

3 Families LOOK to the Future!

Put a Future in Your Child's IEP!

By Donna Szamatowicz, Alina's Mom

We're putting a future in Alina's IEP. I often remind myself how fortunate my daughter is, being involved in a school where IEP meetings are friendly, staff are supportive, ideas and creativity are welcomed, entertained and implemented. Instead of the school saying, "No," they respond with, "Why not?" So, when I approached Overbrook School for the Blind and requested that a Futures Planning (or Person Centered Planning) meeting be held instead of the traditional IEP meeting, they told me, "Of course!"

You may ask, why a Futures Planning meeting, and how is that different from an IEP meeting? I have come to believe that IEP's do not tell the story of who the whole person is – what the person really can do, and what the person wants to do to plan for his or her future. I didn't understand how an IEP could help us and my daughter plan her "transition" when she turns that magical age—you know, that day the team gets together to figure out life after high school just months before graduation! Alina has nine years of school left. I believe that it is never too early to start.

[Con't on Page 5](#)

Future Life's Journey

This is one parent's testimony from MH/MR Hearing on the 2006-07 Annual Plan on Friday, June 3, 2005

My name is Leslie Thompson. For the last twenty-odd years, I've been blessed to have shared my life's journey with my daughter, Jennifer.

She'll be graduating from high school in a few weeks and looking forward to a relaxed, enjoyable summer. After working her last four

[Con't on Page 6](#)

2005 Grad Looks Forward to the Future

Interviewed by Marianne Roche, MRS

Tim Misinkash is, first and foremost, a 'people person.' You know it when he shakes your hand and projects a smile that lights up the room. You know it when he tells you about his Prom, being the Best Man in his brother Franny's wedding, and when he talks about the Eagles. You know it, too, when he tells you how much he enjoyed helping seniors in a nursing home, and how much he now enjoys working with kids who need him in the Extended School Year Program at Austin Meehan Middle School.

[Con't on Page 12](#)



Who Ya Gonna Call?

An update on important telephone numbers and websites.

Philadelphia MRS

- ☆ 701 Market Street, Suite 5200, 19106-1532
Reception & Information, 215-685-5900
www.philly.networkofcare.org
www.mycitymyplace.com
- ☆ Registration Unit for New Registrations
Ileana Rodriguez/Mary Ann Dunn, 215-685-4MRS (4677)
Questions or Concerns about Your Supports Coordination Agency
Marianne Roche, 215-685-5930, marianne.roche@phila.gov
- ☆ MRS Supports Coordination
Elayne Blender, Acting Manager, 215-685-5997
elayne.blender@phila.gov

These are the main telephone numbers for the four Supports Coordination Organizations and their websites.

The Consortium

☆ 215-472-1707, www.Consortium-Inc.org

Partnership for Community Supports

☆ 267-350-4500, www.PFCSupports.org

PHMC/Person Link

☆ 267-295-3800, www.PHMC.org/PersonLink/index.html

Quality Progressions

☆ 267-765-2000, www.QualityProgressions.org

Visit www.MyCityMyPlace.com
Join the e-Announcements Listserve
Call for New Registrations
215-685-4MRS (4677)

What's In This Issue

Put a Future in Your Child's IEP! ... A Future Life's Journey
... 2005 Grad Looks Forward to the Future 1

Who Ya Gonna Call? 2

Spotlight: Right to Education Local Task Force 3

Important Changes to IDEA 6

More Education Information 4, 8, 15, 16, 17

MRS Annual Plan Executive Summary 7

DPW Website MA Budget Info 8

Did You Know? ¿Sabes tu Que? 9,10

Readers' Exchange 11

Special Teens Not Just for Teens 12

Lifesharing - A Wonderful Option 13

Network of Care and Supports Launched Here 14

Go Vote! 15

Big Changes in PA's MR Service System 16

SIB Shop Comes to Philadelphia 17

Repeatable Dates & Calendar 17, 18, 19

Let's hear from you!

Please submit articles to: Editor, Family Forum, Mental Retardation Services, Suite 5200, 701 Market St., Philadelphia, PA 19106-1532

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Family Forum Contact - Jeffrey Orlin

Voice: 215-685-5911 Fax: 215-685-5933
Email: Jeffrey.Orlin@Phila.gov

MRS Internet Resource Directory

www.MyCityMyPlace.com

Family Forum's are archived on the Web

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SPOTLIGHT ON Right to Education Local Task Force

Vital Local Task Force for Right to Education

By Cathy Roccia-Meier, Chairperson

I can hardly believe the Local Task Force has hurled through another school year! But so we have, and the Right to Education Task Force wants to thank one and all for making this an amazing and productive year. Here are just some of the accomplishments we've made since September 2004.

- ❑ Held an Awards Ceremony recognizing student accomplishments, member accomplishments as well as others. Of special note was the award which went to The Arc of Philadelphia, whose former executive director, Mike Smith, helped organize the revitalization of the Right to Education Local Task Force in Philadelphia.
- ❑ Reported on Special Education Compliance
- ❑ Reviewed Special Education Plan & Budget
- ❑ Held a Collaborative Forum with the Office of Specialized Services and an Open Mike Night
- ❑ Published in the Family Forum, The Family Bulletin Board, and had appearances on Special Needs Radio Talk Show and Cable program
- ❑ Maintained a List serve of over 200 people with information packed digests
- ❑ Established fruitful relationships with special needs officials, agencies, and professionals, etc.
- ❑ Addressed countless action issues.
- ❑ Participated in IDEA 2004 hearings and trainings, state wide and in Philadelphia
- ❑ Attended the State Task Force annual conference
- ❑ Participation on the OSS Autism Education Advisory Committee, including Autism

Awareness day at the Phillies event, and a City Proclamation of Autism Awareness Day

- ❑ Most importantly, disseminated information to parents to help meet their children's education needs and provided resources and directions to needed supports and services.

And we're not done yet! Look for more activities in the coming year, including our own website, a political event, and a parent-friendly training on the changes to IDEA with IDEA 2004.

The new officers for the 2005/06 school year of the Local Task Force for Right to Education are Cathy Roccia-Meier - Chairperson; Oni McMullen - Vice Chairperson; Joe Pardini - Vice Chairperson; Roberta Bellamy - Secretary; and Sharon Duckett - Treasurer. In addition, Oni McMullen has graciously offered to Chair our Action Committee.

We generally meet the 3rd Thursday of every month at 10 a.m. at The Arc on Westmoreland Street. Our next meeting will be on September 15. Please come out and join us. We've got lots of exciting events planned, so call 215-875-3538 for our calendar. (Our event dates will be in the Family Forum, too.)



Got a problem with special education in the Philadelphia School System? Let us help you. Call the Right to Education Local Task Force at 215-875-3538.

