news? Gallery Furniture is coming to Fort Bend County! We aren't telling you this as a commercial for Mattress Mack, but, rather, we want to tell you about what Jim MacIngvale is doing in our community for people with disabilities, as he partners with The Brookwood Community. He is donating space in his brand new Grand Parkway facility (due to open in December) for a Brookwood vocational program and gift shop.

Brookwood, located about 10 minutes west of Katy, is a non-profit community, where adults with special needs work and live. The vocational program at the new Gallery Furniture site will provide meaningful jobs for the program participants, in a God-centered, educational environment. Brookwood does not accept any government funding, but it does provide scholarships.

For more information, please check out their website at: [www.brookwoodcommunity.org](http://www.brookwoodcommunity.org)



The Arc has five members who may be among the first participants at the Brookwood-Gallery Furniture site. For the past few months, Carrie Wantuch, Nicki Moynihan, Courtney Allen, Katie Nelson and Mike Marshall have participated in a "volunteer training program" at the Brookshire campus - learning how to work in the Garden Center. They have enjoyed meeting Brookwood citizens, participating in the activities, and learning new skills. They look forward to putting their skills to work at the new Brookwood site within Gallery Furniture at 7301 Grand Parkway, Richmond, TX 77407.

For the past couple of years, Margo Pasko, Director of Transition Programs at The Arc, has been working with the families of Carrie, Nicki, Courtney, Katie and Mike, assisting them in the development of an educational, vocational, day program for their adult children. Recently, Brookwood approached The Arc with the opportunity to collaborate at their new site. Call it serendipity or a "God thing", but it happened at the right time for everyone! The Brookwood model appealed to the families and the initial job training worked with Margo's employment services schedule. The clients are now being trained by Brookwood staff in anticipation of the December opening and we hope the rest will be a wonderful history.



## Special Olympics Texas Photo Contest

Margo Pasko

Gary Schottle, photographer extraordinaire, engineer, Special Olympics coach, and father of athlete Tank Schottle, won a Special Olympics Texas photo contest in August. The topic was "Best Smile". Here is his submission:

**"Best Smile"**  
**Athlete Amy running in a relay at a track meet.**



**The Arc Receives  
\$2500 Donation from  
Exchange Club of Sugar Land, Texas**



**Awards  
The Arc of Fort Bend County  
\$1500  
To Support 2015 Special Needs Conference and Resource Fair**



Left to Right:  
Dennis Fischer, Regional Director of Operations, EZCORP; Laura LaVigne, Executive Director, The Arc ; Cheryl Sewell, Director of Youth Programs, The Arc ; Patrick Terrell, Stafford Store Manager, EZMoney Loan Services; Leandrea Warfield, Regional HR Partner, EZMoney Loan Services

# Special Olympics – Bocce Fall Classic Statewide Games

*Margo Pasko*

On Thursday, October 16, 2014, 16 of the 27 athletes on The Arc's Special Olympics bocce team hit the road to compete at the annual Fall Classic Statewide Games in College Station. All totaled, thirty three members of The Arc's bocce family attended the tournament. A big thank you is extended to all those who donated to The Arc's Special Olympics program and made the trip possible and to the volunteers who did everything from running practices to chaperoning athletes in their rooms, serving dinner, hauling equipment, and supervising athletes everywhere they went.

Sixteen bocce athletes, eight doubles teams, had great fun in the gorgeous weather at College Station! The athletes were Carrie, Sharon, Nicki, San Juanita, Katie, Whitney, Jennifer, Meredith, Michael, Matt, Tom, Allan, Stevie, Rudy, Dave and Christopher. Once again, the bright orange bocce shirts were the hit of the event and several delegations asked where we got them. To add to the "orange crush theme", the women athletes and chaperones were treated to an orange nail polish party the night before the tournament. It was tons of fun! The bocce coaching staff was led by head coach Robert Pourciau. The other certified coaches were: Janet Pourciau, Janet Wantuch, Kathy Moynihan., Jeff Hoffman and Margo Pasko. All of the bocce families contributed to the team effort throughout the season! The coaches thanked all the parents for their help throughout the season: filling in for coaches who were out of town, driving the athletes to Fall Classic, supervising in the hotel, at meals and during the competition.



