

# the Connection

Volume 11 Issue 5  
Sept./Oct. 2003

## Arc Great Rivers' Celebrate the Season

Arc Great Rivers' Annual *Celebrate the Season* Festival will be November 22nd at the Minnesota History Center in Saint Paul. This year's event will include:

### Holiday Show: Martini & Olive Starring in *Holiday Inferno*

Revisit a 70s Christmas when Martini and Olive, the ultimate lounge-singing duo, take the stage at the Minnesota History Center. Tony Martini (Minneapolis actor Grant Richey) and Olive Heatherton (Minnesota Native and L.A. actress Judy Heneghan) revel in the decade of polyester pants, pet rocks and disco dancing in their brilliant holiday show.

### Dinner and Silent Auction

All of our guests will enjoy the perfect holiday meal along with chances to out-bid your friends and fellow Arc supporters at the Silent Auction.

### Donations Wanted

If interested, please feel free to donate silent auction items such as gift certificates, gift baskets, get-a-way packages or services. There's no such thing as a donation that's too small. If the item needs to be picked up, please let us know. Contact Diane Peters at 763-783-4764. \* \*

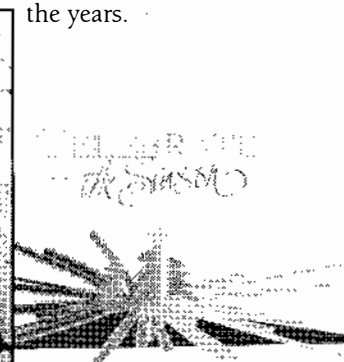
A special thanks goes out to all of you who have helped promote and support this event over the years.



Visit us on the web:  
[www.arcgreatrivers.com](http://www.arcgreatrivers.com)



Grant Richey and Judy Heneghan as the 70s lounge show, Martini & Olive.



Mick Sterling

### Live Music: The Superfriends of Soul featuring Mick Sterling

Mick and the Superfriends of Soul will dazzle you with their gracious ability to warm a room and keep you smiling into the night. The group will come loaded with an array of original songs and classic blues favorites from artists such as Tower of Power, James Brown, Otis Redding, Ray Charles and many more! Visit Mick on the web at [www.micksterling.com](http://www.micksterling.com).

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Serving Anoka, Dakota, Ramsey, Scott & Washington Counties  
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Arc  
Great Rivers

advocacy • resources • community

**Arc thanks the following  
new contributing members**

Mary Kay & Gary Dreyer • Judy Lysne

**Arc welcomes the following  
new family and single members**

Ann & Jay Behnken • Chris & Joel Loose

Sylvia & Donovan McGuire

Rosanne & Glen Rerick • Diane & Jeff Sexton

Claudia Battaino & Michael Haugen

Tracey May & Jordan Shirley

Al & Susan Imhoff • Kelly Judson

Kam Rydeen • Fred & Jeanette Brinkman

Nancy & Anthony Gonzalez

Dyana & Curtis Karges • Connie & Peter Koehn

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Corinne Cavanaugh • Kevin & Colleen Johnson

Linda Stein • William Waring

**Arc thanks the following renewal  
contributing members**

Charles & Mary Herman • Jackie Mlynarczyk

Jerry & Carol Moenke • Galen & Karen Pate

Deborah Ho & Daniel Beckstrom

James & Annette Calhoun • Tom & Roslyn Dobrick

Al & Marion Eickhoff • Ruth Fardig

Marcella Johnson • Theresa Lippert & Fred Grittner

Judith Marder • Steven & Stephanie Rawn

Fred & Margaret Welte • Erin & Jeffrey Wipf

Beth Hawkins & Linda Zeien

**Arc thanks the following donors**

Baldinger Baking Ltd Partnership

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County of Anoka Community Dev. Block Grant

Dakota County to Parent Network

Community Living, Inc. • Dakota Electric

David Mitzuk in memory of Joe Mitzuk

Dawn & Mike McLaughlin

Department of Education Latino Grant

Donita Soucek in memory of Susan Hultman and

Patrick Pemberton • EC Stratton • Enrich Inc.