Important Changes to IDEA

By M.J. Lovett, The Arc of Philadelphia

IDEA is the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. This is the federal law that mandates the provision of special education services for students with disabilities, and the rights of parents of a child with a disability. IDEA has three parts; Part A is General Provisions, Part B is Assistance for Education of All Children with Disabilities, and Part C is Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities.

New amendments to IDEA went into effect on July 1, 2005. Important changes were made to the language of IDEA. You need to know about these changes, and how they may impact your child. Some of the most important new requirements relate to school discipline of students with disabilities and how to request a special education hearing. Parents are very important participants in the special education process because they know their child better than anyone else. You have valuable information to contribute about the kinds of programs and services that are needed for your child to be successful in school. Do not allow anyone to discount your input. Consider bringing an advocate with you to your child's next IEP meeting.

To learn more about the changes to IDEA, please visit any of the websites listed below, or call

MJ Lovett at The Arc of Philadelphia, at 215-229-4550 ext. 126, to receive a copy of the changes.

For current information on IDEA, go to:

- ❑ Center for the Study and Advancement of Disability Policy
<www.disabilitypolicycenter.org>, 202-783-5111
- ❑ Wrightslaw <www.wrightslaw.com>
- ❑ Council for Exceptional Children
<www.cec.sped.org>
- ❑ The National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities (NICHCY) serves as a central source of information on disabilities in infants, toddlers, children, and youth; IDEA; No Child Left Behind (as it relates to children with disabilities); and research-based information on effective educational practices. <www.nichcy.org>
- ❑ Education Law Center of PA <www.elc-pa.org>, 215-238-6970. Note that ELC is updating their informative publications and hopes to have them available by the new School Year. Be sure to contact them to get copies or visit their website.
- ❑ Join this listserv managed by Temple to stay up-to-date on the latest news on what is happening locally, at the state level, and nationally regarding education issues – Education for All Listserv <<http://listserv.temple.edu/archives/education-for-all.html>>.
- ❑ The Arc of the United States <www.thearc.org>

New Special Education Association Launched

The National Association Of Parents With Children In Special Education (NAPCSE) has been formed for parents of children with special needs to promote a sense of community and provide a national forum for their ideas. NAPCSE is committed to helping parents stay abreast of current issues that are shaping the field of special education, and affecting the lives of their children and their futures. To learn more, call 800-754-4421, or visit <www.napcse.org>.

Editors Note: We visited the site and were dismayed to find all the information could only be accessed by members. The membership to join NAPCSE is \$49 for a year.

Put a Future in Your Child's IEP!

Continued from Front Page

For this meeting, we invited people who believe in Alina – who know her possibilities and potential. A total of thirteen people participated in the two-hour Futures Planning meeting, including Alina, her parents, professionals, and also her friends. One of Alina's friends said, "She is resilient, she manages to bounce back stronger with every challenge. She is very resourceful. Look how she managed to get all of us together today!"

We focused on Alina's strengths, not on her disability. So, I'm not providing much detail about that. Instead, I hope that you will agree that it doesn't matter what type of disability people have when planning for a future!

Alina's past eleven eventful years, interests, fondest experiences, best days, and preferred activities, along with her positive attributes, were listed on sheets of flip board paper. Alina participated via her gestures, nods, and Voice Pal 8 communication device. How she communicates, what her health concerns are, and her typical routine also were shared. We were dreaming of many possibilities and we wrote them all down. She nodded in agreement or grinned with the biggest smile ever in her non-verbal ways! We saw just how important Alina's voice is. A theme of teacher and trailblazer emerged.

Using this emerging picture, we were able to splice together ways in which to make Alina's days more meaningful. For example, one of Alina's new goals included making a ten minute

presentation to a small group. Short term objectives were identified to help her reach that goal. Instead of the IEP including a communication goal that Alina will answer yes/no questions with less than five accidental hits, her goals and objectives now had meaning.

Alina enjoys sounds, music, and being with others. Her IEP now includes going to "regular" middle school classes during the week so she can develop school friendships with peers who speak. Teachers are exploring school clubs that interest her, such as music, arts and theater. All this tied together – her strengths and abilities are all connecting and helping to develop a clearer vision of her whole life and not just fragments of it. Now we have the friend, the daughter, the church member, the teacher ... not just the student.



Alina takes an active part in her Futures' Planning.

What's even more wonderful is that we were able to translate this into other meaningful life experiences. Alina has since co-presented twice at Arcadia University's graduate class on Assistive Technology and various Supports Coordinator trainings sponsored by Philadelphia MRS. She has assisted with Networks Communication Mentors classes on Assistive Technology and Augmentative Alternative Communication.

Her Futures Planning includes the growing of Alina's Circle of Support because one day she will, with the help of family, form her own Microboard (Self Directed Support Corporation, also called Microboard, is a formal company that supports one person). She is also building a portfolio of presentations. She will need this when she begins job searching, or if she ends up owning her own business(a Micro-enterprise).

Con't. on Page 6

Put a Future in Your Child's IEP!

Con't. From Page 5

From all this information, we developed a Futures Action Plan to hold people accountable for their agreements to assist with Alina's future. When we do a follow up meeting this new school year, everybody will be able to measure progress and report changes in a meaningful way.

You, too, can put a Future in your child's IEP! Here is a check list and some contacts for you to get started. Remember, the time is now!

- ❑ 1. Start developing a network of peers now. Don't wait until your child is an adult.
- ❑ 2. Talk to your child's teacher about a Futures Plan. Share your values with school personnel. Are they consistent with yours? Schedule the meeting at a time when most people can attend.
- ❑ 3. Do not talk around or about your child. Assume competence at all times. Involve your child. If your child doesn't speak, how does he or she communicate? How do others know?
- ❑ 4. Come with a vision about your child's future so that the team can creatively make it happen.
- ❑ 5. Focus on strengths and the vision. Integrate those into the IEP as meaningful goals.
- ❑ 6. Follow-up with the team and school personnel frequently. How're things going?

Donna Szamatowicz will be glad to talk with you about Futures Planning and about Microboards. You can contact her at 215-546-4307. For web information about Microboards, visit < www.allourown.com > . For information about the Communication Mentors Class, contact Rosa McAllister at 610-935-6625, or go to < www.networksfortraining.org > .



A Future Life's Journey

Con't from Front Page

summer vacations, she just wants to sleep late, eat when she wants, talk on the phone, go to the movies, or the mall. Maybe start her driving lessons up again after an eight month break. Read her "Young Miss" magazines, or, if I nag long enough, read a couple of books. Maybe take a class or two in the Fall, get a job, or focus on her current passion, getting married, or maybe visit with friends from school and her social group. So many choices.

Oh, by the way, she has mild mental retardation and autism which affects how she processes information, social development, communication, and language skills.

