

Save the Date

Celebrating Abilities

March 1, 2014
Farmers Market at Imperial
9:00 am to 1:00 pm

Resource Fair

March 1, 2014
Dulles High School
9:00 am to Noon

Telfair Annual Charity Walk

May 3, 2014
Sugar Land, TX

Golf Classic 2014

June 16, 2014
Weston Lakes Country Club

Athletic Banquet

June 28, 2014
Missouri City
Community Center

Annual Meeting / Awards Dinner

June 30, 2014
Safari Texas
5:30 - 8:00 pm

Donate your vehicle today!

tax deduction and free towing

 **(877) ARC-CARO**
(877) 272-2270

Fort Bend County Office of Emergency Management Unveils Ready Bingo

Fort Bend County Office of Emergency Management unveiled Ready Bingo at the Fort Bend County Coordination Council meeting in October. Ready Bingo was created to be a fun tool to help educate citizens on Emergency Preparedness. The idea was born as the result of a conversation Kathy Renfro, Planning Coordinator from the FBC OEM, had with Cheryl Sewell, Director of Youth Programs at The Arc of Fort Bend, about outreach ideas that would assist different populations on how to be prepared in the event of an emergency. Sewell suggested that OEM create a bingo game for emergency preparedness and she offered her assistance to help with the development. Ready Bingo is now a reality being produced exclusively by Ready Houston for the region.



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 2013-2014**

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Chairman

Stewart Jacobson

Vice Chairman

Jenny Gortney

Treasurer

Jack Molho

Secretary

Becky Geary

MEMBERS AT LARGE

Patrick Bullard

Karen Daly

Himesh Gandhi

Avis Goldy

Charlie Huber

Sharon Lee

Larry Lobue

Diana Rushing

Mary Stephney Quinby

Laurel Wendt

Monica Wright

Executive Director

Laura LaVigne

Education Advocate

Cheryl Sewell

Employment Specialist

Margo Pasko

Program Director

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

Self-Advocates “Voices Engaged”

Jody White

The Advocates of Fort Bend County are participating in a Self Advocates “Voices Engaged” training course with self-advocates from the Richmond State-Supported Living Center. Shaun Bickley, Self Advocate Coordinator with The Arc of Texas, will be coming from Austin each month for six months to train our group on different topics.

I went to Austin with Precious Pickett, Self Advocate Advisor, for a meeting about the trainings. We will both serve on the SAVE grant Project Advisory Committee and attend quarterly meetings.

Some of the training topics that will be covered are:

- Self Advocacy
- Self-Determination
- History of the Disability Rights Movement
- Person Centered Planning
- Safety
- Circle of Support

We are looking forward to this great opportunity for our group!



Rip Roarin’ Rodeo Fun

Cheryl Sewell



The Fort Bend County Rodeo Association organized their second annual Exceptional Rodeo event on October 4 for children with special needs. The Arc of Fort Bend rustled up some young cowpokes to partake in the festivities and we were mighty glad to oblige! Brazos ISD was represented by Kathleen Oldag’s MS class and FBISD was represented by Crockett MS (Chrissie Hutton’s class), Scanlan Oaks ES (Jenneane Cardenas’s class), and Sienna Crossing ES (Lezlie Bobbitt’s class). LCISD was represented by Velasquez ES (Sharon Horn’s class) while Needville ISD was represented by Laura Baranowski’s ES class and Tommy Svatek’s HS class. Approximately 55 children were able to participate in the event and 55 educators and parents were delighted to watch and help out. Of course, there were a slew of student volunteers from LCISD helping out, the ER Committee, clowns, and many other people just as excited as the kids to be there. The organizers promised to expand the event next year so that even more children can participate - which is GREAT because I had 70 kids on my waiting list!

The younguns learned to rope a few steers, ride the barrels, race around a pole, and stay on a buck’n bronco. This was the first time for some of the students to ride a horse or participate in anything like this. Thanks to **Barbara Magana Robertson** with Magana Media and the entire Exceptional Rodeo Committee for organizing the event!

An Evening of Fun at the Fort Bend County Fair!

Cheryl Sewell

Thank you ROY CORDES and NICOLE MEHRENS for a wonderful time!

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 30. 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 a good time - enjoying BBQ, dancing, and socializing with newfound friends. Oh, they also screamed their heads off enjoying the Midway rides! We sincerely thank Roy, and all of the volunteers that make this a much anticipated annual event.

