

Bonjour

September 2007

Terrebonne Association for Retarded Citizens



Director's Corner

Greetings to all TARC Supporters!

As always, there is never a dull moment at TARC! These are exciting times to be involved with individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Everyone is pumped and ready to take on new ventures and new projects that are geared to enhance the lives of participants and families. Our staff does a great job daily and is constantly trying to improve services to participants. Through fun and innovative ideas such as trademark names and logos, old programs are getting new life poured into them.



The old greenhouse division will now be called "Houma Grown." We will be growing a larger garden and will sell our products at a produce stand on Moffet Road next spring. The guys who make up our lawn care division will now



be called "Bayouland Yard Krewe;" they now have 2 brand new trailers and 2 king-cab trucks to perform their work out in the community.



Our janitorial division is now called "Lagniappe Cleaning Company."



The wood and metal department is now called "Cajun Crate Company."



Even the packaging department has a new name, "Bayou Packers."



The arts and crafts department is now called "La Maison d'Art;" they continue to sell their products in the TARC gift shop.

Our candy division, "Sweet Sensations," will be having a name change in the near future. A very prestigious marketing firm from New Orleans has offered to re-market this division for TARC at no cost. We are very excited about the potential impact this may have on our candy business.



We also have a new division that we started this summer called "Le Bon Temps Bakery." This business will be offering old fashioned tea-cakes and cookies like grandma used to make. Homemade cakes

will be featured in the TARC Restaurant along with the division,



"Bon Terre Enterprises," which is our Cajun salsa and pepper jelly line; they also have fresh blueberry jam and fig preserves at this time.

Our newest idea, "The Cedar Chest Boutique: An Upscale/Resale store." will be open sometime in 2007 or early 2008. We are still seeking a location at this time. Anyone with information on a possible location is asked to please call TARC @ 876-4465. The whole purpose is to give jobs to some of our participants who require less intensive jobs such as sorting, folding and hanging laundry. This business will also provide work in the community for individuals who can work in the store waiting on customer, merchandizing, and selling.

Our "Supported Employment" division will soon be looking for a place to call home in the community; we are hoping to combine this business with the thrift store.

I personally want to take this opportunity to thank each of you for your continued support of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Please call TARC for information regarding services for individuals of any age or exceptionality.

Sincerely,

Mary Lynn Bisland
Executive Director

TARC is now hiring the following:

- T.I Secretary
- Residential Floater
- Food Tech Floater
- CLS
- PCA
- Accounting Clerk
- Part-Time Maintenance Worker

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The Let's Get Together Club logo.

TARC Creates First Social Club for Clients

Beginning with our first meeting on September 4th, TARC clients will soon have the option to participate as a member in TARC's first social club called the "Let's Get Together Club." The club will plan and host social events at TARC. Such events include inviting several guest speakers to discuss different topics such as alcohol and drugs, fire safety, hygiene, social security, and social skills. Membership is open to any TARC

individual 18 years or older with a developmental disability. Any Terrebonne Parish individual 18 or older with a developmental disability that is not a TARC client may be an Associate Member. The meetings will be held the first Tuesday of each month from 6-8 PM. Members will enjoy a hot dinner and a guest speaker, and will plan dances, outings, movie nights, etc. The founding members are Chenika Smith, Presi-

dent; Brock Theriot, Vice President; Steven Young, Secretary; Cynthia Sanchez, Treasurer; and Ron Chaisson, Sergeant at Arms. The club is looking forward to its first meeting and their first Let's Get Together event which will be the Harvest Dance in the TARC Cafeteria on October 12.

TARC Staff visits Lamb's Farm



From Left to Right: Kay Stone, Mary Lynn Bisland, Tiffany Brunet, and Alison Filce. Not pictured: Erica Null.

Five staff members from TARC traveled in June to Lamb's Farm, a non-profit organization in Libertyville, Illinois, that serves individuals with developmental disabilities through a variety of services such as residential, vocational, social, and recreational. The trip offered additional resources and research for present and

future projects at TARC. Lamb's Farm has programs similar to those at TARC which include a restaurant, a country store and bakery, a thrift shop, a vocational work center, and a residential community. "The whole team came back excited about the possibilities for future employment adven-

tures for the participants at TARC," said Alison Filce, Director of Residential Services. The staff included Mary Lynn Bisland, Executive Director; Kay Stone, Director of Finance; Alison Filce, Tiffany Brunet, Director of TARC Industries-Division 2; and Erica Null, Marketing, Advocacy & Community Outreach.

Day Habilitation Programming

This summer has been exciting and busy time for our Day Habilitation program. The department has participated in numerous new events such as music, bowling, volunteering efforts at the local food bank, and a host of other unit gatherings. "We are looking to change the culture of our day habilitation program by making it more of a mental and physical rehabilitation center as well as implementing new ideas and services," said Adult Service Manager,

Jarrett Hawkins. One example of new programming is a monthly Cajun accordion concert by one of TARC's bus drivers, Debra "Baboo" Duval. "Baboo" said she enjoys "letting the clients come up and sing—they love that." Furthermore, TARC is thrilled that Creole Lanes in Houma has provided—free of charge—the use of bowling shoes and bowling lanes, as well as their time every other Thursday for Day Habilitation participants. In addi-

tion, some Day Habilitation participants volunteer their time dusting and sweeping at the local Food Bank. Also, once a month, all Day Habilitation units meet with cake and ice cream for socializing and fun. "The participants are excited and look forward to each new activity. We also have the ZOOMobile, Bugmobile, and Swamp Tours on our calendar this year," said Hawkins.



"Boboo" plays her accordion for an outdoor concert at the TARC pavilion.



TARC participants enjoy their bowling activity at Creole Lanes.

