

Advancing the value of and respect for individuals with disabilities.

State Budget Will Not Meet Needs of Hoosiers with Disabilities

Note: The following article may not contain final changes made to the state budget following the press time for Evansville ARC's newsletter. Updated information may be found on The Arc of Indiana's web site: www.arcind.org

No Help for Waiting Lists

As Evansville ARC's newsletter goes to press, HB 1001, Indiana's Biennial Budget Bill does not include funds to allow people to move off of long waiting lists for home and community-based supports funded by Medicaid Waivers. The legislative session is scheduled to end by April 29. The two year budget will impact programs and services for Fiscal Years 2006 through 2007.

Over 15,500 people are waiting for services on the Developmental Disabilities, Autism and Support Services Waiver alone. Many individuals have been waiting for over 6 years and some have been waiting for as long as 10 years.

The Arc of Indiana has advocated that \$34.5 million would move approximately 4,200 people off the waiting lists. At this writing, the budget does include \$49 million to provide emergency services to people with developmental disabilities. Essentially, this means that services will not be available unless a parent dies or enters a long term care institution themselves.

Because work related and day program services are now being funded through the Support Services Medicaid Waiver, young adults graduating from high school will also find it increasingly difficult to find work related and day program supports when they leave school.

The state biennial budget passed in 1999 provided \$39.3 million to implement the first phase of the 317 Plan - a comprehensive plan for programs and services for Hoosiers with developmental disabilities. The biennial budget approved in 2001 provided \$43.6 million for the second phase of the 317 Plan.

State funds were used to match federal Medicaid funds, providing a total of \$157 million in new state and federal funds from FY 2000 through FY 2003 for the 317 Plan. However, due to the state's fiscal crisis, approximately \$26 million of state funds appropriated for Fiscal Years 2002-2003 were reverted to the state general fund.

No new funds were included in the biennial budget approved in the 2003 legislative session for Fiscal Years 2004-2005. The legislature "flat-lined" and removed \$13 million from state funding for Medicaid - an entitlement program, which means:

- No new funds to move people off Medicaid Waiver waiting lists.
- No new funds for emergency and crisis residential services.
- No new funds for people living in Medicaid funded residential programs that would lose eligibility for Medicaid.
- No new funds for children transitioning from residential services funded by the Division of Family and Children and the Department of Education.

With no new funds for the waiting list in the budget for fiscal years 2006-2007, the great hope offered by the 317 Plan has not been fulfilled. Services to people with developmental disabilities are in extreme jeopardy.

First Steps

The Budget Bill includes language changing the cost participation fee for First Steps, Indiana's Early Intervention program for infants and toddlers with disabilities or at risk of disability. Families at 250% of poverty will be required to pay a fee for services.

Language in the budget also changes the past practice of limiting the amount the State could collect from private insurance by eliminating the cap of \$3,500. Families will not only be paying premiums to their health insurance company who will be billed for First Steps services, but then

Waiting List Has an Impact on One Local Family

In 1988, Judy Dorris adopted two developmentally disabled children, Molly-Kate and Tessa from the foster home system. Today, Molly-Kate is 22 years old and is a graduate



of Central High School. Tessa is 18 years old and will utilize the services of Community Job Link when she graduates from North High School in May 2005.

Since Molly-Kate graduated from high school a year ago, she spends her days at home with her 76 year old aunt and has not been receiving services because she does not have funding.

"When you first get a child with disabilities you are given so much information. The process is very confusing and overwhelming. Along the way, if I would have known to sign up for the Medicaid Waiver, I would have done it immediately," said Judy.

Surprisingly, Judy Dorris is not the only parent whose child is on the waiting list. "Most of the kids who graduated with Molly-Kate do not have the waiver. They are on the list, but the parents were uninformed and waited too late. Now their children will have to wait to receive services that require Medicaid Waiver funding," said Lyneve Scott, Successful Transitions Consultant with Evansville ARC.

"Molly-Kate, at this point in her life, cannot work independently in the community. She cannot be left alone and she never meets a stranger. She needs an environment like ARC Industries where she will be supervised, protected and can develop job skills," said Judy.

