

**WILLIAM M. BEDELL ACHIEVEMENT
AND RESOURCE CENTER**

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arc NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2017

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MISSION STATEMENT

To provide the highest quality services and programs to children and adults who have a developmental disability, who reside in Madison County, Illinois.



Special Olympics
Illinois

The PyeongChang Olympics don't have anything on our hometown athletes! Several of our folks participated in the Special Olympics Area 12 District F Bocce Meet, making us proud by bringing home the Gold, Silver, and Bronze! The Bocce Meet, was held October 7, at Glik Park in Highland, Illinois under the direction and coaching of Recreation Director Dave Logan. The ARC team, included Keith S. who took 1st, earning him a gold medal, along with Andy N. and Steve C., who each placed 2nd, bringing home the silver, and Scott B., who placed 3rd and received bronze.



Additionally, at the Area 12 Bowling Meet on September and October 1, at St. Clair Bowl, Susie S. placed 2nd and Desi M.P. placed 5th. Danny C. and John N. each took home the gold by placing 1st and went on to complete at the Area 12 Sectional Bowling Tournament on November 5, where Danny C. placed 2nd winning the silver and John N. placed 4th. Congratulations to our athletes!

SCHOOL PROGRAM

On June 30, 2017, Cheryl Blaha, long-time employee and principal retired. On July 1, Kathy Gerscheid moved from assistant principal to principal and Stacey Marsh was hired to be assistant principal. The transition has been smooth. Our student numbers increased and we were able to reopen the classroom that had been closed the previous year. It was decided to place students in the newly opened classroom who were able to do more vocational related activities. This has been a successful transition. The students have opened a school store and are busy at work keeping our school cleaned and taking care of recycling.

Music therapy has become a regular part of our school week and a great addition to our therapeutic environment. When the weather warms we will begin our Equestrian Therapy sessions in conjunction with the barn at Beverly Farm. As spring approaches we are beginning to talk about our school gardens and what we will plant this year.

We are also busy making plans for our annual Prom on April 14th. This year's theme is, "Monster Mash". The area "Special Olympics" is April 28th and our athletes are ready to compete.

RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM

Throughout the winter months our clients have stayed busy attending numerous dances in the community. Other activities include attending movies at the Nazarene Theater in Roxana and at the beautifully restored Wildey Theater in Edwardsville.

For those individuals who are sports fans, we have had some who have attended St. Louis Blues Hockey games and WWE Wrestling matches in St. Louis, MO.



A sure sign spring is nearly here are plans to attend St. Louis Cardinals baseball games, trips to the St. Louis Zoo and a trip to Springfield, Illinois to the museums and monuments. We were fortunate to receive complimentary tickets from the St. Louis Cardinals organization to a day game of the St. Louis Cardinals vs. White Sox on May 2. Yay! Go Cards!

Also enjoyed by many of our individuals is summer camp – many of our folks are looking forward to attending Camp New Hope for a week this coming summer.



DAY TRAINING PROGRAM

From the ARC-DT Program...staff and individuals of the Developmental Training Program were sad to see their long-time director, Bill Lawson, retire from his position on September 29, 2017. Everyone is very grateful to him for his leadership, guidance, and friendship. We miss him.

DT continues to be a busy, busy place. Cooper B-Line keeps the work rolling in and our individuals work hard to have it ready for the pick up every week.

We also schedule in some time for fun....Our annual Talent Show was again a big hit! We had more than 25 individuals/groups perform this year. Dancing was also encouraged, and several participated. Thanks to all our staff, past and present, for making this a success!

We were also happy to have a couple of upgrades recently. One was a new phone system, which allows staff to have voice mail, as well as other new features. The other was a new look for our dining room, with a different color scheme, and painted designs.

A.J. Dusky, who attends the BeDell ARC day training program, wrote the following poem and would like to share it with you...

*God never wants us to give up.
He doesn't want us to get caught up in the past, but to focus on the future. Jeremiah 29:11 teaches us that He wants us to prosper, and gives us hope and a future.
We can do all things through Him who strengthens us - Philippians 4:13. What is impossible is now possible.
So many people give up on themselves - that is what the enemy wants, but it's not over. Life at times is unbearable and whenever it gets you down...
Never Give Up.*

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

Awards were presented to the following individuals:

Perfect Attendance Awards

October – Brian Berkley/Maintenance
November – Angie Becker/DT
December – Octavia Wheeler/DT
January – Dave Logan

Employee of the Month:

October – Angie Becker/DT
Stephanie Goheen/DT

Congratulations to all! You are appreciated!



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