

# the Connection

Volume III Issue 5  
Sept./Oct. 2004

## CDCS Cuts Sting, Fester and Hurt

*Editor's note: While letters with budget cuts from the Minnesota Department of Human Services roll into the mailboxes of CDCS recipients its imperative that Arc Great Rivers and its membership and supporters continue to share their stories. These stories will be our greatest voice as the next legislative session kicks off. We encourage all of you to contact Arc and get up to date information as this moving target continues to be difficult to hit.*

We'd like to thank the Doolittle family for sharing their personal story with our readers. Also, please note that the intent of publishing this letter is to show how well CDCS has worked for this individual family, and is not an article to stereotype the formal services system as a whole.

Justine Doolittle is a 17-year-old girl who has developmental disabilities. She is diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy and Epilepsy. She is non-verbal, non-ambulatory and functions at a cognitive level of about 2-3 years of age. Justine is also treated for both osteoporosis and scoliosis. She has no fear of strangers or any self-preservation skills. She is dependent on others for all aspects of daily living.

The CDCS program is important to our family because while we were using PCA services through a State Regulated Home Health Agency our hours

*("CDCS Cuts" continued on page 7)*

## Arc Great Rivers' 2004 Celebrate the Season Gala

Saturday, November 20, 2004  
Bandana Square Saint Paul

Broadway Bound? You will be when you join us for the 2004 Arc Great Rivers' Celebrate the Season Gala at Bandana Square. A talented group of Twin City theatre performers will lead you on a journey through the wonderful landscape of the Broadway musical. You'll be dazzled by a collection of songs from such famous musicals as "Guys and Dolls," "Rent," "Wicked," "Chess," "Grease" and "Little Shop of Horrors." You'll thrill to songs you know and love and new songs you'll wish you had heard years earlier! A lively, engaging and hilarious night of song and theatre await you. (See registration flyer inside this issue of the Connection)

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### What's Inside:

2- "I'm Just One Person..."

3-Legislative Planning Day

4- CDCS: A Moving Target of Issues

7- NAMI-Mn Lawsuit

Family Services Insert

## Get Out the VOTE!

Tuesday, November 2 • 7:00am-8:00pm



Your right to vote is extremely important. By voting for a specific elected official, you can help prioritize what is important to you. Please exercise your right to vote!!

### Useful websites

[www.lwvmn.org](http://www.lwvmn.org)

<http://candidates.sos.state.mn.us/>

[www.vote-smart.org](http://www.vote-smart.org)

[www.icount.org](http://www.icount.org)

[www.sos.state.mn.us/election/VotingInfo.html](http://www.sos.state.mn.us/election/VotingInfo.html)

<http://pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us/>

[www.smartvoter.org](http://www.smartvoter.org)

[www.americavotes.org](http://www.americavotes.org)

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

Jessika Andrews • Julie Bram • Sandra Colbert  
Rose Marie & Don E. Crannell  
Lorri & Merl Daniels • Monica & Patrick Duffy  
Joyce Faughnan • John & Sue France  
David & Michele Frick • Jeff & Kim Giacomini  
Viene McDonell Haines • Marcella Johnson  
Jan King • Rich Lund  
Anne Markfort & Larry Nelson  
Terri Fautsch & Mark Patridge  
Missy & Jon Phillips • Tammy & Naften Sadoff  
Colleen Timmers • Zella & Todd Vandervort  
Mary Kay Vierling • Diane Willen • Paul Wilmes  
Joan & Jeff Young

**Arc thanks the following renewal  
contributing members**

Donald & Teddie Bordsen  
Robert & Genevieve Dahl  
Donald & Mary Hinze • Marcella Johnson  
Rosemary Kam • Chris Koop  
John & June Martin • Jeri Schoonover  
Fred Stalley • Judy Swett