Due to state budget constraints, Medicaid Waiver funding is necessary to support services

A Message From The President



Deidra Conner

Last fall, Evansville ARC celebrated its 50th Anniversary. As you might imagine, the staff, management team, board members, and long-time ARC supporters spent a lot of time over the past year talking about how far we've come since 1954. Evansville ARC has grown and changed through the years – what began as a

small, grass-roots organization is now a large non-profit agency with a variety of programs and services. In 1954, children with developmental disabilities were not being served in the school system nor were services available in local communities for children or adults with mental or physical disabilities – for many families, sending their child to a state institution seemed to be the only option.

Educational and vocational opportunities for individuals with physical and mental disabilities have increased through the years, and many individuals today will never receive services from an agency like Evansville ARC, because they have the training, skills, and supports they need (and deserve) to thrive in the community. For this, we are truly grateful.

Yes, it is true, we have come a long way in 50 years, but I must say we still have such a long way to go.

I have spent much of my time during the past 3 months talking with legislators, Family and Social Services Administrators, families, individuals with disabilities, advocates, and many others about the

proposed budget cuts in the State of Indiana for Medicaid Waiver funding and the impact for people with disabilities. Today, more than 15,000 individuals in Indiana with mental or physical disabilities are waiting for services. Many of the individuals on the waiting list have been waiting for 6 years for services – some people have been waiting for 10 years. They are waiting for services because they have no funding source – there are no more Medicaid Waivers available in Indiana today. The State's budget for 2005/2006 provides no funding to reduce the waiting list. In fact, we expect the waiting list to continue to grow!

Individuals on the waiting list have been asked to put their lives on hold. They cannot plan for the future – they cannot develop the skills or obtain the supports they need to participate as an active member of our society. Would you or I be willing to put our lives on hold? For one day? For one year? For ten years?

Please take a moment to call or write your State legislators. Tell them how important the Medicaid Waiver funding is for individuals with disabilities. Tell them how important it is that all individuals be given the opportunity to lead a meaningful life in our community.

You can find out more by going to the ARC of Indiana website at: www.arcind.org. Click on the ARC Legislative Information page to learn more about the waiting list, the State budget, and how to contact your legislator OR call me at Evansville ARC at (812) 428-4500 to learn more.

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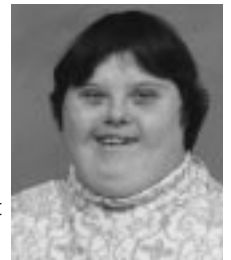
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Candace "Candy" Blondin

Evansville ARC is deeply saddened by the loss of Candace "Candy" Blondin. Candy, 58, died March 8, 2005 in Louisville, KY. Candy's mother, Dorothy, was one of the first founding parents of Evansville ARC in 1954 and was influential in the development of our organization. As a child, Candy was one of the first to attend our development center and later worked at McDonald Hopeland before moving to Louisville with her family. Candy enjoyed playing basketball and participated in this sport in the Special Olympics games. She also enjoyed music, television and reading magazines.



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.

Deidra R. Conner, President

Evansville ARC Development Team

Theo Boots, Director
 Monica Fleeger, Development Assistant
 Becky Glines, Promotions Coordinator



A Quarterly Publication For Friends Of Evansville ARC

Training Center – Adult Day Program & Child Life Center

615 W. Virginia Street • P. O. Box 4089
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 (812) 428-4500

ARC Industries & Community Job Link

2515 Kottler Avenue • Evansville, IN 47715
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 Evansville, IN 47724
 (812) 402-9185

www.evansvillearc.org

will still be expected to pay a cost participation fee on top of that.

Next Steps - Action Needed

Indiana's initial commitment to The 317 Plan made a difference. Yet, despite tremendous strides in funding home and community based services, thousands continue to wait and crises occur every day.

Funding has been forced to be used for emergency and crisis cases and for people who the State Department of Health has deemed as not needing the "level of care" provided in group homes. Those caring for children and adults at home continue to be forgotten.

Who is your State Representative and Senator?

Learn who is your State Senator and State Representative, and e-mail them directly at the State House.

