

**PARENTS ASSOCIATION  
BELLEFONTAINE HABILITATION CENTER  
10695 BELLEFONTAINE ROAD  
ST. LOUIS, MO 63137**

PHONE 314-340-6002 Thrift Shop  
PHONE 314-264-9100 BHC Switchboard  
WEBSITE [www.parentsassociationbhc.com](http://www.parentsassociationbhc.com)



**NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2016**

PARENTS ASSOCIATION MEETING  
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2016 2:00 p.m.  
Administration Bldg. Room #10

All Parent Association members, friends and staff are invited. Keep up with the latest news about Bellefontaine Habilitation Center. Bring your talents and expertise for our advocacy efforts. With everyone's involvement, the lives of the residents at BHC will be the best possible. All are encouraged to stay informed and take some action. Attend a parents meeting, talk with other families, share your concerns and ideas, write a letter, or make a phone call to help provide a safe, healthy, and supportive environment for the residents of BHC and others. They have no voice but ours, so we must continually speak up for them. Refreshments served.

**UPCOMING PARENT MEETING: FEBRUARY 21, 2016**

**NOTE: NEW MEETING BUILDING**

**2:00 P.M. in the Administration Bldg. Room #10**

**2016 PARENT ASSOCIATION MEETING DATES: MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!**

**FEBRUARY 21**

**MAY 15**

**AUGUST 14**

**NOVEMBER 13**

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**The switchboard phone** for Bellefontaine Habilitation Center is 314-264-9100 or 314-264-9101.

**Our Parent Newsletter is online** at [www.ParentsAssociationBHC.com](http://www.ParentsAssociationBHC.com)!! Pass it along to friends, family, and political leaders.

**The 2016 Legislative Session** began on January 6 and ends on May 13, 2016. Education of legislators is vital to advocating for our family members and other residents living in habilitation centers. To find your legislators, call the Missouri Capitol Switchboard at 1-573-751-2000 or go to [www.mo.gov](http://www.mo.gov). Also at [www.mo.gov](http://www.mo.gov), choose Government, then Legislative to follow actions on bills and listen to live debates.

**Revision of Missouri guardianship laws continues.** Go to [www.mo-wings.org](http://www.mo-wings.org) for updates.

**March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month.** This is a good time to educate others about the excellent services available in habilitation center homes. Invite your legislators to visit.

**Do you know of a family** that might need the services of a habilitation center? Call the Parents Association at 314-340-6002.

**Keep informed. Take action.** Mary A. Vitale, President, Bellefontaine Parents Association

**2016 BELLEFONTAINE HABILITATION CENTER  
PARENTS ASSOCIATION BOARD MEMBERS**

10695 BELLEFONTAINE ROAD ST. LOUIS, MO 63137  
314-340-6002 Thrift Shop  
314-264-9100 or 9101 BHC Switchboard  
www.parentsassociationbhc.com

**OFFICERS**

PRESIDENT Mary Vitale  
VICE PRESIDENT Betty Coll  
TREASURER Natale Lucido  
RECORDING SECRETARY Norma Lingle  
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY Patrick Wells

**DIRECTORS**

Kathleen Berkley  
Thomasine Braneky  
Michael Brophy  
Bonnie Kirksey  
Izella Moore  
Richard Moore  
Mickey Slawson  
Leslie Terrebonne  
Ruth Vondras

**Welcome** to new board member Thomasine Braneky.

**Much appreciation** goes to retiring board member John Ahlquist for his several years of service to benefit the residents of Bellefontaine Habilitation Center.

Members of the Parents Association of the Bellefontaine Habilitation Center enhance the lives of the residents. Examples of resident support by the Parents Association include:

BIRTHDAY CAKES AND GIFTS  
HOLIDAY PARTIES  
HOLIDAY DECORATIONS  
HOME FURNISHINGS  
SPECIAL PROGRAM FUNDS  
PICNIC FUNDS  
DANCE BANDS  
CAMP FUNDS  
STAFF APPRECIATION

A Parent Newsletter is published 4 times a year, and can be accessed on our website, [www.parentsassociationbhc.com](http://www.parentsassociationbhc.com). Do you have a relative, friend, or community leader that would be interested in the Parent Association? 2015 MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE \$5.00 annually. Pass along the membership form in this newsletter issue.