Financial for Lutherans-Scott L. Lund

First Community Credit Union

Fridley American Legion Post 303

Fridley Target • Gerald & Regina Yartz

Greater Twin Cities United Way

Gweneth & Thomas Lencowski

Jennifer Anderson • Jerald & Chloette Haley

Jim Appleton • Kathleen Oehrlein

Karen Tomlinson in memory of Joe Mitzuk

# Consumer Directed Community Supports (CDCS)

## What's been working and what still needs work

*Editor's Note: Consumer Directed Community Supports (CDCS) is an option under the MR/RC Waiver that allows a person receiving services a shot beyond the wheel of the car instead of being in the back seat shouting at the driver to stop at Dairy Queen for a cherry Mister Misty. The following four questions were posed to a random sample of Arc Great Rivers' members with the intent to communicate how well this option is working and to see what concerns people have about the program.*

1. Are you able to identify advantages of CDCS compared to formal services?
2. Are there barriers or restrictions on what you can and cannot purchase?
3. How do these restrictions limit your family (if any) and how does this make you feel?
4. From your point of view, what is self-determination and what does it mean to you?

I live in Ramsey County. I find that CDCS is more flexible and we have the choice of what services we want. We can decide where our money will be used, so we get the best possible benefits. We also can hire our own staff, which makes more sense and we decide how much we pay for the services as we feel that helps staff stay longer.

There are some restrictions as far as what can and cannot be purchased, but they are more like guidelines and so far I have not found them too restrictive. Only major problem is we need to go through the fiscal agency and I feel we could do the same job and have that money available for services rather than giving it for bookkeeping. However, I do understand that there needs to be some checks to make sure no one abuses the system...but then why does Dakota County allow people to do the bookkeeping while our county does not? This is beyond me. This could save a lot of money, but then we need to be trained as far as how to bill for the services.

Also, there should be choice if someone does not want to go to a day program. We want to utilize that money to do a home program, but currently the county wants to keep that separate, as this is a different pot of money when in reality it is the part of waiver funding. It doesn't matter if the program isn't good, we have to send her to that program.

We think self-determination is a very good concept. It gives dignity to my daughter who can't always decide for herself and I'm able to read her needs and help her act on it. We can prioritize our needs and can get those met by best available services. I think CDCS is the kind of help we welcome and are grateful for. I like the flexibility it provides.

-Rijuta Pathre, Ramsey County



Rijuta Pathre and her daughter

By using CDCS instead of formal services, I am able to provide better, individual care for my son. For example, by hiring my own staff instead of going through an agency, I can pay higher hourly wages, which is cheaper for the county. Instead of so much money going to the middleman, it is going to the staff. As a result, I have much higher qualified staff (such as an occupational therapist) and have been able to retain them for much longer than a PCA through an agency would have stayed. Previously, I went through an agency that was paying my staff half of what they were getting now, while charging the county quite a bit more than what they are paying now. By retaining high quality staff, my son has consistency and has made tremendous progress.

CDCS has also been beneficial because it has paid for alternative therapies (craniosacral, aquatic, and music therapy), fencing our yard, behavior incentive prizes, behavior management supplies, chore service, housekeeping, tandem trike, computer, assistive technology, social skills classes and house modifications.

Previous to the recent cuts, CDCS had paid for vitamin supplements, replacement of damaged items, caregiver training (The category was reduced to \$250 from \$2500/year). CDCS also will not be covering Camp Avanti, an intensive sensory integration camp, that my son has attended the last two years, and greatly benefited from.


There are several items that CDCS has not paid for in our county that I feel would be beneficial. My son tends to flee, and staff does not feel comfortable going out in public with him without a cell phone. I feel it is essential as part of his emergency plan. If they are at a park, and he flees, there is no way for the staff to call for help without a cell phone.

