

Advancing the value of and respect for individuals with disabilities.

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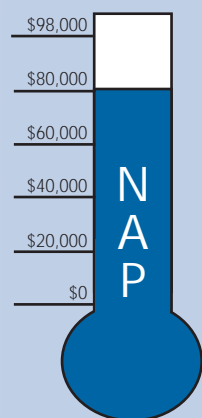
Available For 2003

**\$17,000 Still Needed
To Reach Our Goal
by May 31**

Thanks to the support of the Evansville community, to date \$80,900 has been raised. While we are greatly enthused by the response, we still have \$17,000 to raise to reach our goal.

These funds are designated for the Adult Day Services Program to help continue the low client to staff ratios as well as the employment of a Licensed Practical Nurse. You can help adults with disabilities achieve greater independence and enjoy a significant tax savings!

Indiana residents who donate \$100 or more will receive a state tax credit equal to 50% of their donation, plus the federal tax deduction on the total amount. For



example, a \$1,000 donation could generate \$890 in tax savings, depending on the donor's tax bracket. Call Sarah Stafford at 428-4500 for more information about NAP credits.

A Very Special Friendship

by Beth Schultzeis

He stood by the open coffin and with tears in his eyes and said, "Harold was my friend."

George Flowers and Harold Wiles had a very special friendship that began in 1986. Harold was an adult with developmental disabilities receiving services through the Evansville ARC Training Center. George was the Fire Prevention Coordinator for the Evansville Fire Department, whose responsibilities included inspection of the Training Center.

When George arrived at the Training Center in 1986 to perform his first inspection, he had the opportunity to meet Harold and from that time on, George and Harold were "buddies". Each time George came to the Training Center to do an inspection or for any other reason, he always talked with Harold. In fact, Harold watched for him and would make sure he saw George. When Harold saw the fire inspector's car park in front of the building, he was impatient to see his friend. Usually, it was very difficult for staff to convince Harold that George could complete the inspection of the building without him. George always made sure that Harold received a "fireman's badge".

As their friendship grew, George states that whenever he would have to go to the Training Center, his first thought would be, "I'll be seeing Harold". He knew that Harold loved seeing him and couldn't wait for George to get there. One time George took Harold for a ride in his inspector's car and let Harold wear his fireman's hat. He even got to turn on the lights and press the siren



button—a highlight of Harold's day.

Harold always wanted George's home phone number and gave George his group home address. He routinely asked if he could do volunteer work for George. George arranged for Harold and his friends to volunteer at Hose House #3 located at Fourth Avenue and Franklin Street. The group raked leaves and cleaned up the park area surrounding the hose house and planted flowers.

George attended Harold's last birthday party and Harold was elated, especially to have his picture taken with his friend. Just as the picture was being taken, Harold leaned over and quickly kissed George on the cheek.

continued on page 3

A Message From

The Executive Director

In anticipation of our 50th anniversary next year, we have been reflecting on the history of Evansville ARC. In September 1954, a small group of determined parents came together to organize the Evansville Association for Retarded Children. This group developed programs in 1954 to serve 15 children between the ages of three and eight years of age.

Through the years, programs have been added to provide life skills and vocational training to adults with multiple disabilities. Home-based, evening, and weekend services have been established to meet the ever changing needs of our consumers and families. In 2002, the Agency provided services to over 700 individuals or families. Even the name has changed to become Evansville ARC, as it is known today.

I am truly inspired by the parents and consumers who were determined to develop high-quality programs for the Evansville community and by the many volunteers, board members, donors, and employees who were committed to growing and improving the agency. We are honored to follow in

the footsteps of our predecessors, and in this spirit, we are very pleased to announce two new programs that are being rolled-out this spring and summer.

The Transition Project, a partnership between EVSC, Evansville ARC, and the State of Indiana, was designed to improve the transition process for EVSC students who are moving from special education programs in the Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation to adult life in the Evansville community. The Child Life Center Summer Camp, a partnership between the Indiana Child Care Fund, Ronald McDonald House Charities, and Evansville ARC was designed to provide an inclusive summer camp experience for children with and without disabilities between the ages of 6 and 12.

