

THE CONNECTION

Official Newsletter of Cole County Residential Services, Inc.

April 2006

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D.O.Chair
- **Alan Mudd**
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- **Marcressie Henley**
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- **Hannelore Fischer**
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Board Members

- **Michael J. Rehagen**
- **Betty A. Stokes**
- **Neva Thurston**
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CCRSI respects individual choice by providing quality services and supports to people who have developmental disabilities.

POLITICS AS USUAL?

By Jim Casey




Tom Pohlman (left) and Sandra Donelin, just two of the many participants attending a Medicare/Medicaid rally at the Capitol

When it comes to politics, there is no such thing as “usual”. Our world is ever changing – environment, people, governments, you name it. Change is not bad in and of itself. Our opposition to change is what causes stress. We should not just embrace change as “a given” but should participate in change for the betterment of all.

President Bush and the federal Congress want to change a lot about how we receive services and entitlement programs. Most want to cut services yet can’t seem to agree on how much to cut. We can either “wait and see” what they come up with and then try to live with it; or, we can get involved and let our people in Congress know what we would like to see. I suggest we get involved.

In the Missouri Legislature, we also see plenty of activity that will bring about change. Some of the change this year is an attempt to “fix” some of the mistakes legislators believe they made last year. So far, we are seeing positive reaction to a request to send additional funds to the Sheltered Workshops, additional money to the Department of Mental Health for residential supports and various other programs, which will directly affect the services we provide and need. There is a diligent effort to eliminate all wages made at the sheltered workshop from the formula establishing the Medicaid spend down. It may be that you are pleased with all of this or you might have opinions of different needs. One thing is for sure. You have no right to take credit for positive strides made or to complain and criticize if you do nothing but sit back and wait for things to happen.

Our lives are intertwined with many, many others and it is our responsibility to make our voices heard. As you have heard before, Justin Dart, a man who worked tirelessly for people with disabilities said to us, “You better get involved with politics as if your life depended on it – because it does!” Make change happen the way you want. Get involved!



SPECIAL OLYMPICS
USA NATIONAL GAMES

Special Olympics National Games

July 2-9, 2006
Ames, Iowa

Congratulations to All Area Participants

David Fuhr, Jefferson City	Steven Harris, Jefferson City
Corey Johnson, Jefferson City	Kevin Kempker, Jefferson City
Derek Sandbothe, Jefferson City	Rodney Stokes, Jefferson City
Keith Lueckenhoff, Alternate, Jefferson City	James Morris, Alternate, Jefferson City
Chris Mounts, Alternate, Jefferson City	

Spotlight On Board Member Michael Rehagen



Michael Rehagen, Board Member

Michael Rehagen was raised in Jefferson City. He is a graduate of Helias High School and Lincoln University with a major in Accounting. He has worked for the Department of Social Services for 20 years and for a total of 28 years for state government. Mike is married to Paulette, a special services teacher for the Jefferson City School District and they have a son, Andrew, who is a junior at Helias High School. Michael enjoys walking, coaching his son's ball teams and being a spectator at a variety of sporting events.

Michael was appointed to the Cole County Special Services Board on March 1, 1992. He held the office of Treasurer from December 14, 1995 – November 16, 2000, and he served as the Board Chair from November 16, 2000 – November 18, 2003. He has also served on the Request for Funds Committee (Finance Committee), the Planning Committee, and the Personnel Committee.

When asked why he volunteered to be a board member, Michael said, "Since I have a brother with developmental disabilities, I was always interested in volunteering time to help these individuals live a more productive life. I knew my time spent on this board would be a rewarding experience and enable me to help disabled individuals do more with their lives."

Since Michael started his service on the board, CCRSI has expanded its residential facility capacity by an additional four facilities and opened a dedicated respite care facility. Michael says, "I have learned that individuals with developmental disabilities in many cases just need a little extra assistance to make their lives more complete. These individuals are very proud when they are trained to do more for themselves." Michael feels strongly the greatest need for the Board in the up coming years is to continue to meet the needs for safe and well-staffed residential facilities.

Michael would like to encourage everyone to take the time to attend as many of the functions sponsored by Cole County Residential Services, Inc. to see first hand how well our agency provides great opportunities for Cole County residents with developmental disabilities.

Michael has demonstrated that he really cares about the clients our agency serves. Michael also has proven to CCRSI staff that he is concerned we have qualified and well-trained staff, who will be treated well with great benefits and justifiable wages for the support work they do. Thanks, Michael, for all you do for CCRSI.