**TRIBUTE FUND**

Celebrate a birthday or anniversary, offer get well wishes or congratulations, remember a loved one by sending in a tribute - support the residents at Bellefontaine Habilitation Center. A few examples of the use of funds are: annual picnic, Christmas gifts and decorations, birthday cakes and presents, holiday decorations, treats and dances, household items, and special programs. The tribute form is on the last page of the newsletter.

**DONOR**

**RECIPIENT**

**OCCASION**

Suzanne Aulik  
Fred Brueggeman  
Patsy Christen  
Jeanette Craig

Betty Coll family  
Frieda Karras family  
  
Patrick Wells

in memory of Paul Borak  
in memory of Kay Karras  
in memory of Patrice Christen  
in memory of Elizabeth Wells

Sincere sympathy to the Wells family upon the death of Elizabeth Wells, mother of board member Patrick Wells. She had a life-long dedication to the well-being of all BHC residents.

Sincere sympathy also to the Mary Jane Gamache family upon the death of John Gamache. His many hours spent in the Hidden Treasure Thrift shop was of great help in raising funds to benefit all BHC residents.

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**FUNDS APPROVED BY PARENTS ASSOCIATION BOARD**



- \$ 5575.00 Christmas gifts, parties, decorations, program
- \$ 1320.00 Birthday gifts for residents
- \$ 300.00 Household goods, Home 1908
- \$ 300.00 Household goods, Home 1607
- \$ 250.00 Household goods, Apt. B
- \$ 250.00 Patio Furniture, Home 1607
- \$ 84.92 Kitchen items, Home 1608

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**PARENT ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR YEAR 2016**

Dues are \$5.00 a year. Make checks payable to "Bellefontaine Habilitation Parents Association".

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

NEW MEMBER \_\_\_\_yes\_\_\_\_no\_\_\_\_\_

**If you are a new member, please let us know for mailing the newsletter.**

**Mail to: PARENTS ASSOCIATION 10695 BELLEFONTAINE ROAD**

**THANK YOU**



**Sincere thanks for generous donations to BHC:**

The Mulvaney family for their donations to the Hidden Treasure Thrift Shop

Celeste and Elizabeth Ludwidge for donations to the Thrift Shop

The Knights of Columbus, Fr. Griffin Council No. 3586, Tootsie Roll Drive funds

**FALL/WINTER RESIDENT ACTIVITIES**



BHC residents have been “on the go” off campus and on campus!

**Activities off campus:** Fishing at Bellefontaine Conservation Area      Special Olympic Bowling

Pumpkin farms    Restaurants    Shopping    WWE wrestling event    Pedicures/Manicures

Movies      Barber/Beauty shop      Christmas lights      Christmas Festivals

**Activities on campus:** The Music man plays his guitar in the music room 2 mornings a week.

Halloween Dance with treat - Everyone received a bag of treats for Halloween day.

Pumpkin Decorating contest - Home 1502 won a pizza party for the home.

Christmas Dance & Parties - Everyone had snacks and received a bag treats for Christmas.

Bob Kramer Marionettes Christmas Program

THANKS TO STAFF WHO HELP RESIDENTS PLAN AND PARTICIPATE IN SO MUCH FUN!!

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**PROPOSED CHANGES TO MISSOURI'S GUARDIANSHIP LAW**

Revision of the Missouri guardianship law continues by Missouri's Working Interdisciplinary Network (MO-WINGS). The current draft can be found at the website: [www.mo-wings.org](http://www.mo-wings.org)



Parent Association concerns are:

**1:** the new wording (page 63) that states:

(3) “The guardian shall give priority to home or community-based settings when not inconsistent with the ward’s goals and preferences;”

**COMMENT:** The guardian should not be limited in this way. The needs of the wards must be the priority in making decisions concerning their welfare. This wording should be deleted.

**2:** the repeated necessity of including the ward that has been determined by the courts to be “incapacitated” in the decision making process

**COMMENT:** If one has been declared by the courts as incapacitated how can that person participate in decision making? If one is indeed capable of decision making then maybe a guardianship is not needed. It would be better to keep the old wording of “in the best interest of the ward”.

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The Missouri Planning Council 5 year Plan also has a goal listed about guardianship that is concerning:

**Goal #2, Objective 9** states: "By 9/30/16, the number of full guardianships in Missouri will decrease by 15%."  
**COMMENT:** Quotas should not be set for the need of full guardianships – individual need has to be determination of guardianship.