- Go to: www.arcind.org
- Click on: "Legislative Information Page"
- Click on: "My Elected Officials." Then enter your address, city, and state, and you will be taken to a listing of your elected officials, and links to their e-mail addresses

Legislators and the Governor can also be reached at their State House address:

State House, 200 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204; or by calling **(800) 382-9842** or **(317) 232-9600**
 TDD-local: **(317) 232-0404**
 TDD-long distance: **(800) 548-9517**

Over 57,000 persons with developmental disabilities in Indiana live with family caregivers. Of those, over 14,500 live with caregivers over the age of sixty, over 20,000 live with caregivers over the age of forty, and over 22,600 live with caregivers under the age of forty. Clearly, many of these individuals need services now or very soon in the future.

As one legislative session ends, another begins. Now is the time to educate legislators on the local impact the state budget will have on people with developmental disabilities and their families. Advocacy is a never ending process. We must begin now to build toward the next legislative session.

such as those at ARC Industries' sheltered workshop where individuals not only work, but also receive case management, nursing and others services throughout the work day. In December 2003, Judy Dorris applied for the Medicaid Waiver and was told the wait could be 6 to 10 years before Molly-Kate could receive funding. "Molly-Kate is bored and is becoming depressed. She sees me leave for work and her sister leave for school each day and she just lays in bed. She used to look forward to getting up and starting her day. You have to have a purpose to get up every morning and right now Molly-Kate doesn't have that purpose," said Judy.

"In 2001, I suffered from breast cancer and was able to overcome the disease. In 2004, I was diagnosed with bone cancer and bone marrow cancer. If something were to happen to me, I don't know what would happen to the girls," said Judy.

To see additional stories of individuals who are on the waiting list throughout the State of Indiana, log on to www.arcind.org and click on "Remember Me! CD."

WANTED

Currently Evansville ARC has individuals with disabilities who are looking for jobs in the community and recreational/ volunteer opportunities. We also have programs that are in need of supplies and/or items for their classrooms.

Supplies Needed

ARC Industries

- 2 TV's that could be mounted on the wall
- Individual to paint a mural in the client's break room
- Recliner
- Stereo system
- Wheelchairs

Adult Day Program

- 2 flip chairs (soft cushion chairs that turn into a flat bed)
- 2 large (adult size) beanbag chairs
- Leather (please no cloth) recliners
- Piano
- Rocking chairs

Child Life Center (for art projects)

- Buttons
- Coffee filters
- Cupcake liners
- Dried beans
- Egg cartons
- Empty paper towel rolls
- Empty pasta boxes
- Empty tissue boxes
- Fabric
- Film containers
- Magazines
- Magnifying glasses
- Poster board
- Push toys
- Quart or half gallon milk cartons (not plastic)
- Shoebboxes
- Wallpaper or border
- Yarn

Child Life Center (for rooms)

- Beanbag chairs
- Board/picture books (hard bound) for 6 week - 6 year olds
- Individual to donate their time conducting Science presentations to the children
- Math/Science materials

Community Job Link - For Paid Employment

- Animal Shelter or another place - working with animals
- Bakery
- Beauty Salon
- Grocery Store
- Daycare Facility
- Deli - food preparation
- Department Store - working in the fitting room, stocking shelves
- Factory
- Garbage Removal
- Movie Theatre - greeter, ticket taker
- Nursing Home - dietary, laundry, activity room
- Office Work - answering phones, filing, paper shredding, working with computers, cleaning
- Restaurant - food preparation, washing dishes, lobby attendant, bussing tables
- Video or Music Store

Connections For Life - For Community/ Volunteer Opportunities

- Universities - enrolling individuals in classes or other opportunities
- Nursing Home - helping with patients or tending to animals
- Zoo - helping with animals

If you have any item(s) you would like to donate, please contact

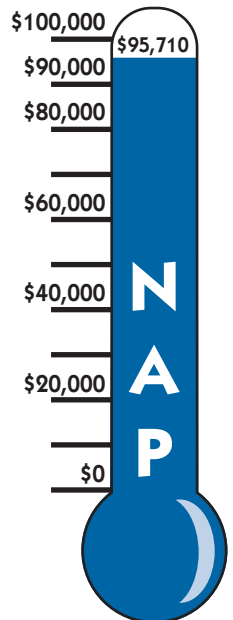
Becky Glines at 812-428-4500 ext. 307
Monday - Friday from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

NAP Credits
Still Available for 2005

\$4,290 Still Needed To Reach Our Goal By May 31

Thanks to the support of the Evansville community, to date \$95,710 in NAP credits has been raised. While we are excited that we have almost reached our goal, we still have \$4,290 to raise by May 31, 2005.

