



# Arc of Vigo County Newsletter

APRIL 1, 2010

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 2

## ***Our Mission***

*Arc of Vigo County is a non-facility, family centered organization providing individualized community services to assist persons with disabilities in choosing where they live, work, and play. People know that we are in existence for our consumers and that we are willing to work with families, other agencies and the community at large to complete our mission.*

## **Welcome to the Arc of Vigo County Newsletter**

Welcome, our newsletter will be offering information such as but not limited to upcoming Community events, employee recognition and helpful hints. If anyone has an article or information to share please contact us at 812-232-4112.

## **What's happening?**

### **National Autism Awareness Month**

In order to highlight the growing need for concern and awareness about autism, the Autism Society has been celebrating National Autism Awareness Month since the 1970s. The United States recognizes April as a special opportunity for everyone to educate the public about autism and issues within the autism community.

### **What is autism?**

Autism is a complex developmental disability that typically appears during the first three years of life and is the result of a neurological disorder that affects the normal functioning of the brain, impacting development in the areas of social interaction and communication skills. Both children and adults with autism typically show difficulties in verbal and non-verbal communication, social interactions, and leisure or play activities. Autism is a spectrum disorder and it affects each individual differently and at varying degrees.

### **What are the most common characteristics of autism?**

Every person with autism is an individual, and like all individuals, has a unique personality and combination of characteristics. Some individuals mildly affected may exhibit only slight delays in language and greater challenges with social interactions. They may have difficulty initiating and/or maintaining a conversation. Their communication is often described as talking at others instead of to them. (For example, a monologue on a favorite subject that continues despite attempts by others to interject comments).

People with autism also process and respond to information in unique ways. In some cases, aggressive and/or self-injurious behavior may be present. Persons with autism may also exhibit some of the following traits:

- Insistence on sameness; resistance to change
- Difficulty in expressing needs, using gestures or pointing instead of words
- Repeating words or phrases in place of normal, responsive language
- Laughing (and/or crying) for no apparent reason; showing distress for reasons not apparent to others
- Preference to being alone; aloof manner
- Tantrums
- Difficulty in mixing with others
- Not wanting to cuddle or be cuddled
- Little or no eye contact
- Unresponsive to normal teaching methods
- Sustained odd play
- Spinning objects
- Obsessive attachment to objects
- Apparent over-sensitivity or under-sensitivity to pain
- No real fears of danger
- Noticeable physical over-activity or extreme under-activity
- Uneven gross/fine motor skills
- Non-responsive to verbal cues; acts as if deaf, although hearing tests in normal range

**The Arc of Vigo County** office was lit up in Blue Thursday night April 1, 2010 to raise awareness for Autism. Several of the office personnel also wore blue on Friday April 2, 2010 to commemorate World Autism Awareness Day.

### **WALK NOW FOR AUTISM**

The 2010 Walk now for Autism will be September 25, 2010 at 10:00am. The walk will be at the Vigo County Fair Grounds. The Arc of Vigo County is looking for team members to join us on the walk. Anyone interested in joining our team, please contact Stephanie Rightsell at 812-232-4112 for more information.

### **Arc of Vigo County contact Information**



89 Cherry Street

Terre Haute, IN 47807

812-232-4112

Fax 812-232-3052

Website: [www.arcvigo.org](http://www.arcvigo.org)

**Arc of Vigo County**

**89 Cherry Street**

**Terre Haute, IN  
47807**

**Phone  
812-232-4112**

**Toll Free Number  
800-786-4112**

**Fax 812-232-4112**

**WWW.Arcvigo.org**

## **Service Recognition**

On behalf of the Arc of Vigo County we would like to recognize the following employees for their one or more years of dedicated service:

- \*Michelle Wagner for Ten years of service.
- \*Caren Elrod for Six years of service.
- \*Megan Miller for Five years of service.
- \*Carrie Kent for One year of service.
- \*Lance Griffith for One year of service.

Thank you for your care and dedication.

## **Helpful Hints**



Tornado season is upon us. Be prepared. Extras to have on hand in case of power outage and/or water contamination.

1. Bottled water.
2. Flashlight.
3. Extra Batteries
4. First aid kit
5. Medicines
6. Full Tank of gas.
7. Non perishable foods.
8. Battery powered radio

## **Contact information**

The office staff is always here to answer any of your questions.  
Office: 812-232-4112

Our Staff:

Darin Propst- Executive Director- [dpropst@arcvigo.org](mailto:dpropst@arcvigo.org)

Bekki Garthwaite-Office Manager- [bgarthwaite@arcvigo.org](mailto:bgarthwaite@arcvigo.org)

Stephanie Rightsell- Secretary/ Billing Clerk- [sightsell@arcvigo.org](mailto:sightsell@arcvigo.org)

Georgia Study – Human Resources Coordinator – [gstudy@arcvigo.org](mailto:gstudy@arcvigo.org)

Joni Scioldo - Programs Coordinator – [jscioldo@arcvigo.org](mailto:jscioldo@arcvigo.org)

Angel Erst – Community Supports Coordinator – [aerst@arcvigo.org](mailto:aerst@arcvigo.org)

Stephanie Brenton – Employment Specialist - [sbrenton@arcvigo.org](mailto:sbrenton@arcvigo.org)

Mike Padgett – Employment Specialist – [mpadgett@arcvigo.org](mailto:mpadgett@arcvigo.org)