

**“committed to expanding opportunities for people with developmental and intellectual disabilities”**

# ArcLetter

**Board of Directors**

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- Carol Foote-Secretary
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- Raji Damle
- Kay Goodman
- David Horton
- Linda Martin
- Meg Taylor
- Marshall West

**Project Coordinators**

- Bonnie Lewallen
- Blake Hensley
- Heather Hensley

**Mission Statement**

The Arc of Denton County, a non-profit volunteer organization, is committed to expanding opportunities for people with any developmental disability to exercise the same rights, freedoms, and responsibilities as their fellow citizens by providing family support, public awareness, advocacy service and referral.

(800)375-4520

(972)436-8471

[www.arcofdentoncounty.org](http://www.arcofdentoncounty.org)

A United Way Agency

## **Sorry to say that we have had to cancel the meeting planned with Joe and James Meadours!**

The meeting that The Arc of Denton County had planned for September 22nd has been canceled. Joe Meadours has to be at the meeting at the capital in California on that weekend. He has recently accepted the job as Executive Director of People First California. We have contacted the Meadours and will reschedule this as soon as possible.

**Mark your calendar for September 29th for the Hamburger Cookout at NorthLakes Park in Denton from 6:00-9:00 pm. We will have music for dancing and hamburgers, chips, and drinks. This is always an event that everyone enjoys!**

**If you would like to volunteer to help our adults with disabilities at this cookout or need additional information. please call or email The Arc of Denton County**

**If you are planning on event, please call no 25th and let us know. sure we have enough**

**joining us for this later than September We want to make food for everyone.**



## Sibling Corner

The following writing is by Caitlyn Vaughn and was done for her class:

Today I want to talk about people with special needs. I have one question to start us off. Why do we stare at kids with special needs? Maybe we stare because they are in a wheelchair or they just look different. Really they are just like us. Maybe they can't walk or talk but they still love the Lord and have feelings. They try hard to learn and do stuff that we do easily. They live a more difficult life than we do. Jesus' disciples thought if a person could not walk or see they must have sinned against God. But Jesus said they did not sin. He said that he created them so that the glory of the Lord will be revealed. God has a purpose for us and even them. Now they may not go up to teach about God, but God still uses them in a special way. We just have to really pay attention because He really does use them. We just don't take the time to see how he uses people with special needs.

Sometimes we say we aren't skinny enough, handsome or pretty. Well, think about how it would be if you can't walk or talk. Psalms says "I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made". Kids with special needs don't complain much, and they have it harder than us. So why do we complain? If you notice that in the 4 gospels when Jesus came down that there are a bunch of stories about him healing the sick, the blind, and the lame. He took His time to reach out to the people with needs. He knew that He could do miracles, but He used them to show that He could. Isn't that COOL?

You are probably wondering what brought this up? Well, I have a sister with a disability called Rett Syndrome. Her name is Brianna and she is 10 years old. To tell you the truth, last year in Art I sat by two boys and we talked. I found out they did not know that I had a sister with special needs. I was sad that people didn't know. I was ashamed of myself because that is what makes my family unique. I knew when I came to Calvary that I was scared that people would make fun of me, but I thought I got over that. Well, I guess I didn't and I am not ashamed now. God made me realize in 5th grade that I was not the only one who has a sibling with special needs. There are tons of people with siblings with special needs. There are also many kinds of disabilities like Autism, Down Syndrome, Cerebral Palsy and many more. Each kind of need has its own struggles. That is what makes them so unique. But it is so cool when you are a sibling and you hear them speak a word clearly or see them get food to their mouth, basically when they accomplish something. To be honest, it's not easy being a sibling either. You have to get use to being late and waiting for them to get ready or finish dinner. It's not that easy, but we see how God has blessed us.

God says to love one another in the Bible. Well, I know He didn't just mean to love people that are just like you. He meant everyone including people with special needs. So, I challenge you to go up to a family with a child with special needs and ask them about him or her. Say "hi" to them and make them smile! I'll tell you one thing, the sibling or parents will not turn you away. They will be glad you are interested in their sibling and child. Believe me it will change their life and yours. I sometimes even go up to them because I am interested in the kind of special need and it is so fascinating to find out what they can do. If you want, I will be more than happy to introduce you to my little sis. I hope this has changed your heart. Thanks for listening.

The Arc of Denton County would love to receive more writings from siblings of children with disabilities or adults with siblings that have disabilities.

