

# Come! Join Us!

**Celebrate another year of The Arc's work – catch up on what we've been doing!**

**Meet your fellow members and enjoy the friendship (and a delicious dinner)!**

**Hear about the exciting things going on at "Visionaries and Voices" – a community art studio for artists with disabilities!**

## The Arc of Butler County Annual Meeting and Dinner

**When? Thursday, May 15, 2008  
6:30 p.m.**

**Where? Redeemer Church  
3431 Hamilton-Middletown Rd.  
(Rt. 4)  
Hamilton, OH**

**Cost? Dinner is \$11.00 for adults  
(\$7.00 for children below age 12)  
(\$7.00 for people who use MRDD services or supports)**

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(Use this form to make your reservations)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone #

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_ number of adult dinner reservations @ \$11.00

\_\_\_\_\_ number of dinner reservations for people using MRDD services, @\$7.00

\_\_\_\_\_ number of dinner reservations for children below age 12, @ \$7.00

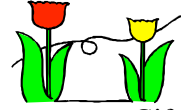
Send this form, with a check to pay for your reservations, to: The Arc of Butler County  
282 N. Fair Avenue  
Hamilton, OH 45011



## Butler County ARC News May 2008

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Now that the weather is warm and the sun is shining it is time to plant some flowers! It is not too late to be a part of the Butler County Arc Flower Sale. Gift cards for \$20 redeemable at Bern's will be available through May. To order your gift cards call Kathy Overbeck at 737-9369. However, if you placed an order for flowers through ARC don't forget that pickup is Friday, May 9<sup>th</sup> at Redeemer Church on Rt. 4 anytime between 11-6. Gift cards will also be available to purchase at the ARC dinner on May 15.



The memorial service to remember our friends and loved ones who have passed away in the past year will be held at the Liberty Center at 1 p.m. on Friday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>. Loved ones are remembered in prayers, pictures are displayed and flowers are distributed. For more information call Margie at 513-867-5922.

The next meeting for the Bereavement committee will be May 20<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. at Liberty Center. New members are always welcome.

The next ARC board meeting will be held on Thursday, May 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30. This will be the annual meeting and dinner. Please plan to join us!

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### **Local Support Groups For Families**



A **Peer Support Group** sponsored by the Butler County National Alliance on Mental Illness and the Butler County Family and Children First Council has been formed. They meet the second Tuesday of every month from 7 - 9 p.m. at St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 4601 Fairfield Ave. in Fairfield. Questions call Lynda at 513-887-5519.

**Epilepsy Support Group** of Butler County meets the 4th Thursday of the month at Janet Clemmons Center, 282 Fair Ave. in Hamilton from 6:00 -7:30. Call 1-877-804-2241 for more information.

**Parents Anonymous** helps parents or caregivers deal with the stress of raising children. The meetings are co-led by parents and a professionally trained facilitator and welcome anyone involved in parenting a child. The group meets every Tuesday from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. at the YMCA, 244 Dayton St., Hamilton. For more information call 863-6129

Be sure and call ahead as times may change during summer.

## **Additional Area Events**

**Life Planning Seminars for Families** will be offered on May 6 & 7. A consortium of service providers, governmental agencies, and advocacy groups has collaborated to help families understand more about the benefits available to them. Amy Tuell, Benefits Specialist with the Hamilton County Board of MRDD, will offer a total of four seminars titled, "Benefits for Individuals who have Disabilities," May 6 and 7 (see below). Tuell is knowledgeable in the area of government benefits including Social Security Insurance (SSI), Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), Medicaid and Medicare. The presentations are designed to be easily understood by families and staff, and the same information will be given at each session. CEU's are pending, and the program is funded in part by the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council.