I choose to mention mental retardation and autism lastly because I wanted you to know Jennifer first and her challenges second. I wanted you to know her potential, passions, and promises, and know her challenges in her life where she needs support, and her love to work through and overcome. They may be what she has, but they don't define her. They don't determine her destination – the support and effective life connections she makes helps to determine that.

In order for her to continue to interact with friends, she'll need services to increase her language and social skills. To continue to go to movies/malls, she'll need personal safety, money and time management. To flourish in reading and comprehension, she'll benefit from academic supports. She needs specifically designed support that addresses the autism spectrum, as well as her mental retardation needs.

We formed a social group that meets two times monthly that consists of young adults with and without developmental challenges. They talk about school, work, share email and cell phone numbers, play games and simply hang out.

Con't. on Page 7

MRS Annual Plan Focuses on Supports Coordination, Self-Determination, and More Services

The Fiscal Year 2006-07 Annual Plan for Supports and Services for People with Mental Retardation has been submitted to the State Office of Mental Retardation. *The Family Forum* has had to shorten the full Executive Summary, written by Diane Lackey, due to space constrictions.

Executive Summary

Supports Coordination, Self-Determination, and the need for more services are the focus of the Philadelphia County Fiscal Year 2006-07 Annual Plan for Supports and Services for People with Mental Retardation. The Plan provides an update of the 10 issues identified by individuals receiving services, family members and other stakeholders as critical to address the reorganization of Supports Coordination and reports accomplishments to date. The 10 Critical Points for Supports Coordination are: Registration, Choice, Standardization of Structures, Policies and Procedures, Recruitment and Retention, Caring Relationships and Quality Service, Neighborhood Base, Services to Children, Consumer and Family Input, Technology and the Role of MRS.

The Plan also looks ahead to project lower case loads for Supports Coordinators, service plans approved in HCSIS, and providers paid for services through PROMISE the new statewide billing system.

Planning for Fiscal Year 2006-07 begins with an assessment of need for MR services in Philadelphia. The Waiting list, identified through PUNS (The Prioritization of Need for Services), contains 4,089 persons in need of MR Services as of April 15, 2005 (Emergency Need – 707, Critical Need – 1,978, and for Planning – 1,404).

This Plan requests over \$25 million to support 486 people in the community who have a PUNS

identifying them as in emergency need of service in FY 2006-07.

In addition to the request for funding to serve more people, MRS is requesting over \$3 million to enhance Supports Coordination by reducing caseloads through the addition of eight new supports coordinators for people living at home with their families and eight new supports coordinators for people living in ICF/MRs.

A Public Hearing was held on June 3, 2005, to obtain input from stakeholders to consider in developing the final Plan. To learn more about the MR Plan for fiscal year 2006-07, request a copy of the Plan, or the full Executive Summary, contact Diane Lackey, MRS Planning Manager, at 215-685-5994, or email her at diane.lackey@phila.gov. This information will also be available at www.MyCityMyPlace.com.



A Future Life's Journey

Continued from Page 6

I see her future as not just a job, but a personal career choice. Not just a residential placement, but a home filled with family, friends, memories, passions, and goals. Whenever she enters a room, people will say, "There's Jennifer. I like her shoes and hair," not "There's Jennifer, she has mental retardation and autism."

Like you, my hopes for true integration and acceptance of individuals with an MR or MH diagnosis are very real, and I find hope and encouragement in the continual commitment of parents and professionals, like people present here today [at the Hearing]. Thank you for your help and for supporting Jennifer in her life's journey. And for helping to create a society that sees Jennifer first and her challenges second.

DPW Website MA Budget Info

This information is reprinted verbatim from the DPW website on August 8.

“We appreciate all the interest in the final provisions of the Medical Assistance (MA) budget. Every effort is being made to analyze the final legislative agreements as quickly as possible. As soon as we are able, we will post information summarizing the final changes to the MA Program. Please note that no changes are being made to services provided to children, pregnant women, or persons in nursing homes.

At a minimum, we can confirm that there will be:

- ❑ no new limits on Short Procedure Units, Ambulance, Portable X-ray, Durable Medical Equipment, Ambulatory Surgical Centers or Prescription Drugs for MA or General Assistance (GA) adults (GA adults are already limited to 6 prescriptions per month; this limit will not change).
- ❑ no Inpatient Acute Hospital limits for MA adults, but there will be a limit of 1 hospitalization for GA Adults.
- ❑ an Inpatient Medical Rehabilitation Hospital limit of one per year for both MA and GA adults.
- ❑ a limit of 18 Outpatient Office visits for MA adults (this requirement already existed for GA adults).



- ❑ Behavioral Health Limits for both MA and GA adults: Inpatient Psychiatric care will be limited to 30 days per year, Outpatient psychotherapy visits will be limited to 5 per month (or 10 visits of ½ hour duration per month) and Partial Psychiatric Hospitalization will be limited to 540 hours per year. These Behavioral Health limits will not apply in HealthChoices counties.
- ❑ co-payments of \$1 for generic prescription drugs and \$3 for brand name prescription drugs for both MA and GA adults (no other copay changes are planned at this time)

Each Managed Care Organization will be making their own decisions about whether to implement the benefit changes under their plan.

There will be an exceptions process related to the new limits.

The above changes will not be effective before August 2005. Clients will receive at least a 30 day notice of the all benefit changes.”

For more information, visit <www.dpw.state.pa.us/omap/geninf/budget/omapbudgetmain.asp> and click on DPW 2005-06 budget information.

For David Gates’ “The Good, the Bad and the Ugly – Medical Assistance Budget Cuts” article, visit <www.php.org>, or call the PA Health Law Project at 800-274-3258. David provides reader-friendly narrative about the MA cuts.

The Basics – Does Your School Have What It Takes?

Philadelphia Citizens for Children and Youth have developed a checklist to help evaluate your schools and determine whether they have the basics required to provide your children with an adequate education. Use this checklist to review your schools. Your findings can be a starting point for needed improvement. PCCY would like to hear about the results of your surveys. Contact Brian Armstead, Education Coordinator at PCCY, at 215-563-5848 ext. 12. Call for a copy, or download the checklist from <www.pccy.org/schools/htm>.

DID YOU



KNOW?

▶ Spanish Web Site – NICHCY, the National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities, has renovated its Spanish-language Web site. New items on the site include menus to make it easier for Spanish-speaking users to find what they need; completely rewritten FAQs; a section on IDEA 2004; and a Spanish site just for young people with disabilities called Yojule!