In the 2004 celebration of our 50th anniversary, we look to reflect and learn from the programs, services, and individuals that are the foundation of our first 50 years. Evansville ARC will continue to evolve as a leader: advocating for the children and adults with disabilities that we serve and striving to provide the best practices for the next 50 years to come.



Deidra Conner

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A Quarterly Publication
For Friends Of Evansville ARC

The mission of Evansville ARC is to advance the value of and respect for individuals with disabilities by providing opportunities for development and independence in the community.


For information on our programs and services:
Evansville ARC • 615 W. Virginia Street • P. O. Box 4089 • Evansville, IN 47724
(812) 428-4500 • www.evansvillearc.org

Deidra R. Conner, Executive Director



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McDonald's With The Diner Inside has 6 locations in Evansville, Henderson and Owensboro. Participating Restaurants • Evansville: 111 S. Roseberry, 799 N. Green River Rd. Henderson: 122 S. Green Street, 2011 Hwy 41 North • Owensboro: 1736 N. Partridge Ave. 4800 Tenthon St.

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NEW All-Inclusive Summer Camp Program

Thanks to a substantial grant from the Indiana Child Care Fund and other private support, Evansville ARC is proud to offer an all-new inclusive summer camp for school-aged children (6-12 years old) with and without special needs. Directed by a researched need and parental requests for a local summer day camp for children with special needs, Evansville ARC is offering a summer program for these children to participate in a summer camp environment with their siblings and peers.

An experienced, well-trained staff will include licensed teachers, teacher assistants, a nurse and an on-site administrator. With a low staff to child ratio, a child will receive the individualized attention he or she may need.

The camp will be held at Nativity Catholic Church located at 3635 Pollack Avenue. The hours for the camp are 9 am to 3 pm, Monday through Friday, during the weeks of June 2 – July 25. Extended care is also available to parents for an additional fee.

Evansville ARC is also excited to announce a new promotion partnering with The Ronald McDonald House Charities, YMCA of Evansville, Henderson and Owensboro to offer summer camp to children who live in the Evansville, Henderson and Owensboro communities. Until June 5, dine in at the six area McDonald's With The Diner Inside locations throughout Evansville, Henderson, and Owensboro, and a portion of the profit from every entrée ordered will help send kids to camp this summer!

A Very Special Friendship

continued from page 1

Last fall Harold's health began to fail and he was unable to attend the senior program at the Training Center. Over the Christmas holidays George visited Harold in his group home and took him a sack of gifts, which naturally included a badge. This was the last time the "buddies" saw each other. Harold Wiles died on February 9, 2003.

George knows that he has lost a very special friendship. He states, "Even with all of Harold's disabilities, he had something

about him that I usually don't see in other people, which is a true love for another person. I really didn't realize how much I looked forward to seeing Harold until his funeral.... he was a true friend. I now realize that I was coming to the Training Center for that special friendship. Every time I left the Center, I felt like a little bit of sunshine was shining on me and I was happy because maybe I had made someone's day." Very special friendships never end.



Grants & Fundraising



Successful Transitions

Assisting Students With Disabilities To Achieve Their Future Goals

A Really Big Thanks

Thank you to everyone who helped make Evansville ARC's 1st Really Big Show a huge success. We could not have hosted this event without your support. The evening was a big hit with the community and over \$55,000 was netted to enhance the programs and services at Evansville ARC!

After the event, audience members cast their vote for their favorite acts. The results for the 2003 Really Big Show were:

1st Place

Sheriff Brad Ellsworth

2nd Place

Vince Vawter & The Soggy Paper Boys

3rd Place

The Beatles a.k.a. The Pits

Also, the big winner of the Elvis Competition was Linda White! A special thanks goes out to all the clients and staff members at the Training Center who produced our flowerpot decorations for the reception, the wonderful co-chairs of the event: Lucy Himstedt and Ted Ziemer, the courageous men and women in our community who illuminated the show with their talent, the outstanding and hard working crew, and to all the dedicated sponsors who made this event a success!