The planning group includes the Hamilton County Board of MRDD; Butler County Board of MRDD; Clermont County Board of MRDD; Warren County Board of MRDD; National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Hamilton County; NAMI Warren County; NAMI Butler County; NAMI Clermont County; PLAN of Southwest Ohio; ARC of Southwest Ohio; Community Fund Management Foundation; and, the Brain Injury Support Association of Ohio. The presentations will be:

- May 6, 1-3 PM, Nathaniel Green Lodge, 6394 Wessleman Rd., Cincinnati
- May 6, 6:30-8:30 PM, Butler County Mental Health Board, 5963 Boymel Dr., Fairfield
- May 7, 1-3 PM, Union Township Civic Center, 4350 Aicholtz Rd., Clermont County
- May 7, 6:30-8:30 PM, Workforce One, Young Conference Room (2nd floor), 300 E. Silver St., Lebanon

All information sessions are free. A donation is encouraged so that more presentations can be offered. *Registration deadline is May 2.*

Call Kathy Morris at (513) 559-6701 for a registration form. For more information call Rosalyn Dadas at (513) 697-1857 or (513) 695-3650.

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## **Information and Resources**

The Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council has a great website to learn about the latest legislative information that effects people with disabilities and their families. Go to [www.ddc.ohio.gov](http://www.ddc.ohio.gov) and click on Ohio Legislative Action Corner. Alerts that people may want to respond to are listed and it is as simple as clicking a button to contact your legislator. While you are on their web site you may want to check out some of their free publications. Hot off the press is the 24 page Recordkeeping and Personal Care Guide that is excellent. Other publications include: Guardianship in Ohio, Estate and Future Planning and The Autism Spectrum Disorder/Pervasive Developmental Disorder Guidelines.

To find out the latest information from Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (ODMRDD) you can subscribe to their weekly newsletter The Pipeline. It is sent out via email. Go to [www.odmrdd.state.oh.us](http://www.odmrdd.state.oh.us) and click on the pipeline link to sign up.

## *New Medical Insurance Program Information*

### **Apply now for Medicaid Buy-In program**

Are you afraid to work because you will lose your Medicaid benefits? Not any more! Individuals with disabilities can apply for the Medicaid Buy-In for Workers with Disabilities (MBI-WD) program beginning April 1, 2008. The MBI-WD program allows individuals to work and continue to receive Medicaid benefits.

Ohioans between the ages of 16 and 64 with a disability (as defined by the Social Security Administration) who are earning up to 250 percent (\$26,000 in 2008) of the Federal Poverty Level are eligible. Individuals with higher incomes should still apply because income disregards, deductions, credits, and work expenses are considered in determining financial eligibility.

Application forms are available on the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) Web site (see [Medicaid Buy-In for Workers with Disabilities \(MBIWD\) Application](#)) at [www.jfs.ohio.gov](http://www.jfs.ohio.gov) or at your county department of Job and Family Services office. Butler County Job and Family Services can be reached at 887-4000 or 1-800-542-0806. More information is also available from Ohio Legal Rights at [www.olrs.ohio.gov](http://www.olrs.ohio.gov) or 1-800-282-9181.

### **New Health Insurance Program for Children**

**What is the Children's Buy-In Program?** CBI is a public health insurance program available to certain children in Ohio. The program was created as part of Governor Ted Strickland's TurnAround Ohio Initiative. It provides insurance to certain children of working families whose income is 300% or above of the poverty level. Monthly premium are based on family income. More information is available online at [www.jfs.ohio.gov/OHP/cbi/index.stm](http://www.jfs.ohio.gov/OHP/cbi/index.stm) or by calling 1-800-542-0806.

#### **Your child might be eligible for CBI if he/she is:**

- younger than age 19
- a United States citizen and a resident of Ohio
- in a family who's gross income is more than 300% of the [Federal Poverty Level \(FPL\)](#).
- has not had any insurance for at least 6 months before enrolling
- is not eligible for Medicaid

#### **Your child must also meet one of the following to qualify:**

- unable to obtain creditable coverage due to a pre-existing condition
- lost only available creditable coverage due to exhausting a lifetime benefit
- only available coverage is more than twice the state premium for CBI
- participates in the program for medically handicapped children (ODH/BCMHH)
- Enrollment in CBI can be closed at any time. The program is state-funded and is administered by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS).

If your child does not qualify for CBI, we encourage you to apply for Ohio Medicaid's [Healthy Start / Healthy Families](#) programs.