

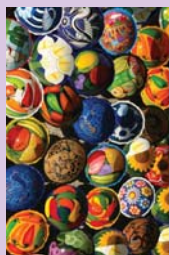


Community Links

February 2011

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

Art Fun!



Kiln Kreations offers a fun and relaxed environment for people of all ages to come and express their creativity. We are the perfect place to celebrate with friends, spend quality time with family, unwind after work, or a treat for the kids! We have the LARGEST selection of ceramics with over 700 different pieces to choose from, vibrant paint colors, design tools, idea books and a friendly staff ready to help you create a one-of-a-kind work of art. We also offer Clay Hand Building, Silver Jewelry Making...and YES it's finally here...Glass Fusing and Mosaics. See what all the excitement is about! Walk-in, reserve our party room or sign-up for a class. For more information go to Kiln Kreations website at www.kilnkreations.com.

Family Support Committee

The Washington County Family Support Committee (FSC) is currently seeking new members. If you would like to fun while doing something to give back to families with children with special needs in Washington County contact Lesley Riley (651-275-0403) or Rachelle Putnam (612-801-7351) for more information on the next meeting.



What is Transition?

Transition is the final stage of your child's education before they graduate. Transition occurs after the student completes traditional years of educational services (K-12) and begins working on transitioning into the workforce and community. The ages for transition are 18-21 and all school districts in Washington County have a transition program for students who qualify for special education services.

During the years of transition the school will work with the student on many different programs like, but not limited to, financial management, job searching, independent livings skills, social integration, shopping, apartment living, and cooking skills. Typically normal curriculum like math, reading, and comprehension are not the primary focus of the transition program but the districts will build customized plans for each student depending on individual needs.

Prior to turning age 21 and graduating from the transitional program the student and their family will work with either the county social worker or a counselor from vocational rehabilitation services to begin looking for jobs in the community.

For more information on what transitional services are, please contact your county social worker.

Fair and Fitness Information

Washington County Adaptive Resource Fair:

On March 3, 2011 Washington County will be hosting an adaptive equipment resource fair and equipment swap at the Cottage Grove Service Center from 4-8pm. If you are interested in learning more about the equipment swap or the vendors that will be there please contact your county case manager.

Do you have gently used adaptive equipment and/or educational supplies that your loved one no longer needs? If you answered "yes" please consider participating in the adaptive equipment/ supplies swap. Take a picture of your item, provide

: a brief description and your contact information and put it on a sheet of paper. You can send this to your social worker or drop it off at a designated table when you come to the adaptive equipment fair.

Adaptive Hip Hop Dance Fitness:

: For children with Down Syndrome taught by instructors skilled with working with children with developmental delays. Open to children ages 4-12 years. Parent or caregiver needs to attend with child (don't worry, we won't make you dance if you don't want to!). Fun with music, dancing, and friends! For more information, please contact Tenacity Fitness at 651-340-7991.

Proloquo2Go

Proloquo2Go™ is a product from AssistiveWare that provides a full-featured communication solution for people who have difficulty speaking. It brings natural sounding text-to-speech voices, up-to-date symbols, powerful automatic conjugations, a default vocabulary of over 7000 items, full expandability and extreme ease of use to the iPhone and iPod touch.

Tree Trust

Tree Trust will once again be accepting applications beginning on March 7, 2011. The deadline for the application is Friday April 15th and all participants will be picked via a lottery rather than first come first serve as it has been in the past. For more information or to get an application on or after March 7, 2011 please contact Felicia at 952-737-3880.



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Article Submissions

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Reminders!



Bowling For Roommates

Washington County in conjunction with REM has been hosting 'bowling for roommates night' at PINZ located in Oakdale. If you are interested in meeting new people or looking for a roommate, the next 'bowling for roommates' will be held on the last Tuesday of every month at 4pm at PINZ in Oakdale. For more information regarding housing programs please contact your social worker.

Girls Night Out

This is a new group for women who have disabilities in the Woodbury area who are looking for friends, fun and things to do. Previous girls night out activities have included dinner at Applebee's and shopping at Maplewood Mall. If you are interested in this group, contact your Washington County Social Worker for more information.

Programs

COMMUNITY EDUCATION ACROSS THE COUNTY

Here are some great activities going on with Community Education!

District 622

Offers quality swimming activities for all ages. Our experienced and caring instructors have been trained by the American Red Cross. They will help you or your child/children develop water safety and swimming skills in a positive learning environment. For more information on one to one instruction for a youth with developmental disabilities call 651-748-7434.



District 834

The Adults with Disabilities offered through Stillwater Community Education enables adults with developmental or psychological challenges to have social, recreational and educational experiences that boost their overall confidence. Programs include trips to local parks, attending a theatre

performances, cooking and craft classes, and making new friends. Call Sarah at 651-351-8484 for additional information for registration.

District 833

Learn the ABCs of gluten intolerance and what foods are safe to eat, how the FDA is approaching gluten in food labeling, where to shop for gluten-free foods and ingredients, and how and where to dine out gluten free.

District 831

LINK's Game Night. Come to the Central Learning Center for the evening and brush up on your game skills. Try our new Wii game system, dance the night away to Dance Revolution or jam away on Guitar Hero. You can also relax and play a game of cards with your friends. Call 651-982-8120 to register or visit the website for additional opportunities.



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.