

Grant Helps Build Opportunity, One Job at a Time

“To each man is reserved a work which he alone can do.” —Susan Blow, Missouri educator

As one of three state-wide recipients of a Missouri Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities Employment Solutions grant, Triality is now poised to challenge the status quo by promoting an “employment first” philosophy, encouraging competitive employment opportunities for people with developmental disabilities and providing opportunities for all people to be engaged in community life.

Triality is built on the belief that in our culture, individuals define themselves by what they do and everyone should be allowed to explore opportunities for a fulfilling life. Triality works to open doors for integrated employment opportuni-



Allie is among those who have found work and satisfaction through a Missouri Planning Council grant. She explored numerous jobs at Michaels® in Liberty and in January became a part-time stocker.

ties—thereby providing individuals with disabilities a greater sense of self worth, additional chances for new friendships and more ways to become engaged in their local communities.

The customized program works with each individual and his or her team of advocates to promote personal growth. It first explores what an individual’s job interests and skills are, uncovers existing connections in the community and outlines a detailed career plan. Skill development and job training/coaching are provided as necessary.

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“The traditional employment model doesn’t always work for those with developmental disabilities,” said Stephanie Breaker, program director of Triality’s Employment and Community Services. “Our goal is to be the bridge between ‘can and cannot’ by looking at creative solutions versus barriers to employment. Integration with others in the workplace provides value to all parties, and we are passionate that all individuals have the right to pursue work that interests them at a competitive wage.”

Recipients of Missouri Planning Council grants are charged with providing regular and transparent feedback on the processes used in transitioning from seg-

regated, facility-based employment/day habilitation services so best practices and effective outcomes can be identified and tracked across agencies. In order to fine-tune the program from the onset, Triality initially is focusing on assisting five individuals currently in its Adult Day Services program who expressed a strong desire to find rewarding work. The program will expand once structural changes and the most effective strategies are in place.

Allie is one person who has found satisfying employment through the program.

With a strong interest in arts and crafts projects, Allie was involved in exploring different types of jobs at Michaels® in Liberty, when she was offered a temporary position to assist with the 2010 holiday season. Impressed with her commitment to the job and buoyed by an existing business relationship with Triality, Allie’s employer offered her a regular part-time job as a stocker in January 2011. She accepted and proudly states, “I love my job! I like being around people and it’s never boring.”

According to The National Report on Employment Services and Outcomes (2010) only seven percent of Missourians with developmental disabilities are “in integrated employment.” Fortunately, Triality is working to increase that number one job at a time.

For individuals, families and businesses wanting more information on Triality’s Employment and Community Services, contact Stephanie Breaker at 816-781-1888 or sbreaker@trialityinc.org.

Critical Bill Makes Deadline

House Bill 555 was passed by the Missouri legislature shortly before the end of the session. It represents the most sweeping changes in Missouri history for individuals with disabilities, with specific provisions covering individuals with a wide range of disabilities.

Pathways

Pathways is published quarterly for Clay and Platte County residents with developmental disabilities, their families and other interested persons. Funding is provided by participating agencies which include the Arc of Clay and Platte counties, CEADD, Concerned Care, Inc., Immacolata Manor, Northland Early Childhood Education Center, Platte County Board of Services, People First, Triality and Vocational Services, Inc. Contributing occasional articles will be Down Syndrome Guild, EFECT, Tri-County Mental Health Services, the Maple Valley State School and MCDD.

Editorial contributions are welcome. Content is intended to be positive and informational. Material may be edited and will be printed as space allows.

If you wish to receive Pathways, contact Betsy Keleher at 604-3043. We also appreciate help eliminating duplicate issues at a single address or unwanted issues. You may also download digital copies and sign up online for e-mail delivery.

Just point your browser to www.dgin-form.com/Pathways/.

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Efforts Create New Opportunities Statewide

Earlier this year, Arc reported on its lobbying efforts and the main event in Jefferson City in January in support of the Wait List Campaign. It is gratifying to see that these efforts contributed to a positive outcome.

Because of the work of families and other key advocates, approximately 1,300 people have been allocated \$12.8 million to reduce the waiting list, through House Bill 10. This will allow individuals with a priority needs score of 10, 11 or 12 in order to receive services.

What Made the Difference this Session?

The number one reason for the success was the families and self advocates who bombarded legislators. The Arc of Missouri sent several action alerts throughout the session. The response and emails were great in number, and the Legislators heard loud and clear the messages and stories of their constituents.

