



Community Links

May 2011

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

UPDATE

The Washington County Autism Committee would like to thank everyone who came to the Adaptive Equipment Resource Fair on March 3rd. We had 20 vendors and over 100 community members in attendance. The feedback provided was mostly positive with a desire to have it again next year and increase the number of vendors. We have started planning for next year's fair and will have a date and location soon. If you're interested in being a vendor or assisting in the planning please contact Denise Steans @ 651-430-4168.

Notes from the Community Links Team!

Thank you again to everyone who has made this newsletter so successful over the past year and a half. The Community Links team is looking forward to continuing to provide families with relevant and current information regarding resources and programs in your local and extended area. Remember that if you find a resource in your area, have ideas for the newsletter or if you would like to sign up to receive the email version please feel free to send an email to paul.simon@co.washington.mn.us.



REM Minnesota Community Services, Inc.

REM Minnesota Community Services, Inc. is offering a summer program for children with disabilities between the ages of twelve and twenty-one exclusively for Washington County. The summer program will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:00-5:00 p.m. Starting June through August 2011. The summer program will support families by providing activities and teaching opportunities for their children when school is out of session and after summer school. For more information contact:

Jeannette at 651-637-2288 or Jennie at 651-637-2286

Activities

Girls Night Out!

Every month females with disabilities ages 18 and up are attending an outing planned by the group. Call or email your social worker for additional details on the next Girls Night Out!

Special Olympics of Minnesota

Are you looking for a way to play sports, be inspired or have an impact in your community? Special Olympics Programs change lives and bring people together. Join the fun – be a part of our global community of athletes and fans. Visit www.specialolympics.org for more information about your local region and events.

Gear up for Sumer Bike Fair

On Saturday May, 21st from 10am to noon Courage Center in Stillwater will be hosting another gearing up for summer. Kids of all abilities can test ride adaptive bikes and get in on the fun. During the Courage Centers Gear Up For Summer Bike Fair, you and your family can test ride hand- and foot-powered bikes from many manufacturers, all in one spot. For more information call Laurin Dalton at 651-351-2732.

In the Company of Kids Creative Arts Center

In the Company offers an outstanding education in the Arts in a non competitive atmosphere. Staff are highly qualified professionals who have a love of their specialized Art Form. They love what they do and their respective classes are fun. Our School is about building self esteem, confidence, respect and GREAT TRAINING! We invite you on another Great Adventure! If you are on CSG the courses can be billed directly to the fiscal provider. Visit <http://www.cokartscenter.com/inthecompanyofkids.html> for more information.

Connect with Your Creator

Experience the arts in a whole new way – dance, drum, drama, and painting. Open to all kids entering k-6 in the fall of 2011. This is a free day camp offered at Bethel Christian Fellowship. Contact Liz Kimmel 651-645-1534.

SUMMER PROGRAMS

Friendship Ventures

Camp Eden Wood/ Camp Friendship/ Camp New Hope – A place for children, teens and adults to create lifelong memories. Diverse camp sessions for persons with developmental, physical or multiple disabilities, Aspergers, autism or down syndrome, or other conditions. Located in the West metro area. Scholarships are available contact 952-852-0101 or visit the website at www.friendshipventures.org.

Valley Friendship Club

The vision of the Valley Friendship Club is to create the opportunity for every person with and without a developmental and/or intellectual disability to build enduring friendships and embrace community connections while enhancing the lives of all individuals involved: members, families and volunteers!! For more information on summer activities visit their website at www.valleyfriendshipclub.org where you can view the monthly calendar.

Woodbury Summer Care

Ingrams Summer Care – Located in Woodbury. Fun activities like swimming, board games, reading, math, trips to the zoo and more! Lunch and snack provided. Open Monday through Friday 8–4:30 p.m., June 14th–August 27th. Call Theresa and Brian Ingram at 651-738-6136 for pricing and availability.

Summer Camps

St. David's Center

A summer hang out for teens and young adults with special needs. Located in St. Louis Park, Lakeland Park, and Brooklyn Park. For more information call 952-641-4009 or www.stdavidscenter.org.

Pathways to Community

Summer camp for all ages – Offered to anyone currently who is in school including transition age. Activities that are planned for summer time fun include; Valley Fair, the MN Zoo, Twins games, Science Museum, Block E. And to end the summer on a high note; all participants are offered the opportunity to spend a week in Wisconsin Dells!! For more information call 651-641-4009.

Minnesota Autism Society

Camp Wahode – Day camp for children on the autism spectrum. Sponsored by the Autism Society of Minnesota. For more information contact 651-647-1083 ext 16.

