



NEWS QUARTERLY

Volume IV - Issue No. 4: October 2008

Message from the CEO

I warned everyone that we will continue to ask for classroom sponsors and the kitchen appliances until they are complete! Now that the weather is not so hot and humid our clients like to be outside. How about some outdoor furniture? A bench for the Jim Holcomb Courtyard? Some outdoor chairs for the under roof areas?

Sponsor a Classroom for \$25,000 which would make you a Gold Sponsor.

Other levels are:

| | |
|------------------|----------|
| Silver Sponsor | \$10,000 |
| Bronze Sponsor | \$5,000 |
| Titanium Sponsor | \$1,000 |
| Friend of HARC | \$500 |

Whatever you decide to give, it will be well spent on our new Centre. Your donation will strengthen the educational and vocational needs of the HARC clients and help them to live a richer and fuller life in our community. Dig a little deeper in these hard times to make another life happier.

Again, I will not stop asking until it is done! Thank you.



Richard Lilliston
HARC CEO

IN THIS ISSUE:

Client Column:.....page 1
Governance

**Museum of disABILITY
History:**.....page 5

**HARC Program
Spotlight:**page 2
Kimron is a worker

HARC Family Advisory:...page 6

CLIENT COLUMN

New Officers for the Governance Committee

I have been writing about the Governance Committee for two years and had yet to attend a meeting - this says a lot for the minutes Patricia Whitmore (Day Program Director of the Riverview campus and one of the advisors for the committee) types out and for my chats with past president, Dekethia!

On Wednesday, October 15, I went to the 10:00 meeting in the Community Center at the Centre for Life Development (CLD) campus.

Seventeen clients from various HARC locations attended along with four HARC staff members. Everyone was relaxed and open to discussion and attentive when Patricia spoke.

Since the officers were elected in September, Patricia reviewed what each officer's role on the committee is for each person. Donald is president, Roy is vice-president, Jeannette is secretary and Missy is treasurer. Donald will meet with Patricia, and any other advisor he requests, to put the agenda together for the next meeting on November 19; he is ready and willing to run the show!

(continued on page 6)



**HARC Clients
Self-Governance
Committee**

**Donald King
NEW President**

Disability Mentoring Day At-A-Glance

From DMD web site:
www.dmd-aapd.org

WHAT IS DISABILITY MENTORING DAY?

- A national program coordinated by the American Association of People with Disabilities that promotes critical career development for students and job-seekers with disabilities (the mentees)
- Local communities around the country organize their own activities to bring mentees and employers together



HARC clients who participated:

Robbie Sherouse - Suntrust Bank
Headquarters Downtown
Robert Powell - Best Buy in Tampa
Marjocyie Wilson - Publix - W Hillsborough
Patrick Lungren - Publix - W Hillsborough
Twinquetta Gallons - Publix - W Hillsborough

Nettles Group Home in The Osprey Observer



The Osprey Observer wrote a very nice article on the Nettles Group Home for the Grand Opening that took place on August 27. The local paper put a copy of the article into a frame for the home. Peter Brydon,

Residential Manager, will help the residents decide where the framed article will be placed in the home.



Peter in the Nettles Home

Mayor's Alliance Career Fair

Wednesday, October 29th 9:00 am - Noon
at Tampa Bay WorkForce Alliance

Date and participants provided by Cindy Stephens, TBASS Director and Employment Committee Chairperson for the Alliance

Some of the employers expected to attend:

Amerigroup, The Bank of Tampa, FOX Channel 13 WTVT, Manpower...

About the Mayor's Alliance

The Tampa Mayor's Alliance for Persons with Disabilities was organized by the Mayor's office in September 1986. Tampa was the first Florida city to organize a Mayor's Alliance.

The Mayor's Alliance for Persons with Disabilities, under auspices of the Mayor's Office, City of Tampa, Florida, is an effective advocacy organization whose goals are to increase opportunities and the quality of life for persons in Tampa who are disabled. Since 1986, more than 300 volunteers from business, government and individual interests have forged the Mayor's Alliance to benefit the interests of persons with disabilities.

Purpose

Organized as an advisory/advocacy group to represent people with disabilities interests in obtaining an independent, fulfilling life.

Membership

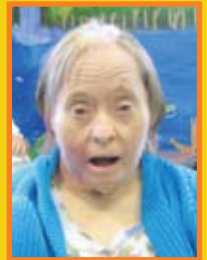
Volunteers from private and public interests form the Mayor's Alliance.

