March is Developmental Disability Awareness Month

Eitas has two special events scheduled in March to bring awareness to developmental disabilities.

The month starts with the March Movie Series:

- March 1 feature: The Key of G
- March 8 feature: Body & Soul: Diana & Kathy
- March 15 feature: The Collector of Bedford Street

Each movie’s theme involves a person with a developmental disability and the special situation they deal with. A brief discussion will follow each movie.

Reservations are required as seating is limited. Call (816) 363-2000 to make a reservation. Movies will be shown at the eitas training center, 8508 Hillcrest, K.C. MO from 6:30—8:00 PM. Light refreshments served.

At the end of the month is the 1st Ability 5K Run, Walk & Roll Event on March 31 at Swope Park on Starlight Drive. This event is dedicated to the loving memory of Michael Haseltine and to bring awareness to all disabilities in the Greater Kansas City community. All proceeds will go the Michael Haseltine Scholarship Fund, which awards people with developmental disabilities who want to pursue a higher education or those with a disability to obtain a degree in the disability field.

Registration & Fees

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<th>Date</th>
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<td>Up to March 27th</td>
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<td>March 28-30</td>
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Each person who registers for the race will get a t-shirt and a medal.

Individuals supported by eitas only have to pay $5.00 to participate in this race!

This event is family friendly. There will be a kids run as well as face painters, friendly clowns, local professional team mascots and much more!

For more information or to request a registration form: (816) 595-8250
5krunwalkroll@eitas.org

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Executive Director Honored by Governor - Outstanding Missouri Citizen

Jake Jacobs, Executive Director for Developmental Disability Services of Jackson County—eitas, was honored by Governor Jay Nixon during a dinner at the Governor’s mansion last December. The Governor personally selected 25 honorees from across the state of Missouri to be named “Outstanding Missouri Citizen”. Jacobs was cited for his involvement in developing the Partnership for Hope Waiver that has allowed over 200 people with developmental disabilities in Jackson County to be taken off the wait list for services, and almost 2,000 across the state as a whole. Jacobs was also thanked for his leadership in Jackson County and his services in 2011 as President of Missouri Association of County Developmental Disability Services (MACDDS).
Eitas Service Coordinators are now supporting over 1150 individuals with a developmental disability in Jackson County. There are now four teams of Service Coordinators. Each of our dedicated teams has 11 members led by a supervisor. Once the fourth team is complete eitas has plans to begin a fifth team.

Each Service Coordinator is assigned no more than 36 individuals so they can provide the level of personal service needed. After joining the eitas team and going through orientation the training continues so they can provide the high level of service prescribed by DMH and eitas.

**Team I—Erin Epperson, Supervisor**
- SC Frank Bowerman
- SC Michelle Bolten
- SC Michal Crouse
- SC Kate Ferris
- SC Andrea Gillette
- SC Amanda Hirschmann
- SC Tad Marquez
- SC Sheryl Monteil
- SC Sarah Scharinger
- SC Margie Waterman
- SC Kristen Yates

**Team II—Kathy Sterrett, Supervisor**
- SC Reba Curie
- SC Lindsey Hankins
- SC Micaela Hill
- SC Jessica Huinder
- SC Brandi Ly
- SC Shannon Maloney
- SC Danielle Michael
- SC Lynn Rooney
- SC Chrysta Sevic

**Team III—Quinn McCue, Supervisor**
- SC Steve Brown
- SC Angela Carey
- SC Jennifer Fry
- SC Cougar Gray
- SC Helen Faubion
- SC Debi Gregor
- SC Jennifer Shaver
- SC Anne Sikorski
- SC Cheryl Strickland

**Team IV—Amanda Stasi, Supervisor**
- SC Amy Allen
- SC Beth Bloom
- SC Amber Burden
- SC Cheryl Carlin
- SC Don Carrick
- SC Stephanie Hudson
- SC Erin Kleyh
- SC AJ Mason

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**White House Plans Nine-City Disability Tour**

As reported from an article by Michelle Diament on www.disabilityscoop.com: Obama administration officials are planning to fan out across the country starting this spring for a series of regional White House conferences to address disability issues. Kansas City was listed as one of nine cities to partake in the regional conferences. Who from the administration will host the conferences and what will be on the agenda were not revealed to advocates. The tour is scheduled to be in Kansas City on July 10th and eitas certainly hopes to be invited to participate so we can advocate for individuals with developmental disabilities.
A Letter from Our Executive Director

New opportunities for employment for persons with developmental disabilities are rapidly becoming an important focus for the Department of Mental Health Developmental Disabilities Division. In the past couple of years a State Employment Work Plan has been developed by DMH. The long range goal is to increase the number of individuals successfully employed in integrated community employment leading them to become more self-sufficient. According to national data, Missouri ranks 49th among the 50 states in the number of people with disabilities employed in community employment. I am proud to serve on the Advisory Committee to the State Employment Leadership Network (SELN) along with representatives from DMH, workshops, day services, vocational rehabilitation, and individual advocates as we address this issue in meaningful ways.

