



SCDDSN Family and Friends Newsletter November 2010



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WELCOME

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I hope you have been enjoying the Newsletter and have been able to attend many of the various events that have been offered throughout the state over the past few months. I also hope that you have been visiting our website and noted several new links that have been added. Our goal is to make weekly changes to the site in the ongoing effort to make it easier for you to navigate to find any information regarding our agency that you may be seeking. Many of you have been asking for an easier way to view the DDSN Commission minutes so a new link to the left of the opening page has been added titled Commission. Once you open this link you will find meeting minutes, current agendas, contact information for our Commissioners, as well as annual Commission meeting dates listed. This week we will be adding a new link for our State Director, Dr. Buscemi, as well as several additional links which I will give you in detail in the next Newsletter. Feel free to fill out the contact us form on the website if you have any comments or suggestions during this time. As we move toward the Holidays, I hope you and your family enjoy this time and I look forward to hearing from you. Feel free to contact me via email at Nhall@ddsn.sc.gov or by phone at 803-898-9650.

Remember

Commission meeting minutes will not be posted on the website for the previous month until they are approved at the next scheduled commission meeting. Once approved, you will find them on the website.



UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST



- The World Congress on Disabilities is holding a conference beginning November 18, 2010 at the Dallas Convention Center. You can register to view this online by EP live by going to the following link:
<https://eparent.webex.com/ec06051/eventcenter/enroll/join.do?siteurl=eparent&confId=268917988> .
- Special Night at Vista Lights helping Special Olympics-on 11/18/10 from 5pm- until for \$20.00 per person presented at the Ale House Vista, Columbia, SC.

EVENTS OF INTEREST CONTINUED

- **Sensory Friendly Films** The Dutch Square Theater in Columbia, SC is bringing the sensory friendly film on 11/20/10 at 10:00am. The film will be Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows.
- **SC Star Network Delivery Route**-if you are in need of equipment or would like to donate equipment please contact: equipmentdepot@waltonoptions.org. The upcoming dates and locations are November 17th at the Disability Action Center in Greenville, SC and December 8th at the Disability Action Center in Columbia, SC.
- **Whitten Center Parents' Club**- Upcoming Dates of interest: The Wild Turkey Federation Sporting Clay Shoot, Auction/Oyster Roast at the Clinton House in Clinton, SC on 11/20/10. This event is partially sponsored by the Whitten Parents' Club and the Whitten Foundation. For more information or tickets contact Dan Boozer at 864-833-2733. Board of Director's Meeting, 12/4/10 at 9:30am at the Family Therapy Center, Whitten Campus. The Whitten Center Annual Christmas Parade on 12/4/10 at 1:00pm. Visit their website: www.whittencenterparentsclub.com.
- **Getting and Keeping the First Job Workshop** York County DSN and Pro-Parents on 12/6/10 from 10am-12pm at McCelvey Center, 212 East Jefferson Street, York, SC. For more information and to register visit their website at: <http://proparents.org/>.
- **Healing Farms Ministries Community Nights** continue on the second Wednesday of each month. Join them at the Juvo Center for a meal and fellowship time from 6:00-8:00pm. For further information on these events visit their website at: <http://www.healingfarm.org/>.
- Have you heard of the book **DANCING WITH MAX** ? It is written by the mother and grandfather of Max, who has Autism. Author Emily Colson, whose son is Max which the book is based on, will be the guest speaker at Seacoast Church in Mt. Pleasant, SC on November 27th at 6:15pm and again on November 28th at 9am, 10:30am, 12pm, and 6:15pm. Please contact Kim Gabriel at: kimgabriel@seacoast.org if you are planning to attend and are bringing your family member with special needs.
- **Building or Updating your Home for Accessibility**-December 7th from 6p-8pm on the Second floor conference room at the Family Practice Center. This is a free event and will have presentations on home design to educate participants on design, features and products to make a home more accessible. Register by following this link: <http://www.sc.edu/scatp/forms/trainingregform12-7-10.html> .

