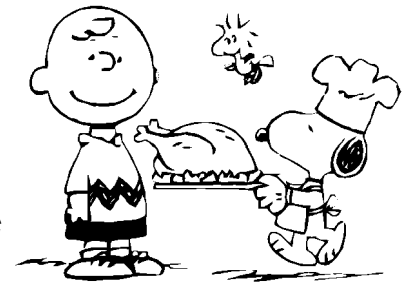


PARENTS ASSOCIATION
BELLEFONTAINE HABILITATION CENTER
10695 BELLEFONTAINE ROAD
ST. LOUIS, MO 63137



**HAPPY
THANKSGIVING**

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

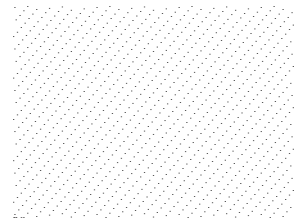
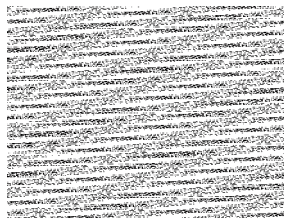
NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2020

**THE NOVEMBER PARENTS ASSOCIATION MEETING HAS
BEEN CANCELLED**

Pending 2021 PARENT ASSOCIATION MEETING DATES
MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!

FEBRUARY 21 MAY 16 AUGUST 8 NOVEMBER 14

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HEROES WORK HERE! HEROES WORK HERE! HEROES WORK HERE!

The BHC Parents Association repeats these words of appreciation and gratitude for all BHC staff for their daily commitment to residents at BHC during this COVID-19 pandemic crisis. Your continued dedication is:

| | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| Commendable | Exceptional | Exemplary |
| | Extraordinary | Impressive |
| Outstanding | Remarkable | Superior |

Thoughts of hope for a quick and complete recovery are sent to all who have been diagnosed with COVID.

Much appreciation to all who worked to have a safe, fun picnic.

Restrictions on family visits continues. The Department of Health and Senior Services announced new guidelines on September 22. See page 5.

An information and education webinar concerning COVID 19 is hosted by the Division of Developmental Disabilities every other Friday. <https://dmh.mo.gov/dev-disabilities/webinar>

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.

Wash your hands, social distance 6 feet, wear a mask.

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

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> |
|---------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Susan Aulik | Jim & Ruth Vondras | in memory of Henry Kent Lightcap |
| M. Laks | | donation |



Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg died on September 18, 2020. Justice Ginsburg can be remembered for the majority opinion in the 1999 Olmstead decision, interpreting the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. This law was meant to expand choices, not to close admissions to homes like habilitation centers.

The Olmstead decision states:

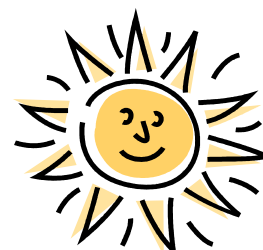
“Nothing in the ADA or its implementing regulations condones termination of institutional settings for persons unable to handle or benefit from community settings...Nor is there any federal requirement that community-based treatment be imposed on patients who do not desire it.” Olmstead, at 601 – 602

“It would be unreasonable, it would be a tragic event, then, were the American 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.” *Olmstead*, at 610.

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FUNDS APPROVED BY PARENTS ASSOCIATION BOARD

- \$ 1255.00 Halloween festivities, pumpkins, decorations
- \$ 2475.00 Christmas gifts for residents
- \$ 2450.00 Christmas festivities, trees, decorations
- \$ 380.00 Home decor, Home 1504
- \$ 380.00 Home decor, Home 1505
- \$ 1125.00 Birthday Gifts, Jan-Jun 2021



THE HIDDEN TREASURE THRIFT SHOP HAS BEEN CLOSED DURING THE PANDEMIC.

LESS FUNDS ARE COMING IN.