Thank You, again, Allison Wen and Safari Texas for hosting our 2013 Holiday Formal!

The beautiful Safari Lodge at Safari Texas was the scene of the 2013 Holiday Formal on Sunday, December 15. The event was generously hosted by Allison Wen, owner of Safari Texas. More than 180 members of The Arc's Social Recreation and TwentySomethings groups dined and danced the night away, dressed in their holiday finest.



Transition Planning Workshop presented to Fort Bend ISD Families

Margo Pasko

On October 22, The Arc of Fort Bend County 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 and Margo Pasko presented the program. Transition, within school settings, refers to the coordinated set of activities which are designed to be results-oriented, to 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. She used a graphic organizer as a tool to chart how families and their children's schools can work together to help with all these aspects of an individual's movement from the world of school to the world of adult life, suggesting specific goals and IEP objectives for the participating families. If you would like to learn how to use this transition planning tool, please contact Cheryl Sewell, director of Youth Programs for The Arc.

The Arc Family Matters

The Arc sends condolences to the Foss, Cushenberry, Lobue, Watkins and Williams's families.

- Byron Dwayne Foss passed away peacefully on November 10th at the age of 64 while surrounded by family and friends.
- Edwin Huffman, brother of Beverly Cushenberry, and uncle of Mikey Cushenberry, passed away on December 24, 2013, due to complications with Alzheimer's.
- Kathleen Lobue passed away on December 10. Kathleen was the wife of The Arc's board member and Special Olympics head of delegation, Larry Lobue and mother of Steven and Laryn Lobue.
- Zane Watkins passed away peacefully on November 22, 2013. Zane was awarded 'Volunteer of the Year' by The Arc of Fort Bend in 1995 for her work with children and adults with disabilities.
- Morris Stoller, father of Sharon Williams and grandfather of Ty Williams recently passed away. Sharon said, "He was 93 and ready to meet mom. We are so blessed to have such supporting and loving friends."

The Arc congratulates the following members:

- James Mayer has qualified to become a member of the Professional Bowlers Association. James is a recent graduate of Foster High School and the Texas Bible Institute. James has already bowled a perfect game! Way to go James!
- Kyle Eddlemon was given an award plaque for his work as a member of the Astros groundskeepers. The Texas Turfgrass Association has named the playing surface at Minute Maid Park "2013 Baseball Field of the Year"! Good job, Kyle!
- Congratulations to Laura LaVigne, our Executive Director, on the birth of her granddaughter, Ella Grace on January 15, 2014. Ella is the daughter of Ellen and Chris Register.
- Congratulations to Sarah & Mike Parkinson on the birth of their second son, Luke, on October 23, 2013. Luke is the nephew of Mike Cushenberry, one of our Special Olympics Athletes.
- Congratulations to Becky Geary who was named Travis Elementary's 2013-2014 Teacher of the Year. Becky is a member of the The Arc's Board of Directors.

Ribbon Cutting - Dulles High School Adult Transition Program Annual Exhibition

Margo Pasko

On November 14, 2013, Fort Bend Independent School District Special Education Coordinator, Michelle Lebleu, cut the ribbon for the opening of Dulles High School Adult Transition Program Annual Exhibition. This year's theme was "Creative Extravaganza"—and the exhibition certainly lived up to its name!

Veteran ATP teacher Hyacinth Pickersgill, was the Mistress of Ceremonies and event planner for the Exhibition. Paraeducators Roberta Boudreaux and Joseph LaBarbera assisted with the project. Dulles librarian, Ms. Hickl and library assistant, Ms. Flores, assisted Mrs. Pickersgill in staging the beautiful displays. The new items this year were pajama pants! The expo also featured handmade fabric gift bags, jewelry, ID lanyards, flower pens and many more items - all made by the students in the Adult Transition Program. Mrs. Pickersgill uses "work-based learning" to teach employment skills, i.e. staying on task, following multi-step direction, evaluating one's work, and taking pride in a job well done. Two of her students have actually started their own micro-enterprises of making and selling their own jewelry. They spoke of their successes and the pride they take in their work.