The focus on community employment does not mean that sheltered workshops or sheltered employment are not needed. This is about choices and helping people meet the personal needs and wants that they have. The demand from persons with developmental disabilities to have other work opportunities increases yearly as capable people graduate from school and desire to work in their community. In many cases sheltered employment is their first stop. Some participate in work/study programs while in school, with many workshops providing valuable training and skill development. They then want to look at what opportunities are available beyond the workshop environment. I am happy to say that some of the workshops in Jackson County understand this shift in demand and are willing to look at what alternatives they can help provide for individuals. Who better to develop new vocational opportunities than the organizations that have been providing work for people for over 35 years?

Just as treatment and services have evolved over the years, employment opportunities need to grow and expand so that every individual has as fulfilling a life as possible. We at eitas are here to support, serve, and assist with meeting people’s needs in the best way we can. A meaningful life is different for everyone, so opportunities need to be different as well. Respecting people’s choices in employment and creating ways to explore them is important to all of us.

Sibling Support Conference—A joint collaboration between the Down Syndrome Guild and Autism Alliance of Kansas City

As reported in a Down Syndrome Guild of Greater Kansas City newsletter most of the over four million United States citizens with developmental disabilities or chronic health issues have brothers and sisters. Through out their lives, these siblings will share many—if not most of the concerns experienced by their parents. They will also experience concerns unique to siblings.

Despite a clear need for services and considerations many siblings grow up without important resources-such as access to support programs and sources of information-that would help them in their roles. A two day workshop will provide you the tools to meet the needs of siblings.

Who Should Attend? Parents, family members, and service providers from educational, mental health, social services, and public health field should attend these workshops at the Overland Park Convention Center on:

Saturday, July 9th from 9:00AM-3:30PM: Sibling Support Strategies for Parents and Professionals
Sunday, July 10th from 9:00AM-3:30 PM: Sibshop Facilitator Training

Register online: www.kcdsg.org or contact the Down Syndrome Guild (DSG) at info@kcdsg.org or call (913) 384-4848 for more information.

How do you treat a person with a disability?

Like everybody else.

March is Developmental Disability Month
DOT—Eitas’ Transportation Center

We at eitas are very proud of our Transportation Center or DOT as many know it. Our transportation team is headed by Bob Rice, Transportation Manager. Bob has been with eitas for many years and leads a team of about 35 dedicated individuals whose job it is to provide the safest transportation possible to the individuals they serve.

DOT provides curbside-to-curbside transportation services so an individual can get to work or to a day program.

Assisting Bob with the logistics of providing transportation to about 500 individuals in Jackson County is Roger Montero, Bus Manager, Donna Lemmons-Lewis and Antionette Turner, Dispatch.

Eitas hires only the most qualified and experienced drivers. All drivers are required to have an appropriate license and undergo extensive background checks. Drivers are trained on road safety, lifting techniques, first aid, CPR and Gentle Teaching.

Keeping our fleet of 38 buses and vans running is our certified mechanical team led by Leon Schneider, Fleet Manager, William Costello, Mechanic, and John Norberto, Mechanic.

Eitas also offers discounted mechanical service to our providers who also provide transportation services.

Keeping all of the vehicles clean inside and out is the responsibility of Leland Walker.

Bob Rice and his team have been working on plans for a new service that eitas hopes to be able to provide sometime this year. It will be an on-call transportation service that individuals funded by eitas can call and make arrangements for transportation to medical appointments, shopping excursions or whatever the need.

The Lens

Gentle Teaching

Introduction to Gentleness with Nancy Nicolaus and Tracy Mauk

Gentle Teaching (GT) does not focus on changing the people we support, co-workers or family members. It does not seek compliance or obedience. It focuses on teaching individuals to feel safe with others. Feeling safe is a basic need of all human beings. In order for this to happen, we must look at ourselves as caregivers with our families and in our jobs. This course is an introduction to gentleness.

The course is intended for individuals and agencies new to the concepts of Gentle Teaching and is a prerequisite to Creating Gentle Cultures training. There is a $10 non-refundable registration fee for residents or providers in Jackson County and a $35 non-refundable registration fee for non-Jackson County residents or providers. Attendance at both days of training is required for certificate of attendance.

Creating Gentle Cultures with John McGee, PhD.