**NOW WOULD BE A GOOD TIME TO MAKE A DONATION TO THE
BHC PARENTS ASSOCIATION**

ALL PROCEEDS GOES TO BENEFIT BHC RESIDENTS.

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Thank you to Madison County Association- G.R.O.W. for a thoughtful donation to the BHC Parents Association.





SUPER HEROES ABOUND AT THE 2020 BHC PICNIC!

The weather on September 17th was absolutely perfect for a picnic.

The BHC Annual Picnic began with parade floats from BHC departments, police and fire departments, classic cars and the Bubble Bus. After the parade, the Bubble Bus parked in front of the 1500 homes and it was a sight to see the bubbles flying everywhere!

Food and music was then set up outside the 1500 homes by the picnic committee and maintenance staff. After lunch, they set up music and food in the pavilion in the inner circle of the 1600 homes.

Everyone enjoyed being outside on their porches listening to music and enjoying a variety of fruit, dilly bars, flavored water and cotton candy.

Each home selected their own Super Hero and the color of t-shirt. The homes then decorated their porches with that Super Hero theme, and the picnic committee made masks of the chosen Super Hero. Super Heroes included Batman, Superman, Superwoman, Black Panther, Wonder Woman, The Hulk, Storm, Spiderman and Captain Marvel.

Activities were brought to the outside of the homes. There were no large gatherings. All food was bagged per consumer’s dietary level and delivered to the porch of the homes during their designated picnic time.

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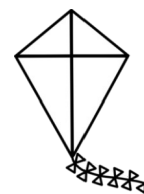
BHC RESIDENT ACTIVITIES JULY-OCTOBER

During COVID 19 restrictions, staff continue to engage residents led by the Active Treatment team.



Residents have been provided with daily activity packages of adult coloring pages, puzzles, word searches, and mazes. Worksheets, Bingo games, and memorabilia conversation cards are used to address Daily Objectives – identifying objects, foods, drinks, colors, shapes, numbers, personal hygiene and chores.

Each Resident designed their own Bucket Hat; for the Labor Day Holiday. The BHC Outdoorsmen really enjoyed the NXT- simulated Hunting Games. There also was some kite flying fun.



Apt. B residents saw their hard work rewarded by an extremely successful garden.



Another garden planted behind the pet room had a bumper crop of cucumbers, tomatoes and black cherry tomatoes. Every home received 2 or more bundles of these freshly harvested vegetables. Also given out was butternut squash, green, red and yellow peppers.

A Halloween party includes Halloween face masks for everyone, decorated porches and homes, the annual pumpkin decorating contest, music and a snack bag for each resident.





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SENATOR GINA WALSH – THANK YOU FOR 16 YEARS IN THE LEGISLATURE

Because of term limits, Senator Gina Walsh has served her last year in the Missouri state legislature. The BHC Parents Association expresses their deep appreciation for the dedication Senator Walsh has shown toward the residents of Bellefontaine Habilitation Center during her 16 years in the legislature – 8 years in the Missouri House and 8 years in the Missouri Senate. Thanks to Senator Walsh for:



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- S**UPPORT for residents to have the choice of Bellefontaine Habilitation Center as their home.
- I**NVITATIONS accepted to attend Parent Association meetings.
- X**TRA help in times of need.
- T**ENACITY for upholding the rights of our family members.
- E**FFECTIVE advocacy for our family members by understanding their needed services.
- E**XPERIENCED representation in the legislature, year after year.
- N**EVER wavering in her dedicated work in advocating for our family members.



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2020 FEDERAL REIMBURSEMENT FUNDS TO THE STATE OF MISSOURI

| HABILITATION CENTER | FY 2020 ICF/IID COLLECTIONS |
|---|------------------------------------|
| Bellefontaine | \$16,824,200.00 |
| Higginsville | 9,989,317.00 |
| SEMORS | 7,947,780.00 |
| St. Louis DDTC (St. Charles, S. County) | 16,302,693.00 |
| TOTAL | \$ 51,063,990.00 |



Habilitation centers continue to earn millions of dollars in federal Medicaid reimbursement funds for the state of Missouri at the rate of approximately \$65.00 for each \$100.00 of expenditure for habilitation center services!!!