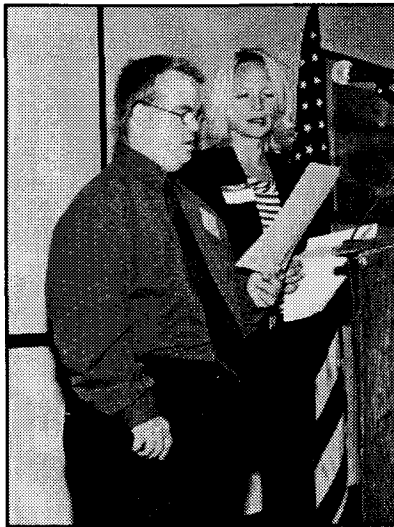
**Arc thanks the following donors**

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American Legion - Stillwater Post 48  
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Dakota Electric • Dave Regel Construction, Inc.  
Eldridge, Judy • Equity Services of St. Paul, Inc.  
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Kimmel, Angela & Ron in memory of Marti Smith  
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KOC Farmington 2400 • KOC Forest Lake 3657  
KOC Fridley 4381 • KOC Lakeville 8367  
KOC New Prague 2023 • KOC Rosemount 5569  
KOC Prior Lake/Savage 4914 • Kraus Anderson  
Lions Club - Ham Lake  
Lions Club - St. Paul Park Newport  
Lippert, Mr. & Mrs. Robert in memory of  
Earl Bergerud  
MN Dept of Ed - CFL Hispanic grant

# I'm Just One Person and I Hope to Empower You

*by Phil Briggs, Stillwater*

My name is Phil Briggs and I live in a group home with three guys in Stillwater. I've lived here nine years and work for Old Navy at Maplewood Mall. I'm a sales associate and some of my responsibilities include greeting customers, stocking and making sure people know how to find things. I've worked there for four years and like the fact that I have good co-workers and some of them have become my friends in the process. I'm a people person and always do a good job and might get another part-time job at Petsmart doing sales, in which I truly enjoy. I'm very responsible and dependable.



*Phil Briggs (seen above) speaking to the crowd at the 2004 Putting People First Conference "Find the Power Within." Phil not only staffed the event...he assisted with the planning of presenters and location details of the event.*

My hobbies include music, playing harmonica, keyboard, Play Station, listening to music and watching movies. But most of all I like to use my sense of humor and talk to people.

Every year I learn more about how human services works and use my knowledge to advocate for others and myself at the legislature. I enjoy going to Arc Day at the Capitol and getting literature on how the legislature is set up and how it works. I enjoy the agenda and quality of all the speakers. I pay a lot of attention to what is going on in the field of developmental disabilities. Last year I really enjoyed listening to Cliff Poetz (A People First Minnesota Board Member and long time Arc supporter) and the strategies he described on how to be an assertive self-advocate on issues that affect me most.

After presentations by a variety of speakers at Arc Day at the Capitol, I went and met with my Representative Rebecca Otto. I talked about my personal story and told her my view that I'd rather have money funded to human services vs. a new stadium. I cannot picture money going to a stadium when resources are needed elsewhere, especially people like me who have a developmental disability. People with disabilities should get more money rather than stadiums and funding to spend on wars in Iraq. I strongly agree with that.

Recently and in the past I've enjoyed attending conferences and networking with people in the human services field. I find it empowering to learn more and share what I know with other people.

*("Phil Briggs" cont. on page 7)*



November 2, 2004



## 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.

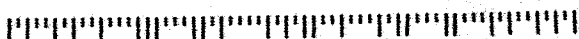
- October 22 Arc Great Rivers Annual Meeting • Midland Hills County Club, St. Paul • 5:30pm
  - October 25 Arc Great Rivers Board Meeting • 6:30-8:30pm • St. Paul Office
  - October 26 People's Rights of Hastings • 7:00-8:00pm • Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Hastings
  - November 4 Arc ASK Event • Four Points Sheridan, Saint Paul • noon
  - November 8 People First Ramsey • 5:30pm • 800 Transfer Rd., St. Paul (RSVP to Luann at 651-523-0876)
  - November 9 People First Suburban • 7:00-9:00pm • Augustana Lutheran Church, West Saint Paul
  - November 11 People First Anoka • 7:00pm • Anoka County Human Services Bldg., St. 325
  - November 15 People First Washington • 5:30pm • Woodbury Lutheran Church
  - November 17 People First Scott County • Shakopee Library • 6:00pm (Call Scott to RSVP 952-890-3057)
  - November 20 2004 Celebrate the Season Gala • Bandana Square, St. Paul • 6:00pm
  - November 23 People's Rights of Hastings • 7:00-8:00pm • Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Hastings
  - November 29 Arc Great Rivers Board Meeting • 6:30-8:30pm • St. Paul Office
  - December 9 People First Anoka • 7:00pm • Anoka County Human Services Bldg., St. 325
  - December 14 People First Suburban Holiday Party (Location TBA) Call Scott for details or to be put on the mailing list.
- \* Please note that Arc Great Rivers will be closed November 25, 26 and December 23, 24

