

Inspirations

June 2009

Terrebonne Association for Retarded Citizens



Director's Corner



Dear TARC Supporters,

The second quarter of 2009 has been very busy with preparation for our 3rd CARF Accreditation survey.

CARF stands for "The Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities." It is a very well known accreditation body in the United States and abroad, within the disability field. The surveyors are generally staff members in the field of developmental disabilities and work for agencies accredited through CARF.

I want to convey to you some of the comments made by these professionals from Canada, Virginia, and Chicago regarding the services provided by TARC. The following are some of the comments made:

Of the 874 standards that were surveyed, TARC had greater than a 98% compliance rate.

"TARC operates on the healthy culture of transparency, creativity, and innovation. As a result, there is an obvious unmistakable commitment to ongoing quality improvement that allows the organization to continue growing and creating opportunities for improved service delivery. New ideas are not only welcome to TARC; they are often implemented without hesitation to the benefit of persons served."

"The staff members in all levels appreciate the manner in which they are valued and respected. The turn-

over rate at the full time level is extremely low and is further evidence of this dynamic. TARC has many staff members who are dedicated, caring and truly believe in the mission of the organization. This is clearly evident in the daily ongoing interaction between employees and persons served in all program operations."

"The leadership of the organization is highly respected and the overall style of the management team has been a key aspect of creating the healthy culture that exists throughout all programs and services."

"TARC maintains a stellar reputation among its community partner organizations. It has worked very hard over its history to fashion that reputation with the Houma community, its funders and other community stakeholders."

"TARC is clearly a person focused organization that takes the needs of the person served and their families in the forefront of its service delivery systems. The persons served at the Residential sites expressed a sincere sense of pride in their homes and a high degree of satisfaction in the services they receive. There is a true sense of mutual respect between the staff members and the individuals served."

"The organization does an excellent job in providing creative, individual and appropriate Day Habilitation options for persons served. TARC is perceived by stakeholders as an organization that is dedicated and committed to either supporting or advocating for persons served from

the moment they begin receiving services from the organization."

"TARC successfully uses resources for purchasing equipment and to develop innovative business opportunities that benefit persons served and other stakeholders."

There are other comments regarding other aspects of TARC, but they are too numerous to mention.

Needless to say, I am extremely proud of the dedication and hard work of ALL staff on behalf of the individuals and families served. Without the support of the community and stakeholders, TARC would not have the exemplary programs and recognition that it enjoys in the disability field.

Mary Lynn Bisland
TARC Executive Director

TARC is now hiring the following:

- PCA
- CLS
- DSW 2, DSW 3
- Program Coordinator
- Child Care Worker
- CDL Driver
- Community Homes Manager
- Community Homes Assistant Manager

Inside This Issue:

Let's Get Together	2
Weatherford	2
New Website	2
Congressman Melancon	3
Dustin Cheramie	3
TARC Tidbits	3
Upcoming Events	4
Ten Pin Club	4
Donations	4

Let's Get Together Club



The Let's Get Together has been having a lot of fun! In April, the group watched the New Orleans Zephyrs play the Albuquerque Isotopes at the Zephyr field in New Orleans. Over 90 people came to the game. One of the best parts of the experience was the finale with lots of fireworks. It was a night to remember! The club took a break in May and waited with anticipation for the Summer Sock Hop that was held June 20th. It was held at the Woodmen of the World in Houma, and many people came dressed in 50's era costumes complete with poodle skirts and slick hair. Dance goers thoroughly enjoyed a delicious dinner and danced to the songs of the 50's. Everyone had a blast. In July, the club is accepting dues for \$10.00 for the remainder of the year. We have on schedule for the fall a fire safety night, Harvest/Halloween dance, and our annual Christmas Gift Exchange.



New Work Opportunity at Weatherford



CEO worker, Michael Bergeron, prepares hamburgers

On June 1st, TARC began creating new job opportunities in the cafeteria at Weatherford International in Houma. Along with Weatherford, TARC's "Bon Appétit Cafeteria" and Supported Employment division "Creative Employment Opportunities" teamed up to cook and serve plate lunches to the staff at Weatherford. Director of TARC Enterprises Division 2, Tiffany Brunet said, "It's an exciting opportunity for our individuals to branch out into the community." During the lunch rush, Bon Appetit's staff prepares approximately 50 lunches that include hamburgers, sandwiches, and salads. In addition, TARC's Le Bon Temps Bakery provides cakes and tea cakes daily for dessert. As the number of plate lunches increase, TARC hopes to be integrated fully into Weatherford's cafeteria.