By Selena Fuller, Executive Assistant



Annual Bar-B-Que Scheduled

Mark your calendars for the annual CCRSI Bar-B-Que. The location will be McClung Park Indoor Pavilion on Thursday, June 29, 2006. Postcards will be mailed out with specific details in the near future.



Pictured above is Cris Henley presenting a check for \$1,270 in Calendar sales to Diane Brimer on February 22, 2006.

Exchange Bank Donates Proceeds From Calendar Sales to Special Olympics

Exchange Bank funded and helped sell 2006 Calendars of original artwork produced by residential clients from Cole County Residential Services, Inc. These Calendars were sold and enough money was raised to "fill in the gaps" in funding for the six Cole County residents, including three of whom reside in CCRSI placement. These athletes will be representing Missouri in basketball this July in Ames, Iowa.

Kyle Ament, Program Services Director

CCRSI Hires An Accountant

Melody Troesser was hired January 20, 2006 as an Accountant at CCRSI. Melody is working full time and is officed between Jerry Miller and Kyle Ament at 1908 Boggs Creek Road, Jefferson City, Missouri.

Melody holds a BS Degree in Accounting from Columbia College. She has over 25 years of accounting experience. Melody served as Controller at the Callaway Community Hospital in Fulton, Missouri before starting at CCRSI. Her duties include responsibility for the financial services function at CCRSI. The position is part of the agency management team. She will work closely with, and provide consult to, the agency director and other department heads and facility managers to ensure the agency financial management is in compliance with governmental regulations and other best accounting practices.

Melody lives on a farm with her family near Fulton and appears to enjoy the slower pace of work at CCRSI. She commented about everyone smiling here at CCRSI. We are smiling because she is here and having her as part of the team. Come by and say hello to Melody Troesser.



Melody Troesser, Accountant

By Jim Lowery, HR Supervisor

Case Management Sponsors Relationships Class



Stacey Harrison from CMRC's Quality Assurance & Support Team

The Case Management department is sponsoring a class for our consumers called "Relationships Are For Everyone". This is the only Department of Mental Health sanctioned class of its kind in Central Missouri. Teresa McSwain and Stacey Harrison, both with the Central Missouri Regional Center's (CMRC) Quality Assurance & Support Team, are co-teaching the six-week class. Each class will also be attended by at least one case manager from our agency. This is the second class that has been offered through our agency since case management services were started under the name Cole County Special Services (CCSS) in August 2003. Prior to that time our consumers had access to the class with CMRC through their CMRC case manager. Currently, eligible consumers in Cole County have a choice of receiving services from the County or the State. This class also continues to be offered at CMRC for anyone eligible and willing to participate. The first class at CCSS consisted of approximately 15 participants in January 2005. A smaller class was recommended this year with a total of 8 voluntary participants. The class started March 7 and will go through April 11. We hope to be able to offer this class in the future at least on an annual basis.

Individuals with disabilities are often the targets of physical, sexual, or emotional abuse. Too often it is not seen as wrong by the individual, especially if the offender is a trusted staff or family member. The purpose of this class is to teach our consumers what is and is not appropriate behavior both for them and for others as well as how to say no should they ever feel uncomfortable with someone.

Some of the topics covered include friendship, public safety, personal rights and laws, safe and consensual sex, personal space, and identifying sexual abuse and how to report it. This year the curriculum has expanded to include computer safety due to the increased availability of the internet in today's world and the presence of online predators. Each participant will receive a Certificate of Completion for going through the course.

This class has received excellent feedback in the past from staff, consumers, and families. Some consumers have even chosen to take it more than once. We hope to be able to offer this class to others in the future so that everyone has a chance to gain the knowledge and self-awareness that other consumers have through taking this class. Anyone interested in taking the class should contact their CMRC case manager at (573) 526-7684 or their CCSS case manager at (573) 634-4555. The case managers would like to extend sincere thanks to Teresa McSwain and Stacey Harrison for taking their time to help our consumers become more educated about these topics.

By Charlotte Jones, Cole County Special Services Case Manager II

In the News



Jim Lowery, HR Supervisor

The following article was recently written by Jim Lowery, HR Supervisor and published in the March, 2006 edition of the International Public Management Association for Human Resources (IPMA) monthly newsletter called "NEWS". IPMA provides professional training and informational resources to human resource professionals throughout the world. Jim Lowery was also recently named to the IPMA 2006 HR Technology Committee which held its first teleconference on March 15, 2006 with its 28 members from throughout the continental USA. Mr. Lowery holds the IPMA-CP certification. For more information about the IPMA or the article please contact Jim by e-mail at jimlowery@ccrsi.org or call him at 573-636-9832, ext 309.