# Special Olympics Area 22 Gulf

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*Margo Pasko*

Take me out to the ball game—no, make that “Take me out to the bocce game” at Constellation Field! The Area 22 Gulf Coast Regional Bocce Tournament was held in the outfield of Sugar Land’s very own Constellation Field on Sunday morning, September 21. The tournament was co-hosted by The Arc of Fort Bend County and Skeeters baseball. The consensus of all who attended was that Constellation Field was an awesome venue for a bocce tournament!

Five Area 22 delegations, totaling 71 athletes, registered for the competition: 28 athletes from The Arc of Fort Bend County, 13 from Fort Bend ISD Falcons, 25 from LaPorte Bulldogs, 4 from Brazosport and 1 from Alvin ISD. Volunteers also came from far and wide to make the event a success: Dulles HS ROTC, Generation, Sugar Land Rotary Club, The Exchange Club of Sugar Land, honor societies from area high schools, Chevron employees, Fort Bend Christian Academy, Allan Harris’s fellow church congregants, Margo’s friends, etc. It was an amazing crew! Thank you to all the volunteers who made the games possible!

The athletes enjoyed seeing their faces on the big-screen scoreboard as the delegations paraded onto the field on the glorious morning. There was a PowerPoint of athletes, refs, and games committee members that looped throughout the games in between the live feeds. During the games and medals ceremonies, there was live camera feed to the scoreboard. The technology definitely added a “WOW” factor to the games.

The Games Committee was comprised of Pam Hollaway, Special Olympics Area 22 Director; Larry Lobue, Area 22 Competition Director; Robert Pourciau, bocce games director; Allan Harris, Sr., facilities coordinator; Margo Pasko, volunteer coordinator; Carlos Rodriguez, Constellation Field coordinator; and Commissioner James, Patterson, master of ceremonies (and he really was fantastic in his stream of commentary all morning). Congressman Pete Olson was a special guest who led the audience in the pledge to the flag and the volunteer oath. We were honored to have had the services of these elected officials, Commissioner Patterson and Congressman Olson.

Grainger, an industrial supply company in Stafford, TX, donated \$5000 in March, to support Special Olympics and part of their donation was used to provide tents, chairs, medical services and the use of the big screen scoreboard. Those special additions made the games top-notch! Thank you, Grainger!

Allan Harris, Sr., did a masterful job in securing significant donations that will enable The Arc to host future bocce events. Court’s True Value Hardware and Sprint Landfill Fort Bend County, contributed enough PVC pipe to make 10 bocce courts and a 12- foot, flatbed, trailer for the permanent storage and hauling of the pipe for future bocce games. The Dulles ROTC students cut the pipe to make the courts. Special thanks to Court’s True Value Hardware and to Sprint Landfill Fort Bend County.

Ever the networker, and as part of the ongoing collaboration for effective practices between The Arc and Texana Center, Allan Harris, Sr. made arrangements for an off-season loan of 3 bocce courts and 3 bocce sets to the Texana Missouri City Learning Center and 2 bocce courts to the Texana Rosenberg Learning Center. Allan, Jr. attends the Missouri City Learning Center and is a 4 year member of The Arc’s bocce team. He will now have the opportunity to practice year-round.

The core of the whole bocce effort was The Arc’s bocce family. Bocce coaches are Robert and Janet Pourciau; Janet Wantuch; Kathy Moynihan; Jeff Hoffman and Margo Pasko. Debbie Patton came on board as a brand new assistant coach this year. The athletes are Courtney, Carla, Carrie, Nicki, Katie, SanJuanita, Jennifer, Meredith, Whitney, Dominique, Sharon, Zayna, Matt, Kenneth, Christopher, Trevor, David, Tommy, Allan, Paul, Robert, Tom, Stevie, Michael, Tony, Russell, Tyler, and Rudy. Kelly Wheeler, former coach, made a guest appearance as the head referee for the games.

