

February 2012

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The Arc of the Gulf Coast Communicator



Gulf Coast For people with intellectual
and developmental disabilities

Member Agency



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Farewell

Today I received a phone call from our current President of the Board, John Schneider, informing me that he would be resigning from the Arc board effective immediately due to his moving out of the area. He has taken a new position outside of Dallas, where he has to report by February 27, 2012.

He will not be here for the elections due to the quick move and having to relocate his family.

He will be missed by many. I cannot thank him enough for the many hours, advice and support he has given to the Arc of the Gulf Coast.

I, along with many members, wish him and his family success in this new adventure.

Happy New Year to All!

Things have been busy around the office since the beginning of the year.

- We are in the process of writing two grants.
- We are also looking for ideas for fund raisers. If you have any ideas or would like to help form a fund raising committee, we would love to hear from you.
- Our website is in the development stage, but we hope to have it up soon.
- We had the election of the nomination committee for the new board members of the Arc Gulf Coast on December 12th.

Below is a list of the nominees, and their biographies.

Emily Tuck:

My reasons for wanting to serve as a Board Member for the ARCGC are to strategize ways to raise funds to assist people with intellectual disabilities, to identify funding opportunities for programs in our area, and assess the needs of people in the area for services and support. I am mainly focused on resource and community development, which includes raising awareness about the ARC and also the number of people living with developmental disabilities in the area served by the ARCGC. I would also like to serve as a liaison between Arc of the Gulf Coast and Arc of Houston to see how the Clear Lake Area might be better served. Having a severely autistic child gives me both a good perspective and additional motivation!

Marcus Cook:

Currently Marcus works as Senior Administrative assistant to the Dean of Alvin Community College - Pearland Center and serves on the colleges ADA compliance committee. He is a member of the Association of Educational Office Professionals, serves on Alvin ISD's Boundary Advisory Committee, and the Alvin Elementary campus site-based decision making team. He also serves as a marketing advisor for the Texas Ranger Law Enforcement Association. He owns his own music promotions and publishing company.

Joanne Sullivan:

Joanne is presently a Diamond Group Security- JSC NASA Technical Support Specialist. She has dedicated herself to a number of different causes, campaigns, and organizations. Her experience as a professional woman as well as being a mother of two and grandmother of two continues to motivate her to give back to the many causes that touch her heart such as multiple sclerosis, Harris County Court Appointed Child Advocates, the Urban league, and Big Brothers - Big Sisters, to name a few. As the 2011 president award recipient, for the Arc of the Gulf Coast Alvin, TX, JoAnnvita (Joanne) J. Sullivan looks forward to doing all she can to help the arc achieve its mission to promote and protect the human rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Laurie Goforth:

Laurie is currently the Director of Special Programs for Dickinson ISD. She has served as a special education coordinator in La Porte, an educational diagnostician in Angleton, and a special education classroom teacher / VAC for Alvin ISD. Laurie has also been an education manager for Junior Achievement.

Ms. Goforth received her Bachelor's degree in Secondary Education from Oklahoma State University and her Master's degree in Educational Psychology from University of Houston.

Teresa Petersen:

Teresa wants to be on the ARC of the Gulf Coast Board of Directors because she has a personal interest in supporting people who have developmental disabilities to live as independently as they can. Teresa shares the values of the ARC such as self-determination, inclusion, and person centered community based supports. The ARCGC is one of the few resources for people with disabilities in our area. Teresa would like to help our organization to grow and be able to assist even more people and families throughout Brazoria and Galveston counties. Serving on the board of the ARCGC is an honor that Teresa has had in the past and that she is committed to serving into the future.

Eddie Perez:

Eddie is a parent of a child with developmental disabilities. In the past he worked for the Gulf Coast Center for many years, and has been a member of our board for a number of years.

The experience he gained at the Gulf Coast Center and as a father of a child with disabilities will be invaluable in his position as President of the Board.

Eddie currently works offshore, but will be able to stay in touch through cell phone and computer.

Ed Anderson:

Ed also is a parent of a child with developmental disabilities. He has been a member of our board in various positions for several years and continues to be an asset to our organization.

Ed is a pharmacist and owns his own store.

Don Stoeltje:

Don has been a volunteer for the Arc of the Gulf Coast for a number of years. He has been a board member for several years, served as chairman of the Golf Committee, and has volunteered his time on many occasions.

Don is the manager of the local Blue Bell Creamery. As a businessman he understands finances and budgeting and will be of great value to the Arc.