**FEDERAL REIMBURSEMENT FUNDS TO THE STATE OF MISSOURI 2015**

<b><u>HABILITATION CENTER</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2015 ICF/MR COLLECTIONS</u></b>
Bellefontaine Habilitation Center	\$15,032,918.99
Higginsville Habilitation Center	\$ 5,831,380.11
Marshall Habilitation Center	\$ 7,135,252.95
DDTC St. Charles/S. County	\$16,144,799.92
SEMORS Poplar Bluff, Sikeston	\$ 5,746,137.61
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$49,890,489.58</b>



Habilitation centers continue to earn millions of dollars in federal Medicaid reimbursement funds for the state of Missouri at the rate of approximately \$60.00 for each \$100.00 of expenditure for habilitation center services!!!

**MISSOURI FAMILIES SUPPORT A COMPLETE CONTINUUM OF CARE INCLUDING HABILITATION CENTERS**



Families do make inquiries to Bellefontaine Habilitation Center about out of home placement. Inquiries are directed to the Regional Offices where families are directed to community placement options only. Habilitation centers are not offered as an option

Families and individuals are not given the opportunity to look at or choose habilitation centers.

Families in Missouri support keeping habilitation centers open and allowing new long-term admissions to these centers. These centers provide comprehensive, **very cost effective care** to Missouri citizens with the severest degree of intellectual disability and the highest degree of medical, physical, and behavioral impairments.

Habilitation centers are good homes for residents. They are successful, stable, and sustainable, giving comprehensive, consistent, and cost-effective care to the residents.

**FAMILIES ACROSS THE NATION SUPPORT A COMPLETE CONTINUUM OF CARE**



Families from across the nation met at the "Together for Choice" conference in Chicago, Illinois from October 21-23, 2015. The Coalition for Community Choice came together to focus on the continuing need for a range of options to meet the service needs for persons with intellectual disabilities, and to allow them choice in how and where they live.

The conference was hosted at Misericordia, a network of services that provides a full continuum of care for people with intellectual disabilities, including intermediate care facility homes.

Misericordia provides a range of services from a skilled nursing residence, group homes, and apartments on its 31-acre campus to small neighborhood homes in the surrounding community. It also provides **employment opportunities** for people with a variety of skill levels in its bakery and coffee shop and other on-campus businesses and off-campus community businesses.

"It's giving us the opportunity to pull together many like minds, people that are providing excellent services whether it's a campus setting, a farm setting, individual homes in the community, whatever it is, as long as it's for the people that we serve," said Geana Connelly, Misericordia administrator.

"You can be big and good or big and bad. You can be small and good or small and bad. It all depends on the people that are operating these services and staffing that is within those services," Sister Connelly said.

**Those attending the conference want policymakers to recognize that the primary concern should be the quality of care based on individual need and that community can be experienced in all residential settings.**

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**NEED FOR MORE HOUSING CHOICES, NOT LESS**

Habilitation centers should continue to be a choice for individuals and their families.

The following information from the Coalition for Community Choice shows the extreme need for more housing options, not less. (www.coalitionforcommunitychoice.org)

“Affordable, supportive housing will be one of the most acute areas to be addressed in the next several years and it may prove to be a frustratingly elusive target. A snapshot of the statistics sizes the challenge. According to the 2013 State of the States in Developmental Disabilities report:

- There are 4.9 million adults with intellectual/developmental disabilities (I/DD) in the U.S.
- Of the 4.9 million, 3.5 million live with family caregivers, and 853,000 of these family caregivers are 60 years of age or older and may soon need their own caregivers.
- Only 244,195 additional residential placements were funded from 1994-2011.

In the past 25 years the number of adults with I/DD on a waiting list for, but not receiving, residential services has increased more than 66 percent.”

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**ACTIONS ON THE FEDERAL LEVEL AFFECT THE DAILY LIVES OF BHC RESIDENTS**



**COMMENTS SENT CONCERNING U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES 2016 APPROPRIATIONS ACT**

“Using federal funds to aggressively close habilitation centers which are intermediate care facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities (ICFs/IID) without input from affected families is a grave misuse of funds.

The Supreme Court 1999 *Olmstead* ruling states: “It would be unreasonable, it would be a tragic event, then, were the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) to be interpreted so that states had some incentive, for fear of litigation to drive those in need of medical care and treatment out of appropriate care and into settings with too little assistance and supervision.”