The Step Up! End the Wait event also heightened awareness with the legislature and the general public! The End the Wait event has been aptly renamed "The Shoe Event."

Advocates across the state have reported this to have made a huge impact and have also reported that their legislators remembered the event and had nothing but good things to report. It was common ground in which to get the conversation started during visits.

Nearly 2,000 advocates signed a letter to the Governor and General Assembly urging them to keep people with developmental disabilities and their families at the top of their thoughts when making tough decisions during 2011.

During the Shoe Event, the letter was presented to key legislators. Lt. Governor Peter Kinder, Representative Jeff Grisamore, Senator Scott Rupp, Senator Eric Schmitt and Speaker of the House Steven Tilly were among the many legis-

Arc

lators who attended the event to accept the letter on behalf of the General Assembly.

The Arc also ran radio ads and placed billboards around the state to increase awareness with the general public.

Special Standing Committee on Disabilities

Formation of a Special Standing Committee on Disabilities was announced at the Jefferson City event. This group, chaired by Representative Jeff Grisamore, has done some sterling work this session.

Tax Form Check-Off for Wait List Passed

Also passed this session was HB 631. This is a piece of legislation that creates a check-off box on the State tax form. This will allow individuals to donate to the newly created wait list equity.

The money collected will be used to serve only people with developmental disabilities on the wait list. It is not anticipated that this will be a large money generator but it is important, as it will help to raise awareness among the general public.

With the ongoing, tough economic climate and pressure to reduce budgets and services, it becomes increasingly important that we maintain a continuing and meaningful dialogue with legislators at the national and state levels and thus ensure that our case is heard and understood.

The Arc is committed to this process, but your support is vital. Only strength in numbers will help us win the day and get through the next few years of austerity. The Arc and its supporters have shown that it can be done. Let's maintain the momentum and our rightful share of the federal and state budgets. With your help, Arc will.

CEADD Celebrates Successful Summer

CEADD

Summer was great for the College Experience for Adults with Developmental Disabilities (CEADD), and here are the pictures to prove it! CEADD participants fished, watched a play, petted zoo animals and created art.

More is in store for CEADD this fall. Classes will include music, computers, crafts, holidays, books, food and more. CEADD will start Oct. 1 and end on Nov.

5 with another entertaining storyteller.

You should have received your enrollment and information brochure. If you have not, contact Betsy Keleher at (816) 604-3043.



“The Masquerade” Dinner, Auction Planned

Concerned Care is busy getting ready for its 12th annual dinner and auction. The event will be held on Friday, Oct. 28 at the Embassy Suites, KCI. The “Masquerade” theme will be carried out with decorations including masks designed by the various group homes and ISLs in CCI’s Residential Program.

Robert E. Miller Insurance and Tradebot are the underwriting sponsors. Highlights will include entertainment and announcement of the 2011 Corporate Award and the Star Achievement Award, which is given to a consumer for outstanding personal growth. The Karl Morris Legacy Award, named after retired longtime Director Karl Morris will also be given to an individual who has made a strong commitment of support to the agency. Robert Blanks, recipient of the 2010 Star Award, will be one of the greeters.

This year’s auction will feature some exotic items from Bahrain, a pair of large Chinese vases, beautiful jewelry, art, event tickets, gift certificates and many other unique and unusual items.

Reservations are required and the cost per person is \$50.00. Invitations will be mailed in September. For further information, call Carolyn Henry, Director of Development, at 816.474.3026.

New Board Members

Candyce Kuebler, Dr. Richard Kalbac, MD and Ed Brown have accepted positions on Concerned Care’s Board of Directors for three-year terms.

Kuebler is an executive administrative assistant for former ambassador Charles Price and has served on many boards throughout the years, including three years as President of the Parkhill School Board.

Dr. Kalbac has recently joined the staff of the Veterans Hospital after many years in private practice and association with

Concerned Care

North Kansas City Hospital.

Brown is owner and president of Cullum & Brown, an industrial equipment distributor located in North Kansas City. Ed is the son of Lloyd Brown, long time supporter of the agency and who we honored by naming the HUD Complex (The Lloyd & Carol Brown Opportunity Apartments) after.

Concerned Care is pleased to have these great community leaders join the board of directors.

Pathways on the Internet

Copies of *Pathways* are available at www.dginform.com/Pathways/.

You may also sign up to receive copies via e-mail which helps us cut costs and improve delivery. Just surf to www.dginform.com/Pathways/!

