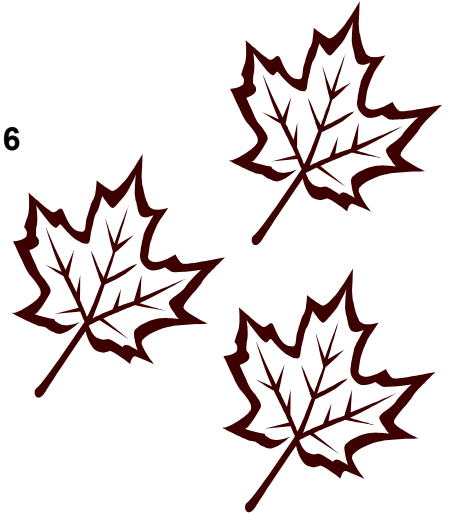


**PARENTS ASSOCIATION
BELLEFONTAINE HABILITATION CENTER
10695 BELLEFONTAINE ROAD
ST. LOUIS, MO 63137**

PHONE 314-264-9100 BHC Switchboard
PHONE 314-340-6002 Thrift Shop
WEBSITE www.parentsassociationbhc.com

NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2016

PARENTS ASSOCIATION MEETING
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2016 2:00 p.m.
Administration Bldg. Room #10



ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS
FOR 2017 PARENTS ASSOCIATION

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: NOVEMBER 13, 2016

2:00 P.M. IN THE ADMINISTRATION BLDG. ROOM #10

2017 PARENT ASSOCIATION MEETING DATES: MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!

FEBRUARY 12

MAY 21

AUGUST 13

NOVEMBER 12

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

Our Parent Newsletter is online at www.ParentsAssociationBHC.com!! Pass it along to friends, family, and political leaders.

November elections will mean that many new legislators, including the Governor, will be serving in the 2017 Missouri Legislature. To find your legislators, call the Missouri Capitol Switchboard at 1-573-751-2000 or go to www.mo.gov. Also at www.mo.gov, choose Government, then Legislative to follow actions on bills and listen to live debates.

New air conditioning systems have been installed in Apartments A and B.

Road, sidewalk, and parking lot repair is still an immediate concern. Decisions concerning state property repair comes through the Missouri Office of Administration.

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

BHC PICNIC-SEPTEMBER 2016

The annual Bellefontaine Habilitation Center Picnic for the residents was held on September 15.

GLOW IN THE DARK was the theme of this year's picnic. With lights dimmed slightly in the gym, "glow in the dark" t-shirts and decorations made for a glowing, fun filled atmosphere for all.

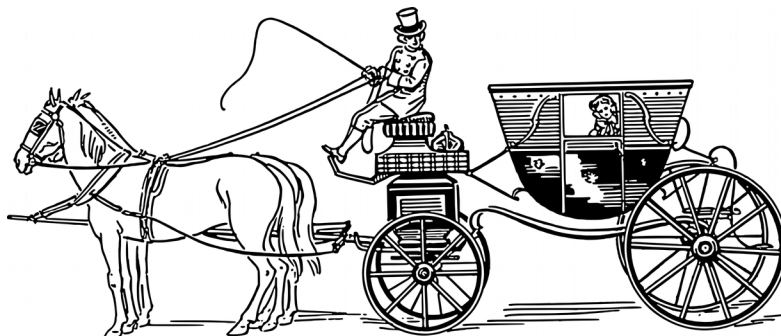
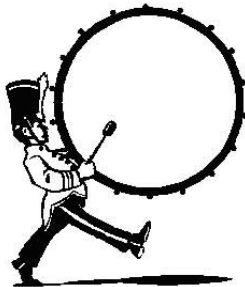
A sunny September day welcomed back the BHC parade with festive floats, a horse and carriage, a fire engine and a marching band. Residents watching the parade cheered the parade float participants as they came by. Starting the day with the parade brought out smiles on everyone!

Clowns, music, games, caricature artist, mime, belly dancers, face painting, horse and carriage rides, and food and drink continued to keep faces of residents smiling throughout the picnic day.

