



## Project Updates

We are welcoming exciting changes for the Family Involvement Project! As part of an effort to update and simplify our program, we have changed the term Family Network Contact to Local Parent Representative. The Family Involvement Project staff's goal is to identify one parent in each of the 40 council areas. This person is a liaison between our project staff and local families. This relationship will help project staff

to stay up to date on parent concerns. The Local Parent Representative will also keep families informed about programs offered by the Family Involvement Project and opportunities available within their own communities. The Family Involvement Project staff is excited about the change and looks forward to hearing from families who want to be involved with their local councils. If you think you would be

interested in being a Local Parent Representative or have questions, please contact Debra Holloway Family Involvement Project Manager 1-888-604-2677 ext. 3



## Parent To Parent

The Parent to Parent Matching Program, with help from a grant from the Virginia Board for People with Disabilities, has been able to de-

velop new training manuals and brochures!

If you would like to schedule a Parent Partner training or are interested in being

matched with a trained Parent Partner for support please call 888-604-2677 ext. 5



### Inside this issue:

Thank You to Legislators	2
Thank You to Advocates	2
The Arc Annual Conference	2
World Of Possibilities Expo	3
People First Language	3
The Arc of Greater Prince William Conference	4

## Thank You to Legislators

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### PLEASE CONTACT LEGISLATORS WITH NOTES OF THANKS

In a year where the cry was "no new taxes," legislators courageously raised revenues to meet the needs of many vulnerable Virginians. It is vital that the members of the General Assembly be thanked. Your notes and calls can be short and sweet - a simple thank you!

### PART C/EARLY INTERVENTION

#### (\$1.5 million)

\$750,000 in 04-05 and \$750,000 in 05-06 for the Part C Early Intervention System, which provides critical services, such as occupational, physical, and speech therapy, parental education, and other necessary supports, for infants and toddlers (ages 0 to 3 years) who have developmental disabilities or delays. Although these additional funds were awarded, the Part C system will continue to be

grossly under funded in excess of \$1 million. To find out what you can do to help or to sign up for our list serve that offers up to date legislative information, call 1-888-604-2677 or visit our website [www.arcfip.org](http://www.arcfip.org).



## Thank You from The Arc of Virginia President Lisa L. Ownby, MSW

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Thank you, Virginia advocates! Together, we made a real difference in the allocation of state funds for mental retardation and developmental disability services this year. The Arc of Virginia's mission is to advocate for persons with mental retardation

and related developmental disabilities and their families so they may all lead productive and fulfilling lives. We cannot achieve this mission without the constant support and Involvement of you -Virginians who care about loved ones with Dis-

abilities! We have much more to do, but we have made a tremendous impact. We will continue to advocate together to eliminate waiting lists and ensure that quality is the cornerstone of services for persons with disabilities.

## The Arc

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The Arc's annual convention will be in Boston, Massachusetts on November 18-20. A wide range of speakers and topics are being planned for the three-day event. Also included is a 50-booth exhibition of suppliers of goods and services that interest members. Plus, there will be

plenty of time for socializing and networking with other members of The Arc from across the nation. A topical conference entitled "Leadership: The Quest for Quality," will be presented along with numerous other special events including a technology conference and a Boston "T"

Party. For more information or to register, visit [www.thearc.org](http://www.thearc.org). For information about how to join The Arc of Virginia visit [www.arcofva.org](http://www.arcofva.org) or contact Teja Stokes at (804) 649-8481.

## World of Possibilities Expo

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**OCTOBER 22-24, 2004**  
**DULLES EXPO & CONFERENCE CENTER, CHANTILLY, VA**  
Friday, October 22  
10 am-5 pm  
Saturday, October 23  
10 am-5 pm  
Sunday, October 24  
11 am-5 pm

Please visit <http://www.caringcommunities.org> for more information and free expo passes.



### **WORLD OF POSSIBILITIES**

Disabilities Expos are dedicated to improving the lives of children and adults with disabilities, their families and caregivers, as well as health care and education professionals.

Caring Communities, Inc.  
1015 Gleneagle Court  
Eldersburg, Maryland 21784  
Caring Communities, Inc. is a Non-Profit 501 (c)(3) organization.

## Using People First Language by Kathie Snow

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People with disability labels constitute our nation's largest minority group. It is simultaneously the most inclusive and the most diverse: both genders, all ages, all religions, all socioeconomic levels, every ethnicity, and any sexual orientation are represented. Yet people who have been labeled are all different from one another-and the only thing these individuals truly have in common with one another is dealing with societal misunderstanding, prejudice, and discrimination. Furthermore, this largest minority group is the only one which any person can become part of, at any time! Some join at birth. Others join in the split second of an accident, through illness, or by the aging process. If and when it happens to you, will you have more in

common with others who have labels or with family, friends, and co-workers?

How will you want to be described?

And how will you

want to be treated? **Using People First Language is Crucial!**

People first language puts the person before the disability and it describes what a person *has*, not what a person *is*.

Are you "myopic" or do you wear glasses?

Are you "cancerous" or do you have cancer?

Are you "freckled" or do you have freckles?

Is a person "handicapped" or "disabled" or does she have a disability label?

If people with disability labels

*"The difference between the right word and the almost right word is the difference between lightning and the lightning bug."*  
Mark Twain

are to be included in all aspects of our communities-in the ordinary, wonderful, and typical activities most people take for granted-and if they're

to be respected and valued, we must use the ordinary, wonderful, typical language used about people who have not yet been labeled. To learn more visit: [www.disabilityisnatural.com](http://www.disabilityisnatural.com)





**THE ARC OF VIRGINIA**

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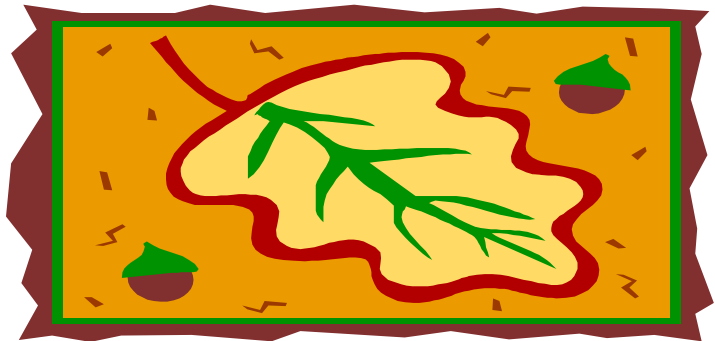
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**[ [www.arcfip.org](http://www.arcfip.org) ]**

**Circle of Support Conference sponsored by The Arc of Greater Prince William**

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**A CONFERENCE  
FOR FAMILIES OF  
CHILDREN WITH  
SPECIAL NEEDS  
AND THE  
PROFESSIONALS  
WHO WORK WITH  
THEM**



**November 6, 2004  
8 am-3:30 pm  
Hylton High School  
14051 Spriggs Rd.  
Woodbridge, VA**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION  
TO BE PLACED  
ON THE MAILING LIST,  
CALL: The Arc Of Greater  
Prince William  
at (703) 730-3124.**