

**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 FEBRUARY 2018

PARENTS ASSOCIATION MEETING
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11 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 11, 2018

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

2018 PARENT ASSOCIATION MEETING DATES: MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!

FEBRUARY 11 MAY 20 AUGUST 12 NOVEMBER 11

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The switchboard phone number 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.

BHC staff members have been working diligently to be in compliance with new emergency preparedness requirements from the Centers of Medicare and Medicaid. These new requirements will become part of the federal annual survey for Medicaid funding. The time and effort spent to develop the plans and the training of staff is much appreciated.

Work on the replacement of the heating and cooling system in the Multipurpose Building continues.

The merger of the St. Charles and South County habilitation centers remains "on hold".

The 2018 Missouri Legislative Session began on January 3 and ends on May 18, 2018. Education of all legislators is an ongoing necessity as part of our advocacy for intellectually disabled residents living in habilitation centers. Get to know your legislators. Invite them to visit a habilitation center. To find your legislators, call the Missouri Capitol Switchboard at 1-573-751-2000 or go to www.mo.gov.

House Bill 1553, revising Missouri guardianship laws has been introduced by Rep. Jim Neely.

The 2018 VOR Annual Conference and Congressional Visits will be from June 8 – June 13. The conference is a worthwhile opportunity to meet other families and to make visits to U.S. Senate and Representative Offices in Washington, D.C. Think about attending – some or all of the day – you can be a voice for intellectually disabled persons, especially residents of BHC. For more information go to www.vor.net

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

**2018 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 Leslie Terrebonne
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY Patrick Wells

DIRECTORS

Kathleen Berkley
Thomasine Branney
Michael Brophy
Bonnie Kirksey
Norma Lingle
Izella Moore
Mickey Slawson
Ruth Vondras

Thank you to Leslie Terrebonne for becoming the Recording Secretary.

Much appreciation goes to Norma Lingle for her many years of dedicated service as the Recording Secretary for the Parents Association. Norma will continue to serve as a board member.

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. Do you have a relative, friend, or community leader that would be interested in the Parent Association? 2018 MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE \$5.00 annually. Pass along the membership form in this newsletter issue.

For questions about the Parents Association, call 314-340-6002.

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.

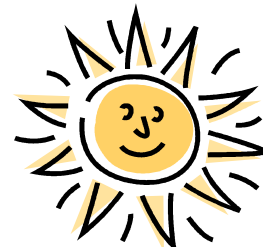
<u>DONOR</u>	<u>RECIPIENT</u>	<u>OCCASION</u>
Betty Coll	Izella Moore	In memory of Richard Moore
Steve & Mary Vitale	Izella Moore	In memory of Richard Moore

Sincere sympathy goes to the entire Moore family upon the death of board member Richard Moore. Richard showed his commitment to BHC residents by his faithful participation at board and general meetings. His contribution to the Parents Association will be missed very much.



FUNDS APPROVED BY PARENTS ASSOCIATION BOARD

- \$ 2975.00 Christmas gifts
- \$ 2300.00 Christmas parties, decorations, trees, marionette program
- \$ 1218.00 Birthday gifts



THANKS TO THE BIG HEARTS AND HARD WORK OF THE VOLUNTEERS
AT THE HIDDEN TREASURE THRIFT SHOP.

ALL THE SHOP PROCEEDS GOES TO BENEFIT BHC RESIDENTS.

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PARENT ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR YEAR 2018

Dues are \$5.00 a year. Make checks payable to “**BHC 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
ST. LOUIS, MO 63137**

THANK YOU

The Parents Association extends a note of thanks for generous donations that bring much enjoyment to the residents at Bellefontaine Habilitation Center.

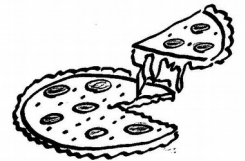
We have thankful hearts for:

The Mulvaney family
Members of Overland Baptist Church
Members of Church Women United
Women's Closet Exchange
The Knights of Columbus, Fr. Griffin Council No. 3586, Tootsie Roll Drive funds



BHC RESIDENTS ENJOY ACTIVITIES/FALL AND WINTER

BARBERSHOP



In the last few months, BHC residents have enjoyed many activities in the community such as shopping, eating out at restaurants, and attending fun events. Also, the residents have had many opportunities of participation on the BHC campus. Staff assistance to the residents in planning and taking part in these activities is always appreciated.

Off campus activities: Shopping: Walmart, Flea Market, Goodwill store, V-stock, gas station, Family dollar, Five Below, Mid Rivers Mall, Schnucks, El Mel, New Balance store, Halloween Spirits, Michaels Crafts, City Trends, Dollar Tree, Here Today, Kmart, Savers, Dirt Cheap, PetsMart, St. Louis Galleria Hair Cuts: Great Clips, USOS Barbershop

Out to Eat: Culvers, Wing Stop, Burger King, Jack in the Box, I Hop, Subway, Las Fuentes, White Castle, Golden Corral, Applebees, Sonyas Soul Food, Taco Bell, Chinese, Cracker Barrel, St. Louis Bread Co, Longhorn steakhouse, Dairy Queen, Fitz's, Doozles, Crown candy, Best Steak house, Lees Chicken, Raising Canes, Dennys, Hooters, Steak n Shake, Popeyes, Imos, Qdoba, Dierbergs, St. Louis Kitchen, Hibacci Grill, CiCi's pizza, Penn Station, Fazolis, Hometown Buffet