Partnership Brings Hope

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ment to the Partnership for Hope, waiver eligibility was expanded to include refinancing persons who were receiving services with total costs being paid by either the County or the Division of Developmental Disabilities and no participation by the federal government. With the refinancing and access to the federal program, savings to the county and state have been used to serve more people.

PCBS is excited to be participating in this new program and to be able to assist more people in Platte County.

Step Up Walk Offers Fun, Good Cause Oct. 29

This one-mile walk around Arrowhead Stadium has turned into a day of fun for the entire family at the 17th annual Step Up for Down Syndrome Walk & Family Festival.

Members of the Kansas City Chiefs offensive line will participate, including Rudy Niswanger, Ryan Lilja, Casey Wiegmann and Brian Waters. The festival is Saturday Oct. 29 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Arrowhead Stadium, Lot C. Food (hamburger and hot dog lunch), family games, pony rides, rock climbing walls, fire engines and music from Radio Disney are only part of the entertainment that will be provided at the Walk this year. Registration for the Step Up Walk is \$20 per person, ages 12 and up, and \$15 for guests 3-11. Two years old and younger are free. The registration price includes a Step Up Walk t-shirt, food and entertainment.

Learn more at www.stepupfordownsyndromekc.org or by calling 913-722-2499. Everyone is welcome! Walkers, strollers, the entire family should come out for a day of fun! Come and celebrate someone with Down syndrome!

About Down Syndrome

Down syndrome is a chromosomal disorder that affects one in every 691 births. It is one of the leading clinical causes of intellectual disability in the world. Individuals with Down syndrome are at higher risk for medical problems and language delays. Quality educational programs, along with a stimulating home environment and good medical care, enable individuals with Down syndrome to become contributing members of their families and communities.

Approximately 5,000 babies are born with Down syndrome in the United States

Down Syndrome Guild

each year, affecting about 400,000 families. There is a wide variation in the abilities, physical development, behavior and personalities of individuals with Down syndrome. Individuals with Down syndrome benefit from loving homes, appropriate medical care, inclusive education and positive public attitudes.

People with Down syndrome are first and foremost human beings, who happen to have recognizable physical characteristics and limited intellectual endowment, due to the presence of an extra chromosome 21.

About First Downs for Down Syndrome

The mission of First Downs for Down Syndrome is to raise money for the Down Syndrome Guild of Greater Kansas City, the Down Syndrome Clinic at Children’s Mercy Hospital and other Down syndrome organizations; to raise awareness of Down syndrome and the services of the Clinic and the Guild; and to create positive images of those with Down syndrome.

About the Down Syndrome Guild of Greater Kansas City

The Down Syndrome Guild of Greater Kansas City is a 501c3 nonprofit organization whose mission is to provide support and resources for individuals with Down syndrome and their families. DSG seeks to provide the entire community with information and education to broaden awareness and foster positive attitudes regarding people with Down syndrome.



Joplin Relief Effort Draws Area-Wide Support

By Dale R. Herrick Executive Director Immacolata Manor

I am writing to express to each of you our sincere appreciation for your help and special efforts to put together a truckload of items for our sister organizations in Joplin, Missouri. Through their outstanding effort, the Immacolata Manor Thrift Store assembled more than 100 large bags of men's and women's clothing for all seasons, which will help replace clothing for dozens of individuals who lost not only their homes but all of their personal belongings in this storm.

Local organizations participating in this event were the Community of the Good Shepherd in South Kansas City, Concerned Care Inc. (CCI), the Center for Developmental Disabilities in Kansas City and Immacolata Manor. These organizations contributed 7 complete single bed sets, extra headboards and frames for additional beds, 20 gallons of heavy-duty



Immacolata

cleaning and disinfecting products, boxes of electric toothbrushes, personal hygiene items and many boxes of paper products which will be of great value to those in need. In addition, over 14 pieces of medical equipment were provided, as well as many boxes of household items important to people who are trying to restore their homes.

A large thank you must go to Randy Hylton and his organization, Vocational Services, Inc., for providing one of their large box trucks for us to pack and move all of these items. Many other individuals associated with different agencies also provided not only items from their own homes but also financial donations, which in total equaled more than \$600 in cash.

These donations went directly to four non-profit agencies in Joplin that had several homes serving adults with developmental disabilities who lost everything and are now trying to reestablish.

(Dale R. Herrick is executive director of Immacolata Manor, 2135 Manor Way Liberty, MO 64068; 816-781-4332, ext. 224; dherrick@imanor.org.