Habilitation centers are are successful, stable, and sustainable, giving comprehensive, consistent, and cost-effective care to the residents. Receiving comparable services “in the community” would not save money.

Families are calling BHC looking for services, but are denied the choice of a habilitation center which is their federal legal and civil right. Do you know of a family that might need the services of a habilitation center? Call the Parents Association at 314-340-6002.

2020 FEDERAL REIMBURSEMENTS FOR STATE OPERATED HOMES IN THE COMMUNITY

| | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| Northwest Community Services | \$13,520,319.00 |
| Southwest Community Services | 5,819,131.00 |
| TOTAL | \$19,339,450.00 |

Because these homes are state operated, the state of Missouri also receives federal reimbursements for them.

FEDERAL COVID – 19 RELIEF FUNDS RECEIVED BY MISSOURI

<https://app.auditor.mo.gov/FederalCovidRelief/Index.aspx>

According to the Missouri State Auditor website a total of \$2.92 billion has been received for federal Covid -19 relief funds, including CARES Act funding.

Local governments have received \$540 million. Missouri department allocation is: (in millions)

Mental Health 5.84 Office of Administration 791.03 Social Services 364.09 Public Safety 257.3
 Elementary & Secondary Education 164.6 Health and Senior Services 84.00 Higher Education 9.7
 Transportation 9.54 Secretary of State 4.9 Labor Relations 1.61 Corrections 1.51

VISITATION UPDATE - MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SENIOR SERVICES

<https://health.mo.gov/living/healthcondiseases/communicable/novel-coronavirus/pdf/visitation-guidance.pdf>

Updated guidelines regarding visitation at all long term care facilities, including habilitation centers, were issued on September 22, 2020 by Director Randall Williams, MD, FACOG, Department of Health and Senior Services.

A **few** of the guidelines for General Visitation are listed below. A complete list can be found at <https://health.mo.gov/living/healthcondiseases/communicable/novel-coronavirus/pdf/visitation-guidance.pdf>

NOTE: Each facility will make the final decision to allow visits.

NOTE: There may be more restrictions because Certified Skilled Nursing Facilities and Intermediate Care Facilities are required to follow the guidance provided in QSO-20-39-NH, titled Nursing Home Visitation - COVID-19. <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/qso-20-39-nh.pdf>

General Visits:

Facilities may allow general visits using the following guidelines:

- The facility has not had any COVID-19 staff or resident cases, or it has been fourteen (14) days since the last facility acquired COVID-19 positive case.
- Limit visits to only residents who are COVID-19 negative or asymptomatic and not suspected to have COVID-19 or previously COVID-19 positive but have been released from isolation.
- For indoor visits, create indoor spaces for residents in a room that is easily accessed without visitors traversing through the building and that is not accessible by other residents.
- Allow up to two (2) visitors at one time with social distancing (spaced by at least six (6) feet), hand hygiene before and after each visit for both the resident and the visitors, and use of a cloth face covering or facemask for both the resident and the visitors. In the event a resident cannot safely wear a cloth face covering or facemask, a plastic partition or plexiglass barrier may be considered to prevent the spread of virus. The cloth face covering or facemask may be provided at the facility's expense.
- Set a limit on the total number of visitors allowed in the facility at any given time based on the ability of staff to safely screen and monitor visitation, and based on the size of the building and physical space.
- Schedule visitors by appointment and monitoring for adherence to proper use of masks and social distancing, while allowing for auditory privacy.
- Complete a screening, which may include testing, upon arrival of each visitor and allowing only those visitors that meet the screening criteria to visit.
- Not allow any visitor with signs and symptoms consistent with COVID-19 or who are unable to demonstrate proper use of infection control techniques to visit.
- Consider having visitors sign a consent form noting an understanding of the facility's visitation and infection prevention and control policies.
- Keep visitor logs noting the names of visitors, who they visited, staff that assisted the visit, dates of visit, and contact information in the event of subsequent COVID-19 outbreak among staff or residents.
- Sanitize any areas, including tables, chairs, and partitions between each and every visit using an EPA approved disinfectant in accordance with instructions for dilution and contact times.