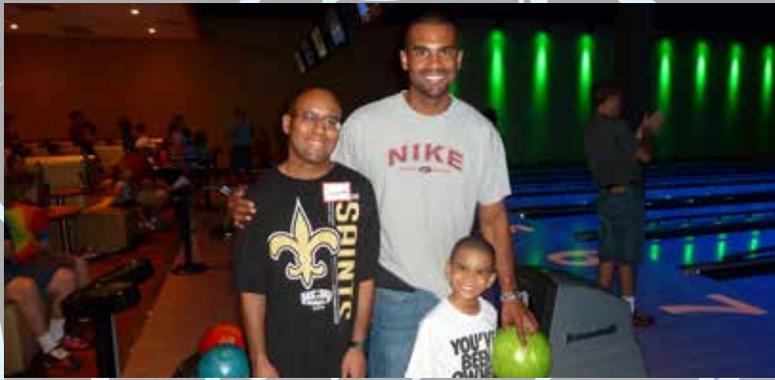
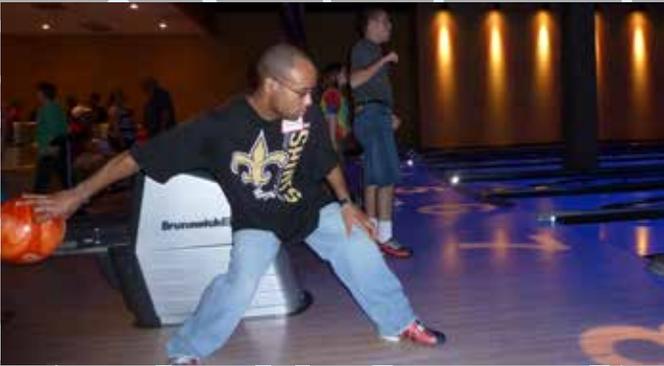
Some of the proceeds, minus costs, will be donated to The TwentySomething group of The Arc of Fort Bend County. The TwentySomething group provides social and family networking activities for students with disabilities after graduation from high school. The purpose of TwentySomethings is to welcome young adults with intellectual disabilities and their families as they transition from lives as students to lives as adults in the community. The Arc is grateful for the support of the Dulles Adult Transition Program students and looks forward to seeing them participate in The Arc activities.



TwentySomethings Spend Afternoon at The Main Event

Margo Pasko

On Sunday, November 17, The Arc's TwentySomethings members and families enjoyed an afternoon of bowling, arcade games and pizza at The Main Event in The Fountains.





2014 Special Needs Resource Fair & Senate Bill 7 Conference

Saturday – March 1

Dulles High School

550 Dulles Avenue • Sugar Land, Texas 77478

On-Site Registration starts at 8:00 am.

Sessions begin promptly at 8:30 am

Senate Bill 7, passed by the 2013 Texas legislature, will change the State's system for delivering Medicaid Waiver programs to individuals with I/DD.

If your loved one is currently enrolled in a Medicaid Waiver program or has been placed on a 10-15 year "waiting" or "interest" list through DADS, Texana Center or your local MHMRA, learn about the proposed shift to a "Managed Health Care" system.

All Medicaid Waiver programs will be affected:
HCS/CLASS/MDCP/TXHL/CBA/BDMD/etc.

Information for: Families/caregivers of children/adults with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities
(Diagnosis: Down Syndrome, IQ of 75 and below, "Borderline IQ," Autism/Asperger's/PDD/Cerebral Palsy, etc.

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

Who should attend: Parents, families, educators, social workers, therapists, high school or college students, Texana/MHMRA families, service providers/staff and any interested citizen. Open to public.

Free Event!
Rain or Shine

FREE
Child & Adult Care
Supervised by
2 behavior specialists
and high school students.

Cheryl Sewell: 281-494-5924 cbsewell@arcoffortbend.org

(Light refreshments available)



2014 Special Needs Resource Fair & Senate Bill 7 Conference

Saturday-March 1 Dulles High School
 550 Dulles Avenue • Sugar Land, Texas 77478

On-Site Registration: 8:00 am

8:30 am to 10:00 am.

Senate Bill 7

Medicaid Waiver Program vs Managed Health Care System: What will the change in the service delivery method mean for you, your loved one and your service providers?

Texana Center MHMRA of Harris County Private Providers Assoc. of Texas The Arc of Texas	Sheri Talbot – Authority Functions Manager Ken Collins – Deputy Dir of the IDD Services Division Carole Smith - Executive Director Ginger Mayeaux - Advocacy Specialist	Library Limited seating
--	--	---------------------------------------

9:30 am to 11:00 am

Guardianship and Alternatives to Guardianship

Discuss information on obtaining legal guardianship and alternatives to guardianship of an incapacitated loved one – whether due to I/DD or the aging process. An attorney will be present to answer questions.