My son has benefited tremendously from the GFCF diet, which our county has never paid for. When my son is on this strict diet, he no longer has behavior issues, has reduced sensory needs, and uses far less services through MA (such as attending occupational therapy or sensory integration). Also, he then doesn't require one-on-one care, so we would be using much less staff. The county said CDCS does not pay for food, but by paying for the diet and supplements, a lot less money would be spent on other services, thereby saving the county quite a bit of money. Because I am low income, and the labor intensity of this diet, I am unable to maintain it 100%. Although we are seeing some benefit from doing this diet part time, my son could be on his way to using very little services and on his way to a life of independence much sooner, if we had the flexibility to use CDCS dollars for the diet and supplements.

I think CDCS is a wonderful program, but I get frustrated when I see the county make decisions that are actually costing more money, and not benefiting my child as much as they could. In addition to the diet example above, CDCS won't pay for any outdoor equipment (despite letters from his OT requiring this for him). However, they have spent more money on repairing the fence (that he climbed on and broke because he had nothing to do in the back yard) than they would have spent on some outdoor equipment.

My other frustration is seeing things like YMCA or science museum memberships, cell phones, special diet and supplements, etc covered in other counties, but not ours. It is saddening to have this money allocated to my son, and not be able to spend it because of the strict restrictions. It is also saddening to know that if these restrictions weren't in place, over time it would cost the county less.

Self-determination is having the ability, flexibility and choice to make decisions about where we want to live, what services we want and what kind of life we want to live. It is also about being included in the community and

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## Who is Arc Great Rivers?

Arc Great Rivers is a non-profit organization that provides advocacy and support for people with developmental disabilities and their families. Arc informs people of their choices and helps them gain experiences and breakdown barriers. People with developmental disabilities should be respected and included in our society. Parents are not alone and are welcome to join us to connect with others.

How does Arc support families and build communities? Arc's wide range of services include:

- **Networking and Support Groups**—For parents, siblings, and guardians. We currently offer Hispanic and Hmong support.
- **Family Education**—Training and skill building workshops are offered on a regular basis.
- **Pilot Parents**—A one to one peer support program for parents of children with disabilities or special needs.
- **Individual and System Advocacy**—Assistance to find needed supports and service and problem resolution. Training and support to become involved in system design and change.

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using public resources responsibly in a way that is wise and cost effective.

-Washington County Parent

CDCS has allowed me to keep and compensate the experienced staff that I already had in place. They were frustrated with the administration in their service organizations, received little training or input of value and relied on me for training and information, which I provided anyway. There were many changes in staff and supervisors and too much time bringing everyone up to speed. The staff that actually work with us are great and some of the coordinators taught me a lot. But the roles and the people attracted to them are transient and it made for a process to accomplish anything. CDCS allows our family to think the year through, set goals and objectives and go for it. I think it's cost effective and the benefit to my daughter Savannah has been HUGE!

("CDCS" continued on page 7)

## Part-Time Work: In-Home Personal Care

### Weekday Afternoons

We are in need of a Personal Care Attendant for a 16-year-old girl with cerebral palsy. The hours would be approximately 2:15–5:00 or 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday with some weekend hours available. We would consider any combination of days by one or more individuals, as your schedule permits.

The working atmosphere is pleasant and non-restrictive and our daughter is a delight to work with. The person should be fun and open to forming a special bond with her. We live in the Summit/Grand/Dale area of St. Paul so we are close to bus lines. Salary: \$11.00–\$12.00/hour (depending on experience). For more information contact Dawn McLaughlin at 612-376-3042 (8:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.) or email at [dkmclaughlin@bemis.com](mailto:dkmclaughlin@bemis.com).

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### Arc thanks the following donors (continued)

Knights of Columbus Apple Valley 9096  
Knights of Columbus Blaine/Coon Rapids 5141  
Knights of Columbus-Cedar 9585  
Knights of Columbus-BV/Eagan 6374  
Knights of Columbus Eagan 7604  
Knights of Columbus Farmington #2400  
Knights of Columbus Forest Lake 3657  
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SRI matching contribution for Chloette Haley  
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Theo & Sharon Hoffman  
Thrivent Financial for Lutherans  
Tracy & Len Forside • Wal-Mart Foundation  
Waste Management • Western Bank  
Wells Fargo Comm. Support Campaign  
William & Connie Bregman in memory of Joe Mitzuk