▶ Sitio en la Internet en EspaZol: NICHY, El Centro Nacional de Divulgación para niños con impedimentos, ha renovado su red de información en EspaZol. Nuevos artículos en la red incluyen menús para hacer más fácil, para los usuarios que hablan EspaZol, encontrar lo que ellos necesitan; sección de preguntas frecuentes totalmente re-escritas; sección de la ley IDEA 2004; y una sección en EspaZol solo para gente joven con impedimentos llamada “Yojule”

▶ The Parent Side Online Store – For those who battle for what others take for granted, this site was created by a parent of a child with a disability and a graduate of Partners in Policymaking from Temple University. The Parent Side Online Store offers t-shirts, sweatshirts, mouse pads, mugs, bumper stickers, postcards, and tote bags in designs such as Inclusion Voodoo Doll, IEP Action Figure Set, and Super Advocate. Go to <www.cafepress.com> and in the search block type in “parent side” or call toll free 877-809-1659.

▶ “The Parent Side Online Store” - Para aquellos que batallan por lo que otros toman por sentado, este sitio fue creado por el padre de un niño con impedimentos y un graduado del programa “Partners in Policymaking” de la Universidad de Temple. “The Parent Side Online Store” ofrece camisetas, sudaderas, mouse pads, tazas,

tarjetas postales, pegatinas para autos, y bolsas impresas con diseños tales como, MuZeca ‘Voodoo’ de la Inclusión, juego de figuras de acción para el IEP, y súper consejero. Entre a <www.cafepress.com> y en el encasillado de búsqueda, escriba, “parent side” o llame a: 877-809-1659.

▶ Special Equestrians – is a nonprofit Therapeutic Riding Center in Warrington, PA. At Special Equestrians, horses are used as a way to involve individuals with disabilities in recreational riding, competition, or hippotherapy, which is the use of the horse to achieve a therapy goal set by a therapist. Contact Missy Rush at 215-918-1001 to talk about setting up a recreation program. Visit their website <www.specialequestrians.org>.

▶ Equitación Especial es un centro ecuestre terapéutico sin fines de lucro en Warrington, PA. En Equitación Especial, los caballos son usados como manera de envolver a los individuos con impedimentos en equitación recreacional, competencia, o terapia ecuestre, que es el uso del caballo para alcanzar metas terapéuticas establecidas por un terapeuta. Contacte a: Missy Rush al 215-918-1001 para hablar acerca de establecer un programa de recreación. O visite <www.specialequestrians.org>.

▶ The Sesame Workshop website – <www.sesameworkshop.org> has a parent section that offers articles written by prominent educators and consultants. It also advertises its new video and audio products promoting “real parents and their children demonstrating language and literacy activities.” Freeze dancing, singing to and with your child, playing games around household chores, and reading

[Con't. on Page 10](#)

Any websites noted in The Family Forum are provided for your information and are not rated or reviewed. We welcome your input about useful sites you have visited. Email familyforum@phila.gov.

Did You Know?

Continued from Page 9

aloud are among the tips contained in its “cool learning tools.”

▶ El taller de Sésamo en la Internet. www.sesameworkshop.org tiene una sección para los padres que ofrece artículos escritos por prominentes educadores y consultores. El taller también está promoviendo sus nuevos productos de video y audio en donde ilustra padres actuales y sus niños demostrando actividades de lenguaje y alfabetización. El baile “Freeze” cantando con y para su hijo, jugando acerca de las tareas de la casa, y leyendo en alta voz están entre los consejos contenidos en sus divertidas herramientas de aprendizaje.

▶ Dysphagia-Swallowing Disorders Resource Package – Philadelphia Coordinated Health Care’s (PCHC) has an excellent resource packet about Dysphagia. Contact Melissa Evers at 215-546-0300, ext. 3636, or through e-mail at mevers@pmhcc.org.

▶ Disfagia- Paquete de Recursos del Trastorno del Tragado. La oficina de Coordinación del Cuidado Médico de Filadelfia. (PCHC) tiene un excelente paquete de recursos acerca de Disfagia. Contacte a Melissa Evers al 215-546-0300, ext. 3636, o a través del e-mail mevers@pmhcc.org

▶ NAPAS (National Association of Protection and Advocacy Systems) – will soon be changing its name to the National Disability Rights Network. The web address beginning July 21, 2005, will be www.ndrn.org.

▶ NAPAS (Asociación Nacional del Sistema de Protección y Consejería) - pronto estará cambiando su nombre a Red Nacional de Derechos a Impedidos. La dirección en la Internet comenzando en Julio 21, 2005 es www.ndrn.org.

*Thanks to Emilio Pacheco for
the Spanish translation.*

▶ Lions Club Affordable Hearing Aids – For information on the Lions hearing aid project visit www.lionsclubs.org. Or contact Deborah Stamm, 877-243-2823, then dial 630-571-5466 ext 615, or dstamm@lionsclubs.org. Source: Power Network

▶ Club de Leones. Audifonos a Precios Accesibles. Para información sobre el proyecto de audifonos del Club de Leones visite www.lionsclubs.org. O contacte a Deborah Stamm, al 877-243-2823, entonces marque 630-571-5466 ext 615, o dstamm@lionsclubs.org. Fuente: Power Network

▶ IRS Disabilities Tax Information – The IRS has several free publications that provide detailed information about tax credits for taxpayers with disabilities, parents of children with disabilities, and businesses or other entities wishing to accommodate persons with disabilities. Detailed information can be found in IRS Publication 907, Tax Highlights for Persons with Disabilities, among others (#501, 502, 503, 524, 525, 529, 535, 596, and 968). Visit the website to download the brochures at www.irs.gov or call 800-829-3676 and request the brochure numbers.

▶ “IRS” Información de Impuestos en Impedimentos. El “IRS” tiene varias publicaciones gratis que provee detallada información acerca de créditos contributivos para contribuyentes con impedimentos, padres con niños con impedimentos, o comercios u otras entidades que deseen acomodar personas con impedimentos. Información detallada puede ser encontrada en la publicación del “IRS” # 907, Aspectos sobresalientes sobre impuestos para personas con impedimentos, entre otras publicaciones del “IRS” (# 501, 502, 503, 524, 525, 529, 535, 596, y 968). Visite el sitio en la Internet para descargar los panfletos, www.irs.gov o llame al 800-829-3676 y pregunte por el número de panfleto.

**Visit www.MyCityMyPlace.com
for resources**

Learn to Play Golf -- FREE!

The Middle Atlantic Blind Golf Association is looking for blind or visually impaired children, ages 5-21, who are interested in learning to play golf. They provide each player with a PGA teacher who will give lessons at a golf course near his/her house. They provide golf clubs, golf balls, and a golf bag. They can teach you how to play golf! All this is free! Transportation to the lessons is not included.



Go on Saturday, September 24, 10 a.m. to noon, rain or shine Overbrook School for the Blind, 63rd and Malvern Avenue. You need to register so they will have a coach for you, 215-884-6589. No golf experience necessary. Free pizza and soft drinks, too!

I am writing concerning an affair that took place on May 6, 2005, at Philadelphia Elwyn, The Consumer Ball. The title was Night in the City. What a beautiful affair! That was the first time they gave that affair. It was an evening of fun, food and dancing. It was a formal dress attire, with crowning of king and queen. My daughter, Robin Coleman, awarded her job coach, Ms Yvonia Gordon, for the service she gives.