New TARC Website Launch

On July 31, TARC will launch a brand new website redesign. The website will consist of more sources of information on TARC businesses and services for the public as well as the individuals we serve. Also included in the website redesign will be online shopping for all of our TARC products, but this will be added sometime late this year. You can visit our new website at the same web address at www.terrebonnearc.org.

Congressman Charlie Melancon visits Paula Lapeyrouse



In April, US Representative Charlie Melancon from Louisiana's 3rd Congressional District stopped by TARC to meet Paula Lapeyrouse. Last year, Congressman Melancon chose Paula to represent his district by painting an official Christmas ornament for the White House Christmas tree. In December, Paula

was able to embark on a trip to Washington, D.C. to view her ornament at a White House reception due to a generous donation by Circulation Tools in Houma. During her trip, Melancon was out of town and was not able to meet him at that time, but his office promised that he would indeed meet her one

day on his travels. The time came in April, and Melancon was able to meet her as well as the rest of the Maison d'Art department at TARC. Paula and other individuals were able to show their artwork to Melancon and talk with him. It was an exciting day and time for everyone in the department and TARC.

Dustin Cheramie Receives 15 Years of Service Award



Recently, Popeye's Fried Chicken recognized Dustin Cheramie for his 15 years of great service to the company. Along with his award, Dustin also received a \$500 bonus. Before working at Popeye's, Dustin worked for the TARC Restaurant & Gift Shop. He did so well busting tables and cleaning the store, that TARC found an opportunity in the community to promote his hard work ethic. At work, Dustin says, "I like the customers, and the staff enjoys that I keep up the dining area and help them clean tables and the floors." He likes working with the staff at the Grand Caillou Road location. He says "sometimes they're funny." When Dustin is not working, he enjoys shopping at Wal-Mart, eating at restaurants, hanging out at the mall, and going to the movies. Congratulations Dustin! TARC is very proud of Dustin, and keep up the good work!

TARC Tidbits

TFAE 5K Run for Excellence



TARC made Chicken and Sausage gumbo sponsored by Weatherford



Rockin' R Rodeo in Raceland



Some proceeds from the rodeo were given to TARC. Everyone had a blast!



The meetings continue to be held the **3rd Saturday** of each month at the Main Library on Civic Center Drive from 3:00 - 4:30 PM.

Great Job!

The South Louisiana Chapter awarded TARC a Certificate of Participation at the 58th Annual Meeting & Safety Awards. TARC's Safety Committee continues to strive for the best safety practices at TARC. Keep up the great work!

Upcoming Events

- ◆ **July 31**— New TARC Website Launch
- ◆ **August 4th**—Let's Get Together
Fire Safety Night
- ◆ **September 7th**— Labor Day.
TARC Closed
- ◆ **September 12th**— Art After Dark
Coffee Zone Downtown
- ◆ **October 24th**— Harvest/Halloween
Dance- Woodmen of the World

Ten Pin Club Strikes Again



From L to R: (Top) Jerry Cooper, Herman Boudreaux, Jeff Hamilton. (Bottom) Rodger Shelton and Marshall Olivier

Five bowlers from TARC compete against approximately 22 teams on Tuesday nights for the USBC winter bowling league "Creole Knights," which bowls at Creole Lanes in Houma Louisiana. This makes them eligible to bowl in the City Tournament and compete against 75+ other teams. This year, the team came in 3rd place in the City Tournament. The team missed second place by one spare. Team members Jerry Cooper, Herman Boudreaux, Jeff Hamilton, Marshall Olivier and Director of Transportation Rodger Shelton are ecstatic about this particular win. "The league has really accepted us—they enjoy us, and we enjoy them," said Rodger. "It's fun, we meet other people, we encourage each other, and we just do our best," said Jeff. The team says this experience is very rewarding. Herman said, "Everyone likes us being involved." Each of the team members scores continue to improve with each game and competition. They decided to name their team the Ten Pin Club, because the members regularly bowls a nice strike shot up and the 10 pin stays up for a spare. "We get ripped off by that pin," said Jeff. TARC congratulates all team members on an outstanding win. We wish you the best in future leagues. Go Team Ten Pin Club!

TARC Requests Your Donations!



TARC's Mardi Gras business is in need of your beads to package, sort, and sell to provide meaningful work for our individuals. Beads can be dropped off at TARC. We accept all kinds.



Now that you have spring-cleaned, it's a perfect time to drop off donations for our thrift store. We take everything except for appliances. You can drop off donations at TARC and at our boutique at 6453 West Main in Houma.

TARC Wish List

One of our Residential individuals is looking for items to furnish his first-time apartment. TARC is in need to find furniture and appliances in good condition. For these donations, please contact our Residential department at 876-4465.