Check out The Arc of the United States new state of the art website. The ultimate goal is for the Arc.org to be the premier repository for all information on disabilities worldwide. The website's address is:

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

## **Prom, Party, Bridesmaids Dresses Needed**

### **We need donations of dresses for our upcoming “Dancing with the Arc Stars”**

**This will be a semi-formal dance and we are trying locate dresses for each of our adults with disabilities that want to attend. Most of these adults have never experienced a prom or formal event and we want to make this an event they will cherish for a long time to come. If you have any formal dresses that you do not need anymore please call The Arc of Denton County and let us make arrangements to get them from you. We have already received some dresses but need many more.**

2007 The Arc of Texas Conference  
October 19—21st

The Arc of Texas wants to help make your dreams a reality. Join them for the 2007 Conference where experts and respected disability advocates will help you explore and develop a roadmap for making your dreams reality. Babysitting and a Kids Camp is available for children and youth ages 18 and under.

Registration and stipend forms must be submitted by Friday, September 28th.  
Questions: 1-800-252-9729 or 512-454-6694  
[www.TheArcofTexas.org](http://www.TheArcofTexas.org)

**Get involved with The Arc! Donate clothing and household items. Donate your used goods to The Arc. Call 214-337-8900 for donation pick-up schedule for large items. If you have clothing there are deposit boxes in Lewisville at this time. The locations we have at this time are:**

**Terry’s Supermarket on Fox Ave  
Albertsons on W. Main St.  
Lowes on I-35 (close to service road)  
Wal-Mart Center on Main St (Behind Payless Shoes)  
Fox Ave. and I-35 Service Road  
Wal-Mart at 3040 and 121**

**This list will be updated as new information comes in. The Arc of Denton County gets a percentage from the donated items.**

# THE ARC'S CLASSIFIED ADS



Put your business card or description of your business in our newsletter. We distribute 1800 copies monthly.

Thanks to Staples in Lewisville for printing our newsletter, the "ArcLetter".

Their generosity allows us to send our newsletters to Denton County families with children with special needs, adults with special needs and concerned citizens.

If you are interested in putting your business card on this page, please send information to:

The Arc of Denton County  
P.O. Box 1279  
Denton, Texas 76202  
Enclose a check for \$15 a month or \$150 a year.

Download or view a copy of "It's a New IDEA" at [www.arcoftexas.org](http://www.arcoftexas.org)

**If you receive our newsletter home from school and want to receive it in the mail for the summer, please call or fax us at 800-375-4520 or 972-436-8471. You can also email us at [info@arcofdentoncounty.org](mailto:info@arcofdentoncounty.org) and let us know. We will be glad to put it in the mail to you.**



**Darin and Angie Yocum, Realtors,  
RE/MAX DFW Associates II**

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- Denton County Residents
- RE/MAX International Hall of Fame
- Certified Luxury Home Marketing Specialists



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[teamyocum@bigfoot.com](mailto:teamyocum@bigfoot.com)

Each office independently owned and operated

## The Arc of Denton County's Wish List

- Paper goods for adult socials
- HP ink cartridges 45 and 78
- Copy paper 8 1/2x11 11x17

## Techno-Tote

Due to an extra amount of funding from The United Way of Denton County, we are able to update our Techno-Tote this summer. Techno-Tote gives an opportunity for our members to borrow items to see if their child or friend with a disability would be able to use a certain item for independence or pleasure.

We will have an updated list in a future ArcLetter so everyone will know the items we have in our Techno-Tote inventory.



Our sympathy goes out to the families of Ruth Tompkins and Don Williams.

Ruth was a founding member of The Arc of Denton County and Don was a long time member.

**Ruth Tompkins**  
**Sept. 30, 1919—August 4, 2007**

**Don Williams**  
**June 17, 1937— July 21, 2007**

## Board of Directors

The Arc of Denton County is looking for a few good board members. If you would be interested in serving on the board or just volunteering for a few activities a year please contact the Arc at 972-436-8471 or 800-375-4520 or email us at [bonniel@arcofdentoncounty.org](mailto:bonniel@arcofdentoncounty.org)

Check out at website at [www.arcofdentoncounty.org](http://www.arcofdentoncounty.org) for volunteer opportunities and our volunteer form

## Help The Arc Earn Money

There is a new and easy way to raise money for The Arc of Denton County—just by searching the Internet with GoodSearch.com.

It's simple. You use GoodSearch.com like any other search engine-the site is powered by Yahoo!-but each time you do, money is generated for The Arc. Just be sure to fill in "The Arc-Denton County" and click verify for the GoodSearch field "Who do you GoodSearch for?"

Last year, search engines generated close to \$6 billion in revenue from advertisers. With GoodSearch, part of the advertising revenue will now be directed to our organization.