Now, sit back and enjoy the pictures of the event. For more photos, you may go to our website, [www.arcoffortbend.org](http://www.arcoffortbend.org).



# Coast Regional Bocce Tournament



# Special Olympics Softball News

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Margo Pasko



It was strike three for our softball teams—the third year in a row that their area 22 tournament was rained out! What a shame for them, after all their practice, and with brand new uniforms that will have to wait another year for use.

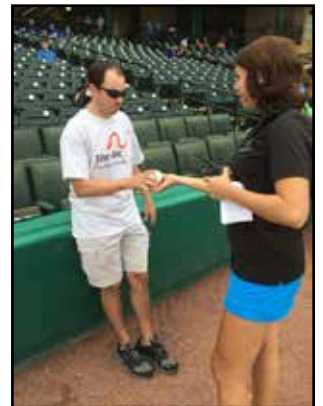
Not to worry, though, Larry Lobue, head of delegation, head softball coach and board member of The Arc, quickly arranged for the group to attend a Skeeters' playoff game in lieu of our athletes having their own game. Look at the pictures to see what fun they had! Thank you for planning the event, Larry!

Even better, The Arc's Kyle Eddlemon threw out the first pitch! Congratulations to Kyle! Kyle said he was happy that Skeeters' won their playoff game and had 5 homeruns: "Maybe that boost will give them that energy to win the series".

But that's not all! Swatson hung out with our team! And there was more! The Skeeters have a tradition of "passing the boot" each time a Skeeter's player hits a home run. The donations are split between the player and a designated charity. The Skeeters picked The Arc of Fort Bend County! But wait, there's still more! There were 5, count 'em 5 home runs! The Arc athletes must have been lucky charms for the Skeeters—they asked our players to come back for the next playoff game!

So, even though our softball athletes didn't get to actually play ball, they had a great end of season ball game!

The softball coaches this season were: Larry Lobue, Gary Schottle, Debbie Eddlemon, Jackie Butler, Gaylon Butler, Sharon Williams, Cathy Zepeda and Don Duyka. They coached 41 players divided among 3 teams. Thank you so much, coaches!



# Special Olympics Swim Team News

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Margo Pasko

The splashes were squelched for our swim team this year when it came time for the annual, Area 22 swim meet. Unfortunately, the pump for the pool at the Don Cook Natatorium broke down the week before the scheduled swim meet, so the meet had to be postponed. Even more unfortunate, all of the team's coaches were out of town on the date of the rescheduled meet, so our swimmers had to forego their competition this year. Not to worry though, the coaches made sure the team had season "closure"—they planned an end of season celebration at Cici's Pizza. At the party, the coaches previewed the beautiful new swim wraps with The Arc's logo that will be waiting for the swimmers when they return for the 2015 swim season. There were 14 swimmers who practiced for 8 weeks: Steve, Kenneth, Peter, Tim, Chance, David, Tommy, Mary, Wayne, JJ, Alex, Karen, Tony, Danny, Amanda and Monica. Head coach, Becky Geary, was assisted by Rudy Gonzalvo, Beth and Jimmy Jimenez. The Arc's swimmers and their families appreciate the dedication of the coaches!



# Special Olympics Golf News

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*Margo Pasko*

Tuesday, September 23 was a beautiful day for golf—clear skies and mild temperatures! The Arc’s golfers Mike Marshall, Stevie Meyer and Mike Garcia enjoyed the weather and had great outings at the Area 4 Special Olympics Golf Tournament at Cypress Lakes Golf Club. Their coaches Kelley Moseley and Ken Elliott said they were so proud of their guys!