Everyone enjoyed treats of fruit, Hawaiian Ice, funnel cakes, cotton candy and soft-serve ice cream.

Thanks goes to:

- BHC Picnic Committee
- BHC Staff
- BHC Parent's Association
- Absopure Water Co.
- Belly Dancers
- Caricature Artist
- Casino Queen
- City Mime
- D&T Funnel Cakes
- Dairy Queen
- Dandy Soft Serve
- Diana Jones
- Face Painters
- Hampel Clowns
- NAEIR
- 7-Up Bottling
- Sports Energizers
- St. Louis Carriage
- Terry Hobbs
- TSV Sound & Vision



Parade Participants: Bellefontaine Police Dept., Riverview Fire and Police Depts., Shriner's, QE, St. Louis Carriage, Hampel Clowns, Donnell Lockridge, Trenniell Lus, Joe Lewis, Unit 3 Float, Purchasing Float, 1608 Float, Apt. B Float, Apt. B Float, Staff Development Float, Parent Association

MUCH APPRECIATION GOES TO:

BHC PARENTS ASSOCIATION

THE PICNIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

ALL BHC STAFF MEMBERS

THE SPONSORS

THE PERFORMERS

THE PICNIC DAY GAVE THE RESIDENTS SO MUCH FUN!

MORE SUMMER ACTIVITIES FOR RESIDENTS

During the months of July, August and September, BHC residents enjoyed a wide variety of opportunities on campus. They were also very much “on the go” in the community. Thanks to staff for helping residents plan and participate in so many different activities.

ON-CAMPUS ACTIVITIES

BHC Picnic!!!!, weekly movie nights in the gym, bingo in the gym twice a month, weekly dances, open gym activities, volleyball



COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Outings:

Spanish Lake Park, library, movie theater, nail shop, Delmar Loop, Hazelwood Community Center, Muny, Crest Bowl, Universoul Circus, Cardinal Baseball game, Tan-Tar-A resort

Out to Eat:

Applebees, Bandanas, Jack in the Box, Miami Grill, Sugarfire, Culvers, Dairy Queen, Angelos, Imo’s, Denny’s, Hooters, Wendy’s, Doozles, Subway, Steak N Shake, Sweetie Pies, Captain D’s, 5 Guys Burgers, Taco Bell, Ben & Jerrys, St. Louis Fish & Chicken, Best Steak House, Golden Corral, Rib shack, Penn Station, Chick Fil-A, Gus’ Famous Fried Chicken

Shopping:

Goodwill, V-Stock, Slackers, Walmart, Gen X, Mills Mall, Schnucks, Target, Kmart, Old Time Pottery, Vintage Vinyl, New Balance store



EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION LUNCHEON 2016

The theme for the 2016 Employee Recognition Luncheon was “All Around the World”. It was held again at the Catering to You Banquet Center on July 28, 2016. The luncheon is sponsored by the BHC Parents Association in appreciation of the BHC staff.

Thanks to the work of the planning committee for a fun afternoon filled with entertainment, games, prizes, conversation and a delicious meal.

The Honor Roll of Years of Service below shows the number of years BHC staff members have given care to our loved ones!

31-38 years – 9 staff	25-30 years - 39 staff
19-24 years – 57 staff	14-18 years – 72 staff
9-13 years – 110 staff	5-8 years – 75 staff
1-5 years - 160	

Having staff members who have many years of experience helps to give BHC residents a high level of care.

THANKS TO BHC STAFF WHO MAKE THE BHC CAMPUS A CARING HOME FOR ALL THE RESIDENTS.

FEDERAL REIMBURSEMENT FUNDS TO THE STATE OF MISSOURI 2016

HABILITATION CENTER	FY 2016 ICF/MR COLLECTIONS
Bellefontaine	\$16,306,669.00
Higginsville	8,989,464.00
Marshall	3,242,430.00
Southeast Missouri Residential Services	5,752,656.00
St. Louis DDTC (St. Charles, S. County)	17,693,302.00
TOTAL	\$51,984,521.00

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!!!

Providing these comprehensive services in habilitation centers is successful and very cost-effective.

Receiving comparable services “in the community” would not save money.