Nancy Em Walker

10/8/46 – 9/23/08

Submitted by Bobby Richards, Quality Manager at HARC & Robyn Engelman, Residential Manager at Kaul Home

Nancy lived in a HARC residential home since she was 18-years-old. On the 8th of October, Nancy would have celebrated her 62nd birthday. During her lifetime, Nancy was an advocate for herself, as well as, for her peers, reaching out through the United Way. Nancy accomplished many of her life's goals; one extremely important one for her was to meet all the Presidents of the United States who served in her lifetime; she succeeded.



Once she was diagnosed with Probable Alzheimer's, Nancy worked with USF to further their research within the field. USF was extremely excited about working with Nancy since she not only desired to assist with research, but she was also ambidextrous, which is uncommon with someone who happens to have Down's syndrome.

Nancy loved to dance, wear her jewelry, life, and having a fun night out. Nancy also loved to eat; some of her favorite foods were pizza and spaghetti.

Although she will be greatly missed, Nancy's family and friends continue reaching out to people with developmental disabilities and they continue the research for Alzheimer's, in hopes that one day, the link between Down's syndrome and dementia will be broken.



"Building Everyday Lives"

Serving individuals with disabilities throughout Hillsborough County since 1953.

HARC (founded in 1953) is a community based 501 (C)3 that serves 400 youths and adults with disabilities throughout Hillsborough County.

Our mission is to support individuals with disabilities to reach their potential and "build everyday lives."

For What It's Worth

Column by Steven J. Mason, HARC's Chief Operating Officer

The Push from the Feds

The national push for services for people with disabilities from Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has been away from structured, supervised, intense settings in favor of giving the individual a small amount of resources to pay for 10 hours a week of attendant-type care. This works well for people with physical disabilities and the elderly - why move into a facility when you can stay in your own home with a few hours of help a day? This makes sense from an efficiency standpoint; spreading thin resources to more people. The plan even increases the extent to which individuals can control their own lives and choose their own care. Yet, while the elderly and physically disabled can manage their own services with a little help from the family or a case manager, many people with intellectual disabilities cannot.

The Feds tested the model around the nation, including Florida, with millions of dollars going to pay for start-up funds and research studies. On the heels of this "success," Congress, in the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, laid out a plan for states to use regular Medicaid Dollars for personal assistant services - no need to put people on expensive waivers or in comprehensive programs. Regulations were published telling states how to do it, and they include a discussion of comments submitted. Some pointed out these types of programs are not appropriate for all populations, claiming that caregivers were inadequately trained and supervised with little oversight provided; putting vulnerable people at risk. The Feds said they disagreed, with the following protections put in place:

1. "Financial management services" are available

Presumably, this means natural supports such as legal assistance, rep payees, etc. Of course, some people have no close family and don't know how to access free assistance.

2. There will be an "assessment of the person's needs, strengths and preferences"

This can be done in 10 minutes, annually, with a one page document by someone with a 50 person caseload. How will it protect?

3. The use of a representative when needed

Of course, there is precious little funding for guardian programs in many states, including Florida, so again the person must rely on "natural supports."

4. A person-centered planning process involving the person's family, friends and professionals is used to plan supports

Services only pay for personal assistance services at a low hourly rate, so what professionals will be on the team? Again, it relies on friends and family.

5. Individualized back-up plans that address critical contingencies or incidents that pose a risk

If the personal assistant does not respond, who will be available to help? If the personal assistant is abusive or neglectful, who notices? The case manager who visits every other month?

6. The feds require a "risk management system" to identify potential risks

Anyone can "identify" the risks. Who is responsible for doing something about the risks to protect the person?

7. The feds require that states use certain "tools or instruments" (such as criminal background checks)

We all know if the staff person has no criminal record, they need no supervision, right?

8. The feds mandate "necessary safeguards" and "assure financial accountability"

The paperwork will say all is well, but who will notice if things are not as they appear?

Without coordination, training and oversight what does service look like for people with high needs? That is the real question.

Florida's Nonprofit Sector: An Economic Force Report From Non-profit Leadership Center of Tampa Bay, Inc.

The study of Florida's nonprofit sector commissioned by Florida Philanthropic Network reveals the significant role that nonprofits play in the economy of our state. This study is a joint product of the Johns Hopkins Center for Civil Society Studies and the Florida Philanthropic Network conducted by Lester M. Salamon, Stephanie Lessans Geller, and S. Wojciech Sokolowski.

Florida nonprofits employ six times the number of people employed by the state's renowned agriculture industry, according to the report. With 380,000 paid workers and another 250,000 full-time equivalent volunteer workers, the Florida nonprofit work force exceeds that of the state's real estate industry by more than 3 to 1, and its banking and insurance industry by nearly 50 percent.

