



SPRING 2009

# ACA OUTLOOK

**WASHTENAW ASSOCIATION FOR COMMUNITY ADVOCACY**

*ACA is a 501(c)3 charitable organization affiliated with The Arc/U.S. and The Arc of Michigan*

*ACA has been advocating for people with disabilities since 1949*

## **Looking Forward, Looking Back**

*The following is a reprint of an article that originally appeared in our  
Summer 1987 issue of **OUTLOOK***

### **Michigan Leads Nation In Community Alternatives**

The number of persons in state centers for developmental disabilities has decreased to the lowest level in 70 years, according to a report released earlier this month by DMH acting Director Thomas D. Watkins, Jr. Watkins said Michigan continues to lead the nation in development of alternatives to traditional institutional services.

“The census at state centers has decreased below the level,” Watkins said. “The last time the number was this low was in 1916.” Watkins said continued development of small community group homes by DMH and CMH agencies and alternative programs such as the family support program, are the major factors permitting reductions in state centers.

“Savings to citizens of Michigan are very large,” he said. “A state center serving 300 people on a 365-day basis would easily cost \$15 million to operate. As we continue to downsize our facilities serving developmentally-disabled persons, dollars once used to support these large facilities are being redirected into positive community residential options.”

“Most importantly,” Watkins said, “our experience continues to show across the state, in varying types of settings and involving people with varying degrees of disability, that people achieve more at a faster rate when they are living in a normal setting.”

“Parents of persons with developmental disabilities are almost universally satisfied with services provided in our community programs,” Watkins said. “Many times, their sons or daughters had spent years in state facilities. Almost without exception, relatives tell our staff they are amazed at the personal progress of developmentally-disabled persons living in our community group homes.”

Watkins noted that current department plans call for the census at state D.D. centers to be reduced below the 1,500 level by the end of the current fiscal year, which ends September 30 [1987].

### **Update 2009**

The Mt. Pleasant Center is the last institution in Michigan to house people with developmental disabilities. The census is now less than 60. While the journey to closure has been slow, Mt. Pleasant is indeed finally scheduled to close in October 2009. Michigan is the 11<sup>th</sup> state to close its institutions and move people with developmental disabilities into the community where they have always belonged.

## **A Word From Sherry Fernandez...**

*Check out our revised Mission Statement!*

### **ACA MISSION...**

To ensure that people with disabilities and their families have choices, opportunities, and the supports they need to be fully included in community life through advocacy and education.

We envision a community that fully supports equality, dignity, respect and inclusion for all people.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

#### **ACA's GOLF SCRAMBLE**

**Monday, June 15, 2009**

Beginning at 8 A.M.

**Reddeman Farms**

555 Dancer Road

Chelsea, Michigan 48118

See Page 5 for details.

.....

#### **ARC MI CONFERENCE**

**June 19-20, 2009**

**Best Western Sterling Inn**

Sterling Heights, MI 48312

.....

#### **COMING IN THE FALL...**

**Family Workshops**

.....

Check our website for details!

*[www.washtenawaca.org](http://www.washtenawaca.org)*

## **SAVE THE DATE!**

# **ACA's 60<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION!!**

**Saturday**

**October 17, 2009**

**Cobblestone Farm**

2781 Packard Rd.

Ann Arbor, MI 48108

([www.a2gov.org/cobblestone](http://www.a2gov.org/cobblestone))

### **Come celebrate our success!**

ACA has a treasure trove of 60 precious diamond-like years of support and advocacy in the community.

Join us for a walk down memory lane as we cameo our success stories.

If you would like to tell your story, we'd be delighted to hear from you.

Please contact ACA to set an appointment.

## Family Resource Center News and Notes

### Wahoo! Some very good news!

There is some very good news for Social Security beneficiaries and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients. Vice President Joe Biden announced on March 26, 2009, that anyone who was eligible for a Social Security retirement, Disability or Survivor's Benefit, or Supplemental Security Income in the months of November 2008, December 2008, and January 2009 will receive a one-time payment of \$250 as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

This payment should be received in the month of May, 2009. Beneficiaries do not need to do anything. People who receive more than one benefit such as Social Security and SSI will receive only one payment. If you have not received your payment by June 4, 2009, you may contact the Social Security Administration. For more information about the one-time payment, go to:

[www.socialsecurity.gov/payment](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/payment)

### Some more very good news!

The 2009 Cost of Living Adjustment was 5.8%. This is the largest increase we have seen in Social Security benefits and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) in quite a few years. For SSI beneficiaries, the increases began in January 2009 and are as follows:

	2008	2009
Individual	\$637	\$674
Couple	\$956	\$1,011
Household of Another	\$424	\$449

### Resource limits stayed the same:

Individual:	\$2,000	\$2,000
Couple:	\$3,000	\$3,000

### Substantial Gainful Activity level

increased:	\$940	\$980
------------	-------	-------

Please contact me with questions by phone at 734-662-1256 or by email at: [anncarrellas@att.net](mailto:anncarrellas@att.net)

I would also like to hear from you about how we can best answer questions about Social Security benefits, Medicaid, Medicare, and other issues through this newsletter. Feel free to submit your ideas to me in writing, over the phone, or by email.