By Jim Lowery, HR Supervisor

Hall of Famer

Gordon Barnes Inducted for 27 Years of Special Olympics Involvement

*By Michelle Brooks
mbrooks@newstribune.com*



Special Olympian Gordon Barnes checks the course before teeing off at the first tee during the nine-hole alternate shot competition at the Railwood Golf Club in this 2003 file photo. (Stephen Brooks/News Tribune photo)

Gordon Barnes is the 2005 Hall of Fame Special Olympics Missouri inductee. When that was announced recently at the organization's annual banquet, Gordon's mother, Sarah Barnes, absolutely was floored, she said.

"How did this happen and I had nothing to do with it?" she said was her first thought. "With a handicapped child, you're in the middle of everything."

The Special Olympics award was followed by induction into the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame in Springfield.

Gordon has the hats, pins and plaques to show for it. But this is a great honor Sarah, 76, said she had wished would happen but never dared hope for. "It's a good feeling to realize somebody else is looking out after him too," Sarah said.

Gordon has played softball, golf, basketball and bocce, bowled and performed in track and field with Special Olympics for 27 years — ever since the Jefferson City Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department started the program, Sarah said.

In fact, Gordon and his mother have been a part of the beginnings of several programs in town for the developmentally disabled. Fifty years ago, no schools or activities were available to children like Gordon, Sarah said. So, Sarah and her late husband, Gordon, joined other parents to start the Peter Pan School (which progressed into the Special Learning Center). Then, this motivated group of parents discovered how to start a state-funded school here. Gordon transferred to what became the Kenneth Kirchner State School when he was 6 years old. By the time Gordon was 16, the first sheltered workshop had been organized and he transferred there.

"We helped organize all those things," Sarah said of what are now well-established programs. "I remember what it was like going through with nothing to set up a future for him and now it's there." Today's parents of these children "don't have to worry about what they're going to do," she said. Through all of this, "we have known God has brought us places for a reason," Sarah acknowledged. "When you would get so down and no hope, something would come up to lift you up again."

About 35 years later, Gordon continues to work at Capitol Projects, Inc., with their box operations. "I don't think he will retire," Sarah said. As long as he gets his rolls of dimes and quarters for "Coke money," he's happy, she joked.

Special Olympics has provided balance for Gordon, Sarah said. He enjoys the challenge of bowling best these days. Susan Shaffer, competition coordinator for Special Olympics Missouri, said Barnes received the award for not letting challenges stop him from what he wanted to do, because he is a great sportsman and human being, and because he has been a unique spokesman for the organization throughout his 27 years.

But with athletic seasons running back to back, twice monthly meetings of Boy Scout Troop No. 213, and early Sunday mornings greeting people at First Baptist Church, Gordon's schedule is very busy. "Sometimes, you get so tired, you wonder if you can make it to the next practice or game," Sarah admitted. "But when you see the accomplishments, there's just some attraction that keeps you coming back."

Gordon has greeted members and first-time attendees at the church for about 10 years. "It's an excellent way he can minister every week," said Pat Perkins, who coordinates the greater ministry. "He has a special ability and has faithfully been using it for God for years."

Whatever the activity, Gordon wants to be a friend to everyone. When he recites the Scout Law, the qualities fit him, Sarah said.

"Give Gordon a chance at life, to have the happiness that he wants," Sarah said has been her only request. "It doesn't take much to satisfy him, just give him the chance to do what he's capable of doing." And the community has. Gordon said he is happy.

Reprint as seen in the News Tribune, March 6, 2006".

Never Give Up



Donna Borgmeyer

When I was 18 months old my parents found out I had cataracts on both eyes. I had two separate surgeries to remove the cataracts to improve my vision. The doctors did not give my parents much hope for my future, though. They said I would most likely not be able to attend public schools and would definitely not go to college. Guess what. They were wrong!

I attended Jeff City Public Schools, graduated from Jefferson City High School AND went on to earn a Bachelor of Science and a Masters of Science from Lincoln University. Keep in mind this was in the days before Section 504 and IDEA were in place. My mom had to work very hard with the Superintendent of Jeff City Schools to see that I got the help and materials I needed.

After I graduated from Lincoln University with my MS in sociology I began the hard road to employment. I took numerous Merit exams. I had several job interviews during which I said I was visually impaired and never heard from them again. A family member told me to contact the Governor's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped, (now the Governor's Council on Disability). I made the contact and a couple of months later was offered a position with the Governor's Committee. That was almost 30 years ago, and I am still here.