Call Theo Boots today at 812-428-4500 to find out how you can help individuals with disabilities become more involved into their community and enjoy a significant tax savings!



Grants & Fundraising



The Really Big Show Presented by Old National Bank and Toyota Is Another Really Big Success for Evansville ARC!

Thank you to all of our sponsors and volunteers who helped make Evansville ARC's 3rd Annual 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 we netted over \$77,000 to enhance the programs and services at Evansville ARC! Of the \$77,000 net amount, \$9,750 was contributed to the Bayleigh Pauckner

Endowment. Through the silent auction and giveaways donated by the Evansville Regional Airport and Deters Jewelers, we were able to raise this money for the endowment.

After the event, we gave the audience members a chance to vote for their favorite acts. The results are in and the favorite acts for the 2005 Really Big Show were:

- 1st Place** – Lori Arman, Maurice Floyd and Teresa Calhoun
- 2nd Place** – George Flowers
- 3rd Place** – The Laugh-In Commercials

At this time, we are working on a date for next year's show. Please let us know if you have questions or would like to share ideas with us for next year's show. We are always looking for fresh new acts!

Youth Resources of Southwestern Indiana

Thank you to Youth Resources of Southwestern Indiana Teen Advisory Council for donating several bags of art supplies to the Child Life Center. These supplies will be used for educational and craft projects in the classrooms. Thank you for providing our children more opportunities to enhance their creative skills!

Thanks!

Thanks to Thompkins Middle School, for donating \$215 to Evansville ARC. This money will be used to provide



materials for a Snoezelen Room that is being constructed for individuals in the Adult Day Program. A Snoezelen Room serves as an oasis for individuals, and has been proven to relieve

symptoms of anxiety, disorientation, and stress without the use of drugs. It is designed to provide relaxation by stimulating the visual, auditory, smell and touch senses, through state-of-the-art therapeutic techniques. Thank you Thompkins Middle School for continuing to support our mission!

Community Development Block Grant



Thanks to the Evansville Department of Metropolitan Development for awarding Evansville ARC a \$17,636 Community Development Block Grant for the Assistive Technology Program. The grant provides funding for instructors to work with individuals that have trouble communicating and educates them on alternative methods of communication. The individual is first assessed by a Speech Therapist to determine what type of alternative communication techniques are appropriate,

then the individual is further trained by ARC instructors on how to use the communication techniques.

Through the use of assistive technology, Annie Hazelit was able to use her dynavox communication device to read a book to children at St. Ben's preschool. Annie also recently helped give a presentation to the Vanderburgh County Commissioners about assistive technology.



Thank you Whirlpool Corporation for sponsoring a Tales and Scales performance for our preschoolers at the Evansville ARC Child Life Center. Using minimal sets and costumes, the uniquely-talented musicians of Tales & Scales spin music, story, theatre and dance into an unforgettable 'musictelling' performance experience that dazzles audiences of all ages. Thank you Whirlpool Corporation for sponsoring this educational performance for our children!



Contributors

February 2 – April 22, 2005

Investor in Self-Advancement (Gifts of \$10,000 & above)

**Sustainer for
Community Inclusion
(Gifts of \$5,000 to \$9,999)**
John & Marian Witting

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A Special Person to Evansville ARC

Florence (Flo) Deems Foster, 89, died February 23, 2005 after battling an ongoing illness. Flo enjoyed and cherished her family and her friends. She was blessed with a brilliant mind, a servant's heart, a deep faith, a pioneering spirit, and a wonderful sense of humor. She had a keen interest in education, health, and in children, especially those with special needs.

Flo played a major role in Evansville ARC's early history. In 1960, Flo became the first principal of the Development Center that was located in the East Side Christian Church. Throughout her career, Flo worked very diligently to improve the quality of services for children with disabilities.

We are so thankful to have had Flo's guidance, compassion, and leadership in our organization in its beginning years. We are blessed that she was able to share her story with us during our 50th Anniversary Celebration and allow us to get to know her before her passing.

Our sympathy is extended to all of her children and family members. She will forever be a part of our organization's foundation.