Tragically, this is exactly what is happening across the United States by the misuse of some federal funding by the mandated State Councils.

Federally funded actions promoting total deinstitutionalization for all persons with intellectual disabilities, disregarding resident and guardian choice, should be seriously questioned.”

**APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016 U.S. DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES**



The organization VOR (vor.net) and individual families have been sending comments concerning “report language” in the 2016 Appropriations Act. There has been some success in including some of the suggestions.

Below is the included "report language" which can be found on page 62 of the 2016 Labor/HHS Appropriations.

“Medicaid-Licensed Intermediate Care Facilities. - There is a nationwide trend towards deinstitutionalization of patients with intellectual or developmental disabilities in favor of community-based settings. The Department is strongly urged to continue to factor the needs and desire of patients, their families, caregivers, and other stakeholders, as well as the need to provide proper settings for care, into its enforcement of the Developmental Disabilities Act. The agreement includes bill language requiring notification of affected individuals of their legal rights in this regard.”

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**Stay informed. Take action. Make change happen.**  
**Contact Information**

**BELLEFONTAINE HABILITATION CENTER**

Rebecca Post, Superintendent  
Marcy Hargis, Assistant Superintendent  
10695 BELLEFONTAINE ROAD  
ST. LOUIS, MO 63137  
314-264-9100 or 314-264-9101

**DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH**

Mark Stringer, Director of Department of Mental Health  
Valerie Huhn, Director-Division of Developmental Disabilities  
April Maxwell, Director-State Operated Services

Department of Mental Health  
1706 E. Elm Street  
Jefferson City, MO 65102  
573-751-4122  
1-800-364-9687  
[www.dmh.mo.gov](http://www.dmh.mo.gov)

**GOVERNOR JAY NIXON**

P.O. Box 720  
Jefferson City, MO 65102  
Phone: (573) 751-3222  
[www.mo.gov](http://www.mo.gov)

**MISSOURI STATE SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES**

Missouri Capitol Switchboard: 1-573-751-2000  
[www.mo.gov](http://www.mo.gov)

**U.S. SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES**

United States Capitol Switchboard: 1-202-224-3121  
[www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov)  
[www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov)

**U.S. PRESIDENT**

The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500  
Switchboard: 1-202-256-1414  
[www.whitehouse.gov](http://www.whitehouse.gov)

**AFSCME COUNCIL 72 (American Federation of State and County Municipal Employees)**

2419B Hyde Park Rd.  
Jefferson City, MO 65109  
Telephone: (573) 635-9145  
Toll-free: (800) 554-2054  
[www.afscmecouncil72.org](http://www.afscmecouncil72.org)

**VOR** (a national organization representing a full continuum of care for persons diagnosed with an intellectual disability, including ICFs/IID, habilitation centers in Missouri)  
1-877-399-4867  
[www.vor.net](http://www.vor.net)

**ST. LOUIS POST DISPATCH**

900 North Tucker Blvd

St. Louis, MO 63101

314-340-8000

letters to the editor letters@post-dispatch.com

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TRIBUTE FUND FORM (please print)

ENCLOSED CONTRIBUTION \_\_\_\_\_

IN MEMORY OF \_\_\_\_\_

ON THE OCCASION OF \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE SEND TO (name) \_\_\_\_\_

(address) \_\_\_\_\_

FROM (name) \_\_\_\_\_

(address) \_\_\_\_\_

**MAKE CHECKS OR MONEY ORDERS PAYABLE TO "Bellevue Habilitation Parents Association"**

**MAIL TO: PARENTS ASSOCIATION 10695 BELLEFONTAINE ROAD ST LOUIS MO 63137**

**THE HIDDEN TREASURE SHOP  
SHOP TILL YOU DROP!! BEST THRIFT SHOP PRICES!!**



**BLDG #1901** FIRST BUILDING ON THE LEFT AS YOU ENTER BHC CAMPUS.

**WEDNESDAYS, 9 A.M. TO 3 P.M. AT BHC**



Please leave donated items at the Parents Association shed near the Thrift Shop.

**PARENTS ASSOCIATION, INC. SLSSH  
BELLEFONTAINE HABILITATION CENTER  
10695 BELLEFONTAINE ROAD  
ST. LOUIS MO 63137**

**FORWARDING AND ADDRESS  
CORRECTION REQUESTED**