### Here are some websites worth checking out!

[www.handmedowns.com](http://www.handmedowns.com) — buy, sell, or give away gently used or new toys, books, kids' clothing, etc.

[www.couponmom.com](http://www.couponmom.com) — (FREE!) print and exchange coupons for a variety of merchandise.

[www.wrightslaw.com](http://www.wrightslaw.com) — information about special education law.

## Extended School Year (ESY)

The Michigan State Board of Education approved Michigan's Extended School Year (ESY) standards in August of 2008. ESY provides services and programs to a student with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) after the regular school year ends, and is part of the Michigan Public Schools effort to provide Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE).

ESY is provided at no cost to parents. Any student with an IEP may qualify for ESY services, though not all services and goals will be addressed during the extended school year. ESY must be considered at each IEP meeting.

ESY was designed to maintain current goals and skills that the IEP team believes may be jeopardized if the services were to be interrupted over the long summer vacation. The need of ESY is determined by the IEP team and is based upon data. There are three factors that need to be considered before the IEP team can determine whether the student qualifies for ESY services:

- 1) Indications of or potential for regression
- 2) Severity of disability
- 3) Mastering of goal or skill is at a critical stage

Areas of concern can involve academic, functional, or social goals. If there are no areas of concern, then the student will not qualify for ESY. The IEP team must make the decision whether ESY services are needed in a timely manner before the end of the regular school year. The length of the ESY session is based upon the student's

needs. ESY can take place in a setting outside of the classroom depending on the goal, skill or need of the student.

Read the full version of Michigan's Extended School Year Standards at:

[http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/GuidanceDocforESY\\_245915\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/GuidanceDocforESY_245915_7.pdf)

## YAP Stuff...

### Will We Be Seeing Stars?

A few students in the Young Adult Project are involved in the Michigan Family-to-Family Health Information and Education Center transition video. The young adults will be filmed in their day-to-day lives. Students will be filmed in a variety of settings: leading a craft group at a local Jo-Ann Fabrics; using Apple's Garage Band software to help create a sports podcast; working out with a friend at the Washtenaw County Recreation Center; using local public transportation; and living at a University of Michigan Cooperative.

The video will be distributed in 2009. For more information about the video and its release, please contact Lisa Cook-Gordon of the Michigan Family-to-Family Health Information and Education Center at:

[cook-gordonl@michigan.gov](mailto:cook-gordonl@michigan.gov)

# Why spend your morning on a golf course to benefit ACA?

For over 60 years, the generous support of the citizens and business leaders of our county has permitted ACA to be a force for change and for the betterment of our communities. By your continued support of ACA's **Golf Scramble**, you can be part of a movement that works to achieve equality and opportunity for people with disabilities. Please help ACA to continue its work.

## Scramble Time Line

- 8:00 AM Breakfast Buffet & Registration  
Cart Assignment & Warm-up  
Free Range Balls!
- 9:00 AM Shotgun Start
- 1:30 PM Lunch Buffet Begins
- 2:00 PM Tally Scores & Present Awards

## SILENT AUCTION

Opens 10:00 A.M.  
Closes 2:30 P.M.

## About Reddeman Farms:

Reddeman Farms Golf Club, located seven miles west of Ann Arbor, was completed and opened in 1990. Originally the sight of a historic Lima Township dairy farm, this 148-acre property now boasts a 6,513-yard championship layout.

## Directions to Reddeman Farms:

I-94 to Baker Rd (Exit #167); south one-half mile to Jackson Rd; right three miles to Dancer Rd; left one mile to Reddeman Farms.

## GOLF SCRAMBLE COMMITTEE

Jack Novodoff-Chair	Warren McLean
Ken Utsunomiya	Kathleen Neuman
Ron Jaworowski	Gary Deschenes
Guenther Kellner	Michelle Spornhauer
Don & Virginia Gefre	

*We thank you for all your hard work!*

## ACA Annual Golf Scramble REGISTRATION

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE LIST YOUR TEAMMATES ON THE BACK!

### YES! I'LL GOLF TO BENEFIT ACA! TOTAL

\_\_\_ SINGLE(S) @ \$100 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ FOURSOME(S) @ \$400 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ HOLE SPONSOR @ \$175 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ CART SPONSOR @ \$50 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ SCOREBOARD SPONSOR @ \$50 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### I CAN'T BE THERE, BUT

\_\_\_ HERE IS MY CONTRIBUTION: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ CHECK PAYABLE TO ACA

\_\_\_ VISA OR MASTERCARD (NOTE: WE ONLY  
ACCEPT VISA AND MASTERCARD CHARGES)

ACCT #: \_\_\_\_\_

EXP. DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS, IF DIFFERENT FROM ABOVE:  
\_\_\_\_\_

### SPONSOR INFORMATION (PRINT CLEARLY)

NAME: (IF DIFFERENT FROM ABOVE)  
\_\_\_\_\_

COMPANY: (IF APPLICABLE)  
\_\_\_\_\_

OTHER PERTINENT INFO:  
\_\_\_\_\_

RETURN TO: **ACA**

**1100 NORTH MAIN, SUITE 205**

**ANN ARBOR, MI 48104**

PHONE: (734) 662-1256 FAX: (734) 662-2699

**PREPAYMENT IS GREATLY APPRECIATED!**

(PLEASE COMPLETE THE BACK SIDE OF THIS FORM)