Thanks – The Coleman Family

Little Known TV Channel Hosts Special Needs Show



Tune in to Channel 7-TV WWJT to participate in a call-in TV show about special needs issues. Produced by Sam Burwell, the show airs Monday, Tuesday, and Friday at 9 a.m. and Wednesday at 6 p.m. Learn and call-in to ask questions or give your thoughts.

Contact Mr. Burwell at 215-552-8525, or snr49@aol.com. Visit the website to hear archived TV and radio shows, www.specialneedsradio.com



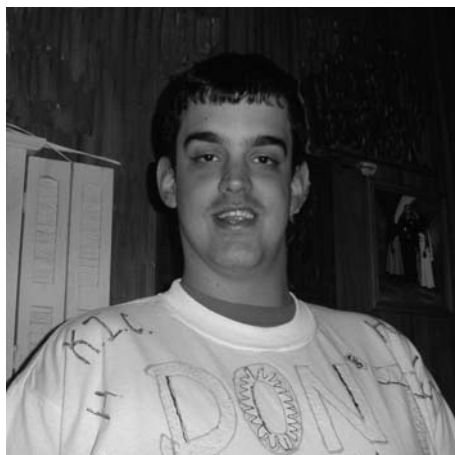
Experienced dependable woman would like to care for your child in her NE Philadelphia home. Please call me at 215-342-0185. If not at home, please leave a message and I will be sure to get back to you.
- Sue Molder

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2005 Grad Looks Forward to the Future ...Continued from Front Page

Tim is a 2005 graduate of George Washington High School and has been working as part of the Philadelphia School District's Transition from School to Work and Community Life opportunity. He and his Mom speak warmly of his teacher, Maureen Kolawkowski. Over the past four years, Tim has had an opportunity to experience a number of jobs in his community. These include stocking shelves at CVS pharmacy; working in a Ruby Tuesday restaurant; tagging clothes at the American Family Services Thrift Shop; assisting people in need at Holy Redeemer Hospice; and escorting residents to appointments at Neumann Nursing Home. Through these work experiences, Tim learned what he enjoyed doing most and what he would like to spend his working days doing – patient care or helping children with physical and behavioral challenges. For the summer, Tim helps a teacher at Austin Meehan Middle School in the ESY Program. He readily tells you that one of the little girls in the class doesn't always like to listen, but "she calms down for me," Tim says.

Tim's proud Mom, Ginny, is amazed at what Tim is able to do with the children. "He is drawn to the kids with the most needs," she says, "and they respond better for him than most anyone." Mrs. Mishinkash, herself a Classroom Assistant, knows first hand the skills that are necessary. "Tim likes to feel needed and be around people, and at the hospice, in the nursing home, and in the classroom, he is needed and he does a great job. Our hope is that he can get a full-time job, in the near future, where his skills can be put to good use."



Tim Mishinkash, the proud graduate!

When he is not working, Tim enjoys pursuing his other passion – sports and particularly the Eagles. Mrs. Mishinkash, with a smile, talks about hers being a 'sports family.' "On Sunday afternoon during football season, I go out shopping. This house is way too noisy for me. They start listening to the Eagles early in the morning for all those pre game shows. And, of course Tim is right in the middle of the activity." Tim is busy all year with his sports interests, which also include the Phillies, the Flyers, and bowling with his group, Special Teens. Tim also enjoys his video games, and when his Dad has a home project, he will get his hands into that, as well.

The Mishinkashs are rightfully proud of Tim and his accomplishments. They are proud of the kind and skilled young man that he has become.

When asked what advice they would give to other families, particularly young families, whose children are still in school, Mrs. Mishinkash quickly answered, "Tell them to stay involved with their child. Make sure that the school and others know what your child can do. Because of that, Tim has had a good educational experience and good teachers. But, you have to be involved."

Special Teens Not Just for Teens



Founded in 1970, Special Teens provides social activities for teenagers and adults. The groups is run and chaperoned by parent volunteers. Every Saturday there is bowling in Croydon, monthly dances, trips and other happenings. For more information, call Ray Zibman at 215-671-0356.

Lifesharing A Wonderful Option



Marianne Roche interviewed Carrol Reckard, Director of Lifesharing, Ken-Crest Youth and Adult Services, because The Family Forum wants readers to learn more about the Lifesharing program. Lifesharing provides an option for people with mental retardation to live with a loving and caring family. All share their lives together. We hope this article will spur someone on to contact Carrol to learn more about becoming a Lifesharing partner.

Lifesharing (formerly known as Family Living) has been touted as an option that Deputy Secretary Kevin Casey would like to see expanded for more people who are served in the MR system. Carrol has been working with the State Office of Mental Retardation regarding what is necessary to make Lifesharing increasingly successful for people with disabilities and host families, alike.

Carrol, how long have you been involved in Lifesharing?

Lifesharing began in Pennsylvania in 1983, and I began the development of Ken-Crest's program in 1985. Back then we called it "Family Living." Today, Ken-Crest is supporting 66 people and, by extension, the host families who these folks live with. So, I guess I have been involved for twenty years – all wonderful!

What have been some of the most important things you have learned during that time?

Well, the biggest lesson has been that what happens in life happens in Lifesharing! In order to work through all the possible needs and issues that occur, you have to have enormous respect for families, and this respect has to form the basis of everything that you think, and every action that you take. Each Lifesharing success story is built one by one and supported one by one.

How did you become interested in Family Living?

I just basically thought that it was a wonderful option for everyone involved and could do great

things for people. And it does! In fact, my husband, Bill, and I invited a person to come and live with us. Mario came to our home in 1979, four years before our son, Bob, was born. We have all benefitted from Mario's presence in our lives. My son wrote his college application essay on the impact that Mario has had on his life. Last week, Bill, Mario, and I were at Bob's graduation, all cheering him on – and Mario more than anyone.

What makes Lifesharing work?

The desire and willingness to provide support twenty-four hours a day, seven days per week is crucial to making Lifesharing work. Once a person and a Lifesharing family decide to share their lives, we see ourselves as supporting the whole family. Family Living Coordinators, who work for Ken-Crest, have to be okay about giving the Lifesharing families their home phone number. If they are not comfortable with this, then the position will probably not be a good fit. Lifesharing staff needs to develop positive relationships with the Lifesharing family. This is an important safeguard. At times we seem to become extended members of each family. There has to also be opportunities for Lifesharing families to get together and learn together and provide emotional support to one another. We at Ken-Crest learned how important respite care is to everyone involved. In fact, so important that Ken-Crest opened up a two-person respite home as one option for assuring respite when it was needed. Lastly, the benefit of the Home Study is critical. Just because people have a pre-existing relationship, does not mean that it will result in a good Lifesharing experience. In fact, sometimes, based on the Home Study, we have to counsel people and help them realize that Lifesharing might not be for them.