The date for next year's show has been set! The 2004 Really Big Show will be held on Saturday, February 14 at The Centre... mark your calendar! Please let us know if you have any questions or would like to share ideas with us for next year's show.

Over the next year, the Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation anticipates graduating 25 students with disabilities. Many of these students and their families are unaware of the choices available to them after high school. Thanks to a grant from the Governor's Commission on Community and Home Based Services, the EVSC and Evansville ARC have developed *Successful Transitions*.

In many cases, there is a gap in the services offered by the school and those offered by adult service agencies because students are unprepared for the stage of life that follows high school. Some students are either uninformed about the services available to them or they are not applying for services in time to facilitate a smooth transition. In turn, the individuals are regressing in the skills they learned in high school.

While the EVSC is providing quality services to students with disabilities, the current transition system could improve if the EVSC and local adult service

agencies form stronger alliances to help reduce or eliminate barriers to receiving services.

"The Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation is currently transitioning students into adult life through their Community and School Education Program (C.A.S.E), as well as with the involvement of the department of Vocational Rehabilitation. With the additional partnership of Evansville ARC and other community agencies, there are growing possibilities for students as they transition into adult living," said Caryn Struttman, Transition Project Coordinator for Evansville ARC.

With the formation of Successful Transitions, school systems and agencies such as Evansville ARC, The United Way, The Rehabilitation Center, The Bureau of Developmental Disabilities, Medicaid and The Social Security Administration will collaborate together to help educate students about the life choices available to them after high school.

Thank you to all of the major corporate sponsors and donors who supported The Really Big Show.

A complete list of contributors is located on page 5.



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The Beatles a.k.a. The Pits performing live at The Really Big Show.

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Representatives from Evansville ARC, Henderson and Owensboro YMCA's receive a surprise check from the Ronald McDonald House Charities during a "Dine-In So Kids Can Camp Out" media event.

Margaret D. Boarman

Retired, But Not Forgotten

Margaret Boarman has dedicated her adult life to advocating for and supporting individuals with disabilities for over 35 years. Margaret began her career as a teacher in 1956 for the Catholic Diocese and the Marian Day School for the Mentally Retarded. Margaret's other accomplishments include Assistant and Executive Director for Southern Indiana Rehabilitation Services, Inc; Director of Development, Personnel Director and Business Manager for Marian Heights Academy; Director of Home for Pregnant Teens for the Sisters of St. Benedict; and Co-Director for the Indiana Resource Center for Autism at the Institute for the Study of Developmental Disabilities at Indiana University.

In 1990, Margaret accepted the position as President and CEO of Evansville ARC. Through Margaret's leadership, Evansville ARC was successful in implementing an all-inclusive Child Life

Center, an Adult Habilitation Program, Community Job Link, ARC Industries and Community Living Services. In addition, Evansville ARC grew from 80 employees and a \$2,000,000 budget to 180 employees and a \$8,000,000 budget.

Margaret has been a mentor to many people who join her in her quest to seek the same rights and privileges for individuals with disabilities. She does not see limitations; she sees possibilities, potential, and value of each individual we serve. Margaret has given Evansville ARC the foundation to continue to expand programs and to be innovative in meeting the needs of the individuals we serve.

Margaret's continued dedication to our organization still keeps her active today. Currently Margaret is writing the history of Evansville ARC, assisting in strategic planning, providing business coaching to managers and offering her expertise as a consultant.



Margaret Boarman receiving a proclamation from Russell Lloyd, Jr., Mayor of Evansville, to proclaim March 19, 2003 as "Margaret D. Boarman Day."

**Thank You Margaret
For Your Dedication
to Evansville ARC**



Welborn Foundation, Inc.

Funding From The Welborn Foundation Provides Resources To The Community.

