



Community Links

July 2011

“To provide quality services in a cost-effective manner through innovation, leadership and the cooperation of dedicated people.”
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PACER

PACER’s Annual Run, Walk and Roll against Bullying

Communities nationwide are urged to join forces with PACER’s National Bullying Prevention Center by supporting the Run, Walk, and Roll Against Bullying on Oct. 1 as a kick off to National Bullying Prevention Month.

PACER is encouraging individuals, schools, businesses, and organizations around the country to show their support for National Bullying Prevention Month in October, raise awareness, and offer bullying prevention resources.

Show that you care! Participate in PACER’s Run, Walk, and Roll Against Bullying on Oct. 1, coordinate a Run, Walk, and Roll Against Bullying in your community, pledge to sponsor a participant or make a donation to PACER’s National Bullying Prevention Center. For more information go to <http://www.pacer.org/bullying/RunWalkRoll>.



Assistive Technology Corner!

An iPod is a mobile multimedia player. There are different models in the iPod product line. The iPod Touch model is capable of playing sound, video, text, and picture files. The iPod Touch is nearly identical to the iPhone model except for the fact that it does not have phone functionality and a few other capabilities.



There is a growing interest in using iPods and other mobile technology as assistive technology tools. In addition to being smaller and more portable than many other traditional assistive technology devices, iPods can have more computer power and often are less expensive. iPods are more socially acceptable among the teen population and typically simpler

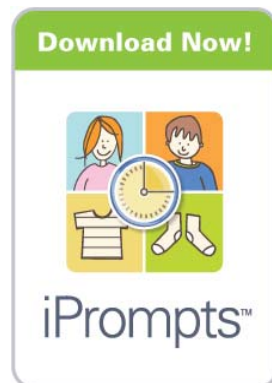
to use, both of which can motivate teens and young adults with special needs to adopt the product for use in the classroom and other community settings. The maximum allotment for this purchase is \$250.00 and a letter of recommendation from a therapist is required if waived or consumer support grant services are being used.

Applications are software programs on the iPod that assist individuals in communication, social stories, and object identification. Some are free downloads, some need to be purchased through the online store. Fraser Center has several that are available for use with teens and young adults with Autism.

Software Applications

QuickCues – www.quickcues.com – Provides social scripts for teens and young adults.

Picture Scheduler – http://www.jankuj.com/Main_page.html - Tool to create your schedule reminders includes options for pictures to be added or video clips.



iCommunicate – www.gembe.com - A storyboard and flashcard tool that can be used as a schedule strip or choice board.

iPrompts – www.iprompts.com – prompting tool.

Along with these programs each website has many other options as well.

Disability Specialist, INC.

Need help applying for Social Security Disability or help appealing a denial of services? Disability Specialist, INC can help. They have staff that can represent you on the claim and assist you in obtaining all necessary records that social security has requested. For more information please call 1-800-642-6393.

If you need assistance with applying for Medical Assistance you can contact ARC Twin Cities for assistance at 952-920-0855.

Equipment Exchange

Do you have adaptive equipment that you no longer are using or have grown out of? If so – the MS Society has a web page for individuals to post equipment they want to donate or to sell and the buyers can find equipment they need and contact the seller. To access the site visit www.MSociety.org and click on client programs, financial assistance and equipment program.

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Article Submissions

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Resources

St Andrew's Community Resource Center

St. Andrew's offers counseling to connect those in need with current resources available in the community and at St. Andrew's. They provide referrals for household, clothing, food, transportation, school supplies, rental and emergency assistance. Free Community Meal is offered every Thursday night from 6-7 P.M. in the Great Hall building. Hours of operation are Monday-Friday 8-4 P.M. and Saturday and Sunday 8-noon.



If you would like to assist by volunteering at the events by serving meals, delivering basic need supplies, tutoring, sponsoring, or just general community fellowship visit the webpage at <http://www.saintandrews.org/> or call 651-426-4631.

Free and Reduced Rate Lunches



Free/Reduced Rate Lunch - Remember that free and reduced rate lunches are available for all schools in Washington County. In order to access the free and reduced rate lunches you will need to fill out an application that can be found on all of the districts web pages. In order to qualify you must meet specified income guidelines and you are also required

to reapply each year. Contact your local school for more information.

PCs for People

PCs for people is a non-profit corporation located in St Paul, MN that refurbishes computers donated by local businesses and individuals and distributes them to those in need. To receive a computer you must meet certain income eligibility requirements. To receive more information regarding the program call 651-354-2552 or www.pcs4people.com.



MA-TEFRA...what is it?!

Have you heard friends, co-workers or families asking questions about what MA-TEFRA is? If so, feel free to check out the MN Department of Human Services information page to learn more about TEFRA by simply clicking on the search bar and typing in TEFRA. You can also learn more about disability services by going to www.dhs.state.mn.us/.

How to receive additional issues of Community Links!

Interested in receiving more issues of the Washington County Community Links Newsletter? Please send an email to: paul.simon@co.washington.mn.us to be put on the email list for the quarterly newsletters.

Washington County respects the email information you provide, and will not sell or distribute your information to anyone else.