Loree Bruton:

Loree, or Dr. Loree Bruton, is the Director for Special Education for Alvin ISD. She has been on our board for several years. With her knowledge and skill in the field of special education she will continue to be a benefit to our organization.

Ricky Broussard:

Ricky is an individual with developmental disabilities who has been a member of our board for a number of years. He also sits on the board for the Arc of Texas.

He is a self-advocate, owns his own consulting business, and conducts training workshops on self-determination.

Ricky has been and will continue to be a valuable member of the board because he can address many issues from personal experience.

Carolyn Hamilton:

Carolyn is a parent of a child with disabilities. She has been on our board in various positions for many years.

Her experience will continue to be a great advantage to the board of the Arc.

Carolyn is a teacher and private tutor.

Deanna David:

Deanna has been with the Gulf Coast Center for 15 years. She is the HCS Provider Administrator and the IDD Contract Program Manager. Prior to that, she worked in a Transition Class and did some Sign Language interpreting at Texas City ISD for 7 years. She lives in Santa Fe and spends most of her time with her husband and 4 year old son, family and friends. She has been on our board for two years. She has always been a team player.

We plan on offering **workshops** to train volunteers to assist with ARD's, PATH development, transition and public awareness this year.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer please contact our office.

We would also like to know what your needs are.

What type of workshops would help you?

Webinars

I want to encourage all members to go to Arc of Texas web site at <http://www.hearcotexas.org> and look under **Events**. There are many **new workshops** being offered under the Webinar sections.

Over the next few months there are going to be several informational Webinars on the Medicaid Waiver Programs, including this month. If you or someone you know is in a Medicaid Waiver Program: HCS, CLASS, Texas Home Living, etc. it would be in their best interest to stay up to date with the Webinars. It does not cost anything to sign up for the Webinar and they are easy to use.

This month they have Webinars on Microboards and PATH. Microboards is an alternative to working with a provider. You can become your own provider and get 100% of the funding for the one individual under the Medicaid waiver. A Microboard is a small group of committed family and friends who join together with a person with a disability to create a nonprofit organization. This group develops a person-centered-plan called a PATH to address the individual's support needs and identify their goals and dreams. This PATH becomes the Microboard's mission.

PATH stands for Planning Alternative Tomorrows with Hope. PATH are proven tools for building commitment and strengthening a support structure. It is a futures planning session that helps to identify goals for the future and strategies for getting started in productively working for that future. PATHs are powerful graphic facilitations tools developed by Jack Pearpoint, Marsha Forest and John O'Brien.

Joanne Sullivan and myself went to the workshop on PATH this month and we will be doing PATH's for individuals in Brazoria and Galveston county. If you would like to schedule one please give the office a call.

Office Update

Our office will be going through some re-decorating. The bank is putting new carpet in and painting the office. We are trying to make these changes with as little interruptions as possible to our members. However, we have to work within the contractor's availability.

Due to this we might have to shut our doors for a day or two so they can get in our office to make the changes.

You can still reach us at my email arcgc@comcast.net or phone 281-388-1161, and I will get back with you.

I apologize for not knowing the exact dates, but since we are not the agency paying for the installation, we do not know when they will be here. I have asked for them to come on a Saturday or on Monday, Feb. 20, when our office would be closed for a holiday.

The bank is working to try to get this scheduled. We would need to close the door for the contractors to do the work, so we will not be breaching confidentiality and the process would go much faster. I am sorry for the inconvenience.

Last month our board president John Schneider participated in the Polar Plunge to support Special Olympics.



Before the plunge (fun)



Still Fun



After the plunge (not so much)

For access to more pictures go to the website below:

<http://www.dropbox.com/gallery/9684186/1/Polar%20Plunge?h=cbafc8>

We can always count on John for supporting our cause. John has been an asset to our organization during his tenure. He has always been available to answer questions, given his time and supported the Arc during our transition. I personally want to thank him for being such a valuable member.

His skills, knowledge and generosity are what the families of the Arc are about. Thank you does not seem to be enough to say.

John's position will be discussed at the March 5th meeting.

Support Group Meetings

February 23rd, 7:00pm

Side-by-Side Parent Support Group Meeting

Topic: Is Your Child On The Waiting Lists?

Speaker: Ms. Melisa McNeil, MR Transitional Service Coordinator for The Gulf Coast Center
She will explain the intake process, provide information regarding services (respite, interest lists, BTTC, etc.) provided through the Gulf Coast Center and a list of resources that are available in the community.

Thursday, February 23, 2012, 7:00 P.M.