Immacolata Manor received widespread support from the Northland while collecting a truckload of items for Joplin organizations in the developmental disabilities field. These scenes show Immacolata staff loading trucks (above) and (below) Jhan Hurn and members of his staff of Community Support Services of Missouri in their Joplin warehouse, where all of the items were unloaded.

Ranch Party Ready for 10th Year

The Northland Early Education Center will host the 10th Annual Diamond K Ranch Party and Auction in Kearney, from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 10.

Grab your cowboy hat and join NEEC for an evening of family fun with something for everyone.

This event will include a silent and live auction with fabulous lots to bid on, as well as a moonwalk, hayrides and balloon artist for the kids. What better way to support NEEC than by enjoying a delicious dinner from Outback Steakhouse and a refreshing beverage in a causal outdoor atmosphere?

The Diamond K Ranch is located at 22605 Northeast 148th Street in Kearney.

For information on attending, becoming a sponsor or donating auction item(s), please contact Jill Bartlett at 816-420-9005 or via e-mail at jillb@neec.us. You can also register to attend online at www.neeckids.org.

NEEC



Partnership Really Brings Hope

In the winter 2010 issue of Pathways, Platte County Board of Services announced its participation in the new waiver for Missouri called the Partnership for Hope.

This program is available to Platte County residents who have a developmental disability and are eligible for Missouri HealthNet (also known as Medicaid). The program supports a variety of services, including some not available in other waivers such as dental care and temporary residential services. It has a cap of \$12,000 per year per eligible person and is supported by the county tax levy, the Division of Developmental Disabilities and federal Medicaid dollars.

This program has gained significant support from the governor's office and the legislature. The original 300 slots from October 2010 were expanded to 900. That means 900 people across the State of Missouri have been removed from waiting lists for in-home services. In Platte County, the number of people has grown from the original nine to 35. The new slots are filled, and the state is applying for more.

All of this means that adults who were unable to obtain dental care are now getting dental care. One individual has such severe dental decay, due to years of not receiving dental care, that she is only able to eat soft food. The plan for her was to take her to the dental school for removal of all teeth, but she was on a waiting list for that and in pain. Now, she is receiving restorative work that will enable her to be able to eat what she wants without pain using her own teeth.

Many families have been struggling with behavior issues of family members on the autism spectrum that have put the family in crisis. These families are now getting behavior plans and supports to enable them to deal with the behaviors and

PCBS

reduce the stress on family life. This is especially important since most families do not have insurance plans that provide the coverage for persons with autism.

Besides behavior therapy, the most often needed service is a personal care attendant. This service is crucial to families such as the one to which PCBS is providing service coordination. In this case, a father and son live together. The son has cerebral palsy and requires total care in dressing, eating, bathing, etc. For years, the father was able to do this for his son. Recently, however, the father had to have open heart surgery and can no longer lift his son. Under the Partnership for Hope, the family now has a personal care attendant to assist with those things the father is unable to do. Without the waiver, the family would probably have had to seek residential services.

For several years, Platte County Board of Services has provided temporary residential services for adults who are preparing to enter the residential program at some point in their lives. This program provides supports and services for individuals in an apartment that is staffed during the time they are using the service. Until the Partnership for Hope waiver came in, there was no funding mechanism except parent pay for this service. Under the new waiver, people can access this service with government funding. Already, more people are requesting and using the service, which will mean they will be better prepared for residential services when they need them.

Originally, when the new waiver was designed, only new persons to services qualified for the waiver. Under the amend-

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Head Start Funds Expand Services

Triality Tots—in partnership with The Family Conservancy—is the proud recipient of Head Start funding awarded July 1. The funds supply additional resources to assist families in the Northland who seek school readiness program for their children with special developmental and health care needs.

Head Start is a federally funded program offering comprehensive education, health, nutrition, parent involvement and family support services for low-income families. Championing early learning and whole-family approaches as pathways to lifelong success, Head Start actually consists of two programs: Early Head Start (for children up to age 3) and Head Start (for children ages 3-5).

The new funding allows for eight Head Start participants in addition to the eight Early Head Start slots awarded to Triality in March 2010.

After a family's application for (and subsequent acceptance into) Head Start/Early Head Start, the initial step for enrollees includes developmental, social, emotional and health/nutritional screenings within 45 days, as well as family assessments. With an entire team in place to provide educational experiences, disability services and social services support, Northland families can receive continuity of care not readily available elsewhere.