Contributors

(Continued)

February 2 – April 22, 2005

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Other Contributors

2 Anonymous
Whirlpool Corporation
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Indiana

Special Thanks to the following who held a special event that raised money for Evansville ARC:

Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity

In Memory of James Baskett

Jane Baskett

In Memory of Candice Blondin

Marilyn Jochum
William & Suzanne McLaughlin

In Memory of Dennis Farney

Robert Farney

In Memory of Jack Charlier

Jeremiah & Linda Roll
Randy & Ann Schulz

In Honor of Abbey Coulter

Al & Jan Korba

In Memory of Florence (Flo) Deems Foster

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Wanda English
Martha Glazebrook
Kathy Molloy
Patricia Montgomery
Judy Deems Nussbaum
William & Marilyn Sherbrooke
Lee & Nancy Shively
Mary Sigward
Ramona Skelton

Transitional Services, Inc.

In Memory of Curt Garrett

Mary Garrett

In Honor of Annie Jones

Joyce Biggs

In Memory of Carolyn Lant

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In Memory of Kimberly E. Riggs

Lois Riggs

In Memory of Irene Schmitt

Edward F. Schmitt Sr.

In Honor of the 35th Anniversary of The MOKAZ Group

Howard & Carol Abrams

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LEAVE A LEGACY®

"Make a Difference in the Lives That Follow"

May is LEAVE A LEGACY® month. The program is a public awareness campaign that educates people about the need to have a will. By making "planned gifts", individuals can continue to help organizations that are making a difference in the community long after the individual passes away. The LEAVE A LEGACY® program encourages individuals to discuss their intentions with financial and estate planners who specialize in this field.

We hope you will consider Evansville ARC in your will or other planned giving options. If you need more information about LEAVE A LEGACY® or how to make a planned gift to Evansville ARC, please call Theo Boots at 428-4500.

Tour Evansville ARC!

The best way for people in our community to understand what we do on a daily basis is to see our programs first hand. We take pride in helping make a difference in the lives of others. During a tour, you will see excitement in the individuals' faces as they demonstrate activities they can accomplish and skills they have gained.

Please join us for a tour, so we may show you Evansville ARC's impact on this community. Tours are from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and lunch is provided. Tours may also be arranged at your convenience.

TOUR SCHEDULE

Training Center

(located at 615 W. Virginia Street)
second Thursday of each month

ARC Industries

(located at 2515 Kotter Avenue)
fourth Thursday of each month

Please call the Evansville ARC Development Department at 812-428-4500 to schedule a tour. We look forward to seeing you!

A Best Buddies Chapter is Now Available in Our Community

Evansville ARC is excited to announce that a partnership has been formed between Evansville ARC and the University of Evansville (UE) to establish a Best Buddies chapter in our community. Evansville ARC will serve as the Host Site Coordinator and UE will host the chapter on their campus.

Founded in 1989 by Anthony K. Shriver, Best Buddies is a non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing the lives of people with intellectual disabilities by providing opportunities for one-to-one friendships. Best Buddies is a vibrant, international organization that has grown from one original chapter to more than 1,000 middle school, high school, and college campuses across the country and internationally.

Best Buddies partners individuals with disabilities with students at various academic institutions. In this case, the UE students who participate in the program will be called "college buddies."

As Host Site Coordinator, Evansville ARC will:

- Recruit individuals with disabilities in our community to participate in this program
- Coordinate and process the applications from individuals interested in participating
- Provide education to college chapters (i.e. how to communicate with an individual with disabilities)



A College Buddy will:

- Agree to make a long-term commitment to the program
- Have weekly contact with their buddy by either e-mail, phone or in person
- Will meet with their buddy once a month for a one-on-one activity

Currently, UE is in the process of hosting a kick-off event on campus to promote the new program. Already 20-30 students have shown an interest in being a college buddy and Diane Triplet, a UE faculty member, has agreed to oversee the chapter. Once the students are selected this Spring, Evansville ARC will recruit individuals with disabilities to buddy with the college students. In the Fall, the college students will return to campus and the program will begin.

Best Buddies has also established a way for college students with limited personal time to still be able to participate.

College students may connect with individuals with disabilities through an online friendship program, e-Buddies; or, they may become an Associate Buddy where they can attend chapter events but don't take on the full responsibility of being a buddy.