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

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

KEEP A WATCH ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO MISSOURI'S GUARDIANSHIP LAW

Revisions to the Missouri Guardianship Law will probably be introduced again in the 2017 legislative session. The revisions were proposed by Missouri’s Working Interdisciplinary Network of Guardianship Stakeholders (MO-WINGS). www.mo-wings.org

The MO-WINGS task force used the National Guardianship Summit Standards and Recommendations as a guideline to Missouri revisions, which include the idea of supported decision making. www.naela.org/NGN

The 2016 House Bill 2778 about guardianship revisions can be seen at the website below.

www.house.mo.gov/billtracking/bills161/billpdf/intro/HB2778I.PDF

Depending on what is passed, guardianship rights could be weakened.

MO HOUSE BILL 1565 SIGNED INTO LAW BY GOV. NIXON

www.house.mo.gov/billtracking/bills161/sumpdf/HB1565T.pdf

Will this affect your family member with a disability? Something to think about:

Starting in July 2017, individuals who receive Medicaid funding will be able to keep \$2,000 and married couples can keep \$4,000 in assets double the current limit. The limits will increase yearly until they hit \$5,000 for individuals and \$10,000 for married couples in July 2020. After that, they’ll increase with cost-of-living adjustments. Money in medical savings accounts and independent living accounts will not count toward asset limits.

MARSHALL HABILITATION CENTER MERGES WITH HIGGINSVILLE HABILITATION CENTER

The closing of the Marshall Habilitation Center is almost complete. Some residents moved into Individual Supported Living (ISL) homes in the community and some moved to the Higginsville Habilitation Center. The Higginsville campus has undergone some recent renovations. The ISL homes previously under Higginsville are called Northwest Community Support. The Marshall campus is being currently being utilized by the Marshall School District.

JOINT STATEMENT ATTACKS CHOICE OF HABILITATION CENTERS

The American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD) and the Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD) issued a joint statement in June 2016, entitled “Community Living and Participation for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities”. www.aidd.org

The joint statement begins with the following paragraph (emphasis added):

“Statement

Community living is a major focus of national policy and related litigation (e.g. the Americans with Disabilities Act in 1990, the Supreme Court Olmstead v. L.C. decision in 1999, Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act in 2014 and the Home and Community Based Services Final Rule in 2014). **Increasingly public policy is promoting and requiring that federal funding** be used to support people to live, work, and participate fully in their communities.”

Also included is the following quote (emphasis added):

“Unfortunately, many people with IDD also may still live in large, segregated congregate places including large group homes (with 7 or more people living there), residential programs located on campuses, and state and private institutions, which could limit community inclusion.”

The joint statement ends with the following paragraph (emphasis added):

“Position

Everyone with an intellectual or developmental disability deserves to live in the community where they have the opportunity to experience vibrant lives that include work, friends, family, and high expectations for community contributions. Our systems to support people with IDD should promote individual growth and development through the provision of best practices in fully integrated community settings. **It is essential to close institutions** and at the same time create and support our existing communities to develop the capacity to support all people with IDD in their communities through individualized supports...”

PARENT ASSN COMMENT: The statement properly calls for ensuring high quality care for those living in the community. However, the call for closing all institutions and to require federal funding only for community placements clearly ignores current federal and state laws. A “one size fits all” position does not take into account each individual’s needs for appropriate care as contained in the law.

The VOR article on page 7 clarifies that the 1999 Supreme Court Olmstead decision interpreting the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) supports CHOICE among a variety of living

environments for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities. It is an article that clearly states how the ADA and the Olmstead decision are being misused in making federal policy decisions.

NOVEMBER 2016 PAGE 7

VOR STATEMENT ON 1999 SUPREME COURT OLMSTEAD DECISION- WHAT DOES IT REALLY SAY? (www.vor.net)

The following VOR statement of the 1999 Supreme Court Olmstead decision clarifies that individuals with an intellectual disability have **the right of choice** of homes when making decisions about where to live.

