

**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](http://www.parentsassociationbhc.com)

**NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2022**



**PARENTS ASSOCIATION MEETING**

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.

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

**PENDING 2022 PARENT ASSOCIATION MEETING DATES**  
**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!**

**FEBRUARY 13    MAY 15    AUGUST 14    NOVEMBER 13**

**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](http://www.ParentsAssociationBHC.com). Pass it along to others.

**Much appreciation** is sent to all staff for your continued commitment to care for the residents of the Bellefontaine Habilitation Center during the ongoing Covid crisis.

**Rules for visiting residents** may change as virus statistics change.

**The booster vaccination shot** has been made available to residents upon guardian approval.

**The 2022 Missouri Legislative Session** began on January 5 and ends on May 13, 2022.

**Remember: families have the right to choose a habilitation center according to current federal law.** The 1999 Supreme Court Olmstead decision that interprets the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act 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.

**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 benefit from the services of a habilitation center? Call the Parents Association at 314-264-9100 or 314-340-6002.

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

**2022 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 Thomasine Branneky  
RECORDING SECRETARY Leslie Terrebonne  
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY Patrick Wells

**DIRECTORS**

Kathleen Berkley  
Jeanette Craig  
Michael Brophy  
Mickey Slawson  
Ruth Vondras

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
- CHRISTMAS GIFTS
- HOLIDAY PARTIES
- HOLIDAY DECORATIONS
- HOME FURNISHINGS
- SPECIAL PROGRAM FUNDS
- PICNIC FUNDS
- DANCE BANDS
- CAMP FUNDS
- STAFF APPRECIATION

A Parent Association 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? 2022 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 or 314-264-9100.

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The Parents Association extends a note of thanks for donations during the holidays for the enjoyment of the residents at Bellefontaine Habilitation Center.



Members of Overland Baptist Church  
Members of Women United Church

**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**

Patsy Christen  
Barbara Reale

**RECIPIENT**

**OCCASION**

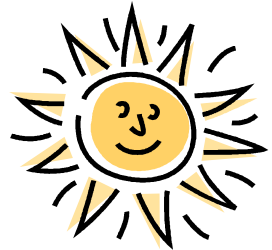
in memory of Patrice Christen  
donation

The BHC Parents Association expresses our deep sympathy for Department of Mental Health staff and clients who have died from the COVID 19 virus.



**FUNDS APPROVED BY PARENTS ASSOCIATION BOARD**

\$ 750.00 Valentine decorations, parties in the homes  
\$ 750.00 Easter decorations, parties in the homes



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**

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**PARENT ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR YEAR 2022**

Dues are \$5.00 a year. Make checks payable to “BHC Parents Association”.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

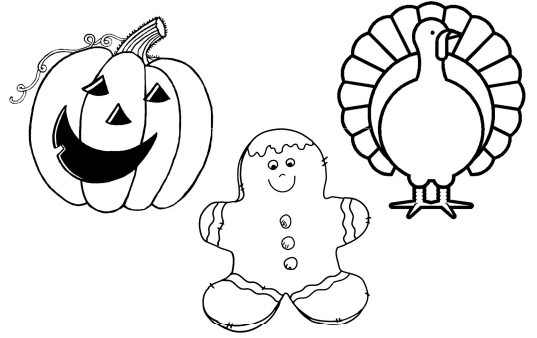
EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

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**



**BHC RESIDENTS ENJOY ACTIVITIES/FALL AND WINTER**

(Diet restrictions for residents are adhered to during activities.)

Holiday festivities include:

**Halloween:** Decorations, Art/Craft Activities and Movies

Tasty Snacks – Pumpkin Pie Mousse, Cheesecake Mousse, Cupcakes, Goldfish crackers in pumpkin bags, candy bags, wafer cookies and water bottles with flavor pkgs.

**Thanksgiving:** Festive Activity Packages for each home

**Christmas:** Christmas trees and decorations,

gifts for each resident from BHC Parents Association,

delicious varieties of holiday snacks - Strawberry Mousse, Cookies, Cupcakes, Christmas Rice Crispy Treats, Christmas Chex Mix, water bottles with flavor packages,

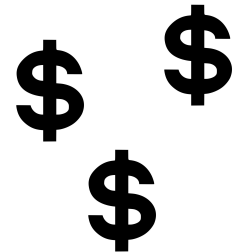
Christmas movies, and

there was a Find a Christmas Snowflake Contest where some residents won great prizes.

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**2021 FEDERAL REIMBURSEMENT FUNDS TO THE STATE OF MISSOURI**

<b>HABILITATION CENTER</b>	<b>FY 2021 ICF/IID COLLECTIONS</b>
Bellefontaine	\$16,367,969.00
Higginsville	9,110,064.00
SEMORS	7,699,238.00
St. Louis DDTC (St. Charles, S. County)	15,911,979.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>49,089,250.00 for habilitation centers</b>



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 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 314-264-9100 or 314-340-6002.

**2021 FEDERAL REIMBURSEMENTS FOR STATE OPERATED HOMES IN THE COMMUNITY**

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

Northwest Community Services	\$12,240,990.00
Southwest Community Services	5,534,438.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>17,775,428.00 for state operated waiver homes</b>

**HABILITATION CENTERS SHOULD GET A FAIR SHARE OF RECORD GENERAL FUNDS AND EXTRA FEDERAL FUNDS COMING TO THE STATE OF MISSOURI.**

The 2022 FY budget for Missouri had a **record** budget surplus - \$1.2 billion.

FY 2023 projections are that Missouri will receive a **record** \$11.4 billion of net general revenues.