Brazos Bend Guardianship Services	Kirk Monroe – Executive Director	Room "A" Limited seating
-----------------------------------	----------------------------------	--

11:00 am to 12:30 pm

Senate Bill 7

Medicaid Waiver Program vs Managed Health Care System: What will the change in the service delivery method mean for you, your loved one and your service providers?

Texana Center MHMRA of Harris County Private Providers Assoc. of Texas The Arc of Texas	Sheri Talbot – Authority Functions Manager Ken Collins – Deputy Dir of the IDD Services Division Carole Smith - Executive Director Ginger Mayeaux - Advocacy Specialist	Library Limited Seating
--	--	---------------------------------------

Resource Fair: 9:00 am to Noon

Focus on organizations that provide:

- Behavior therapy
- Local private specialty schools
- Community fun/sports/leisure activities
- Faith-based organizations
- Childcare & private-pay adult day habilitation centers
- Other agencies to be represented

For additional information: Cheryl Sewell cbsewell@arcoffortbend.org or 281-494-5924

The Arc of Fort Bend County: www.arcoffortbend.org

Senate Bill 7

SB 7 requires the transfer of the Medicaid long term services and supports for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) into a single managed care system by 2020. This includes HCS, CLASS, DBMD and TxHmL waivers and the ICF/IID program, but not State Supported Living Centers.

Acute Medical Services: Medicaid acute care services would be provided through a capitated managed care program [STAR, STAR Kids, or STAR+PLUS] operated by a Managed Care Organization (MCO -generally operated by large insurance companies).

Medically Dependent Children's Program (MDCP): MDCP would be eliminated. MDCP would be replaced by a mandatory STAR Kids capitated managed care program for children. As written, SB 7 does not clearly state that all services currently available in MDCP would be provided in the new program, however, legislative staff have clearly stated that the intent is that all services would be available.

Texas Home Living (TxHmL): TxHmL would be transferred to the managed care system first – no later than Sept. 1, 2017. HHSC would be required to determine whether to cease operating the TxHmL waiver because all of the waiver's services are provided via managed care as an entitlement, whether to continue operating the TxHmL waiver to provide those services that are not included in managed care, or eliminate a portion of the services currently available to people receiving services from the TxHmL waiver.

Residential Changes to Reduce Costs: SB 7 would require prior authorization before a person could receive services in a group home in order to restrict access to only those that cannot be served in a less restrictive setting. SB 7 would also require the development of housing options, including the most restrictive settings, to reduce the cost of residential services.

Voluntary Transition to Managed Care: – HCS, CLASS and DBMD waiver participants would not be required to transition to managed care. Persons receiving waiver services may choose to remain in their waiver program or transition to managed care. However, participants who choose to transition from their waiver program to managed care will not be permitted to transfer back to their previous waiver program. The Commission would decide whether to continue to operate the waivers and the ICF/IID program for the purpose of providing supplemental services not available in managed care (Star+Plus) or for only those who choose to remain in a waiver program.

Pilot Capitated Managed Care Strategies for Persons with IDD: DADS may test capitated, managed care strategies with a private provider by Sept. 1, 2016 for no longer than two years. The pilots would coordinate services provided through community ICFs and Medicaid waiver programs, and integrate long term services and supports with acute care services. A waiver program recipient's pilot participation would be voluntary.

Community First Choice: A basic attendant and habilitation service for 11,902 people with IDD would be administered by managed care organizations. Cost projections indicate that wages for those that provide habilitation services would be about 25% less than current HCS habilitation wages. IDD Local Authorities would coordinate the new CFC service, but would not provide the CFC service. Current CLASS, HCS and TxHmL providers would be eligible to provide the new IDD service.

Comprehensive Assessment: SB 7 would require DADS to implement a comprehensive assessment and resource allocation process that would provide a uniform mechanism to provide recommendations relating to type, intensity and duration for appropriate and available services based on each person's functional needs.

“Best in the West” Fundraiser Huge Success

Margo Pasko



On Saturday, November 23, 2013, the George Ranch Arena was the site of the blockbuster successful 35th annual “Best In The West” fundraiser for The Arc of Fort Bend County, presented by Prosperity Bank. The cold weather did not stop the huge crowd from rocking the arena! The crowd was invigorated by the excellent music of The Triumphs, the fabulous barbecue from The Swinging Door and the excitement of the live auctioneering by County Commissioner James Patterson.