Special Education and Early Childhood Coordinators

The Child Life Center has hired a coordinator of Special Education and a coordinator of Early Childhood to provide consultative services and trainings to the community, parents and professionals in the areas of early education, special education, early intervention, parenting, and the prevention of developmental disabilities.

The coordinators facilitate parenting workshops and programs including

Sibshops, a support group for siblings ages 8-13 years old with a brother or sister with a disability. Thanks to the Welborn Foundation grant, these services are provided free to all participants. For more information, please call 812-428-5433.

Special Education and Early Childhood Resource Center

Thanks to a grant from the Welborn Foundation, resources such as books and videos are on display and available to be checked out at the Central Library READ

Center, 22 S.E. 5th Street, Evansville, IN.

Evansville ARC has chosen and made available materials that cover over 27 different Early Childhood topics and over 31 various Special Education topics. Our selection of books and videos is constantly increasing which allows us to continue to expand on the resources we provide for the public.

In addition, the Resource Center at the Evansville ARC Child Life Center has an assortment of materials such as curriculum guides and resources, audio books, videos, music, and software.



Another Success Story

Hannah West

Hannah West is like many nine-month-old babies, she is very curious about her environment and loves to discover new toys such as remote controls and home decorations. She loves to play outside and take car rides with her parents. Hannah's face lights up when she hears her daddy's voice. He couldn't wait to give her the battery operated convertible car he purchased for her birthday in July.

Hannah's parents, Melissa and Frank, were presented with devastating news from their OB-GYN that their baby would not likely live past the first 24 hours of birth. Melissa was advised to consider terminating the pregnancy due to the severity of the prognosis. Despite the diagnosis Melissa and Frank received, they decided to go one step further and get another opinion from Riley Hospital in Indianapolis.

Thanks to the doctors at Riley Hospital, Hannah's parents were given hope that their baby wouldn't have as many complications as first thought. Although the doctors told Melissa and Frank that Hannah may never walk or talk, they never lost faith in their

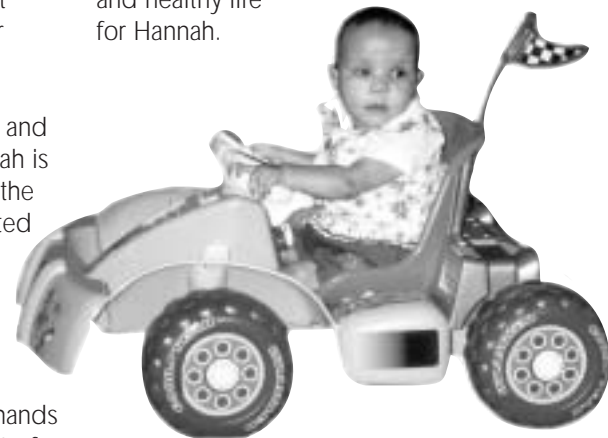
child. Hannah was born on July 10, 2002, at Riley Hospital and now nine months later Hannah is beating all the odds.

Melissa and Frank were referred to the Vanderburgh County First Steps Program through Riley Hospital and then made a parental choice to utilize the services of Evansville ARC's Early Intervention—First Steps Program. Since seven weeks after birth, Hannah has been participating in weekly First Steps sessions, which concentrate on physical, occupational, and developmental therapy activities. Hannah is scheduled to begin speech therapy in the next few weeks. Since Hannah has started her sessions, she now holds her own bottle when feeding, babbles, and pushes to stand up with a special therapy toy she uses.

"Every week it seems like Hannah's midline skills (when a child uses both hands to hold or manipulate an object in front of them) have improved. Hannah is making more noises each week and is now grabbing objects and holding her own bottle; she is really progressing in her

development," said Susan Nelson, Developmental Specialist for Evansville ARC.

Thanks to the therapy sessions and the dedication and support of Hannah's parents, doctors now say that Hannah should continue to make progress in all areas of her development. Her doctors predict a long and healthy life for Hannah.



**For more information,
call a First Steps consultant
at 812-428-5433**