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## Moving Forward now that the Train has Stopped

### Interview with Steve Larson, Arc Minnesota Executive Director

*Editor's Note: This time last year the sky was where it should be, with the exception of a dark lurking cloud easing slowly but surely over the state of Minnesota. Obviously now with the results and definite impacts of the 2003 legislative session: the sky has fallen.*

In October 2002, Steve Larson of The Arc of Minnesota began putting together an attack plan with the help of local chapters and of course a strong membership. The Arc's vision was to prepare to articulate our case, tell individual stories, share successes and put together a campaign to assure we made contact with key legislatures. With all of the above said and done, services and most importantly people with developmental disabilities across the state, are still feeling the sting of the 2003 session and we have to prepare to do it all over again.



Steve Larson snap shot at Day at the Capitol

**It's now been full circle for your first year working at The Arc. What has been your biggest accomplishment?**

Surviving the first year was a huge accomplishment. Starting with day one I began working on the legislative affairs. The

number of people that got involved and responded to action alerts we sent out was very fulfilling. I strongly appreciated how Arc members and people on the action alert network stepped forward to advocate for people with developmental disabilities. Working with Arc and people who have a high level of dedication has been great.

### What has been your biggest disappointment?

Obviously my biggest disappointment was the Legislative session. When the Governor made his pledge to not raise taxes it made my job an uphill battle from the beginning.

### How would you describe the effects of the 2003 legislative session?

The session was overwhelming and disappointing and Minnesota took huge steps backwards. Minnesota was at the top for services before the session and now it's not. Families on MFIP and SSI were extremely penalized and these issues need to be addressed in the upcoming year.

### What should Arc members be doing as we close in on the beginning of the 2004 Legislative session?

Arc and its supporters need to take a strong stance on a balanced approach. The unbalanced approach last year was proven not to work. Arc and its supporters need to identify what taxes need to be increased, as given the budget shortfall and the outcome of last year, we will need to talk about the tax issue upfront.

Families need to start telling their personal stories and how they've been impacted by the cuts. People also need to participate in town meetings that

Arc is organizing around the state starting in October and going through December. People also need to start contacting their Legislators and set up home visits to assure that they get a solid understanding of the impacts of the last session. All of these steps will be critical to our success in the next session.

Arc is also working at better organizing our Action Alert Network. We want to make sure it is up to date and work with individual Arc chapters so we're efficient with our organizational methods and assure we get clear consistent messages out to everyone. Last year The Arc National had its most responses from Minnesota. Arc Minnesota is also putting into effect the same type of software that The Arc has with their zip code Public Policy Network. A student from the University of Minnesota will be working to get that software up and running this fall.

### **What are Arc's top priorities going into the next legislative session?**

**Raising Taxes:** The Governor left an opening at the end of the last session. He said he would talk with community agencies prior to 2004 about the impacts of 2003 to see what tax items need to be put on the table to assist with problems.

**Parental Fees:** This is a huge issue for many families and we would like to address this issue via our Town Meetings that will be held this fall.

**Minnesota Family Investment (MFIP) Program:** MFIP recipients with low income endured a \$125 reduction in monthly payments. For a person with low income this is a huge reduction. Agencies such as Legal Aid have already been strategizing on how to address this. We hope to define this strategy in the near future.

There are also a whole slew of issues including: freezes on waiver slots, provider rate reductions, co-pays/dental coverage under MA and Counties new 10% share of ICF/MR payments that start in July 2004. We will continue to work hard on all of these issues.

### **One of the biggest things that happened this year was the rebasing of the waiver. Can you speak on any points of what to expect?**

I think that people need to understand that we are trying to make this work. DHS has been re-allocating some money back to counties. At this time we have submitted our issues to the United States District Court and we hope the court will support our arguments.

## **Family Fun**

Hot dogs, hamburgers and you-name-it-we-had-it at the Annual Membership Picnic at Como Park. It was a great evening of fun and networking. Over 350 people attended. Thanks goes out to all our members for their continuous support.