“Celebrating the 17th Anniversary of the Olmstead Decision: Opportunities and Choices”

Recently, the Department of Justice (DOJ), and the Administration for Community Living (ACL) issued press releases celebrating the 17th Anniversary of the Olmstead decision. VOR shares their view that there is much to celebrate in opening doors to community living for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) who are able and wish to take advantage of such opportunities.

Unfortunately, their ideological preoccupation with one key part of Olmstead, community integration, at the expense of the other key part, choice, has reduced options for all people with I/DD. This cramped and, VOR would submit, inaccurate application of the plain language of Olmstead has done significant harm to many of our most disabled citizens. By insisting that all people with I/DD live in the community, the DOJ and ACL are treating people with I/DD as a monolithic group, not as the individuals they are. DOJ and ACL are substituting the wishes of the government for that of the person with I/DD or, where relevant, the legal guardian.

While their policies have opened doors for the less severely disabled, they have closed important doors for the more severely disabled. Many of these individuals have lifelong needs that require a very high level of care, the kind often found only in public and private Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICFs/IID). DOJ and ACL are pursuing this agenda in the name of the ADA and Olmstead, but that is not what the ADA and Olmstead call for.

Both the statute and the Supreme Court case embody the best values of American society —nondiscrimination and choice. All of our civil rights laws contain both elements. Civil rights laws do not tell people where they must live or work. They guarantee individuals are not denied opportunities based on a particular factor, and they expand choices for individuals who have suffered discrimination.

In sharp contrast, DOJ and ACL are using federal dollars to bring lawsuits and promote policies that needlessly and dangerously eliminate important options – ICFs/IID, sheltered workshops and facility-based day programs – that many of our most disabled individuals rely on and prefer over small community residences. In pursuing its one-size-fits-all ideology, DOJ and ACL are ignoring the vital rights of choice embodied in the ADA itself.

As the Court stated in Olmstead: “We emphasize that nothing in the ADA or its implementing regulations condones termination of institutional settings for persons unable to handle or benefit from community settings Nor is there any federal requirement that community-based treatment be imposed on patients who do not desire it. Olmstead v. L.C., 527 U.S. 581, 601-602 (1999). In fact, the Court specifically incorporated the right of choice in the second prong of its holding: “(b) the transfer from institutional care to a less restrictive setting is not opposed by the affected individual,” Olmstead, at 587.

Even DOJ and ACL’s concept of what constitutes the most integrated setting contradicts the view of Justice Ginsburg: “[For some individuals, no placement outside the institution may ever be appropriate. ‘Some individuals, whether mentally retarded or mentally ill, are not prepared at particular times - perhaps in the short run, perhaps in the long run - for the risks and exposure of the less protective environment of community settings;’ for these persons, ‘institutional settings are needed and must remain available.’” . . . Each disabled person is entitled to treatment in the most integrated setting possible for that person – recognizing on a case-by-case basis, that setting may be an institution” Olmstead, at 605.

Not only are DOJ and ACL ignoring the plain language of governing law and decision, they are ignoring the harmful effects of their policies. Journalists have time and again documented the high rates of abuse and mortality for our most disabled citizens who have been forced out of congregate care facilities into unprepared communities.

Federal agencies should stop dictating the lives of the severely disabled, and instead, join hands with the community of individuals with I/DD to ensure that all people with I/DD receive quality services and supports wherever they choose to reside. The ADA and Olmstead are the beacons for providing more opportunities for people with I/DD, but they do not dictate one-size-fits-all solutions. Individual choice among the widest possible range of quality living and occupational options is what is necessary to realize the goals of the ADA and Olmstead. VOR supports the full reading of Olmstead, making individual choice of services paramount and ensuring a full range of living and work options in order to meet the spectrum of needs of this very diverse population.

VOR is a national organization that advocates for high quality residential and work options and human rights for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Established in 1983, VOR is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, governed by a volunteer board of directors and funded solely by dues and donations. VOR receives no government support.

NOVEMBER 2016 PAGE 8

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 "BHC Parents Association"

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

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS
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.
BELLEFONTAINE HABILITATION CENTER
10695 BELLEFONTAINE ROAD
ST. LOUIS MO 63137**

**FORWARDING AND ADDRESS
CORRECTION REQUESTED**