- Family Connections of SC and Healing Farms Ministries join together for a groundbreaking conference SHARE FAIR on January 15, 2011 from 9am-2pm at East Cooper Baptist Church. You must preregister for this event. Follow this link: [Register Now!](#).
- PRO-Parents offers The ADHD Basics from A-Z February 11, 2011 from 9am-3:00pm at Glenforest School Auditorium. Registration fee is \$20.00 and scholarships are available. Register by calling 1-800-759-4776 or 803-772-5688 or by visiting their website at: <http://proparents.org/>.
- Healing Farms Ministries is planning a Luke 14 Banquet for February 14, 2011 from 5p-8pm at Seacoast Church. Click [Here](#) for more information and to register.
- South Carolina Respite Coalition is offering a Conference on February 17, 2011 at St. Andrews Baptist Church in Columbia, SC. For registration information please call 803-935-5027, toll free at 1-866-345-6786, or visit their website at: www.screspitcoalition.org.



- ❖ Have you heard of Team Triumph? It is an athletic ride for people with disabilities who would normally not be able to experience outdoor endurance events. Visit their website at: <http://www.myteamtriumph.org>. Information is available on how to start a South Carolina Chapter of this organization on their website for those who may be interested.
- ❖ The AKTION Club is a community service group for young adults with special needs. The mission is to provide participants with an opportunity to develop leadership skills and serve the community. This group meets the second Monday of each month at the Seven Oaks Park, Columbia, SC at 6:30pm and is sponsored by the St. Andrew Kiwanis Club. Call 803-772-3336 for further information.
- ❖ Have you heard of the TNT Club? It is sponsored by the Seven Oaks Park in Columbia, SC. They have fun filled adventures that offer participants with special needs an opportunity to try something new. Call 803-772-3336 for further information.

- ❖ The **SC Assistive Technology Exchange** has numerous items available that you may find of interest. Visit their website at: www.scatpexchange.net.
- ❖ Did you know you can take independent study courses online for Emergency Management at: <http://training.fema.gov>. For further information email them at independent.study@dhs.gov or via phone at 301-447-1200.
- ❖ Have you visited the **South Carolina Disability Resource Library?** The library contains information for families, consumers, and staff members. View the catalog at: http://muscls.musc.edu/screens/opacmenu_s5.html or contact: Steve Wilson, Coordinator, CDR Library, via phone at: 803-733-1501, email: steve.wilson@usmed.sc.edu or Web site: <http://uscm.med.sc.edu/CDR>.
- ❖ **Pattison's Academy** is a charter school for children with disabilities in Mt. Pleasant, SC. They opened their doors in August of this year. For more information visit their website at: <http://www.pattisonsacademy.org/>.
- ❖ **The South Carolina Autism Society** offers monthly Coffee talk on the first Wednesday of every month at the Society offices from 9am-11am. Families can visit, talk, and have coffee with homemade goodies.
- ❖ **2011 Journalism Contest** sponsored by the SC Governor's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities. The Theme is "Talent has no Boundaries: Workforce Diversity INCLUDES Workers with Disabilities." The winner of the Annual Journalism Essay Contest will receive a four year scholarship to any South Carolina State Supported College of his or her choice. For more information call the SC Vocational Rehabilitation office at 803-896-6833.
- ❖ **College Transition Connection Update:** The R.E.A.C.H. (Realizing Educational and Career Hopes) program at the College of Charleston is a four-year inclusive program for students with mild to moderate intellectual disabilities. The purpose of the program is to provide the opportunity for all students to realize their intellectual and personal potential, and to become responsible, productive members of society. REACH students participate in the academic, residential, social, and cultural experiences offered by the College, with appropriate support for success. The first REACH students matriculated in the Fall of 2010. For more information on the College Transition Connection visit their website at: www.collegetransitionconnection.org.
- ❖ Have you heard of the **Buckle Buddies Program?** It is a public education program aimed at keeping children safe in cars. Visit their website at: www.bucklebuddiessc.org.

2010 CHRISTMAS IN FLORENCE ORNAMENT

CONTACT PERSON: BECKY ELLIOTT

PEE DEE REGIONAL CENTER VOLUNTEER SERVICES, INC.