EX.I.T.E. CAMP

From making Cinderella shoes to being a wizard for the day, the EXploring Interesting in Technology and Engineering (EX.I.T.E.) camp teaches middle school girls with disabilities the magic behind science and technology. This FREE 5-day camp encourages youth to pursue interests in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM), fosters creativity and builds self-esteem. Visit www.pacer.org/stc/exite/camp.asp for more information and an application. WHERE: PACER Center, Bloomington, MN WHEN: August 8, 10, 12, 16 and 18.

Travel Programs

Vacation and Trip Planning for Adults

Off the Beaten Path - Off the Beaten Path, Inc. is a Minnesota-based corporation, which has been providing economical vacations for developmentally disabled ambulant adults since 1985. Off the Beaten Path, Inc. vacations are geared to provide quality life experiences while meeting the special needs of our clientele. Visit www.otbp.info for more information on vacations and schedules.

Lucky Mindy Adventures

Lucky Mindy Adventures provides fully staffed (based on client need), wheelchair-accessible (if needed) tours for individuals with disabilities. Lucky Mindy has been providing vacation and traveling experiences for over 11 years. Visit www.luckymindy.com for more information and an application.

Ventures Travel, LLC

Ventures Travel, LLC provides opportunities for older teens and adults to travel to popular destinations across the United States, Mexico, and Canada. For 25 years Ventures Travel, LLC has specialized in supervised travel vacations for persons with disabilities. Trips are offered year-round and include a full range of leisure and recreational experiences. Trips are designed for persons who benefit from supervised travel.

Search Beyond Adventures

Founded in 1979, Search Beyond Adventures provides all-inclusive escorted vacations for travelers with disabilities and special needs, ages 17 and up. Most of our travelers have developmental disabilities although some participants may have only a physical disability (e.g. muscular dystrophy, multiple sclerosis, traumatic brain injury, etc), or may have both a physical and developmental disability. Many of our tours can accommodate wheelchair users.

United Healthcare Children's Foundation

This is a 501© (3) non-profit charity dedicated to facilitating access to medical-related services that have the potential to significantly enhance the quality of life of the child not fully covered under a commercial health benefit plan. Grants are available for families with children under the age of 16 to assist in paying out of pocket medical expenses. Families must have commercial health insurance and make under \$100,000.00 per year for a family of 4. For more information or to apply for a grant please call 952-992-4459 or www.uhccf.org.

LADDA Partial Camperships

Leisure Activities for Developmentally Disabled Adults (LADDA) offers partial camperships for adults attending a special needs camp or licensed leisure/travel trip. The LADDA fund helps adults (persons 18 or older) with financial assistance to attend leisure/recreational programs. Call your county social worker for more information on how to get signed up.

Contacts:

Article Submissions

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Questions/Concerns

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To sign up for email version of the newsletter

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Fun in Washington County

BELIEVE IN MIRACLES!!!



Unique baseball league coming to Woodbury.

Every child deserves a chance to play baseball. That's the philosophy behind the Miracle League of Minnesota, a charitable organization that provides children with mental and/or physical challenges an opportunity to play baseball. This summer, the miracle league is forming a team in the east metro. They are welcoming kids ages 3-18. The team will

be playing at the Jeff Hanson Miracle field to be constructed this spring at the Bielenberg Sports Center. If you are interested in registering your child or would like information about volunteering, contact Michelle Okada at emml@ci.woodbury.mn.us. For more information about the Miracle League of Minnesota, go to www.miracleleaguemn.com.

LET'S GO FISHING

Let's go fishing is a statewide non-profit organization that provide free fishing experiences to those who are 55 years of age and older and/or disabled. Outings can be scheduled weekly during Spring, Summer and Fall months. Each excursion is approximately one to three hours. Participants will need a fishing license. Free lifetime fishing license applications are available from your social worker. There is a local chapter in Stillwater. For more information or to schedule an excursion 651-707-5181 or email Stillwater@LGFWS.COM.



Bowling Fun!

Alley	Phone	Lane rental (per game)	Shoe rental
Hudson Bowling Center	715-386-5121	\$2	\$1
Stillwater Bowl	651-439-2444	\$3	\$2
White Bear Bowl	651-429-5555	\$3-3.75 Tues \$1	\$2.50
Woody's Bowl - Bayport	651-439-5666	\$3.25	\$1.50
Sunray Lanes	651-735-3222	\$3-4	\$3.25
Pinz-Oakdale	651-770-8000	\$11.52 9-12pm all you can bowl	included
Park Grove Bowl - St Paul Park	651-459-4200	\$2.79 or \$3.95	\$3

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.