A special thanks goes out to the following individuals and their agencies who donated picnic treats this year.

Jay Buckingham—Old Dutch Foods  
Judy Twisk—Marigold Foods  
Clarise Kabacinski



*Sleepy and his sister seen above, and Smiley and his mom (left).*

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### **Mission Statement**

*All people with Developmental Disabilities  
enjoy the communities in which they  
live, learn, work and play.*

#### **President**

Jean Bender, St. Paul

#### **Vice President**

Gail Hoffmann, Apple Valley

#### **Secretary/Treasurer**

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Deb Harris, Eagan

Edith Young, Inver Grove Heights

Catherine Nakimbugwe, Roseville

Lisa Gray, Blaine

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Past President Steve Sahl, West St. Paul

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# Food Support

## Staff at Suburban

Marianne Reich  
*Executive Director*

Jennifer Oxborough  
*Child Advocacy*

Scott Schifsky  
*Adult Advocate & Communications Coordinator*

Cheryl Keynes  
*Secretary*

Lina Marin  
*Latino Outreach*

Deb Kohlhardt  
*Advocate & Family Services Specialist*

Steve Tollerud  
*Accountant/Family Support Specialist*

## Staff at St. Paul

Jacki McCormack  
*Child Advocacy & Public Policy Director*

(Mindy) Choua Thao  
*Hmong Outreach Worker*

Luann Palmer  
*Adult Service Coordinator*  
e-mail: [lpalmer1@arcgreatrivers.com](mailto:lpalmer1@arcgreatrivers.com)

Edna Knudsen  
*Secretary & Membership Coordinator*

Alicia Buer  
*Intern*

## Direct Dial Numbers for Staff at Blaine Dial 763-783-ext.#

Diane Peters ..... 4764  
*Fundraising & Special Events Dir.*

Jan Grieser ..... 4766  
*Director of Child Advocacy*

Celeste denDaas ..... 4767  
*Director of Family Services*

Andrea Zuber ..... 4765  
*Adult Advocate*

Susan Kane ..... 4769  
*Family Support Specialist*

Andi Fredrickson ..... 4958  
*Administrative Assistant*

**e-mail addresses are first name initial  
and last name@arcgreatrivers.com  
example: [mreich@arcgreatrivers.com](mailto:mreich@arcgreatrivers.com)**

More than 130,000 low-income Minnesotans may qualify for Food Support to meet their nutritional needs. Hundreds of thousands of Minnesotans receive Food Support each month, but even more are eligible. While more than 224,000 Minnesotans participate in the Food Support Program each month, about 136,000 more lower income residents may qualify. Formerly known as Food Stamps, Food Support is a financial assistance program designed to help lower income Minnesotans meet their nutritional needs.

"Children cannot learn as well, adults cannot work as productively and seniors cannot maintain their independence as well without proper nutrition," said Bonnie Becker, director of the Minnesota Department of Human Services Adult Supports Division, which oversees the statewide Food Support Program. "Food Support is a basic resource for people who, because of limited incomes, may not be able to meet their nutritional needs."

Of the 380,000 lower income Minnesotans, approximately 59 percent currently participate in the Food Support Program; only 32 percent of lower income seniors participate. Participants receive an average of \$60 per month per person to purchase food, including sugar-free or low sodium foods for people with special needs, to ensure they maintain a healthy diet.

The department works with the state's 320 food shelves, community service agencies and faith-based organizations to reach lower-income Minnesotans who may qualify for the program. It also funds and works with community action programs to ensure residents get the nutritional food they need. More than 400 volunteers, who received technical assistance from department staff, provide Food Support information to citizens throughout the state to encourage them to apply for the program.

"We want to ensure all Minnesotans who qualify, particularly senior citizens, are taking advantage of this program," Becker said. "We are in the midst of creating a coalition to ensure Minnesotans receive nutritious food."

The coalition will include, according to Becker, participants from government, businesses, academia and nonprofits, working together to solve the hunger and nutrition problems that many low-income Minnesotans face. The coalition will promote good nutrition and coordinate efforts to ensure access to nutritious foods for all Minnesotans.

