

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

Project Lifesaver provides security

Project Lifesaver provides security and comfort for families while safe guarding the developmentally disabled, memory impaired and those unable to help themselves.

A lost child with Autism or Down’s Syndrome or an adult with dementia constitute an emergency and present challenges to police in search and rescue operations.

Project Lifesaver provides state-of-the-art personalized radio transmitters to people at risk of wandering. The transmitter is the size of a wrist watch and emits a constant radio signal.

When a person wanders and is lost, a caregiver notifies the police, and a team trained in the unique equipment searches for the lost person.

The average time it takes to find a person using this technology is 30 minutes.

Project Lifesaver clients pay an initial fee for the equipment and a small monthly fee to maintain it. Grants may be available for those who need financial assistance. Check with your county case manager for more information about funding.

What’s up in Washington County

Community Links is a newsletter that has been developed as a way for Washington County Case managers to link schools, providers, families and individuals who work with a Washington County Developmental Disability Social Worker to community resources and to provide updates from the county.

The Community Links will be published four times a year. East Suburban Resource consumers will be employed to develop and distribute the newsletter. It will be mailed for the first three publications and then will be distributed through e-mail thereafter. Please sign up on our email list to

continue receiving these publications as soon as possible.

We hope you all find this information useful and feel free to share it with others. A special thanks to the CCP foundation who provided a grant to support the development and distribution of this newsletter. If you have questions, concerns or suggestions, please contact Denise Steans at 651-430-4168 or at denise.steans@co.washington.mn.us.

If you have an article that you would like to be considered for submission please submit them via email to paul.simon@co.washington.mn.us.

New YMCA groups

Get Down and Boogey
– Second Sunday of each month 2-4 p.m. A drop-in and play time for kids with special needs ages 0-11 and their families. \$5 fee per family (photo ID required)

Get Down and Boogey Family Connections
– First Sunday of each month, 2-3 p.m. This is for families who have children with special needs. There will be a different topic each time with guest speakers and childcare provided. \$5 per family (photo ID required)

Integrated play group for kids with special needs – Thursdays 12:30-2:30 p.m. All kids are welcome. Members are free and non-members \$5 per session.

County Tidbits:

This is the first letter!!

Starting in 2010 Washington County will be publishing the Community Links only via email to help with paper and postage costs.

Washington County serves around 1,100 families with children or adults with developmental disabilities.

We have four service centers located throughout the county.

Contacts:

Article Submissions

Paul Simon
paul.simon@co.washington.mn.us
651-430-4183

Questions/Concerns

Denise Steans
denise.steans@co.washington.mn.us
651-430-4168

To sign up for email version of the newsletter

paul.simon@co.washington.mn.us



Community Activities

Community Bridge: This is a program consisting of five local school districts operating out of the White Bear Lake area. They offer an array of opportunities such as adapted programs and community outings for persons ages 16 or older. For more information, call 651-748-7437.

Family Achievement Center: The Family Achievement Center offers a variety of therapy options as well as classes in social skills & handwriting. They are located in Woodbury and their phone number is 651-738-9888.

Courage Center: The Courage Center offers a variety of services including rehabilitation, therapy, vocational & recreational programs. There is a pool & fitness center where various classes are offered. Courage Center St. Croix is a local site in Stillwater and they can be reached at 651-439-8283.

Woodbury Lutheran Church: They offer various activities targeted at children and adults with disabilities. This includes a free respite evening the third Saturday of every month, social activities, and social groups for adults with disabilities. For more information, visit www.woodburylutheran.org/ministries/disability.

West Metro Learning Connections: This company offers a variety of services that include social skills classes for people on the autism spectrum of all ages. They also offer a number of therapeutic recreation opportunities that include camps and more. For more information, visit www.wmllearningconnections.com.

The Early Intervention Network of Washington County has a new website offering information, resources and support to families with children ages birth to three years with special needs. Check it out at www.helpmegrow.org.

The Minnesota Children's Museum in St. Paul has a special offer the third Sunday of the month where there is no admission fee. Visit www.mcm.org for information.

More Information!

Network
with others
through ARC



General Support Group - Meets the second Tuesday of the month from 9:30 to 11:30am.

Coffee and Conversation - Meets the third Wednesday of the month from 6:30 to 8:00pm.

Parents of Children with Autism - Meets the second Tuesday of the month from 7:00 to 8:30pm.

For more information regarding networking and support groups please visit ARC's website at www.arcgreatertwincities.org.

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.