TARC is looking for donations of any exercise equipment in good condition to add to our participant's activity center.

Client Spotlight – Jeffrey Hamilton & the Natural Disasters

TARC participant, Jeffrey Hamilton, and his team, Natural Disasters, have taken bowling by storm this year. The team competes in a special bowling league that coincides with the PBA experience which has the same lane conditions as the professional bowlers. The 3-person team includes Jeffrey Hamilton “Thunder,” Jerry Cooper “Tornado,” and Rodger Shelton “Quake,” Director of Transportation and

Maintenance at TARC. The team competes against 15 teams in the league. This year, Hamilton received his first U.S. Bowling Conference 200 patch for bowling a 213 record high score on his team. He was also awarded the Male Most Improved Bowler 2007 award. Hamilton enjoys the team and the experience because “we just bowl for fun and we get to watch Saints games!” The team also says of their coach and

mentor, Rodger Shelton, that “he is very special, knowledgeable, and understandable and teaches us the right way to bowl.” Shelton says he “enjoys being with the guys.” He believes that bowling is “good clean fun while encouraging each other, and we try to do the best we can.” The team finished in 8th place this year. Congratulations!!



The Natural Disasters from left to right: Rodger Shelton, Jeffrey Hamilton, and Jerry Cooper.

Department Spotlight – Houma Grown

There is an old saying: “gardeners know the best dirt.” Our Greenhouse department, now known as “Houma Grown,” has definitely proved this during the summer by making it the most plentiful year yet. Along with its 12 TARC participants, the department has three staff members — Tina Trosclair, Greenhouse Coordinator/Horticulturist, Carla Rhodes and Chad James, Direct Support Workers. “The

participants enjoy selling the products as well as helping plant, water, pick, and clean the produce,” said Trosclair. This summer, the department has sold cucumbers, bush beans, bell peppers, okra, and tomatoes from the garden. “It’s a good place like home,” said TARC participant, Don Price. They still continue to participate in off campus contracts that include Capital One, Shaw Coastal, and Stepdemelk, Inc. The department

is busy preparing for the winter garden that will include mustard turnips, carrots, and cabbage. Another new project is an herb garden for rainy days that will include basil, thyme, and rosemary. “Houma Grown” is also looking forward to selling their products next spring at a produce stand on Moffet Road.



Elliot Cotton and Mark Landrum pick produce from the TARC garden.

Jane Community Home Goes Fishing

Food, Fishing and Football. Now that’s an action packed weekend for the guys living in the Jane Community Home. For the second consecutive year, a select group of males from the Jane Community Home has embarked on an “all guy weekend fishing trip” in Grand Isle. Six TARC participants and three TARC staff enjoyed the weekend getaway which began with barbeque, card games, trout fishing, and culminated with a

crab boil while watching the Saints game. “I had a good time! We caught a few crabs and went to the beach,” said TARC participant Lionel Poret. While Poret was happy to enjoy the beach and fishing activities, other TARC participants—like Timothy Jones—were excited to have time to bond with other males as he commented, “it was great because it was all guys and no women.” Wayne Sailors, Director of Human

Resources, stated that his favorite part of the trip was “getting to know the guys and how extraordinary they are as individuals.” Rodger Shelton, Director of Transportation and Maintenance, said the “expression of gratitude by all of the recipients” was his favorite experience of the trip. Since the trip was such a success, the group has already started making plans for next year.



The fishing group poses before leaving. From left to right, front row: Alan Fowler, L.J. Brien, Marshall Olivier. From left to right, back row: Wayne Sailors, Lionel Poret, Charlie Borders, Timothy Jones, Rodger Shelton. Not pictured: Michael Lodrigue.

Our newsletter has a new look and will now be issued quarterly. Be sure to look for the next one in December!

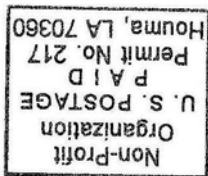
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We're on the Web!

"Creating Opportunities"

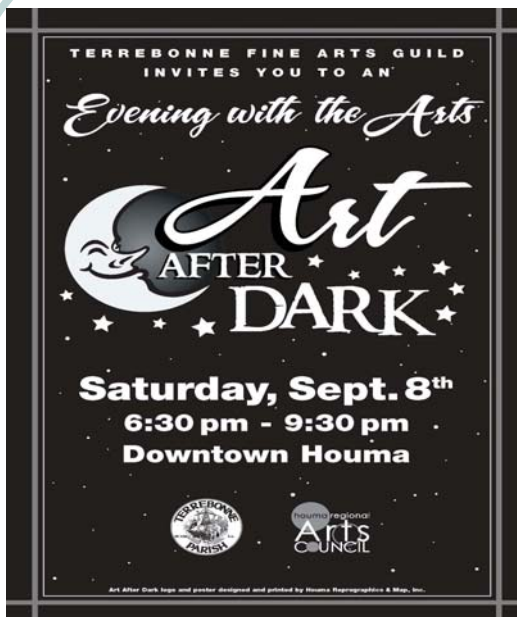
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Terrebonne Association for
Retarded Citizens



Set the Date – Upcoming Events

- September 4th— First meeting of the Let's Get Together Club 6-8 p.m. TARC
- September 8th— Art After Dark 6:30-9:30 p.m.
- October 12th— Harvest Dance 6:30-9p.m. (for TARC participants)
- November 10th— Holiday Open House 1-4 p.m.
- November 15th— TARC Staff Luncheon



The People First meeting is September 15th at the Library on Civic Center Drive, from 3-4:30 PM. Some People First members are volunteering at a bingo game Saturday, September 29 from 11AM-1PM at Peltier-Lawless Developmental Center in Thibodaux. Anyone interested in assisting can call 876-1544 for more information.