Coach Kelley Mosely said “Congratulations to all. It was a beautiful day. Best weather we have had for a long time. Our guys did very well considering how many teams they competed against. It was a large group of players from all around the Houston area.” He and Coach Ken Elliott were also proud of Mike Marshall who recited the Pledge of Allegiance and Mike Garcia, “Big Mike”, who was in the torch parade of the opening ceremonies.

Stevie Meyer, with his dad, Buddy, as his caddy, won a silver medal in his division: single player, level 4, 9 holes. Mike Marshall partnered with his grandfather, Chuck Atwood, and took home a silver medal in his division: alternate shot team play, level 2. The newest athlete to the golf program, Mike Garcia, played with his dad, Raul Martinez. Big Mike and Raul took home a ribbon in their division: alternate shot team play, level 2. Great job, golfers!

Thomas Valdez, their golf pro instructor from GolfTEC Galleria, took the day off work to support our golfers. Thomas has been an incredible mentor for Stevie, Mike and Big Mike this year! He has donated many hours of video swing analysis instruction to help them improve their golf game. Thomas is a certified personal coach with over 10 years of teaching experience at several different facilities across Texas and Arizona. Thomas has taught over 1,500 lesson plus hundreds of clinics. He played Collegiate Golf for St. Edwards University in Austin.

We are so fortunate that Thomas has chosen to support our SO golf program. The golfers, their families and The Arc appreciate Thomas’s contributions to help our athletes improve their skills. We also appreciate the ongoing volunteerism of Coaches Kelley Mosely and Ken Elliott who make the golf program possible.



# Bocce Team Pizza, Pins and Towels

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Margo Pasko



The bocce players, families and caregivers got together for a rousing end-of-season party at Cici's pizza on Tuesday, October 7. Coaches Janet Wantuch and Kathy Moynihan planned the party, with Cici's providing a discount for the families. Janet and Kathy also provided end of the season bocce souvenirs. Thanks to Janet, each player was given a pin with a number indicating how many years they had participated in bocce. The five-year folks were very proud of their longevity! The "newbies" were delighted with the surprise. Thanks to Kathy, each player was given a bocce towel that she made, including grommets and clips! In case you didn't know, bocce towels are used to clean bocce balls before they're thrown so that the throwers' hands don't slip from dew or debris.



# TwentySomethings and Special Olympics Night at Skeeters

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Margo Pasko



On September 6, it was a "Two-Fer" at the Sugar Land Skeeters game for 48 members of The Arc's TwentySomethings group. It was a "Two-Fer" because it was the night that Skeeters sponsored an event for Special Olympics, a program in which many of our TwentySomethings members participate. Several of our TwentySomethings athletes wore their SO t-shirts with their Special Olympics medals as they handed out fliers to the fans, helped staff the raffle tables and more.

The Sugar Land Skeeters sported the bright red, special edition, Special Olympics Texas jerseys when they played against the Long Island Ducks. Fans had the opportunity to bid on the jerseys that were worn (and eventually autographed). One of the most popular jerseys during the bidding was that of our very own "Big Mike" Garcia, bat boy for the Skeeters! There was also a raffle for game tickets, first

pitch opportunity, and an inning in the dugout with the Skeeters team. Carrie Wantuch was tapped by Special Olympics staff members to draw one of the winning raffle tickets. We thought it might have been rigged when she read the name on the ticket that she drew: "Mike". However, we soon verified it was not her friend, Mike Marshall. The funds raised were for the benefit of the 51,000 Special Olympics Texas athletes.

Special thanks to Jeff Hoffman for donating the tickets to TwentySomethings!



# Transition Planning Program Presented to Fort Bend ISD

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*Margo Pasko*



On October 21, Margo Pasko, Director of Transition Programs, presented a program to Fort Bend ISD families regarding transition planning. Mike McDonald organized the program as part of the parent education series of Fort Bend ISD.