Missouri will receive **billions** from the American Rescue Plan Act (Public Law No: 117-2) and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law No: 117-58)

With such a robust outlook for record revenues in the state of Missouri, habilitation center needs can be addressed.

**HABILITATION CENTER NEEDS:**

\*\*\* WAGE INCREASES for our direct support professionals.

\*\*\* CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS – especially roads and the wall at Bellefontaine Habilitation Center. The 2019 appropriation for roads renovation did not include the entire campus.

Road repair was to begin in April 2020 from funds appropriated in 2019 but then the covid virus hit, and nothing has been done since then.

With a record Missouri budget, there should be enough money to renovate **ALL** the roads and parking lots at the Bellefontaine Habilitation Center, as well as repair of the wall.

Contact your state legislators to let them know of these critical needs.

To find your legislators, call the Missouri Capitol Switchboard at 1-573-751-2000 or go to [www.mo.gov](http://www.mo.gov).

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**MISSOURI 2022 LEGISLATIVE SCHEDULE**

- January 5, 2022 — First day of the 2022 Legislative Session
- January 17, 2022 – MLK Holiday, No Session
- January 19, 2022 – Governor Mike Parson State of the State
- February 22, 2022 – First day of candidate filing for 2022 elections
- March 11-20, 2022 – Legislative Spring Break, No Session
- March 29, 2022 – Last day of candidate filing for 2022 elections
- April 19, 2022 – Easter Break, No Session
- May 6, 2022 – Constitutional deadline to pass the FY 2023 State Budget
- May 13, 2022 – Last day of the 2022 Legislative Session
- July 1, 2022 - First Day of Fiscal Year 2023
- July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022 – Last day for Governor to sign or veto bills
- August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022 - Date Legislation takes effect
- September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022 - Veto Session.



**Get to know your legislators.** To find your legislators, call the Missouri Capitol Switchboard at 1-573-751-2000 or go to [www.mo.gov](http://www.mo.gov).

**COVID 19 INFORMATION**

**The Division of Developmental Disabilities** hosts educational webinars. Previous webinars are posted. <https://dmh.mo.gov/dev-disabilities/webinar>

**Positive COVID 19 Cases for the Department of Mental Health can be tracked** at the following website. <https://dmh.mo.gov/disaster-services/covid-19-information/dmh-positive-cases-data>

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

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

## **VOR CURRENT UPDATES ON FEDERAL LEGISLATION** [www.vor.net](http://www.vor.net)

“VOR is a national non-profit organization that advocates for high quality care and human rights for all people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.”

### **VOR SUPPORTS:**

**Modifying the Build Back Better Act to include language to provide funding for Intermediate Care Facilities in parity with increased funding for HCBS services, and to remove any provisions that would phase out or eliminate 14(c) wage certificate programs.**

**H.R.6075 - 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).

**H.R.4761** - A bill to amend the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 to ensure workplace choice and opportunity for young adults with disabilities.

**H.R.4762** - A Bill to amend the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 to clarify the definition of competitive integrated employment.

### **VOR OPPOSES:**

**H.R.4131 & S.2210 - The Better Care Better Jobs Act** - To be clear, we don't oppose this bill. We object to the fact that it excludes the most vulnerable members of the I/DD population.

**H.R. 603 & S. 53 - The Raise the Wage Act** - These bills are aimed at raising the minimum wage, but they also have provisions to phase out and ultimately eliminate vocational centers and 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.1880** - To amend the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 to make permanent the **Money Follows the Person Rebalancing Demonstration**.

**H.R. 2383 & S. 3238** - The **Transformation to Competitive Integrated Employment Act** - this bill purports to assist employers providing employment under special certificates issued under section 14(c) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 in transforming their business and program models to models that support individuals with disabilities through competitive integrated employment, to phase out the use of these special certificates. We feel that, if enacted, tens of thousands of people with I/DD and autism will still be forced out of opportunities they currently, needlessly, and left without viable alternatives to occupy their time or address their needs and their abilities.

## **OTHER NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS ADVOCATING FOR THE CHOICE OF A FULL CONTINUUM OF CARE FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES**

### **NATIONAL COUNCIL ON SEVERE AUTISM** <https://www.ncsautism.org>

“Pursuing recognition, policy and solutions for the surging population of individuals, families and caregivers affected by severe forms of autism and related disorders.”

### **TOGETHER FOR CHOICE** [www.togetherforchoice.org](http://www.togetherforchoice.org)

“Together for Choice’s basic position is that the individual and their family know best what type of residential and vocational programs and opportunities best meet their needs and preferences. The role of government, federal and state, should be to support all quality residential and vocational options, allowing the individual and his or her family to choose the option they prefer. By doing so, the government treats individuals with disabilities the same as those who do not have disabilities.”

**Stay informed. Take action.**  
**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**

Valerie Huhn, Director of Department of Mental Health  
Jessica Bax, 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 MIKE PARSON**

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 61 (American Federation of State and County Municipal Employees)**

3230 Emerald Lane Suite 400  
Jefferson City, MO, 65109  
(573) 635-9145 (800) 554-2054  
[www.afscme.org](http://www.afscme.org)  
<https://www.afscme.org/local/missouri>

**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**

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For calls from outside the 314 and 636 area codes, you can call us at 800-365-0820.

letters to the editor [letters@post-dispatch.com](mailto:letters@post-dispatch.com)

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!!**

**CLOSED AT THIS TIME!!!**

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

**FORWARDING AND ADDRESS  
CORRECTION REQUESTED**