WEBSITES TO KEEP UPDATED ON COVID 19

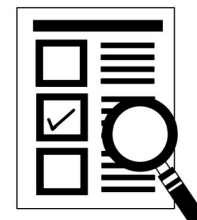
Department of Mental Health
<https://dmh.mo.gov/>

Department of Mental Health/Developmental Disabilities
<https://dmh.mo.gov/dev-disabilities>

State Operated Homes and COVID 19 Cases Statistics
<https://dmh.mo.gov/disaster-services/covid-19-information/dmh-positive-cases-data>

Department of Health and Senior Services
<https://health.mo.gov/living/healthcondiseases/communicable/novel-coronavirus/>

Guidelines for Long Term Care Facilities Family Visits
<https://health.mo.gov/living/healthcondiseases/communicable/novel-coronavirus/pdf/visitation-guidance.pdf>



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VOR SUPPORT FOR VOCATIONAL WORK CENTERS (sheltered workshops)

Two bills currently in the U.S. Congress would seriously threaten Vocational Work Centers (previously called sheltered workshops). They may not be passed this year, but will be proposed again next year. The bills are:

H.R. 582 & S. 150 - The Raise the Wage Act - This bill is aimed at raising the minimum wage, but it also has provisions to eliminate 14 (c) wage certificates over the next six years and to immediately stop the issuing of any new certificates. Vocational work centers use 14(c) certificates to pay disabled employees wages commensurate with their ability. VOR believes the issue of employment options for individuals with intellectual disabilities should not be buried in a bill for raising the federal minimum wage.

H.R. 873 & S. 260 - The Transformation To Competitive Employment Act - This bill has declared the goal of eliminating Vocational Work Centers (sheltered workshops) and 14(c) Wage Certificates, under the mantle of everyone with a disability is capable of competitive integrated employment.

VOR answers several misleading statements about Vocational Work Centers:

MYTH: People with intellectual & developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families are dissatisfied with Vocational Work Centers

FACT: When faced with possible closure of Vocational Work Centers, people working at the centers and their families are strongly advocating to keep them open.

MYTH: Vocational Work Centers are isolating environments.

FACT: Vocational Work Centers are part of the greater community. Those who choose jobs at these centers develop a sense of accomplishment and self-worth because of work completed. Socially, lifelong friendships are made.

MYTH: The only choice of work for people with I/DD are Vocational Work Centers.

FACT: No one is forced to work at a Vocational Work Center. For higher functioning persons, there are many resources available through state vocational rehabilitation departments to assist with opportunities for work.

MYTH: Vocational Work Centers do not provide opportunities to transition to competitive employment in the community.

FACT: For higher functioning employees, Vocational Work Centers can provide opportunities to learn initial skills necessary to be successful in competitive employment such as, being on time, working with others, and completing assigned tasks.

MYTH: All people, no matter the severity of their disability, can find competitive employment.

FACT: Absolutely, not. Because of their more severe disabilities, many individuals are not capable of competitive employment. Vocational Work Centers provide work for these individuals while providing for needs such as personal hygiene care and help with behavioral and social issues.

MYTH: Vocational Work Centers do not provide for meaningful jobs.

FACT: Some examples of work opportunities include manufacturing, item assembly, recycling, packaging, repair, and machine operating. <https://dese.mo.gov/special-education/sheltered-workshops/jobs-performed-sheltered-workshops>

MYTH: Oversight of Vocational Work Centers is lax.

FACT: According to the Department of Labor: All subminimum wages and hourly paid employee productivity must be reviewed/reevaluated and adjusted, as required, every six months and a new prevailing wage survey must be conducted at least every twelve months." <https://www.dol.gov/whd/regs/compliance/whdfs39.pdf>

MYTH: Vocational Work Centers violate the 1999 Supreme Court Olmstead decision.