Once again, the event chairs James Patterson, Ann Smith and Jo Ann Stevens produced an amazing evening. They were assisted by committee chairs Trudy and Ron Ortwerth (Ace in the Hole Auction); Jenny Gortney (cashier); Julie Fix, Vicki Ikeler and Barbara Magana Robertson (publicity); Theresa Bathe, Jean McCarver and Danielle Garrison (reservations); and Beverly Cushenberry, Jacque Burgess and Sarah Parkinson (silent auction).

Chris Breaux, of the accounting firm Whitley Penn, reprised his performance as Master of Ceremonies as he presented the list of the 22 sensational live auction items. Commissioner Patterson put his auctioneering skills to the test and enticed the crowd to bid on a variety of items from a “hunka, hunka, hunk of puppy love”, to the sought after King Ranch hunt for the elusive nilgai antelope, to a once in a lifetime journey to a fabulous resort in Bali, complete with airfare,

restaurant recommendations and spending money.

Trudy and Ron Ortwerth’s Ace in the Hole Auction was jam-packed with 18 unique and exciting items. Here is a sampling: 4 tickets to KILTs 10 Man Jam Concert at Bayou City Music Center, Lunch for 4 with State Representatives John Zerwas and Rick Miller, diamond earrings combined with dinner at Perry’s and a stay at the Marriott.

The silent auction was awesome in the depth and breadth of exciting items offered! The silent auction corral sponsors were: The Arc of Fort Bend County, Big Boys’ Woodshed, Fort Bend ISD, Lone Star Pet Lodges, Meyer/Paradigm Consultants, Mike’s Christmas Corral—Cushenberry/Parkinson/Bryan, OakBend Medical Center, RE/MAX Fine Properties, St. Michael’s Emergency Rooms, and Texas Christmas by Southern Sister and Friends. OakBend Medical Center had the most elegant corral—they brought in granite slabs to display their items, and completed their décor with large oak limbs, to remind the bidders of OakBend. Very classy!

The evening was underwritten by many generous sponsors. Prosperity Bank was the presenting sponsor for the evening, designated as World Champion. Sprint Fort Bend County Landfill was the Gold Buckle sponsor. At the Bronze Boots sponsorship level were Aviles Engineering, Dannenbaum Engineering Corporation and Sugar Land Rotary Club. Rhinestone Cowboy sponsors were Aliana Development Company, Classic Chevrolet, Frost Bank, Hal Marshall and Citibank, and Van De Wiele & Vogler, Incorporated. Silver Spurs sponsors were: AECOM, Allegiance Roofing, Bailey Architects, Inc., Bud Light/Silver Eagle Distributors, County Judge Bob Hebert, EPIC Transportation Group LP, Huitt-Zollars/Greg Wine, Johnson Development, Jones & Carter Inc., Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP, Parsons Brinckerhoff, PGAL, Property Acquisition Services, Raymond James & Associates, The Murillo Company, WJ Interests LLC. One hundred fifty other individuals and companies purchased tables in support of The Arc.

Finally, would you call it good karma or good car-ma? In 2010, Kevin Casey restored and donated a vintage Mustang to be raffled off at The Best In The West. Here we are, 3 years later and Kevin was the lucky winner of the raffle for the fabulous, replica, vintage Mercedes Benz Gazelle, so generously donated by County Judge Bob Hebert. What goes’ round comes round’...

The mission of The Arc is to ensure opportunities for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to maximize their quality of life within our community. Proceeds from The Best in the West will be used for a wide variety of services and advocacy for quality of life for all. Funds will be used to maintain group homes and learning centers that The Arc leases to HCS providers; maintain townhomes leased to clients; support the self-advocates group; provide social and recreational activities for over 130 clients, such as the annual holiday formal, monthly dances, weekly bowling league and other awesome outings. The proceeds will also support The Arc’s legislative and educational advocacy programs, the youth group programs, the Special Olympics program covering 8 different sports with more than 130 athletes, the employment services program, and the TwentySomethings transitional group.



THANK YOU to all who came out and made this such a successful night. We hope you had as much fun as we did! Please mark your calendars to save the date for **Saturday, November 22, 2014!**

Raising a Joyful Noise!