For the past six years I have held the position of Disability Program Representative and I love my job! So much so that even though I could have retired over two years ago I am still here and hope to continue to work for a good while longer. I now find myself on several state and local boards and councils. My self-confidence has increased to the point I surprise myself sometimes. I have moved from being a follower to being a leader, and I really like it.

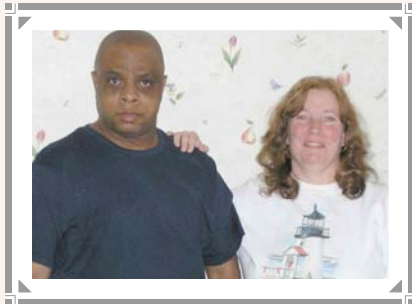
I will always be involved with the disability community in some way. I am the parent of a nineteen-year-old daughter who had multiple disabilities including cerebral palsy and visual impairments. She will be graduating from high school in May and at this point we do not know what she will be doing after graduation. However, I am sure something will turn up for her. Sarah is a very bright kid with physical limitations, but she has a lot to offer. We will find the right niche for her.

So, my advice, don't be discouraged. Doctors do not know everything. If my folks had listened to the doctors I would not be where I am today.

By Donna Borgmeyer, Disability Program Representative, Governor's Council on Disability

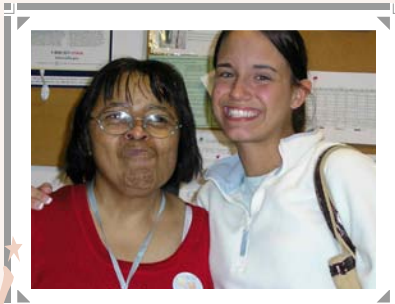
Employees of the Month

Congratulations to the staff members pictured below for being selected as Employees of the Month. Our sincere thanks to each of them for their service and dedication to those we serve.



December 2005

Phyllis Johnson (right) pictured here with Mark Warmack. Phyllis works as a Support Staff III in our facility located at 1800 Tanner Bridge Road.



January 2006

Candice McCarty (right) pictured here with Billie Jean Brown. Candice works as a Support Staff I in our facility located at 614 Delaware Street.



February 2006

Lauri Hollis (right) pictured here with Keith Pritts. Lauri is a Case Manager III and works at our facility located at 1908 Beggs Creek Road

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Please let CCRSI know if you want to stop receiving this newsletter or if you would like to receive it electronically. You may call, fax, or e-mail us. Also, please let us know if your address has changed. Thanks!

Important Events April thru June, 2006

Weekly Events: Swim Class: Every Thursday at Knowles YMCA from 8:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Please contact Sandy at CCRSI (634-4555) for current recreation openings or admission requirements.

Monthly Events: CCSS, CCRSI and Alpha Homes Board Meetings. Meetings are held the 4th Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. and most often held at CCRSI, 1908 Boggs Creek Road, Jefferson City, Missouri.

April 2006

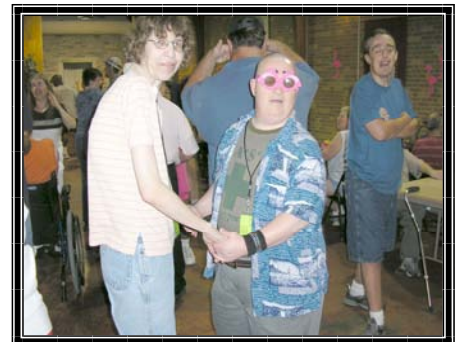
- 21 FNR Movie Night 6:30 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at Shilkes
- 22 Travel Op. Dogwood Festival
- 25 Board Meeting
- 28 FNR Hayride and Weinner Roast 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at Binder Lake
- 30 Travel Op. Pizza Lunch & Bowl 11:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

May 2006

- 5 FNR Cinco De Mayo 7:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. at McClung Park
- 12 FNR Fishing 5:30 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. at Binder Park Tackle Shop
- 19 FNR Walk the Katy Trail 6:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. at Katy Trail across Bridge
- 20 Tanner Bridge Group Home Walking Trail Dedication to Dave Newsomb Time TBA.
- 23 Board Meeting
- 24 -27 Special Olympic State Track and Field in Columbia

June 2006

- 1 Fist 8 Week Session for Swim Class
- 24 Special Olympic Central Area Softball Tournament (Higginsville)
- 22 Special Olympic District Softball Tournament
- 27 Board Meeting
- 29 CCRSI BBQ 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. McClung Park Indoor Pavilion
- 30 Special Olympics send off for area athletes for National Basketball Team in Columbia



Stanley Lueckenotte and Judy Dudenhoeffer dancing at FNR dance while Chris Short looks on.



John Kauffman at Union Station exhibit.