We hope that you will not only use GoodSearch as your main search engine from here on out, but that you will also pass this message on to your friends and family. If you go to GoodSearch.com there is a sample email you can use to

ask your friends and family. The more people who use this, the more money The Arc of Denton County will receive.

This is a good way for you to contribute to your favorite charity (Arc, we hope!) with no money directly out of your pocket and no extra time involved. This can be used at most work places and at home when you are searching the net.

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*"Donate to The Arc of Denton County"*

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### SELF ADVOCATE LEADERS OF DENTON COUNTY

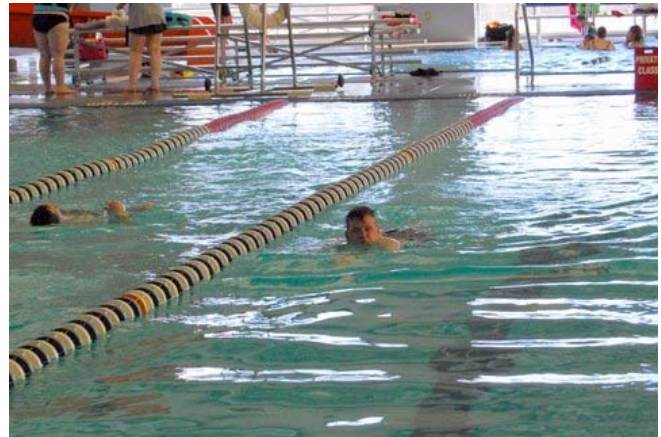
**MEETINGS ARE THE 3RD WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH AT 3600 E. MCKINNEY STREET, SUITE A, FROM 7:00—8:30 P.M. MEMBERSHIP IS OPEN TO ANY ADULT WITH A DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY.**

**Come and develop leadership skills, learn more about your rights and responsibilities, and learn about voting and decision making.. This is just a example of items discussed at meetings.**

## Congratulations



Marshall West has just been elected as Vice President to the State Advocate Group. He is also the President of The Self Advocate Leaders of Denton County.



Billy Hansbury (Tennis) and Texas Nelson (Aquatics) will be competing in the World Games in Shanghai, China on October 1—11, 2007. Both of these Special Olympic Participants have been training very hard and would like to share this exciting news with the ARC supporters.

**WAY TO GO GUYS AND BEST OF LUCK!!!**

## The Self Advocate Leaders of Denton County

Our Self Advocates had a meeting on voting rights for people with disabilities and learned many valuable facts about voting and what is available to help someone with a disability vote.

The following was passed out and really had a message to send to everyone.

It was written by Jeffery Ridgeway/People First Alabama



**They say I can't vote.  
They say the decision is not mine.  
They say I don't understand.  
I guess they think they're being kind.  
I wonder what they would say or think if they only knew  
that when they call the President "Our President,"  
I want to call him mine, too.**

**If I never get the chance to vote-  
Pulling the lever, punching the card or writing his name down-  
I stay the same-dumb, misinformed, unchanged, unempowered.  
That is what this world expects me to be.**

**But I want so much more!!!  
I want to be the most educated-the most informed-  
The most totally changed-the most totally empowered person I can be when I vote.  
I can make a difference and then I can say with pride,  
"Not yours,  
Not theirs,  
But my President  
Because I helped put him there."**

The Self Advocate Leaders will have another meeting on voting rights before election time. Please watch for information on this meeting if you are interested in learning more about this.

**Your Support Makes A Real Difference To The Arc of Denton County!**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cash or Check enclosed for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Payable to:

*The Arc of Denton County*

*P.O. Box 1279*

*Denton, Texas 76202*

Membership Form

- Self Advocate \$15  
 Member or Family \$20  
 Supporting Member \$50

Check all that apply

- Interested citizen  
 Self Advocate  
 Professional in field of disabilities  
 Parent/Relative of child with developmental disabilities  
 Parent/Relative of Adult with developmental disabilities

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF THE ARC**

**The Arc of Denton County**  
**P.O. Box 1279**  
**Denton, Texas 76202**  
Phone: 800-375-4520  
972-436-8471  
Fax: 972-436-8471  
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*If you have an address change, or prefer an e-newsletter, or want you name removed from our mail list, please notify us at [info@arcofdentoncounty.org](mailto:info@arcofdentoncounty.org) or contact us at 972-436-8471 or 800-375-4520.  
The editor of the ArcLetter writes as a non-professional. We attempt to report items of interest to our members. These items are not necessarily endorsed by The Arc of Denton County or reflect the opinion of The United Way. The Arc of Denton County does not promote any therapy, institution or professional system. Our desire to bring information to families in an attempt to create an informative dialogue.*

**A United Way Agency**