Cheryl Sewell



Our Kids and Youth Group Families always enjoy Karaoke night at the Skeeter's Restaurant on Lexington Avenue in Sugar Land. Skeeter's schedules Ysidro Merlos to DJ Karaoke every Thursday night from 7 pm to 9 pm and it's open to the public. We certainly raised a joyful noise which was heard on high and out the door, I'm sure! Our songs were a mixture of Christmas Carols, Willie Nelson, Katy Perry, and Marilyn Manson. We're an eclectic bunch!



Special Olympics Golf, Area Tournament News

Margo Pasko



The Arc's Special Olympics golfers Mike Marshall and Stevie Meyer had a great outing at their first Special Olympics regional golf tournament on September 23, at Cypress Lakes Golf Club. It was perfect weather for golf! New coaches Kelley Moseley and Ken Elliott reported that they enjoyed their rookie year coaching their first Special Olympics athletes and were proud of their athletes. For the Special Olympics golf tournament, Mike partnered with his grandfather, volunteer Chuck Atwood, and Stevie partnered with his Dad, volunteer Buddy Meyer. Be sure to look at the photo gallery!

Coaches Kelley and Ken made the season happen, in all aspects! They began by contacting James Brown, the head golf professional at Riverbend Country Club. The Arc sincerely appreciates their generosity towards our

program. Not only did Riverbend donate the use of its facilities, but Pro James gave teaching assistance, and the use of the course and carts. Riverbend Country Club is a private club located on Dulles Avenue in Sugar Land. It has 18 holes of Championship golf, an exceptional practice facility and excellent teaching professionals, not to mention a supportive, inclusive attitude! The golf would not have been possible without Coaches Kelley and Ken, Riverbend Country Club and golf professional James Brown's support.

The Arc also appreciates the support of GolfTEC and Thomas Baird, PGA member and Certified Professional Golf Coach. Thomas provided multiple videotaped swing evaluation sessions to Stevie and Mike to help them prepare for the regional golf tournament. Thomas Baird has been with GolfTEC since February 2003 and has been a member of the PGA for 15 years. He has taught mid, low and high handicappers, men, women, juniors, tournament players and Special Olympics participants.

Thank you to Coaches Kelley Moseley and Ken Elliott for your commitment!





Fall Classic

Margo Pasko

On Thursday, October 10, 2013, part of The Arc Special Olympics delegation hit the road to compete at the annual Fall Classic Statewide Games in College Station. The aquatics team and bocce athletes were ready to show their skills! The participating athletes had 3 months of training in their sports, developing physical fitness, demonstrating courage, experiencing joy and participating in the sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community. More than 40 people were in the delegation that attended Fall Classic. A big thank you is extended to all of The Arc financial supporters who made the trip possible and to the volunteers who did everything from running practices to chaperoning athletes in their rooms, serving dinner, administering medications, hauling equipment, supervising athletes everywhere they went.

This year, The Arc sponsored the Aquatics team for the trip. The bocce team's trip was made possible by Chevron which financially matches the dedicated volunteerism of volunteers Robert Pourciau and Kelly Wheeler. Softball's Fall Classic was in Conroe, not College Station, so they commuted for their games.

Aquatics was led by Coaches Diana Rushing, Rudy Gonzalvo, Beth Jimenez and Becky Geary. The swimmers who participated were: Chance, J.J., Monica, Karen, Steve, Danny, Peter, Anthony, and Wayne. The team was assisted by Fall Classic volunteers Don Ries, Joanne and Robert Bily, and Anita Smith. Throughout the season, they also had the volunteer assistance of Ronnie Smith, Maria and Carolina Tellez, Jeannette Ries, Cristy Caruthers, and Carolyn Spiceland. The team was able to use the brand new 12 passenger van that was made possible by a grant from the Fondren Foundation. Jazmine and Jimmy Ross, J.J.'s sister and brother in law, donated the beautiful blue team t-shirts—great color and cool graphics! Coaches Diana and Becky had some wonderful Facebook picture postings of their group. We hope we haven't forgotten to name any of the incredible folks who made the season possible!