**The Board and Staff of ACA thank all of you for supporting the work of the Association for Community Advocacy.**

**Remember The Milestones of Life  
By Giving To ACA**

A birth, graduation, or any other life event can be memorialized with a contribution to ACA. Contributions may be made by mail or via PayPal at: [www.washtenawaca.org](http://www.washtenawaca.org)

**PLAYER #2**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

**PLAYER #3**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

**PLAYER #4**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you for your  
generous support!**



**Please visit us at our newly  
redesigned website!**

**[www.washtenawaca.org](http://www.washtenawaca.org)**

**New Look — New Links**

**Email your comments and suggestions to us  
at:  
[info@washtenawaca.org](mailto:info@washtenawaca.org)**

**Need Information or Support?  
Call ACA at (734) 662-1256**

	EXTENSION
SHERRY FERNANDEZ, President/CEO	205
ANN CARRELLAS, VP/Director Family Resource Center	210
SALLY MARSHALL, Community Work Incentive Coord.	203
MARY SHEHAN-BOOGAARD, Coordinator, YAP	207
JEN GOSSETT, Support Coordinator, YAP	206
JOANNE DARR, Education/Child Rights Advocate	202
EMILY PASTERNAK, Administrative Assistant, Trusts	201
JENNIFER REETS, Controller	204
RETTA GEHRING, Administrative Assistant	200
BETH GARLOCK, Administrative Assistant	200
GEORGIA MYERS, Administrative Support	200

## **What We Do...**

### **ACA's Family Resource Center:**

- Assists parents to secure individualized education plans with appropriate support for their children.
- Assists individuals to obtain and maintain benefits including Social Security Disability, Supplemental Security Income, Medicaid and the Michigan Family Support Subsidy.
- Assists individuals to obtain accommodations they may need to navigate the criminal, civil, probate, and juvenile court systems.
- Assists individuals and their families to plan for the future through person-centered planning, estate planning and alternatives to guardianship.
- Assists to identify children and youth involved in the Foster Care system who have disabilities and advocates for appropriate supports and services.

### **The Young Adult Project:**

- Assists students between the ages of 18 and 26 to transition smoothly into community life and the adult systems that support them once special education eligibility is completed.

### **Trusts:**

Administers special-needs trusts for individuals with developmental disabilities.

### **Work Incentive Planning and Assistance:**

Assists individuals currently receiving Social Security Benefits to plan for and return to work.

### **As a result of ACA's efforts:**

- **925 individuals** with disabilities received information and advocacy services to help them acquire and maintain housing, benefits, jobs, and appropriate levels of nutrition.
- **more than 230 families** received advocacy services related to schooling and education for their children with disabilities.
- **some 30 youths** with disabilities who are preparing to age out of the Foster Care system were assisted to ensure that adult supports, services, and benefits will be in place when they reach age 18.
- **27 students** with disabilities who were preparing to transition out of high school and into adult roles in their community received support and advocacy services through our Young Adult Project.
- **more than 140 families** received information and support regarding home-help services, respite care, estate planning, and person-centered planning for a family member with a disability.
- **13 individuals** with developmental disabilities who were beneficiaries of amenities trusts received trustee services through ACA.
- **some 30 youths** with disabilities who are preparing to age out of the Foster Care system were assisted to ensure that adult supports, services, and benefits will be in place when they reach age 18.

### **ACA BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Phil Smith	Chair
Josh Fink	Vice Chair
Jack Novodoff	Treasurer
Lori Burke	Secretary

#### Directors:

Laurie Bueche, Barbara LeRoy, Kathleen Neuman, Deborah Patterson, and Robin Sefton

1100 North Main, Suite 205  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104  
Phone 734-662-1256  
Fax 734-662-2699

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PERMIT #490  
YPSILANTI, MI

**ACA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL/CONTRIBUTION FORM**

Check One:    New Membership    Renewal Membership

Check here for changes or corrections to name or address

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check the appropriate boxes below:

- Corporate.....\$1000
- Patron.....\$500
- Contributor.....\$100
- Individual/Family.....\$25
- Senior.....\$15
- Associate.....\$15
- My Additional Tax Deductible Gift
  - \$25    \$50    \$100    \$\_\_\_\_\_

Payment Method:

- Check or Money Order  
Please make your check payable to Washtenaw ACA
- Credit Card (Visa or Mastercard)

Type of Card: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Account #: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Your membership and charitable contributions demonstrate your support for ACA's advocacy on behalf of and in partnership with persons with disabilities and their families. Membership is not required to receive advocacy services from ACA.

*Thank you for supporting our mission and work!*

Please return this form along with check or payment instructions to: **ACA, 1100 North Main, Suite 205, Ann Arbor, MI 48104**  
*You may also complete your membership and/or contribution on-line at [www.washtenawaca.org](http://www.washtenawaca.org)*