**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
Blaine	(763) 783-4958	(763) 785-8891	1201 89 Avenue NE, Suite 305, Blaine, MN 55434

### 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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Colleen Wick  
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("Phil Briggs" cont. from page 2)

I also vote and am planning on voting in the upcoming election on November 2. People should vote. I have some advice for the people that can't vote under state guardianship. Make sure you get involved in the legislative process and get to know your legislator. Get involved in Arc. The Arc can help you define your story and issues to bring to your policy makers. Make sure you make connections so you can learn more about the decisions that are being made so you can be a part of the solution. Speaking for the people who can't vote, I think what I just said would be a good start.

*Arc Great Rivers would like to thank Phil Briggs for his devotion to the issues and his motivation to help people. We'd also like to thank Phil for his efforts in planning and staffing the 2004 Putting People First Conference "Find the Power Within."*

("CDCS Cuts" cont. from page 1)

were never covered, the PCAs were not punctual, not reliable and not responsible individuals. Justine was left unattended, neglected and even physically abused and the agency did absolutely nothing and accepted no responsibility for the individuals they placed in our home. Even while we were going through the agony of prosecuting the individual who abused Justine, they placed unreliable individuals in our home. By having the ability to manage Justine's funds we've been able to run employment ads specific for Justine, pay above minimum wage and have quality applicants to choose from. In the past four years while on CDCS, Justine's needs have been met in a happy, healthy, safe environment by qualified personnel.

Last year Justine's CDCS budget was cut by 18%. Because of this cut we discontinued using MRCI as the Employer of Record and have been doing our own payroll services. We no longer have funds to cover adaptive clothing, special dietary needs, cell phone and other needed items. Now the State is proposing another 30% reduction. Our parental fee has gone up 24% in the past two years and is currently \$8,391 for 2005.

Our household uses CDCS to enable both parents to be employed. With the proposed budget cuts we would not be able to safely support Justine in our home while keeping our jobs. Going back to underpaid and unqualified Personal Care Attendants is a real concern of ours. I am afraid we would need to pursue other placement options.

—Julie Doolittle, parent



*Justine Doolittle and her family are attempting to remain on CDCS and have fears of returning to formal services due to difficulties in the past.*

## **NAMI-MN Joins Lawsuit on Behalf of People with Mental Illness on Medical Assistance**

The National Alliance for the Mentally Ill in Minnesota (NAMI-MN), together with low-income residents of Minnesota who receive health care through Medical Assistance, has filed a class action lawsuit against the Minnesota Department of Human Services.

NAMI-MN has fought the idea of co-payments on health care services for Minnesotans poorest residents, many of them with disabilities including mental illness, since it was first introduced during the 2003 legislative session as a way to balance the budget. NAMI believed that by requiring premiums and co-payments from the poorest Minnesotans, we are essentially denying them access to health care and are ultimately forcing them to forgo necessary care and treatment.

"Co-payments were not imposed to increase people's responsibility for using health care wisely, co-payments were required as a means to balance the budget," stated Sue Abderholden, Executive Director of NAMI-MN. "Our experience—substantiated by several studies—demonstrates that co-payments prevent people from using health care wisely because they put off going to the doctor and they don't take their medications as prescribed."

NAMI-MN has heard from its members.

People report that they are not able to buy food the last week of the month, they are taking their medications every other day or simply not taking them at all. NAMI members who are providers say that they are using their emergency funds to help with co-payments and are no longer able to assist people with other emergencies in their lives.

This information was made available by NAMI Minnesota Contact: Sue Abderholden 651-645-2948 or [sabderholden@nami.org](mailto:sabderholden@nami.org) for more information.