Florida's nonprofit sector generated more than \$48 billion in revenues in 2005, the latest year for which data are available. The state's paid nonprofit workers alone accounted for nearly \$13 billion in wages as of 2005. This translates into significant sales tax revenues for Florida governments.

DontBlockMyVote.org is driven by three basic principles.

1. Every eligible American citizen should vote.

Register and vote. Most states have early registration deadlines. Don't miss your opportunity.

2. Every American deserves equal access to the polling place.

Polling place accessibility is improving, but it is still not perfect. Be a vigilant advocate - help us make sure every polling place is accessible by sharing information about good and bad voting experiences.

3. Disability issues must be at the forefront of every election.

People with disabilities represent the largest minority group in America yet few candidates running for public office regularly discuss disability issues during their campaigns. This has to change. Tell candidates to make disability issues a priority!

Museum of disABILITY History

Normalization means...A normal rhythm of the day.You get out of bed in the morning, even if you are profoundly retarded and physically handicapped;You get dressed,And leave the house for school or work,You don't stay home; In the morning you anticipate events, In the evening you think back on what you have accomplished;The day is not a monotonous 24 hours with every minute endless.You eat at normal times of the day and in a normal fashion; Not just with a spoon, unless you are an infant; Not in bed, but at a table; Not early in the afternoon for the convenience of the staff. Normalization means...A normal rhythm of the week...

From Museum of disABILITY web site 2008 - history of people with disabilities and the changes over time in where and how they live...

The Museum of disABILITY History is a museum related to the history of people with disabilities from medieval times to the present era. Located at 1291 North Forest Road in Williamsville, New York, USA, it is the only "bricks and mortar" museum dedicated to advancing the understanding, acceptance and independence of people with disabilities in the United States. With, and on behalf of, individuals with developmental and other disabilities, the Museum seeks to promote a higher level of societal awareness and understanding, and a change in attitudes, perceptions and actions that will result in people with disabilities having the greatest possible participation in their communities.

People Inc. first organized the idea for the Museum of disABILITY History in 1998 after James Boles, Ed.D President and CEO of People Inc. discovered there was no museum or single education resource to send students to learn about the history of people with disabilities. In 2003, the Museum received its Provisional Charter by the New York State Department of Education Board of Regents and continues to be a project of People Inc.

The Museum's exhibits, collections, archives and educational programs create awareness and a platform for dialogue and



discovery. Photographs, rare books, historic artifacts utilized by people with disabilities, and many primary sources and archival materials, the earliest dating to 1750 are all part of the rapidly growing collection. Included in the Museum's collection is a 1963 Greaves Thundersley Invacar. Few Invacars exist today in Europe and the only known Invacar in North America is at the Museum of disABILITY History.

The Museum of disABILITY History offers many on-site, traveling and virtual exhibitions. All exhibits feature various artifacts, unique historical facts, and are presented in an unbiased fashion.

TAMPA WORK SERVICES

Submitted by Dick Bower, Director of TWS

TWS is still very busy with our contract work, but we set aside time to enjoy the fruits of all of our labors. While busy, we have been thinking about HARC IDOL. As most of you know, TWS took the top three prizes last year. And, we have made it public that we are going to do it again! We have been working and rehearsing for over three months - get ready to applaud!

On the other side of the coin, I mean bill, we are making great strides with our contracts. We lost a percentage of one

contract, but turned the corner, and picked up a new one. Wish us luck.



Jesus M. sings his heart out, in Spanish, during a preliminary round for HARC Idol



Employment Opportunities

*Positions require a minimum of HS degree or GED. Must be at least 18-years-old and have a clean criminal and driving record.

Contact: Sherralynn Gilbert, (813) 931-9100 or e-mail resume to: Bruce Polansky, bpolansky@hillsarc.com

Upcoming Events

13th Annual HARC Charity Golf Classic

Join us for lunch, a fun round of golf with lots of prizes and dinner on Friday, November 7th, 2008.

This year's golf fundraiser is returning to the MacDill AFB Bay Palms/South course at the request of the 100 golfers who greatly enjoyed playing there last year in our 2007 HARC Charity Golf Classic.

Pecan Sale!

\$8.00 for each 1 lb. bag

To order in advance contact:

Victoria Gasque

813-679-3425

Gasque3@verizon.net

Available at HARC's Centre for Life Development the week of November 10th 2714 W. Kirby Street Tampa Monday - Friday from 10:00 am - 3:00 pm



Norma Leto and Chris Kern get a jump on Pecan Sales at Family Fest!