For more information on Food Support, call 651-296-0190 or 1-800-657-3698 or visit the DHS website at: [www.dhs.state.mn.us/ecs/Program/FoodSupport](http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/ecs/Program/FoodSupport).

This information was provided by the Department of Human Services.

## Family Institute for Creative Well-Being Fall Benefit

Hold the date for November 8! The Benefit Events will include a juried art sale and show, fabulous dinner selections, raffle, silent and live auctions and entertainment. There will be face painting, caricature drawings and an opportunity for a Royal family portrait! Guest host will be Randi Kaye with a concert by songwriter and singer John Downing. All proceeds benefit the Family Institute programs. Please call for tickets.

The benefit will be held at the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge located at 3815 E 80th St., Bloomington. The phone number is: 651-779-8199. The Family Institute website is at: [www.familyinstitute-cwb.org](http://www.familyinstitute-cwb.org).

Volunteers and sponsors needed! Call if you would like to participate.

# Notice to Parents: State Complaint Decisions may Preclude IDEA Action in Federal Court

Parents have the right pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) to file a complaint with the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) when they believe their child is being denied or has been denied a free appropriate public education (FAPE). MDE is to investigate and issue a decision in 60 days. Two recent decisions for the United States District Court for the District of Minnesota, (federal court) have held, however, that parents cannot appeal the merits of a complaint decision or the way it was handled to federal court under the IDEA unless the situation is raised as a "systemic" problem.

In *Larson v. International Falls*, the parents contended that their child was removed from school and placed in a more restrictive juvenile setting after they contested the appropriateness of his programming. A complaint was pending. The parents alleged that the MDE was involved in that removal. The court refused to allow the claim to proceed against MDE on that point. Counsel for the parents in that case was the Center for Education Law in St. Paul.

In *Wachlarowicz v. Mahtomedi and MDE*, a case in which Kerr Law Office is representing the family, the parents alleged their daughter, who is hearing impaired, was not receiving appropriate services. Without an attorney, they filed a complaint with MDE. Later they obtained counsel and requested a hearing. The MDE decided the complaint one business day before the hearing began. After the administrative process failed, the parents sued the district and MDE in U.S. District Court. They alleged that the complaint interfered with the parents due process hearing, was late and offered the child no remedy. The magistrate held the parents cannot appeal the complaint issue to the Court. The judge in federal court affirmed this decision.

Parents must consult with an advocate or attorney before filing a complaint with MDE under these circumstances. Parents do appear, at this time, to retain the right to appeal an MDE complaint decision to the Minnesota State Court of Appeals. Parents also, of course, retain the right to a due process hearing. There is a statutory right to appeal a due process hearing decision to federal court. But it appears, at this time, that parents cannot challenge adverse complaint decisions in the U.S. District Court in Minnesota.

This information was provided by the Kerr Law Office. For more information, go to: [www.kerrlaw.com](http://www.kerrlaw.com).

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*("CDCS" continued from page 3)*

I spend less time and money on administration and more on services that benefit my daughter directly. With more staff hours, my daughter has been able to participate in bowling. She has learned to swim independently this year after 11 years of going to the Courage Center in Stillwater. The extra day a week makes a big difference. She won a fitness contest for the first time. We have taken our first family vacation ever! With a support staff we were all able to enjoy ourselves. So far all of the items we have needed to support my daughter have been approved by the waiver committee.

I think that people with disabilities more than anyone need to spend time and resources in ways that lead to lifelong progress. When I meet people with disabilities often the greatest barrier is time. They get to work on what they want for the long term and choose the people to help them get there.

-Patti Yartz, Anoka County

## Community Transition Inter-agency Committee (CTIC)

CTIC exists to continuously improve the design and delivery of transition services for young adults with disabilities. Towards that endeavor, transition planning will result in each student becoming a valued, productive and contributing member of their community. Planning will focus on student self-determination, authentic collaboration between schools and community organizations and mutual ownership of problems and development of solutions. The CTIC is currently recruiting parents of students who are interested in special education transition issues.