864-664-2611



Pee Dee Regional Center's Volunteer Service Board is proud to announce the 2010 Christmas in Florence Ornament. Proclaimed the Official City Ornament by mayoral proclamation since 1994, the ornament was again designed by Stephen Guyton, a Florence artist whose work is exhibited in collections nationwide.

Only 1500 ornaments have been produced. Each ornament is made of 24 karat gold-plated brass, packaged with a numbered certificate of authenticity, and signed by the artist. This year's ornament depicts the new Francis Marion University Performing Arts Center. This facility is a long awaited addition to downtown, a result of collaboration between FMU and the Bruce-Lee Foundation. Ground was broken this year and the Center is expected to be completed in early 2011.

Proceeds from the ornament sale fund unique programs to enhance the lives of individuals with disabilities living at Pee Dee Regional Center.

CONGRATULATIONS



Congratulations to Eric Park who recently celebrated his 20th anniversary as an employee of Pizza Hut. Eric, who has autism, lives in a United Cerebral Palsy group home in Irmo, SC. He works at the local Pizza Hut where he is proud to be a contributing member of the team.

The manager, Chris McGinnis, and the other employees have been a great help to Eric during his time there. Hard working and industrious,

Eric is also a good neighbor who spends his free time recycling aluminum cans he collects from family, friends, and church members.

His mother, Barbara Park, says the family is extremely proud of his accomplishments. They are also thankful to manager, Chris McGinnis, the employees of Pizza Hut, and to the staff of UCP of South Carolina for giving Eric the support he needs to be a productive citizen.



WAY TO GO ERIC!

Founder of Charles Lea Center honored with Award



The Charles Lea Center of Spartanburg presented the inaugural Lee S. Poole Award for Advocacy and Services to Elaine T. Freeman, center, with John Poole, and his wife, Lynn. Elaine Freeman, who helped found the center in 1971, was honored with this award during a meeting at the Spartanburg Marriott. Ms. Freeman, the former founding executive director of the ETV Endowment, was chosen for the award based on several key areas of her support for the Center and the 1400 disabled people it serves. The award's namesake, Lee S. Poole, was the son of John and Lynn Poole. He died last November at the age of 27, but made an indelible imprint on everyone with the Charles Lea Center. Mr. John Poole served as a Commissioner for the South Carolina Department of Disabilities and Special Needs from 1990-1993 representing the 4th Congressional District.



“Promoting Abilities by Respecting Choice”

For Immediate Release

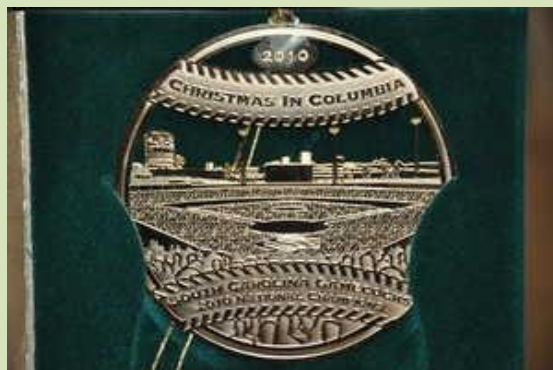
Contact:

Date: November 3, 2010

Carrie Deaton

Babcock Center Foundation

(803) 799-1970



Mayor Unveils 2010 Babcock Center Christmas Ornament

Mayor Steve Benjamin and representatives from the Babcock Center unveiled this year's "Official City Ornament" at a press conference on November 1. This year's ornament is in honor of the South Carolina Gamecocks baseball team for winning the 2010 National Championship.

"I am asking everyone who wants to commemorate that victory to join me in purchasing one of these beautiful ornaments," Mayor Benjamin said. "Not just because it will forever remind you of that moment where our dreams came true, but also because every one sold brings us one step closer to realizing the hopes and dreams of so many living with disabilities in Columbia and throughout the Midlands Region."

All proceeds from the sales of the ornament benefit the Babcock Center Foundation, a private, non-profit organization that serves more than 700 individuals with lifelong disabilities in Richland and Lexington counties.