What do you tell people who might like to open up their home to a person with mental retardation and become a Lifesharing family?

I tell them that while Lifesharing is a great experience, it also has its difficult moments. Everyone has to bring

[Con't. on Page 14](#)

Network of Care and Supports Website Launched Here

By Jeffrey Orlin, MRS

The City's Department of Behavioral Health and Mental Retardation Services (DBH/MRS) is sponsoring a new website, the Network of Care and Supports for Philadelphia. The website, <www.philly.networkofcare.org>, is a free, online information place for individuals, families and service providers concerned with mental and emotional wellness and mental retardation issues. This easy-to-use website provides information, communication, and advocacy tools with a single point of entry. There are icons to click on for other language translations.

www.Philly.NetworkofCare.org

This unique, one-stop information tool enables you to keep personal records, link to other websites, and communicate directly with elected officials to make your voice heard regarding pending legislation. It also offers information about services, medications, an extensive library of thousands of articles and daily news from around the world concerning behavioral health and mental retardation issues. Service providers can share challenges and ideas, use message boards, create their own websites and much more.

The website “... is putting power in the hands of the public and consumers,” said Dr. Arthur C. Evans, Jr., director of the City's DBH/MRS. “Putting timely healthcare information in the hands of people is a major part of our strategy to make Philadelphia a healthier city.” It is part of a major initiative to focus the city system on the principles of recovery, resilience and self-determination for people with mental illness, addiction and mental retardation. (Continued in right-hand column)

Lifesharing – A Wonderful Option

Continued from Page 13

something to the situation, and the Lifesharing experience has to ultimately benefit everyone, and everyone has to be enriched. We begin our Lifesharing family orientation with the quote, “Whatever happens, whatever the future holds ... I can only promise you that your life will never be the same again.”

What do you tell organizations that might consider expanding to providing Lifesharing?

You have to really want to provide this service. It is intense. Shortly, the Pennsylvania Office of Mental Retardation will issue a Bulletin that describes the expectations for Lifesharing provider agencies. People need to take it to heart and fully understand the responsibilities associated with it.

And, perhaps most importantly, what do you say to a person who needs a different living arrangement, and to their biological family, about the benefits of Lifesharing with another family?

Getting to know a person and their biological family is the beginning of the story. I would say that Lifesharing has been beneficial for many people and, in fact, has transformed some people. The Lifesharing families are different. They are not “staff.” They are good people who have opened up their homes to create a win-win possibility for themselves and the person with disabilities. Everyone has to want that to happen and work toward the success of it.

If you want to talk to Carrol about Lifesharing, she can be reached at CReckard@KenCrest.org, or call 610-487-1582.



The website is part of a growing national network of such websites – Pennsylvania is the sixth state with a “Network of Care” site. DBH/MRS will continue to add and revise content, so visit <www.philly.networkofcare.org> today and go back often!



Go Vote!

Here is some information for you to prepare to vote on election day, November 8th.

I have not voted in a while. Am I still registered? If you have voted in an election after January 1998, you should still be registered. If you are unsure about your registration status, call the Election Board to confirm your status as a registered voter, 215-686-1505. October 11 is the last day to register to vote before election day.

May I have assistance in voting? Yes, under the law, a voter may have assistance in voting if he or she is unable to see or mark the ballot, operate the voting machine, or enter the voting machine booth without assistance. If the voter has not already indicated on his or her Registration Record that assistance will be needed, then that voter may fill out a declaration at the polling place on election day.

My polling place is not handicapped accessible. How can I vote? You have the option of either voting at the city's centralized handicapped accessible polling place in City Hall Room 142, or casting an alternative ballot.

Alternative ballots are a remedy for those who are assigned to a polling place which is not handicapped accessible. The threshold question is whether the voter is "disabled" as defined by the ADA, or 65 years of age or older. If a person fits either category, and their polling place is not fully compliant with the ADA, then the voter may cast an Alternative Ballot. Call or visit your County Board of Elections, and ask them for an alternative ballot application: City Hall Room 142, 215-686-3469.

For questions about your rights or the City's obligations to people with disabilities, contact the Accessibility Compliance Office, or the City Commissioner's Office, 215- 686-3460.

Don't Give Up!

Inclusion, appropriate programs, rights of parents ... continue to be hard-fought battles. These few examples, adapted from ELC and PILC news releases, prove that being tenacious will eventually win out.

In one of the first federal court decisions on the rights of very young children to developmental services, a Delaware County couple was vindicated when the Judge ordered the county office to reimburse them for the cost of an intensive immersion communication program for their toddler. Previously, the county office and a state hearing officer had turned down their request. And, yes, the program did help the child by leaps and bounds.

A U.S. District Court ruled in November 2004 that a boy with Down Syndrome has the right to attend his local community pre-school class. The school district had denied the family's request.



Education Law Center reminds families that they have the right to visit a child's current or proposed classroom. Experts employed by the family, or staff from County Behavioral Health programs, also have the right to observe the student in a classroom setting.

For more information about legal battles and your rights, contact either the Education Law Center at 215-238-6970, or The Public Interest Law Center at 215-627-7100.

Voting Information Source: Committee of Seventy Website

For online information about voting, visit the City of Philadelphia website at < www.phila.gov/vote/engweb.htm > or contact The Committee of Seventy, < www.seventy.org > , 215-557-3600.

Big Changes in Pennsylvania's MR Service System

By Jeffrey Orlin, MRS

The federal government's Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has completed a review of the Consolidated Waiver in Pennsylvania. The Waiver is an agreement with the Commonwealth to pay for community mental retardation services outside of institutions. Due to problems noted in the review, the State Office of Mental Retardation (OMR) is working to address issues and assure the continuation of the Waiver. Under current CMS rules, the Consolidated Waiver cannot be renewed, but CMS has offered a series of four 90-day extensions. OMR is in the process of applying for the first 90-day renewal.

The main problems noted by CMS are that counties in Pennsylvania function independently, managing the Waiver in different ways, including inconsistencies in assessing persons' needs, in enrolling qualified providers, and in monitoring of providers. Furthermore, CMS noted that across the state, ISP's (Individualized Support Plans) do not consistently change when needs change; funding occurs by programs instead of by services delivered; and that counties have taken responsibility for resolving disputes, instead of OMR.

In response to CMS's requirements to improve services, OMR has convened stakeholder workgroups responsible for addressing the specific problems. They will develop the tools necessary to implement standardized and consistent processes across Pennsylvania, while preserving the core values expressed in "Everyday Lives." It is the goal of OMR that these standardized processes will promote "proportional equity," which means that the same processes will be used across the state to determine consumers' needs; "consistency" of all Waiver processes throughout the state; "access" to the statewide directory of available services by provider and their cost; and "quality" by having all

of these changes become a part of OMR's existing quality management structure. OMR will publish a newsletter as its primary means of communication regarding the renewal of the Waiver, including info that was previously included in their QM newsletter. See <www.dpw.state.pa.us/disable/mentalretardationservices/newsltrs> for a copy.