Transition, within school settings, refers to the coordinated set of activities which are designed to be results-oriented, and help the student move from school to post-school activities. Once a student graduates, there is no agency or organization in Texas that is responsible for taking over the many roles that school districts have played in students' lives.

Margo discussed available options for post-secondary education, community involvement, income and/or employment and living arrangements, while stressing the importance of using person-centered planning. She presented a list of resources, as well as case studies of successful and not-so-successful transition plans. On October 30, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) will unveil a new Transition and Employment guide! You can look for it at <http://www.transitionintexas.org>

## Skeeters baseball, a great community partner!

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*Margo Pasko*

We would like to take a moment (or part of a page) to recognize the contributions Skeeters Baseball has made to "quality of life for all". From their first season's commitment to hiring and supporting a diverse workforce, to their third season engagement with The Arc's Special Olympics program, Skeeters baseball has been a community leader.

In June 2013, Skeeters Baseball was honored as Employer of the Year at The Arc's annual awards banquet. They didn't "rest on their laurels", but have continued to reach out and support our programs.

This summer, they approached our Area Special Olympics program and asked, yes asked, to co-host the area 22 bocce tournament with The Arc of Fort Bend County, using the beautifully manicured outfield of Constellation Field for the courts. They donated not just the space, but hours of work from intern Carlos Rodriguez and the grounds crew, making the event truly awesome! And they want to co-host the tournament again next year!

When our softball team's tournament was rained out, Skeeters greatly discounted tickets so we could take our players and families to a game as consolation for missing their own competition. It was such a great outing, the next week Skeeters then donated 75 playoff tickets to our athletes and their families.

So, please join us in giving a huge THANK YOU to a great community partner, Skeeters Baseball!



# Night at the Fort Bend County Fair

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*Cheryl Sewell*

Thank you ROY CORDES and NICOLE MEHRENS for again hosting such a wonderful event!

The Fort Bend County Attorney and his office hosted an outstanding event for persons with disabilities on “Special Citizen’s Night” at the Fort Bend County Fair on Monday, September 29. The Arc was well represented with attendance by our Adult Social Recreation members, as well as the The Arc’s Kids & Youth Group. Everyone had an incredible time - enjoying BBQ, dancing, and socializing with newfound friends. Oh, they also screamed their heads off enjoying all those Midway rides! We sincerely thank Roy and all of the volunteers that make this a much anticipated annual event for everyone.



## Does your child or adult have XXYY Syndrome?

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The XXYY Project, an international organization serving families and/or caregivers of boys and men diagnosed with 48, XXYY syndrome, is seeking contact with XXYY families. If your child, adult, sibling or person you care for is diagnosed with XXYY and you do not already know the XXYY Project, please contact us.

Some males diagnosed with XXYY were told that their diagnosis was “a variant of Klinefelter Syndrome\*” (which is actually 47, XXY) and may not be aware that XXYY is not the same as Klinefelter Syndrome. Please check your medical records for your exact diagnosis if this rings a bell.

Contact the XXYY Project at:

Phone (Colorado): 720-222-9489, or toll free 844-XXYYGUY (844-999-9489), extension 1

Web site: [www.xxyysyndrome.org](http://www.xxyysyndrome.org)

Email: [inquiry@xxyysyndrome.org](mailto:inquiry@xxyysyndrome.org)

\*If your diagnosis is actually Klinefelter Syndrome, 47, XXY, contact with AXYS at [www.genetic.org](http://www.genetic.org) (888) 999-9428. AXYS also serves people with 47, XYY and Trisomy X.





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](http://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  
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**“Engaging All Students in Inclusive Classrooms”**  
**February 4-5, 2015**  
**Embassy Suites Hotel and Conference Center**  
**San Marcos, Texas**

[http://www.thearcoftexas.org/site/PageServer?pagename=events\\_inclusion\\_conference#registration](http://www.thearcoftexas.org/site/PageServer?pagename=events_inclusion_conference#registration)