Ornaments cost \$13 and may be purchased at the Babcock Center Foundation Office at 2725 Banny Jones Avenue, West Columbia and at the Columbia Visitor's Center or by calling 803-799-1970.



LEGAL COUNSEL

Competency to Stand Trial Issues

The authority to order competency to stand trial evaluations is found at SC Code Ann §44-23-410 (Supp. 2009). The statute calls it "Fitness to Stand Trial". The South Carolina Supreme Court has issued form orders that must be used by parties when requesting an evaluation. The orders can come from Family Court for a juvenile or General Sessions for an adult. They can be granted by the court on request of either the solicitor or the defense attorney. The form order requires that either DMH or DDSN be chosen as the agency to perform the evaluation. The order must include reasons why the court believes the person should be seen by DDSN. If DDSN forensic examiners find indications of mental health issues they will request a joint evaluation with the Department of Mental Health. The same goes with the Department of Mental Health if they get the order for an evaluation and see indications of mental retardation they will request a joint evaluation with DDSN. The form order includes a list of the documents that are to be submitted to DDSN by the defense attorney. These records are needed for review by the forensic examiners before they schedule the evaluation. The agency schedules the evaluation and then informs both the solicitor and the defense attorney of the date and time of the evaluation. If the defendant is in jail, he is transported to evaluation by the jail. If defendant fails to show for the evaluation, the agency will notify the attorneys and the judge who issued the order. If needed the order authorizes the agency to request a 15 day extension to complete the evaluation.

Standard for competency is set out in SC Code Ann §44-23-410(A) (Supp. 2009). The person being evaluated must be able

- To understand the proceedings against him/her
- Or to assist in his/her own defense
- And if there is a substantial probability will attain capacity in The foreseeable future (Mental Health Finding not DDSN) since mental retardation is a lifelong disability.

The forensic examiners perform the evaluation and submit a written report to the court. They may have to testify, but statutorily the report is sufficient evidence. It is the court that makes the final decision as to the competency to stand trial.

If the defendant is found not competent to stand trial, due to possible mental retardation, then the solicitor files a petition for judicial admission to DDSN in probate court for an adult or a child or in family court if a child. SC Code Ann § 42-23-430(Supp. 2009)

The solicitor files the petition for judicial admission along with an order for a diagnostic evaluation. The agency receives the pleadings and proceeds to determine if the person has mental retardation and is in need of services from the agency. The probate or family court will hold a hearing on the petition for judicial admission. The person will be appointed a guardian ad litem and attorney to represent them during the hearing process.

At the hearing the diagnostic report will be offered into evidence and testimony will be presented as to the diagnosis of mental retardation and the plan of services for the individual.

If the court finds the person has mental retardation and is in need of services from the agency, the court will issue an order for judicial admission of the person to the jurisdiction of DDSN. The person is under the jurisdiction of the agency until the director or her designee determines the person is no longer in need of services from the agency.

If the person does not have mental retardation, then the court must dismiss the petition for judicial admission.

A defendant can be found not competent to stand trial and then found not to be eligible for services from DDSN as they are separate issues. Our forensic examiners do not evaluate for eligibility for services from the agency when doing the competency to stand trial evaluations. Eligibility for services is done by the centralized consumer assessment team (CAT) who review records and make the determination that a person has mental retardation or another qualifying disability and is eligible for services from the agency.



DDSN WEBSITE TIP

Dr. Win Green, Director of Psychiatric Services for SCDDSN recently presented at the SCAAIDD Conference. You can find the information he presented by going to our website at: www.ddsn.sc.gov. You will then go to the left of the screen, Open Service Providers, then Health Information Updates, General Topics, and in the middle of the screen you will see “American Association of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities”. Please note that this is a very large file and may take several minutes to fully open for you to view.

*** Please note that the next Commission Meeting is scheduled for December 16, 2010 at 10:30am at DDSN Central Office in Room 251. Videoconferencing is available at Coastal Center, Pee Dee Center, Whitten Center, and the York DSN Board***