Saint Paul: contact Jim LeDuc at 651-293-5997 or [james.leduc@spps.org](mailto:james.leduc@spps.org)

Anoka County: contact Nancy Buckholz at 763-422-7230 or [nancy.buckholtz@co.anoka.mn.us](mailto:nancy.buckholtz@co.anoka.mn.us)

Dakota County: contact Pat Jonas at 651-423-8503 or [patricia.jonas@isd917.k12.mn.us](mailto:patricia.jonas@isd917.k12.mn.us)

Scott/Carver Counties: contact Angie Studer at 952-496-8426

Washington County: contact Marcy Courtney at 651-768-3885

Ramsey County North Suburban: contact Colleen Hampl at 651-415-5447 or [champl@nemetrol.k12.mn.us](mailto:champl@nemetrol.k12.mn.us)

## Waiver Rebasing Update

US District Court Judge Tunheim has issued a Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) to halt the implementation of rebasing by the Minnesota Department of Human Services. On Friday 9/12/03 the Minnesota Disability Law Center filed a motion with the court on behalf of three families and The Arc of Minnesota requesting the TRO and asked for a hearing seeking injunctive relief. Watch Arc Great Rivers website ([www.arcgreatrivers.com](http://www.arcgreatrivers.com)) for up-to-date information.

## Save these Dates!

Arc Great Rivers' Annual Rose Sale will be February 23 through April 11, 2004. If you would like to volunteer to sell roses or have a location where you would be willing to host a sale, contact Diane Peters at 763-783-4764.

## Dentists Wanted!

Arc Great Rivers is developing a list of recommended dentists who work with adults with developmental disabilities. If you have someone you would like to recommend for this list please contact Jacki at 651-523-0876 or email her at: [jmccormack@arcgreatrivers.com](mailto:jmccormack@arcgreatrivers.com).



## Calendar of Events

*Dates and locations are subject to change, contact any of our offices if you do not receive flyers for any of the below events.*

- November 8 12th Annual Hmong Support Group • Topic: Special Education • McDonough Comm. Center, St. Paul  
 November 10 People First Ramsey • 6:00-7:30 p.m. • East Side Community Center  
 November 11 People First Suburban • 7:00-9:00 p.m. • Augustana Lutheran Church, West St. Paul  
 November 13 People First Anoka • 7:00-8:30 p.m. • Anoka County Human Services Bldg., Suite 325  
 November 17 People First Scott County • 6:30-8:00 p.m. • (Location to be Announced)  
 November 22 Arc Great River's *Celebrate the Season Festival* • 5:30 p.m. • Minnesota History Center, St. Paul  
 November 25 People's Rights of Hastings • 7:00-8:00 p.m. • Our Saviors Lutheran Church  
 December 8 People First Ramsey • 6:00-7:30 p.m. • East Side Community Center  
 December 9 People First Suburban Holiday Party • 7:00-9:00 p.m. • Augustana Lutheran Church, West St. Paul  
 December 11 People First Anoka • 7:00-8:30 p.m. • Anoka County Human Services Bldg., Suite 325  
 December 15 People First Scott County • 6:30-8:00 p.m. • (Location to be Announced)  
 (Dates to be announced) Arc Board Meeting • 6:30 p.m. • Ramsey Office

***If you have any questions, comments, or would like more information please contact us at:***

	Phone	Fax	Address
St. Paul	(651) 523-0876	(651) 523-0829	770 Transfer Road, Suite 26, St. Paul, MN 55114
Suburban	(952) 890-3057	(952) 890-3527	1526 122 <sup>nd</sup> Street, Burnsville, MN 55337
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**Your Feedback is Important!!** Your response to articles, ideas for new ones or information you'd like to see in future newsletters is welcomed. Call or email Scott Schifsky at 952-890-3057 or [sschifsky@arcgreativers.com](mailto:sschifsky@arcgreativers.com). Your feedback is valuable, helping us improve our communications. Visit us on the web: [www.arcgreativers.com](http://www.arcgreativers.com). Thanks!

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