FACT: The 1999 Supreme Court Olmstead decision supports CHOICE. Closing Vocational Work Centers **defies** the Olmstead decision by eliminating a desired, chosen and helpful employment option.

MYTH: Eliminating 14(c) certificates of the Fair Labor and Standards Act will increase employment rates of individuals with disabilities.

FACT: The elimination of 14(c) certificates of the Fair Labor and Standards Act will force the closure of Vocational Work Centers, eliminating jobs with no replacement in competitive employment. This means unemployment for an entire class of disabled persons.

VOR SUPPORTS:

H.R. 6045 & S. 3669 - Recognizing the Role of Direct Support Professionals Act - To require the Office of Management and Budget to revise the Standard Occupational Classification system to establish a separate code for direct support professionals, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5443 & S. 3220 - Ensuring Access to Direct Support Professionals Act - To amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to clarify that the provision of home and community-based services is not prohibited in an acute care hospital, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2417 - The HEADs UP Act - To amend the Public Health Service Act to expand and improve health care services by health centers and the National Health Service Corps for individuals with a developmental disability as a Medically Underserved Population (MUP).

VOR OPPOSES:

H.R. 555 & S. 117 - The Disability Integration Act - This bill has written into it the goal of eliminating "institutional care". In addition to the inherent bias against ICF's and people with severe and profound I/DD, the bill is prohibitively costly and there are not enough Direct Support Professionals to meet the provisions of this act.

H.R. 582 & S. 150 - The Raise the Wage Act - This bill is aimed at raising the minimum wage, but it also has provisions to eliminate 14 (c) wage certificates over the next six years and to immediately stop the issuing of any new certificates. VOR believes the issue of employment options for individuals with intellectual disabilities should not be buried in a bill for raising the federal minimum wage. Both issues deserve clean, stand-alone bills.

H.R. 873 & S. 260 - The Transformation To Competitive Employment Act - This bill has declared the goal of eliminating Sheltered Workshops and 14(c) Wage Certificates, under the mantle of everyone with a disability is capable of competitive integrated employment.
Sponsors of the bill recently added a new summary that significantly downplays the effect the bill would have on eliminating work centers and 14(c) that benefit those who are unable to compete in the employment opportunities the bill promotes.

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VOR is a national non-profit organization that advocates for high quality care and human rights for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD).

VOR advocates for the full continuum of care.

VOR supports the full range of employment options for individuals with I/DD.

VOR supports laws that protect guardianship.

VOR is a resource. With your membership, you will receive their weekly email newsletter, quarterly issues of the VOR VOICE, and notifications of Action Alerts for state and national advocacy campaigns.

VOR educates legislators and officials in the Department of Justice, Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicaid & Medicare Services, the Administration for Community Living, and other federal agencies about issues concerning the care of persons with I/DD.

JOIN VOR – our national voice to maintain CHOICE from a full continuum of care for persons with intellectual disabilities. \$45 per year per individual; \$200 per year per family organization; or \$250 per year per provider/professional organization
Send completed form with payment to: (checks made out to "VOR")

VOR
836 S. Arlington Heights Rd., #351
Elk Grove Village, IL 60007
Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____
State: _____ Zip _____
Home Phone: _____
E-Mail: _____

TRIBUTE FUND FORM (please print)

ENCLOSED CONTRIBUTION _____

IN MEMORY OF _____

ON THE OCCASION OF _____

PLEASE SEND TO (name) _____

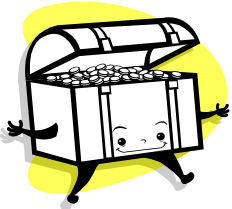
(address) _____

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
BEST THRIFT SHOP PRICES**

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

CLOSED AT THIS TIME!!!

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

FORWARDING AND ADDRESS
CORRECTION REQUESTED