The year 2012 is coming to a close for all of us. It has been another year of continued change and growth for eitas and for the people with developmental disabilities we support. It has been a year of challenges and opportunities. I would like to highlight a few of the areas that have been important to us this past year and will continue to be pertinent in the New Year:

- With a lackluster economy our tax base continues to be stagnant. We have had another year of losses, so more belt-tightening is in order for 2013, but none that should seriously affect the various services we fund.

- The Partnership for Hope Medicaid waiver continues to grow and expand. With solid support from the Governor, 1100 new slots were added this year and over 220 people have been moved from the wait-list in Jackson County alone.

- On a national level, sheltered workshops and the sub-minimum wages that are paid to workshop employees are being challenged. There is a call for abolishment of the law that allows sub-minimum wages. This could be devastating to many workshops and the people they employ as neither state nor local resources could fill the funding gap.

- At the same time there is a strong movement to support persons with developmental disabilities to have jobs in the community making real wages. The DMH DD Division has a state-wide employment first initiative and several employment services have been added to Medicaid waivers to allow more people to explore having a typical job in their community.

- The Affordable Care Act will continue to be enacted with changes to Medicaid that may impact those we serve; much depends on how the state and federal government work together to initiate this healthcare program.

- Another election cycle has concluded (thank goodness) and though there were not significant power shifts, there appears to be a realization that voters expect a bipartisan effort to move forward and address economic, tax, and healthcare issues that have languished too long.

As we move into 2013, we plan to continue to monitor and deflect negative changes, as well as advocate for and support positive initiatives that may affect services to our Jackson County citizens with developmental disabilities. Please have a safe and happy holiday season!
Words cannot express the sadness felt by so many of us at the unexpected passing of Dr. McGee on November 12th. It was May of 2008 when Jake Jacobs, eitas Executive Director, asked Dr. McGee for a proposal to work with eitas to create a culture of gentleness within our organization and with the providers who work so closely with those we support. Since that time hundreds of people have worked and interacted with Dr. McGee and embraced the tenets of gentle teaching within Jackson County and across our region. Because of John we have learned the true meanings of feeling safe, loved, loving and engaged.

Despite the loss of Dr. McGee, eitas remains committed to continuing our journey of gentleness both within and outside our organization. Through the ongoing efforts of Nancy Nicolaus and Tracy Mauk and the countless others who heard and accepted John’s message, we will continue to strive to be gentle and respectful of all. Look for announcements regarding our Gentle Teaching schedule for 2013.

Go for the Center—Mend the Heart—All else will Follow

2013 Camp Scholarships

Developmental Disability Services of Jackson County ~ eitas is offering camp scholarships for 2013. Funds are limited and scholarships will be granted on a first come, first serve basis. Scholarships are limited to $100.00 per person.

To be considered for a camp scholarship:

> You must be at least 16 years of age, a person with a developmental disability, a resident of Jackson County and registered at a camp.

For more information and/or to get an application contact Kathleen at kganaden@eitas.org or call (816) 363-2000. Scholarship applications will be available in January and will be sent to all eitas providers.

The deadline for 2013 Camp Scholarship applications is May 31, 2013 or earlier if all funding for scholarships has been exhausted before that date.
During the holiday season more than ever, our thoughts turn Lovingly to those individuals we support and Gratefully to those who assist in making our mission possible. And in this spirit we say, simply but sincerely Thank You and Best Wishes for the Holiday Season and a Happy New Year

Jake Jacobs & the Staff at eitas

DOT Holiday and Unscheduled Closings

During the year there will be days that the eitas Department of Transportation (DOT) will be closed. DOT will close on certain holidays so our drivers and staff can be with their families. DOT may also close on days of inclement weather—those days when it is not safe to be driving on the roads.

DOT Observes the following holidays:

- New Year’s Day
- Memorial Day
- Independence Day
- Labor Day
- Thanksgiving Day & the day after Thanksgiving
- Christmas Eve Day & Christmas Day

Weather Closings

When the weather makes it unsafe to take the buses out on the road, DOT will close. You and/or your family will not be called in case of weather closings. DOT closings will be announced on:

Radio:
- KUDL 98.1 FM
- KORC 98.1 FM
- KYYS 99.7 FM

Television:
- WDAF 106.5 FM
- WDAF 610 AM
- KMBZ 980 AM

Internet:
- www.eitas.org
- www.nbcactionnews.com
- www.myfoxkc.com
- www.kmbc.com
Join Us on Saturday, March 30, 2013
for the Second Annual

The second annual Ability 5K Run, Walk & Roll event will be held on Saturday, March 30th at Swope Park in Kansas City, Missouri at the Bandstand off Starlight Drive. Entrances to the event are available at 63rd Street (KC Zoo Entrance) or at Swope Parkway and Meyer Boulevard. Please note that the Swope Parkway and Meyer Boulevard entrance will close at 7:30am in order to make preparations for the start of the race.