For more information about the program or to request an application, please call Carmen Embrey at 812-402-9185. We hope that you will join us as we embark on this exciting new adventure!

It's Prom Time Again!

Enchantment Under The Sea

Evansville ARC is excited to announce that Prom will be taking place once again on Friday, May 20th. The event will be held at the Evansville National Guard Armory located at 3300 Division Street, just East of Roberts Stadium. Arrival begins at 5:30 p.m. and the dance is from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

The theme for this year's prom is Enchantment Under The Sea. The evening includes live music, dancing, food, an opportunity to get your photo taken, the crowning of a king and queen and lots of fun!



Lucinda Huber gets crowned as the 2004 Evansville ARC Prom Queen.

If you have any questions about the prom or would like to volunteer, please call Beth Lowry at 812-428-4500. We currently need volunteers to help with set up/decorating from 4:00 – 5:30 p.m. right before Prom starts.

Apply Now for Partners in Policymaking Advocacy Training

Applications are due by
Friday, June 3



If you are passionate about promoting change and are a person with a disability or the parent of a child with a disability, you should apply for the Partners in Policymaking Academy. This program teaches participants to become effective advocates for people with disabilities in their communities.

"We arm participants with information they can use to help not only themselves but also other members of their communities," said Mike Foddrill, Partners Director. "It's not for you alone. It's how to be successful with the media, lawmakers, school boards and more."

Participants complete intensive training over eight weekends, from October through May, learning about advocacy topics such as the history of the disability rights movement and community inclusion. Other topics include legislation and lobbying, special education, social services, employment and community organizing.

"We really encourage people from all over the state to apply," Foddrill said. Over 500 Hoosiers have graduated from the program since its inception. The program is open to a limited number of people. If selected, the program will cover hotel, travel, childcare and other related expenses.

For a brochure or an application, contact the Partners office at (317) 232-7771, (866) 234-1635 (voice mail) or PIP@gpcpd.org. Or, visit www.in.gov/gpcpd and click on the Partners in Policymaking link. Applications must be postmarked by Friday, June 3.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Another Success Story

Terri Korff



In celebration of Teacher Appreciation Week, May 2 – 6, 2005, Evansville ARC would like to honor one of our dedicated teachers at the Child Life Center, Terri Korff.

In 1986, Terri began her career at Evansville ARC as an assistant in the Infant Stimulation Program working with children with various developmental disabilities. In 1992 when the Child Life Center became an inclusive daycare

facility, integrating special needs children with traditionally developing children, Terri began working with the toddlers and is still working with that age group today.

Terri incorporates creative and age appropriate activities into her lessons through art, music, sensory play, and imaginative play.

"I believe children learn through play, and shouldn't be interrupted to do what is next on the day's planned activities. I remain flexible with the children, and go with the flow of the activity or emotions of the children under my care. The important thing is to enjoy being with and playing with the children, getting to know them as individuals, realizing they all have special needs. We just need to find what makes them tick, what helps them to learn the skills they need to grow and move on to the next challenging stage of their lives," said Korff.

"It is our role to make sure that the kids, parents and staff have the most enjoyable educational experience possible at the Child Life Center. Parents want their kids to be happy and to learn. Attitude is everything and Terri certainly has

one of the best ones here. You can train your staff basically on everything else but their attitude," said Seals.

When asking Terri what she likes best about her job, she said "I love the children and we have a great staff. I really care for kids and get attached to them. The kids keep me young and since I never had kids of my own, they fulfill this in me," said Korff.

Terri also shared her excitement in being part of a child's early development. "Throughout the years I would hear stories from parents who were told their kids would not achieve specific milestones in their development. It is great to see some of those kids today doing great and doing even better than expected," said Korff.

Recently, Terri's father passed away. "Some of the parents from the Child Life Center came to the funeral home. They let me know how much they cared for me," said Korff.

"I care so much for the kids at the Child Life Center. It really touched me that their parents cared so much for me," said Korff.

Please remember to say Thank You or send a special greeting to a teacher that has touched your life. We are so grateful to have exceptional teachers like Terri at the Child Life Center that are dedicated to ensuring our children are provided with the best quality of care.

**For information about
The Child Life Center,
call 428-5433.**