Ten bocce athletes, 5 doubles teams, had great fun in the gorgeous weather at College Station! Good thing we played doubles, not singles: those athletes had 4 inches of rain the next day during their games! The bocce athletes, by team, were: Courtney and Katie, Chanta and Carrie, Tom and Allan, Russell and Tony, Whitney and SanJuanita, a/k/a "J". The new bright orange bocce shirts were the hit of the event and several delegations asked where we got them. Coach Kelly picked the color and we give the graphic credit to Kathleen Lobue and the design staff at Blue Jungle. The bocce coaching staff was led by head coach Robert Pourciau. The other certified coaches were: Janet Pourciau, Janet Wantuch, Kelly Wheeler, Jeff Hoffman and Margo Pasko. The coaches thank 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.

Softball was led by Head of Delegation and head coach Larry Lobue, and by Debbie Eddlemon, with help from Gary Schottle, Jackie and Gaylon Butler, Cathy Zepeda, Sharon Williams, Don Duyka, Carl and Annette LaSala, Liz Garcia, Raul Martinez, Tom Kail and Desi Marshall. Also, big thanks to Malvika Pandya for bringing doughnuts every morning. If we have missed anyone, please let us know!

The Angels team took third place. Angels players were: Michael Cushenberry, Kyle Eddlemon, Albert Gonzales, Tyrone Frederick, Mike Garcia, Derek (Tank) Schottle, Andrew Kase, Timmy Trachier, Michael Kidd, Mike Marshall. Coach Larry Lobue said "I would like to thank the Angels for being great sports despite being shorthanded and for being gentlemen off the field."

The Wolverines also took third place. The Wolverines players were Kimberly Butler, Tereny Baker, Lucas Castro, Blaine Hylton, Aaron Lindsey, Nathan Kail, Jason Lungstrum, Mainak Pandya, Ty Williams, and Nicole LaSala.

Debbie Eddlemon said "We had beautiful weather for the weekend. The athletes had a great time. We all enjoyed the end of softball season with dinner at Spring Creek. Thanks to all the families for the donations!"

Aquatics



Bocce



Softball



Volleyball Teams competed in the Gulf Coast Area Volleyball Tournament

Margo Pasko

The Arc of Fort Bend County's three volleyball teams competed in the Gulf Coast Area volleyball tournament on Saturday, November 9, 2013 in Texas City. Jackie Butler's Sharks brought home silver medals. Marilee Terrazas's Doves won bronze medals. Debbie Eddlemon's Angels brought home gold medals.

Head of delegation Debbie Eddlemon said that the coaches did a great job during the practice season and at the tournament. The Arc delegation appreciates the commitment of these coaches who work so hard to make Special Olympics a positive experience for the athletes.

Member of the Angels were: Mike Cushenberry, Ryan Darnell, Kyle Eddlemon, Tyrone Frederick, Andrew Kase, Tony Presson, Bridget Stephney, Mike Garcia, David Russell, and Michael Kidd.

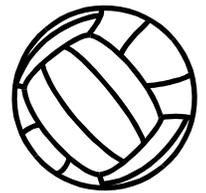
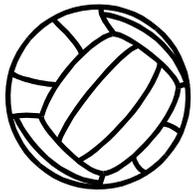
Marilee Terrazas's Doves were: Ty Williams, Blaine Hylton, Jacqui Russell, Aaron Lindsey, Scott Johnson, Stevie Meyer, Mainak Pandya, Russell Smith and Rachel Terrazas.

Jackie Butler's Sharks were: Tereny Baker, Kimberly Butler, Trevor Dow, Paul Hennecke, Nicole LaSala, Aniecia Mouton, Rudy Vasquez, and Zakre Warford.

Congratulations to the athletes and thank you to the coaches, chaperones, other volunteers and financial supporters of The Arc of Fort Bend County who made it possible for the athletes to participate!

Head volleyball coach Debbie Eddlemon thanks all the coaches and the parents who stepped up and followed the bus, with special thanks to Don Dukya!







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

Membership Form

Date: _____

Please indicate New Member Renewing Member

Member Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

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

E-mail Address: _____ HCS Provider: _____

I am a:

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

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

Membership Levels:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Additional Tax Deductible Donation: \$ _____

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

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

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

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

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

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

Non-Profit Org
US Postage
PAID
Sugar Land, TX
Permit No 19

Achieve with us.



Add us as your friend and
keep in touch with all
events at The Arc!
[facebook.com/arcoffortbend](https://www.facebook.com/arcoffortbend)



**Fort Bend Junior Service League
Awards
The Arc of Fort Bend
\$10,000
to Support Our Special Olympics Delegation**