This is an advanced course to facilitate cultures of gentleness for people with developmental disabilities. It focuses on teaching individuals and agency personnel how to develop environments where everyone feels safe with others. This course is designed for individuals who have participated in the introductory course “Introduction to Gentleness” or have participated in previous GT 4-day training. Dr. McGee will address the mentoring process, organizational change process in developing gentle cultures and clinical aspects of disabilities.

There is a $10 non-refundable registration fee for residents or providers in Jackson County and a $50 non-refundable registration fee for non-Jackson County residents or providers. Attendance at both days of training is required for certificate of attendance.

To register go to www.eitas.org or call Rita Trotter, Training Coordinator at (816) 822-8900
Eitas welcomes a new provider to its list of funded agencies in Jackson County. Last Fall, Noal Presley, Resources for Human Development (RHD) Director for the state of Missouri came before the eitas Board of Director’s to share information about RHD. Mr. Presley opened his presentation by sharing that RHD is a large, diversified nonprofit social service organization. Formed in 1970, and headquartered in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania RHD currently sponsors human service programs in ten states. RHD has more than forty years of experience in providing and coordinating services through a variety of programs, with particular emphasis on serving populations with intellectual and development disabilities, drug and alcohol addiction, and homelessness. RHD has focused its organizational energies toward developing innovative and effective systems and services that enable individuals with disabilities to participate in life to the fullest extent.

Specifically, in Missouri, RHD provides supported living services to people with developmental disabilities. The programs specialize in a shared home/shared life live-in companion approach, where each individual’s home is a direct reflection of his/her needs and desired lifestyle. RHD, also provides art-based day program services at two studios in the St. Louis area. The goal of the studios is to provide adults with disabilities an outlet for unbridled creativity and self-expression through visual arts, music, photography, and community involvement.

RHD proposes to create a unique supported living service for adults with developmental disabilities in Jackson County. RHD-Missouri has demonstrated the effectiveness of the companion approach by successfully creating 21 companion homes in St. Louis and Bridgeton, Missouri. RHD would utilize eitas funding to cover initial start-up cost for the companion approach program.

RHD also proposes to create an art-based day program for adults with developmental disabilities in Jackson County. The goal of the proposed studio is to provide individuals with the tools and materials to create art and the supports to define themselves as an artist in the community. Individuals who participate in the art studio are considered professional artists. The studio is a bridge between traditional day programming and supported employment. While artists do not earn a wage while attending the studio they do have opportunities to present and sell their art.

Studio staff are selected for their artist talents and then trained to work with individuals with developmental disabilities. The studio would operate Monday-Friday from 9:00am-3:00pm. Individuals can attend on a full-time or part-time schedule. Staff to artist ratios are determined by the amount of support required by an individual. Eitas funding would be utilized for start-up funds to create a Jackson County art-based day program for individuals with developmental disabilities. Mr. Presley stated that RHD strives to be financially self-sufficient and that this would probably be the only time that funding requests to eitas would be made.

RHD-Kansas City is located in the Crossroads Art District at 400 West 11th Street, Apt. 401, Kansas City, MO. 64106. For further information about this new provider call (816) 255-9495 or www.rhd-mo.org.

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**LifeBook Workshop**

*with Kyla Eversman, DMH*

Friday, March 30th from 10:00am—2:15pm
Eitas Training Center - Lunch on Your Own

Presented by: Kyla Eversman, Director of Special Community Services for the Division of Developmental Disabilities, DMH

**What is a LifeBook?**
A LifeBook Creates a picture of you; helps plan for your future; helps people get to know you better and records important events, organizes emergency and medical information.

Contact Amanda George for more information and to register: a.george@eitas.org or (816) 595-6313

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**Individual Rights and Decision Making**

Wednesday, April 25th from 9:00am-4:00 pm
at Eitas Training Center

The purpose of this training is to provide basic understanding of rights as assured by law, policy and regulation; to promote respecting and protecting rights of individuals; to provide staff with tools to use to respect, promote and empower individuals and with every right, there are corresponding responsibilities for individuals we support and responsibilities of staff. Great class for managers, direct support professionals and Service Coordinators. Contact Rita Trotter for more information and to register at rtrotter@eitas.org or (816) 822-8900.
March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

Each of us has gifts to give. See the best in us.

2012 Camp Scholarships

Developmental Disability Services of Jackson County – eitas is offering camp scholarships for 2012. 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.

The deadline for 2012 Camp Scholarship applications is May 31, 2012 or earlier if all funding for scholarships has been exhausted before that date. No applications will be considered after May 31, 2011.

Developmental Disability Services of Jackson County—eitas
8511 Hillcrest, Suite 300, Kansas City, MO 64138  Office (816) 363-2000  Fax (816) 363-1755