Among the outcomes of the workgroups will be:

- ❑ A statewide, standardized process to resolve disputes about services
- ❑ A consistent rate-setting method that allows portability
- ❑ Fee for service processes used for all services
- ❑ A statewide, standardized process to qualify providers
- ❑ A range, frequency, and duration of services that meet specified criteria – protection of health and safety; prevention of institutionalization
- ❑ Implement SIS Plus (Supports Intensity Scale) assessment tool to consistently identify people's needs in developing the ISP.

Excerpted from DPW/OMR's (6/8/05) "Changing Pennsylvania's Mental Retardation Service System in Response to The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services Requirements."

Students' Transportation Question

Are students who receive special education services entitled to transportation to and from school and to school-related activities?

Yes. Such a student is entitled, without cost, to needed transportation to, from, and around the school. They must also receive free transportation if they need it to participate in class field trips. If the school district provides transportation to and from sports, or other after-school activities for students who are not disabled, it must provide appropriate transportation for students with disabilities. If there is a charge for transportation to an optional field trip, or event, a student with a disability cannot be charged more than other students. For more information about student transportation, call the Education Law Center at 215-238-6970, or visit <www.elc-pa.org> .



REPEATABLES

These activities are marked on the calendar with an asterisk. Although the items have been checked, it is best to call before going.

Mondays

- ☆ 1st Mon 6:30-9p Speaking for Ourselves, Vision for Equality, 6N 718 Arch, Bill Krebs, 267-257-0109
- ☆ 1st Monday 10:30a-12:30p Quality Progressions, 125 S. 9th, 5th fl, Susan Fellows, 267-765-2000 x110 (Sept meeting is 9-12)

Tuesdays

- ☆ 2nd Tues 10a-12p That All May Worship (TAMW), Vision for Equality, 718 Arch St, 6N, 215-923-3349 x137
- ☆ 2nd Tues Hall-Mercer Parent/Caregivers Together, Lynn Youngman, 215-928-0765
- ☆ 2nd Tues Family Support Group NW, Verna Edwards, 215-248-4415

Wednesdays

- ☆ Every Wed. free legal advice and representation on general legal problems, Liberty Resources. Call for appt. 215-204-1800

Thursdays

- ☆ 2nd Thurs 1:30p SEPTA Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation, 1234 Market St, 11th fl, 215-580-7145
- ☆ 2nd Thurs School District Parent & Community Roundtable at 2121 Winter St, 1st fl boardroom, 215-299-3634
- ☆ 3rd Thurs 9:30a-12p Phila Right to Education Task Force, The Arc, 2350 W. Westmoreland, Cathy Rocchia-Meier, 215-875-3538
- ☆ 4th Thursday There's a Place for Us (WES), Margie Austin, 215-923-3349 x116

Fridays

- ☆ Every Fri. 1-3p, Skills Training on Accessing Public Transportation, Liberty Resources, for appt. call 215-204-1800, Debbie at x255
- ☆ First Friday of the Month 6-9p, First Friday Gotta Dance at PDDC, 2350 W. Westmoreland St, Lisa Savaria, 215-229-4550 x172 (Sept is 9-8)
- ☆ 1st & 3rd Fri 7-9p Easter Seals Teen Social Club, 3975 Conshohocken Ave, Kendra Brooks 610-565-2353 x 231
- ☆ 3rd Fri 1-3p Consumer Connection, Liberty Resources, 1341 N. Delaware Ave, 215-634-2000 x320

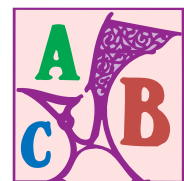
Saturdays

- ☆ Every Sat Special Teens (13 and older) Bowling at Bristol Pike Lanes, Croydon, Ray Zibman, 215-671-0356
- ☆ 2nd Sat 1-4p Disabled In Action, American Friends Ctr., 1501 Cherry, 215-627-7255

SIB SHOP Comes to Philadelphia

The Arc of Philadelphia is pleased to announce a new program to serve families of children with disabilities. The Sibling Support Project – Sib Shop – will kick off at 2350 W. Westmoreland Street on September 23 & 24, from noon to 1 p.m.

Disabilities, illness, and mental health issues affect the lives of all family members. Sib Shop seeks to increase the peer support and information opportunities for brothers and sisters of people with special needs and to increase parents' and providers' understanding of sibling issues. Sib Shop will meet monthly at The Arc and also will "travel" to various neighborhoods throughout the city to reach everyone interested. For more information, call Mary Jane Lovett at 215-229-4550 ext. 126.



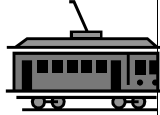







FirstGov.gov for Back to School Information






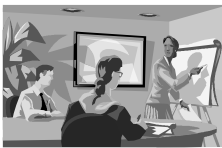



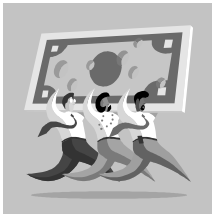
Whether your children are starting kindergarten or heading off to college, FirstGov.gov's Back to School page has sound advice for parents, students, and teachers. Whether it's getting help with homework, avoiding the class bully or finding scholarships, you'll find online resources that take the stress out of September.

You can find all the answers you need—from vaccination requirements to financial aid application forms. Also get activities to help your child succeed in school, and learn tips on healthy lunches and lots more topics, as well.

Discover these and additional resources at www.firstgov.gov/Topics/Back_to_School.shtml.