Race Day Timeline:

6:30am  Race Day Registration
8:00am  5K Run/1 Mile Walk
8:15am  1 Mile Roll Begins
8:50am  Tot Trot*
9:15am  Awards Ceremony

*The Tot Trot is free to youngsters 10 years old and under

Bring your family and friends to enjoy a morning filled with lots of activities and fun.

This event is dedicated to the loving memory of Michael Haseltine, former Deputy Director for Developmental Disability Services of Jackson County—eitas and his dedication and support for the people we serve. In memory of Michael eitas created a scholarship fund. Proceeds from this event will go to the Michael Haseltine Scholarship Fund and be used to assist college students whose major study focuses on working in the developmental disability field and to the individuals supported by eitas pursuing a higher education.

If you have questions about the second annual Ability 5K Run, Walk & Roll event please email 5krunwalkroll@eitas.org

Sponsorship Information:
Contact Amanda Hirschmann at (816) 595-8255 or Sarah West at (816) 595-8264

Vendor Information:  Contact Sarah West at (816) 595-8264

Volunteer Information:  Contact Amy Allen at (816) 595-6424.
Meet our 2012 Board of Directors

Anita K. Parran
2012 Board President

Tammy Kemp
Board Vice-President

Mark McCaskill
Board Treasurer

Paula Smith
Board Secretary

Members of the eitas Board of Directors are volunteers appointed by the Jackson County Executive. The Board, as the governing body, is entrusted with the authority to establish policy for the governance of Developmental Disability Services of Jackson County –eitas.

Mission Statement

Developmental Disability Services of Jackson County-eitas' mission is to support individuals with developmental disabilities and their families with services that respect their choices, increase their opportunities, encourage their independence, and assist their inclusion in all aspects of the community.

John Humphrey
Board Member

Barbara Winkler
Board Member

Melissa Robinson
Board Member

Betty Sharp
Board Member

Candace Cunningham
Board Member
Partnership for Hope Waiver Update

The Partnership for Hope Waiver was created under the leadership of Governor Jay Nixon, the creative efforts of local county developmental disability boards, and in collaboration with the Missouri Department of Mental Health (DMH) and the federal Medicaid program.

The Partnership for Hope makes a shift away from high cost, crisis oriented services with developmental disabilities. Previously, Missourians needing developmental disability community-based supports and services had to wait far too long, often for years, until they or their families were in crisis. Each waiting year represented lost opportunities in productive community involvement and/or added greater health risks.

Now, those people who had to wait, and people seeking services in the future, will receive the supports they need sooner and at dramatically lower cost. Through this unique partnership, funds from local county developmental disability boards, also known as SB 40 Boards, are matched with state funds to draw down federal funds that go back to the county for services to county residents. The county boards select the recipients of the funds, which are capped at $12,000 per year per individual. The services include in-home personal assistance, employment and career preparation, transportation, behavioral therapy, speech therapy, physical therapy, dental care and other in-home services.

About 78 of the 114 Missouri counties are participating in the Hope Waiver program. The participating counties are divided into regions. Jackson County is one of six counties in the Kansas City Region. Eitas is proud to acknowledge that as of October 2012 Jackson County has more active slots (persons supported) in the Hope Waiver program than any other county statewide. Jake Jacobs, Executive Director says the program has allowed eitas to make inroads in meeting the needs of families it serves. For more information regarding this unique program contact your Support Coordinator. As of November of 2012 this waiver has already changed the lives of over 1600 individuals and families in Missouri.

Support Coordinator (aka Service Coordinator) (aka Case Manager)

Eitas and other Missouri SB40’s have been directed by the Department of Mental Health to change the job title of “Service Coordinator” and/or “Case Manager” to “Support Coordinator”. This is just a job title change...nothing more.

Every individual who is determined eligible for services through the Division of Developmental Disabilities is entitled to receive support coordination. Support Coordinators (formerly known as Service Coordinator or Case Manager) help people with disabilities and their families identify and obtain needed services and supports. They also advocate for, monitor, and evaluate services along with the individuals, their families or guardians. Support Coordinators provide a “single point of entry” into services.

If you are a person with developmental disabilities and do not have a Support Coordinator, but think you would like to have one, and are eligible, please contact Malinda Barnett, Intake & Information Specialist at (816) 363-2000 or mbarnett@eitas.org. Or if you have a Support Coordinator at the Kansas City Regional Office and would like to switch to a eitas Support Coordinator please contact Malinda for this also.