



March 2012

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH

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March 2012

10 Saturday, 1-3pm
DsO "Bring on Spring" Carnival
Bloedel Donovan Park
Contact Makenna: 715-0170 ext 205

12 Monday, 7-8:30pm
Parent to Parent Support Group
WCEL, 2001 H Street
Contact Christine: 255-2056 ext 1

15 Thursday, 7-8:30pm
Sensory Processing in Autism
WWU Communications Clinic
Contact Eva: eva.baharav@wwu.edu

17 Saturday, 7-8pm
People First of Whatcom County
Max Higbee Center, 1210 Bay Street
Contact Ken: 441-0104

19 Monday, 6-8pm
Spin Dance *NEW LOCATION*
Max Higbee Center, 1210 Bay Street
Contact Amanda: 778-7000

26 Monday, 4:30-6pm
DD Advisory Board Meeting
St. Lukes Health Education Center
3333 Squalicum Parkway
Contact Jessica: 676-6724 ext 32014

27 Tuesday, 6:30-8:30pm
Positive Behavior Supports Workshop
The Arc's Dan Godwin Community Center
2602 McLeod Road
Contact Monica: 715-0170 ext 303

29 Thursday, 9am-3:30pm
Medicaid Personal Care Training
The Arc's Dan Godwin Community Center
2602 McLeod Road
Contact Beverly: 715-0170 ext 306

30 Friday, 10am-1pm
Coffee & Connections
The Arc's Dan Godwin Community Center
2602 McLeod Road
Contact Monica: 715-0170 ext 303

31 Saturday, 10am-12pm
The Arc's Board of Directors Meeting
The Arc's Dan Godwin Community Center
2602 McLeod Road
Contact Dana: 715-0170 ext 305

April 2012

7 Saturday, 10am-12pm
Youth Self Advocacy
The Arc's Dan Godwin Community Center
2602 McLeod Road
Contact Beverly: 715-0170 ext 306

All are in Bellingham unless otherwise noted.

SPREAD THE WORD TO END THE WORD

Spread the Word to End the Word™ is an ongoing effort by Special Olympics, Best Buddies International and supporters to raise the consciousness of society about the dehumanizing and hurtful effects of the word "retard" and encourage people to pledge to stop using it.

The campaign, created by youth, is intended to engage schools, organizations and communities to rally and pledge their support at www.r-word.org and to promote the inclusion and acceptance of people with intellectual disabilities.

Most people don't think of the R-word as hate speech, but that's exactly what it feels like to millions of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, their families and friends. The R-word is just as cruel and offensive as any other slur.

Most activities are centered annually in March, but people everywhere can help spread the word throughout their communities and schools year-round through pledge drives, youth rallies and online activation.



To promote inclusion and respect, students across the nation are hosting "End the R-word" pledge drives in their schools.

ACCEPTANCE
INCLUSION
Be a fan of
RESPECT
FRIENDSHIP
UNITY

www.r-word.org



Ready to End the Word?

Visit www.r-word.org to make your pledge today and ask family and friends to join you.

When you hear the R-word, share that it is hurtful and ask the user to use more respectful language. If you don't know what to say, visit www.r-word.org for helpful sample dialogues or for cards to print and distribute. The website also has helpful information for events, such as pledge drives, to continue the movement.



Funding Priorities for Whatcom County Developmental Disabilities Program

The role of the Whatcom County Development Disabilities program is to:




- Coordinate and provide local services to people with developmental disabilities and their families in collaboration with community partners
- Serve as an informational and referral agency within the community
- Prepare comprehensive plans for present and future development of services

The DD program is funded by millage (see box) and directed by the Whatcom County Developmental Disabilities Advisory Board (DDAB). The DDAB has the role of advising and making recommendations about community priorities. Over the last several meetings, the board has been discussing priorities, outcomes and strategies for local funds. *(Below is the most recent draft of the priorities for review, discussion and action.)*

Funding for Programs
 The Whatcom County DD program is funded by millage - another term for property tax. The property tax is the main tax supporting local schools, fire districts, government services and infrastructure.

Meetings are open to the public and provide an opportunity for community members to receive information and offer input on issues impacting individuals with developmental disabilities in Whatcom County. The Whatcom County DDAB meets the fourth Monday of alternating months from 4:30-6pm at St. Luke’s Health Education Center, 3333 Squalicum Parkway, Bellingham. The next meeting is Monday, March 26.

If you are interested in becoming a board member or learning more, contact Jessica Lee: 676-6724, ext 32014.

Whatcom Developmental Disabilities Advisory Board (DDAB) Draft Millage Priorities *		
Priority Area	Desired Outcomes	Strategies
Supporting Families 	Families have the information and support they need to meet the needs of their family member with a disability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide information, education and referral to parents and families (example: Parent Coalition newsletter and workshops) • Provide emotional, peer support to parents and families (example: Parent to Parent) • Build capacity of community providers to coordinate health and social services for individuals with complex needs • Promote individual and caregiver stability
Promoting Individual Independence, Status and Self-Determination 	Increase employment outcomes for individuals with developmental disabilities Increase individual and family capacity to build a meaningful life in the community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide training and consultation to those who support individuals with developmental disabilities (i.e. Parent Coalition Road Shows) • Build and maintain provider capacity to achieve individualized community based employment outcomes for individuals of all abilities • Promote effective school to work transition activities and partnerships (example: Transition Fair) • Promote leadership and self-advocacy of individuals with DD (example: The Arc’s Youth Self Advocacy group)
 Promoting Community Inclusion	Increase community capacity to welcome and include individuals with DD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote community awareness and education activities • Promote outreach to community businesses and organizations to include, welcome and serve individuals with developmental disabilities

**drafted priorities currently up for review, discussion and action*



“Bring on Spring” DsO Carnival



Sponsored by Down syndrome Outreach (DsO) - a program of The Arc, “Bring on Spring” is a carnival for individuals with Down syndrome and their families and caregivers.