Www.FirstGov.Gov is also a good website for government benefits. You can sign up for one to forty-eight informative newsletters. Check it out.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<h1>September '05</h1> <p>* Repeats—See Page 17</p>			National Sickle Cell Month 800-421-8453, www.sicklecelldisease.org	1	2 *Public Transit-Skills Training every Fri *Easter Seals 	3 *Special Teens Bowling—every Sat -Philly Fringe & Live Arts Festival (2 thru 17) www.pafringe.com -Public Mural Art Tours every Sat, 215-686-0754
4 IMAX film Lions of the Kalahari opens, Franklin Institute, all day, 215-448-1200	5 LABOR DAY 	6 First Day of Public School 	7 *Legal—every Wed	8 *SEPTA, *School District -Nat'l Assn for the Dually Diagnosed tele-conference, 845-331-4336, info@thenadd.org -Temple Health Fair, 11:30a-2p, 3340 N. Broad	9 *First Friday Gotta Dance at PDDC -Temple Health Fair 3340 N. Broad St. 11:30a-2p, Call Chris Hopkins 215-204-7000	10 *Disabled in Action -Beloved St. John Community Day 10a-6p 215-329-5140 -Health Fair at Grace Lutheran Church 36th & Haverford St. 10am
11 Health Fair, 10a-3p, Temple Bethel, 7650 Lowber Ave -Kardon Institute for Arts Therapy, 1-2p, jazz quartet, World Café Live, 3025 Walnut, 215-637-2077	12 * Quality Progressions -Networks—Person-to-Person Series, 5:30-8p, 215-546-4112	13 *TAMW *Hall-Mercer *Northwest -Networks-Seeing Yourself in a New Role, 10a-12:30p, 215-546-4112, www.networksfortraining.org	14	15 *Phila Right to Education Task Force 	16 *Easter Seals *Consumer Connection -Heath & Fitness Expo Phila. Marriott, 12th & Market St. FREE	17 Health & Fitness Expo (16 & 17) Phila Marriott, 1201 Market -Phila Kids Run, 10a, 17th & Ben Franklin Pkwy, 215-564-6499
18 Nat'l Rehab Wk Nat'l Reye's Syndrome Wk -Jefferson Hosp. Phila Distance Run, all ages, 8am, 215-564-6499 -Mass Mutual Lifebridge, free day at the Zoo, call The Arc, 215-229-4550	19 1:30pm Mayor's Commission on People w/Disabilities, MSB 16th fl, 215-686-2798 -Nat'l Employment Law Institute ADA Workshop, Phila Ritz Carlton, 303-861-5600	20 2-5pm Interfaith Disability Pre-summit, Wash. DC, www.allianceforfullparticipation.org -The Arc Phila, 12-1p & 7-8p Special Needs Estate Planning, catered, 215-229-4550 x126	21-23 Alliance for Full Participation, Wash, DC—Sold Out -Ticket to Work Symposium, 10a-3:30p, Concordville, PP&A, 800-692-7443 x103	22 *A Place for Us 	23 AAMR (21-24) Annual Meeting, Washington Hilton - SIB Shop at The Arc (23 & 24) 12-1p, 215-229-4550 x126	24 German-American Steuben Parade, 2pm, Fkd Ave at Welsh & Knorr, 215-332-3400 -Free Golf Clinic at Overbrook School—see Readers page -DeafNation Expo, Gaithersburg, MD www.deafnation.com
25 Puerto Rican Day Parade, noon, Ben Franklin Pkwy, 215-627-3100 x205 	26 Collective Advocacy Workshop all new, King of Prussia, 800-684-3695 - PDDC Golf Tournament, Stu Boyer, 215-229-4550	27 Supports Coordination Advisory Committee, MRS, 10-noon 	28 -Career Philly Internship Fair www.campusphilly.org	29	30 	-Pennypack Park's 100th Anniversary Fall Festival & Flea Market, Pennypack Environmental Center, 215-685-0470

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<h1>October '05</h1> <p>*Repeatables—See Page 17</p> 			<p>National Down Syndrome Awareness Month, 800-221-4602, www.ndss.org</p>	<p>National Spina Bifida Awareness Month, 800-621-3141, www.sbaa.org</p>	<p>National Rett Syndrome Awareness Month, 800-818-7388, www.rettsyndrome.org</p>	<p>1 *Special Teens every Sat Public Mural Art Tours every Sat, 215-686-0754 -Walk Now, Cure Autism Now, 800-8autism, www.walknow.org</p>
<p>2 Pulaski Day Parade, 1-3p, Ben. Franklin Pkwy, 215-922-1700</p>	<p>3 *Speaking for Ourselves * Quality Progressions</p>	<p>4 Rosh Hashanah (no school 4 & 5)</p> 	<p>5 *Legal PA Gov's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities annual conf., King of Prussia, 717-772-1658</p>	<p>6 Phila Right to Education Task Force Open House & IDEA Update, 7 pm TBA, 215-875-3538</p>	<p>7 *Public Transit-Skills Training-every Fri *Easter Seals *First Friday Gotta Dance at PDDC</p>	<p>8*Disabled In Action -Speaking for Ourselves Advocacy workshop 10a, info 610-825-4592</p>
<p>9 Columbus Day Parade, S. Broad St., noon, 215-686-3412</p> 	<p>10 *Mayor's Commission on people w/ Disabilities -No school for Columbus Day observation</p>	<p>11 *TAMW *Hall-Mercer *Northwest -Last day to register to vote -Networks-Do's & Don'ts of Consulting, 215-546-4112</p>	<p>12 TASH teleconference, Positive Behavior Support, 410-828-8274, www.tash.org/teleconferences -Networks-Computer Basics, 9:30a-12:30p, 215-546-4112</p>	<p>13 *SEPTA *School District -Yom Kippur (schools closed)</p>	<p>14 TASH teleconference, Eliminating Aversives, Seclusion & Restraint, 410-828-8274, www.tash.org/teleconferences</p>	<p>15 Liberty Resources 25th Anniversary Gala 6-10pm 215-634-2000 x368</p>
<p>16</p>	<p>17 Nat'l Health Education Week, www.nche.org -Networks—Person-to-Person Series, 5:30-8p, 215-546-4112</p>	<p>18</p> 	<p>19 Disability Mentoring Day www.dmd-aapd.org</p>	<p>20 *Phila Right to Education Task Force -That All May Worship Conference, Wilkes Barre, 202-293-5960, thall@nod.org</p>	<p>21 *Easter Seals *Consumer Connection -Mayor's Commission on People with Disabilities 10th Access Achievement Awards, 215-686-2798</p>	<p>22 Doctor Dolittle, Kimmel Center (21-25) musical</p> 
<p>23</p>	<p>24 -Public Forum, 6-8p, at Vision for Equality, call PP&A, 800-692-7443, ppa@ppainc.org</p>	<p>25</p> 	<p>26 Networks-Oct 26 & 27, 9:30a-4p, Communication Mentors Course, 215-546-4112, www.networksfortraining.org</p>	<p>27 *A Place for Us</p>	<p>28 14th Annual My City, My Place, Wyndham Philadelphia Hotel at Franklin Plaza, 8:30a-3:30p, contact Judy Kresloff, 215-685-5923</p>	<p>29 That All May Worship Conf. in Mechanicsburg, 202-293-5960, thall@nod.org</p> 
<p>30 Daylight Saving Time ends ... Did you turn your clocks BACK one hour today?</p> 	<p>31 HALLOWEEN</p> 			<p>My City My Place Show Me the Money! Making Employment HAPPEN!</p> <p>October 28, 2005</p>		

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October 28, 2005

8:30 AM - 3:30 PM

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17th and Race Streets**

LOTS OF RESOURCES!

*If you don't receive an
announcement in the mail, visit
<www.MyCityMyPlace.com>,
or call Judy Kresloff, MRS,
215-685-5923.*