Two brothers are a case-in-point. Two-year old Ethan and four-year-old Nathan (not their real names), diagnosed with autism, have attended Triality Tots since early 2010. Nathan's autism causes him to act out in ways that frighten his brother, and staff members saw a need for additional resources to help both boys. Qualifying for Early Head Start/Head Start programming, the entire family now also benefits from the guidance of a licensed psychologist who regularly coun-

Triality

sels Ethan (for what has been identified as Post-Traumatic Stress Syndrome).

Not only are Triality Tots families benefiting from Head Start funds, staff members now also have access to in-depth creative curriculum and early intervention training at no cost.

For more information, contact Holly Wilmes at hwilmes@trialityinc.org or 816-476-4011 x201.

Contacting Organizations

Reaching Pathways and affiliate organizations is easy. Here are your contacts:

- The Arc of Clay and Platte Counties: (816) 741-7144.
- College Experience for Adults with Developmental Disabilities (CEADD): (816) 604-3043.
- Concerned Care, Inc.: (816) 474-3026.
- Triality: (816) 781-0177.
- Immacolata Manor: (816) 781-4332.
- Northland Early Education Center (NEEC): 816-420-9005
- Platte County Board of Services (PCBS): (816) 891-0990.
- People First (local): (816) 474-3026.
- Vocational Services, Inc.: (816) 781-6292.
- Tri-County Mental Health Services: (816) 468-0400.
- Maple Valley State School: (816) 436-7747.
- Metropolitan Council on Developmental Disabilities (MCDD): (816) 889-3422.

Employee Recognition, Bowl-A-Thon Planned

Nearly 200 employees at Vocational Services, Inc. will celebrate their tenure, in the upcoming Length of Service Awards celebrations, which will be held on Sept. 1 and 2. This annual event provides for an opportunity to recognize each sheltered workshop employee for his or her service with VSI. This year's celebration holds a greater meaning, as this year VSI celebrates 45 years of service to Clay and Platte counties.

Vocational Services, Inc. was founded in 1966 through the initiative of parents of children with developmental disabilities who worried what would happen to their children upon graduation from school. Robert F. Sevier, an attorney from Liberty, Mo spearheaded the effort of starting a sheltered workshop and on Jan. 26, 1966 Vocational Services was born as a non-profit organization.

What is most amazing is that some of the most distinguished employees have been with the organization almost as long as the doors have been open. The world is a much different place than in 1966 when our founders paved the way but one thing remains constant, fundraising. As doors were knocked on and benefit dinners held to raise funds for the birth of Vocational Services, the need for outside funding is as great as ever as the organization has grown.

The annual Bowl-A-Thon will be held Oct. 22 at AMF Pro Bowl on 18th Ave. in North Kansas City. The Bowl-A-Thon has been a traditional fundraiser for many years, giving the opportunity for consumers, friends, family, and the general public to compete for prizes. A silent auction will follow.

This year's theme is "Feeling Groovy at 45" and all participants are invited to dress circa 1966. Signup sheets and sponsorship forms will be available at the VSI informational booth at the Liberty Fall Festival, Sept.23 -25 as well as Gladfest in

VSI

Gladstone, MO. Sept. 30.

For more information on upcoming events, how to become a sponsor or donate an item for the silent auction please call 816-781-6292 ext 1401

Pathways Calendar

- Sept. 10—NEEC Diamond K Ranch Party. Contact Jill Bartlett at 816-420-9005 or at jillb@nec.us.
 - Oct. 1—College Experience for Adults with Developmental Disabilities begins. Contact (816) 604-3043.
 - Oct. 13-14—MACDDS Conference, Lodge of the Four Seasons, Lake Ozark, Mo. Contact: www.macdds.org.
 - Oct. 15—Immacolata Manor 30th Anniversary Celebration, 6:00-9:00 p.m.
 - Oct. 23—Triality Trick or Trot at EH Young Riverfront Park in Riverside.
 - Oct. 28—Concerned Care dinner and auction at Embassy Suites KCI. Contact Carolyn Henry at 816.474.3026.
 - Oct. 29—Down Syndrome Guild First Downs Walk and Family Festival. Contact 913-722-2499.
 - Oct. 29—Immacolata Manor Annual Halloween Party, Broadacres, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
 - Dec. 22—Concerned Care Staff Appreciation Luncheon.
- Concerned Care board meetings are the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30 a.m.
- Triality board meets the first Tuesday of the month at 7:30 a.m.

Pathways

Northland Services For People
with Developmental Disabilities

**2601 NE Barry Road
Kansas City, MO 64156**