

# The Arc of Howard County

*Achieving full community life for children and adults*

*with cognitive and developmental disabilities – one person at a time*

## August 2008

### Boycott "Tropic Thunder" Movie

The Arc of Howard County is calling upon the community to boycott the new "comedy/action/adventure" movie, Tropic Thunder, produced by DreamWorks and distributed by Paramount.

Tropic Thunder depicts people with intellectual disabilities in a derogatory and demeaning manner. The labels "retard" and "retarded," are used in the movie for comic effect, and visual images ridicule people with developmental disabilities.

### Iron Girl Triathlon is August 24

Volunteers are needed for the annual Iron Girl Triathlon on Sunday, Aug. 24, at Centennial Park. Road marshals and water stop helpers are needed from 6:30-11:30 a.m.

Columbia Triathlon Association, which hosts the annual event, is very generous in supporting The Arc. You can show your thanks by volunteering. Bring the whole family; it is fun and qualifies for community service hours for students. Call Linda Congedo, 410-730-0638, ext. 226.

### The Friendship Group Seeks Participants

The Arc's one-on-one volunteer program, **The Friendship Group**, is seeking participants to provide community experiences for individuals with cognitive and developmental disabilities. Volunteers pair up with individuals served by The Arc.

Volunteers are asked to participate in one outings per month with their buddies. The Arc's events, meals, movies, concerts, picnics, bowling and shopping have all proved good shared activities. In addition, new members of The Friendship Group are asked to attend two informational seminars in the Fall and two later. Call Linda Congedo, 410-730-0638, ext. 226.

### Wagner Heads Up New Department

Debbie Wagner has been named Associate Executive Director of Services for The Arc of Howard County. In her new position, she oversees all adult and children's services, including residential, day and supported retirement, employment, and family and individual supports.

Wagner has been with The Arc for almost 21 years as Assistant Director of Residential Services, Director of Residential Services, and, most recently, Director of Residential and Day Support Services.

Wagner holds an undergraduate degree from Towson University and a Masters in Human Resources from the College of Notre Dame.

### Two Fundraisers for The Arc in September

**Cloud Nine Salon** in Highland is hosting a fundraiser for The Arc on Sept. 21, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Proceeds from services and other activities will be donated, according to owner Joyce White.

**Behnke** nurseries in Beltsville and Potomac will donate 20% of the proceeds from all regularly priced plant sales and 10% from hard goods sales on Sept. 27, to The Arc. More directions, go to [www.behnkes.com](http://www.behnkes.com).

## **Election of Officers and New Board Members**

The Arc of Howard County has elected officers and new board members for FY09. The officers are **Joseph V. Murray, Sr.**, President; **Robert Topper**, Vice President; **Douglas Erdman**, Secretary; and **Annette Hinkle**, Treasurer. Congratulations.

**Christa Spalding** and **Peter Della-Croce** are the new board members elected to their first 3-year terms. Other members of the board include Vidia Dhanraj, Scott Heim, Deborah Powell, Robert Vigorito, Chip McAuliffe, Matthew Plantz, Vincen Grauso, Bob Smith and Phil Swanson. Outgoing board members are **Chuck Ecker**, **Louis Jones**, **Reginald Carey** and **Eric Crawford**. **Emma Murphy** was the Youth on Board for the past year.

## **Thunder Hill Swim Team Donates to The Arc**

The **Thunder Hill Swim Team** hosted a Swim Marathon to raise money for The Arc last month. The 109 swimmers swam a total of 189 miles during a 16-hour non-stop event, earning \$5,764 in the process. This outstanding accomplishment is heartwarming and inspiring. Thank you.

## **The Arc of Maryland Presents Awards**

The Arc of Maryland Howard County honorees of the 2008 Awards presented by The Arc of Maryland includes **Sen. Edward Kasemeyer**, Legislative Leadership Award; **Looks LLC**, Employer of the Year; **Cole Schnorf**, Outstanding Volunteer of the Year; and **The Arc of Howard County Light Enhancement Program**, "Light the Fire" Meritorious Service.

## **Autumn Golf Tourney Set for October 24**

The Arc of Howard County is hosting its Annual Golf Tournament on Friday, Oct. 24, 9 a.m. shot-gun start, at Timbers of Troy Golf Course, 6100 Marshalee Drive, Elkridge, MD 21075. Sponsorships, from \$5,000 to \$250, are available. Benefits include banners, signage, ads, logos on shirts, and opportunities for colleagues and friends to have a great time for a great cause.

Foursomes are \$500, individual golfers pay \$150. There is still time to join the fun. For information, call Kari Ebeling, 410-730-0638, ext. 306, or Bryan Sorrentino at ext. 271.

## **Residential Program Monitors Needed**

Linda Essenmacher, Director of Quality Enhancement, is looking for volunteers to serve as monitors in the Residential Program. Volunteers serve for a year and make at least three trips to residences housing individuals with cognitive and developmental disabilities. Volunteers interview residents about their experiences. Call Linda Congedo, 410-730-0638, ext. 226, to learn more.