1-3 pm, Saturday, March 10
Bloedel Donovan Park, Bellingham
Contact Makenna: 715-0170 ext 205,
makennap@arcwhatcom.org.



Max Higbee Center Announces New Leadership and Location

Hallie Hemmingsen and Jenny Martin, who have been deeply involved with The Max Higbee Center for a long time, are now serving as the new interim Co-Executive Directors. The community has been truly blessed with the wonderful leadership and dedication of April McMurray at the center. We wish her the very best as she moves on to her new job at WWU working with Service Learning students.

The Max Higbee Center also has a new location, 1210 Bay Street, and welcomes the community to come visit! Email maxhigbee@gmail.com or call Hallie: 733-1828 and Jenny: (541)350-7038.

6th Annual Whatcom County
Transition Fair
Preparing for Transition from School to Adult Services
9am-12:30pm, Wednesday, April 11
St. Luke’s Health Education Center
3333 Squalicum Parkway, Bellingham
Contact Jessica: 676-6724, ext 32014

*** Celebration of Life for Robin Childs ***

There will be a celebration of Robin’s life on Saturday, March 10th from 11am-12pm at The Arc’s Dan Godwin Community Center, 2602 McLeod Road. Everyone is welcome to come and remember Robin and her incredible spirit. Robin was a former receptionist at The Arc of Whatcom County.

Newsletter Database Cleanup

We are working to update our database, and we would appreciate your help. If you are receiving multiple copies of the newsletter or need to correct an address, please contact Dana: 715-0170 ext 305, admin@arcwhatcom.org.



ASK THE ADVOCATE WORKSHOP: Positive Behavior Supports

Learn positive behavior supports and techniques you can use to prevent and reduce challenging behaviors and promote positive skill development.



6:30 - 8:30pm, Tuesday, March 27

The Arc’s Dan Godwin Community Center
2602 McLeod Road, Bellingham

The Arc will also host a Coffee & Connections on Friday, March 30th from 10am-1pm. This is a “drop in” opportunity for you to stop by and receive additional support and information. All are welcome.

For more information, contact Monica:
715-0170, ext 303, monicab@arcwhatcom.org

The Parent Coalition of Whatcom County newsletter is published monthly by

The Arc of Whatcom County
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www.arcwhatcom.org
parentcoalition@arcwhatcom.org

OFFICE HOURS: 9am-12pm M-F



Newsletter Production Staff:

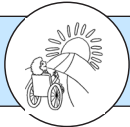
Amy McKinley, Monica Burke, Nancy Briegel, Dana Little, Sonja Hellinga, Olivia Murguia, Amanda Daviau, Mount Baker High School students and other volunteers.

Funded by grants from the Developmental Disabilities Program of Whatcom County, the United Way and your donations.

Board of Directors
Ken Larson, President
Katie Edson and Maureen Monroe, Co-Vice Presidents
Melissa Bartel, Secretary
Patty Reimers, Treasurer
Jennifer Schouten, Dale Whipple & Veonne Brown

The Arc of Whatcom County Board meets the last Saturday of the month from 10am-12pm. All are welcome to attend.

Executive Director: Beverly Porter
Office Manager: Dana Little
Parent Coalition Co-Coordinator: Monica Burke



Community Programs



Seattle Children's
HOSPITAL · RESEARCH · FOUNDATION



Autism 200 Series Comes to Bellingham!

** Classes for Parents and Caregivers of Children
with Autism and other Developmental Disabilities **

Autism 200 is a series of 90-minute classes for parents and caregivers of children with autism who wish to better understand this disorder. While designed around autism, the topics definitely apply to individuals with other developmental disabilities as well. Faculty from Seattle Children's, the University of Washington and community providers teach the classes.

Lectures are available to the public free of charge through Seattle Children's video and teleconferencing outreach program. Starting March 15th, they will be delivered at Western Washington University's Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic.

Interested in attending? Contact Dr. Eva Baharav for parking arrangements. eva.baharav@wwu.edu

Interested in learning more about the classes? Call Seattle Children's Autism Center: (206) 987-8080 or visit www.seattlechildrens.org/classes-community/classes-events/autism-200-series/.

Interested in other programs? The Arc's Parent Coalition and Whatcom Taking Action partnered with Western Washington University to bring this important series to our community. If you have other ideas for programs, please contact Monica at The Arc: 715-0170, ext. 303, monicab@arcwhatcom.org.

Upcoming Classes

Autism 203: Sensory Processing in Autism

7-8:30pm, Thursday, March 15

Instructor: Shelley O' Donnell MS, OTR/L

**Autism 204: The Young Adult Transition:
Tangible Steps to Independence**

7-8:30pm, Thursday, April 19

Instructor: Ben Wahl, MSW

Autism 205: Special Education Law

7-8:30pm, Thursday, May 17

Instructor: Stacy Gillett, Ombudsman from the Governor's Office of the Education Ombudsman

For more class topics and dates, visit:
[www.seattlechildrens.org/classes-community/
classes-events/autism-200-series/](http://www.seattlechildrens.org/classes-community/classes-events/autism-200-series/)