Arthur Hewitt Fire Station #1, 601 2nd Street, League City

March 23rd, 7pm - 9pm

GCLFEDS March Monthly Meeting

Celebrating World Down Syndrome Day

Movie Presentation - "Heart and Soul"

March 23rd from 7pm - 9pm

Life Church, 9900 Almeda Genoa Rd, Houston 77075

Serving Popcorn and Drinks

Childcare Provided

Dates to Remember

February 20th: Holiday – President's Day – Office Closed

March 5th, 6:30 PM: General Membership Meeting – Election of the new Board of Directors
Board Room on 2nd Floor of First National Bank, 1600 E Hwy 6, Alvin, TX

April 6th: Holiday – Good Friday – Office Closed

Autism Information Series Calendar

<u>Title</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Categories</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>
<u>Increasing Functional Communication</u> Participants will learn how to teach and increase functional communication in children with ASD.	Houston (4950 Memorial Drive)	Autism, Autism Information Series	2/16/2012	5:30PM-7:30PM
<u>Promoting Play and Social Skills</u> Participants will learn various strategies to teach new play and social skills in children with ASD.	Houston (4950 Memorial Drive)	Autism, Autism Information Series	3/15/2012	5:30PM-7:30PM
<u>Teaching Toileting and Self-Help Skills</u> Participants will learn various strategies to teach self-help skills as well as how to toilet train children with ASD.	Houston (4950 Memorial Drive)	Autism, Autism Information Series	4/19/2012	5:30PM-7:30PM
<u>Keeping Children Engaged Using Activity Schedules</u> Participants will learn about activity schedules as well as how to implement them with children with ASD	Houston (4950 Memorial Drive)	Autism, Autism Information Series	5/17/2012	5:30PM-7:30PM

For more information please contact 713-730-2335 or autism@depelchin.org

Things to Remember

Camps are taking applications. If you need to come by and look at the camp book we have it at the office.

March is Mental Retardation Month. Although The Arc does not use this phrase any longer, we do want to support any and all organization that are doing walks, fund-raisers or any other awareness for individuals with IDD (intellectual developmental disabilities).

If you would like to schedule someone from **The Arc to advocate at your ARD**, please contact the office at 281-388-1161 as soon as possible, because our calendar is filling up fast.

**THE GULF COAST CENTER
 PROVIDER SERVICES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH INTELLECTUAL & DEVELOPMENTAL
 DISABILITIES**

(please note: individuals must be registered with the Gulf Coast Center to receive services- contact information for those not registered – call Shelly Dumesnil 1-888-839-3229 to schedule intake)

Lone Oak Ranch Phone:1-800-615-4763
 7000 Ave B (409) 944-4460
 Santa Fe, Texas 77510

Weekend Respite 6:30pm Friday to 4:30 pm Sunday (Scheduled weekends only)

Day Respite Scheduled Saturdays only 8:00am – 12noon & 1:00pm – 5:00pm

If you would like to pick up your **Valentine's Dance pictures** at the office, they will be ready February 21st. This would save us a considerable amount of money for mailing. Please call ahead of time at 281-388-1161.

Please remember that the **newsletter is available electronically**. To have it emailed to you, send an email to margot1949@comcast.net and I will put you on the list.

Thank you to those of you already on the electronic list.

P.O. Box 1484
 Alvin, TX 77512

Phone: 281-388-1161

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Join us for an educational seminar featuring

Animal Behavior, Autism and Sensory-Based Thinking
presented by
Dr. Temple Grandin


Internationally renowned scientist and spokesperson on autism, subject of the HBO movie "Temple Grandin," and author of *The Way I See It: A Personal Look at Autism and Asperger's*.

Friday, March 2, 2012 • 7:30 p.m.
Reliant Center – Main Arena, Hall C



Please plan to arrive early and spend some time at the Show!

Parking information can be viewed at:
www.rodeohouston.com/guest-services/parking.aspx
 Seminar is FREE with Reliant Park Admission:
 \$7 for adults, \$4 for ages 3-12.

Download the **RODEOHOUSTON**® Mobile App, available for iPhone and Android, for real-time Show information.



Scan this QR code with your smartphone or visit rodeohouston.com to download the app.

Contributions make it possible for The Arc of the Gulf coast to provide information about, advocate for, and support to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. You can show your appreciation by mailing your contribution to The Arc of the Gulf Coast, P.O. Box 1484, Alvin, TX 77512

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (h) _____ (w) _____

(c) _____ E-mail _____

Enclosed is _____ for a donation. Enclosed is \$15 my ___ new or ___ renewal dues.

___ I am unable to send dues but would like to join.

I am a ___ Family Member, ___ Professional, ___ Concerned Person, ___ Self Advocate