Other activities: WWE wrestling event, Special Olympics bowling, Janet Jackson concert, Club 1177 Dance, St. Charles Riverfront, Jack of all Fades, Central West End, Set it Off Beauty shop, Olivette Bowl, Regal Cine, Doc's Harley Davidson, Blues Hockey game

On campus activities: Halloween Dance; Pumpkin decorating Contest; Christmas Dance; Christmas Parties; Bob Kramer's Marionettes, Movies, Bingo, Dances in the gym



MANY ISSUES AFFECT THE DAILY LIVES OF OUR FAMILY MEMBERS – TAKE ACTION

As advocates for the residents of the Bellefontaine Habilitation Center there are always issues that need attention. It is important to:

- keep updated on current issues,
- communicate with elected officials,
- ask others to join our Parent Association,
- be aware of what other states are doing,
- be aware of what is happening on the federal level,
- join and support the national organization, VOR (www.vor.net)

MISSOURI 2018 LEGISLATIVE SCHEDULE

Wednesday, January 3	12:00 p.m. – Session begins
Monday, January 15	No session – Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Monday, March 19-23	Legislative Spring Break
Sunday, April 1	Easter
Monday, April 2	Easter Break
Friday, May 18	6:00 p.m. – Session ends



MISSOURI LEGISLATION TO WATCH

Missouri House Bill 1553 introduced by Rep. Jim Neely, modifies provisions relating to guardianship and conservatorship proceedings. Revisions include the concept of “supported decision making” where a team of persons is assembled to assist the disabled person in making decisions. “Supported decision making” does not have the legal protections that come with court-appointed guardians. Keep a watch on further efforts of revisions.

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

<http://www.house.mo.gov/bill.aspx?bill=HB1553&year=2018&code=R>

FEDERAL LEGISLATION TO WATCH

Stay alert to any proposals to restructure the Medicaid program. Changes could affect residents of habilitation centers.

Two of the proposals are block grants and per capita caps.

Current Medicaid rules:

Needed services are provided by the state, and then the state is reimbursed approximately 60% of the expenses.

How would a block grant work?

Under a block grant, states would receive a pre-set amount of funding for Medicaid. If the money runs out the state is responsible for any other funding.

How would a per capita cap work?

Under a per capita cap, federal funding per enrollee would be capped. If the money runs out the state is responsible for any other funding.

For further information go to the following website:

www.kff.org/medicaid/issue-brief/5-key-questions-medicare-block-grants-per-capita-caps

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HABILITATION CENTERS AND MEDICAID FUNDING

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 center homes 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.



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MARCH IS DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY AWARENESS MONTH

March is acknowledged as “Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month”. Many national organizations and federal agencies rightly use this month to highlight opportunities available today for persons with developmental disabilities.

However, also included in much of the promotional materials is the support for total deinstitutionalization – a “one size fits all” view concerning services for those with developmental disabilities.

The Supreme Court Olmstead decision (Olmstead v. L.C., 527 U.S. 581, 597 (1999) has been purposely misused to promote the idea of total deinstitutionalization.

In fact, the Supreme Court in its Olmstead ruling recognized the need for a range of services to meet the varied and unique needs of the entire disability community.

The **accurate** interpretation of the Olmstead decision is that each individual should have the **CHOICE** of how best to receive services.

It is imperative to make known the complete Olmstead decision. The following quotes from the Olmstead decision support CHOICE.

(1) “Unjustified isolation, we hold, is properly regarded as discrimination based on disability. But we recognize, as well, the States' need to maintain a range of facilities for the care and treatment of persons with diverse mental disabilities, and the States' obligation to administer services with an even hand.” Olmstead v. L.C., 527 U.S. 581, 597 (1999).

(2) In an opinion written by Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, the Court held that institutionalization is unjustified, and community placement required, only when –

“[a] the State’s treatment professionals have determined that community placement is appropriate, [b] the transfer from institutional care to a less restrictive setting is not opposed by the affected individual, and [c] the placement can be reasonably accommodated, taking into account the resources available to the State and the needs of others with mental disabilities.” *Id.* at 587

(3) A majority of Justices recognized an ongoing role for facility-based care:

“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.” *Id.* at 601-602.

(4) Writing for the plurality, Justice Ginsburg also stated:

“As already observed, the ADA is not reasonably read to impel States to phase out institutions, placing patients in need of close care at risk... ‘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’[quoting VOR’s *Amici Curiae* brief].” *Id.* at 605

(5) A plurality of Justices noted:

Justice Kennedy noted in his concurring opinion, “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.” *Id.* at 610.

VOR is a national nonprofit organization advocating for high quality care and human rights for all persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). VOR advocates for the right of individuals with I/DD and their families and legal guardians to choose from a full array of high quality residential and other support options including own home, community-based, and facility settings.

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

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ST. LOUIS, MO 63137
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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

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GOVERNOR ERIC GREITENS

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MISSOURI STATE SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES

Missouri Capitol Switchboard: 1-573-751-2000
www.mo.gov

U.S. SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES

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www.house.gov
www.senate.gov

U.S. PRESIDENT

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www.whitehouse.gov

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Toll-free: (800) 554-2054
www.afscme.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

ST. LOUIS POST DISPATCH

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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 "BHC Parents Association"

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



**THE HIDDEN TREASURE SHOP
NEW HOURS!! BEST THRIFT SHOP PRICES!!**



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

WEDNESDAYS, 11 A.M. TO 2 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**

