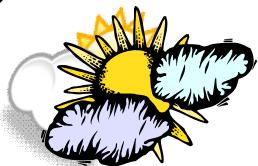


# Arc Family Support Update



The United Arc of  
Franklin and Hampshire Counties  
111 Summer Street Greenfield, MA 01301  
Main Office (Greenfield): 413-774-5558  
North Quabbin Family Support Office: 978-249-4052

June 2011  
Save family support  
from the black  
budget clouds...

## Some Good News but Family Support in Peril Final chance to contact key legislators about the importance of funding Family Support & Disability Services



On May 24th hundreds of people from across the Commonwealth attended a rally at the State House in opposition to the proposed Senate Ways & Means cuts to disability services in the Dept. of Developmental Services (DDS) and MassHealth accounts in the proposed FY12 state budget (which will begin on July 1st). During the Senate debate held May 25th and 26th funds were restored for Day Habilitation Services, the DESE/DDS Family Preservation Project which provides support to young people at risk of residential placement. **The Senate did not approve increased funding for Family Support Services, adopting the same figure as the Governor's at \$32,592,372 which is a significant \$14 million reduction from the current funding level for family support.**

Approximately 4000 families are at risk of losing family support services. The Senate also rejected \$7.5 million for the Rolland community residential settlement which brings people out of nursing homes and \$1.7 million for Day and Employment Turning 22 funding.

The next step in the budget process is the conference committee when three representatives from both the House and Senate will be appointed to meet to reconcile differences between the House and Senate budgets. The House budget includes \$41 million for Family Support, \$9 million more than the Senate version, although still a significant reduction from the FY11 level of \$46.5 million. Advocacy will be critical - go to <http://capwiz.com/addp> or <http://capwiz.com/thearc> for updates and to take action or call your family support staff at The United Arc for advocacy contact information. **Calls, letters and emails make a difference!** Please do your part.

**In this Issue: Flyers for United Arc Auction (6/24), United Arc Family Picnic (6/29) Please come!**

P1: Budget Advocacy focuses on Senate P2: Summer Opportunities & Arc Annual Meeting (6/3)

P3: Social events, Self Advocacy & Support Groups P4: Events, workshops & trainings



## LOOKING FOR SUMMER FUN ACTIVITIES?



The DCR Universal Access Program offers a variety of fun summer programs in the Greenfield/Athol/North Quabbin area. Activities include:

- **Canoeing at Barton's Cove**—July 12, 19, and 26—Call All Out Adventures (AOA) at 413-527-8980.
- **ADA Celebration with kayaking and hiking at Dunn Pond, Gardner on July 22nd** - no need to pre-register. Activities available for first come, first served.
- **Cycling in Hadley**- Fridays in July and August (except July 22). Call AOA at 413-527-8980.
- **Kayaking at the DAR State Forest in Goshen**- on Tuesday, July 5th and Mondays-July 11—August 1st. Call Stavros at 413-259-0009. Also Wednesdays-July 6—August 10. Call AOA at 413-527-8980.
- **Hiking**—schedule still in progress—call STAVROS at 413-259-0009. Starts in June.

For more information about summer recreation, recreational classes or camp opportunities contact your Family Support Specialist or look up:

- Accessible recreation at [www.mass.gov/dcr/universal\\_access](http://www.mass.gov/dcr/universal_access) or
- Recreation and summer camps at [www.disabilityinfo.org](http://www.disabilityinfo.org) or
- Summer camps and special events at [www.spedchildmass.com/camps\\_2011](http://www.spedchildmass.com/camps_2011) or
- Sports, drama, music and recreation programs at [www.wholechildren.org](http://www.wholechildren.org).

### Summer Adaptive Recreation Fair—June 4th in Brighton

If you are in eastern MA on June 4th attend the Summer Adaptive Recreation Fair, 10 AM—3 PM at Artesani Park, Brighton/Boston. Meet MA recreation organizations that serve people of all ages with a variety of disabilities. Discover programs for adaptive cycling, boating, hiking, fishing, horseback riding, and even plan for winter activities. Enjoy equipment demonstrations, refreshments and cool off in the park's spray pool. Register at 617-626-1294. Hosted by MA Dept. of Conservation and Recreation's Universal Access Program.

### Need summer footwear for your kids? More meals to prepare now that school is out?

The Arc's food pantry at 110 Harrison Ave, Greenfield remains stocked and we have a small supply of footwear for young children. Stop by our office or call your Arc Family Support Specialist.

### United Arc Annual Meeting & Awards Luncheon

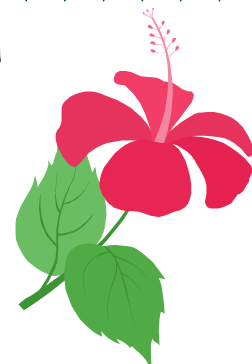
Friday, June 3, 2011 Noon—1:30 PM

The Elks Club, 3 Church Street, Greenfield, MA

Luncheon Buffet—\$10.00

*Last minute reservations will be accepted!*

RSVP to Felicia or Willow @413-774-5558



## Support & Self Advocacy Groups

**Friends in Common: Social opportunities for older teens & young adults (ages 16-26)** For information or to RSVP contact Emma Connelly at 413-774-5558 x 1004 or email: [emmaconnelly@unitedarc.org](mailto:emmaconnelly@unitedarc.org).



**Friday, June 3, 2011 6–8 PM Pizza & Karaoke Night**  
The Arc Common, 20 Chapman Street, Greenfield, MA.  
Eat, sing, enjoy the music. There will also be a craft project.  
Suggested donation: \$2.00 RSVP by 6/2.



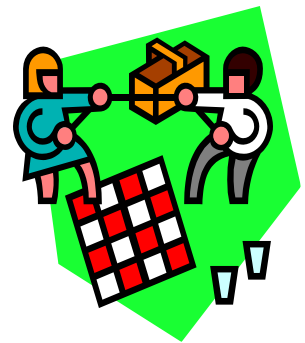
**Friday, June 10, 2011 "6–8 PM Battle of the Bands"**  
The Brick House, 24 Third Street, Turners Falls, MA  
Come share your musical talents or support your friends and enjoy their music.  
For transportation contact Emma. RSVP by 6/8.

**Thursday, June 16, 2011 4–6 PM AmeriCorps Youth Recognition Event**  
Beacon Field, Greenfield, MA. Barbecue, crafts and fun activities.  
Celebrate with youth from across the county. RSVP by 6/14.

**Saturday, June 18, 2011 4–6 PM Invite the whole family!**

**Friends in Common Summer Barbecue & Recognition**

Camp Lion Knoll, 35 Pierce Street, Greenfield, MA  
Time to celebrate with family and friends and recognize our individual gifts and achievements. Hot dogs, hamburgers, salads, and desserts provided.  
Fun crafts & activities. For transportation or to donate any additional food RSVP to Emma by 6/15.



**Monday, June 20, 2011—4–6 PM Green River Clean Up**  
Eunice Williams Drive at the Covered Bridge in Greenfield, MA. Help pick up litter along the river and then join with friends for a tasty picnic.  
For transportation contact Emma. RSVP by 6/17.

**Friday, June 24, 2011 6–8 PM Spaghetti & Meat balls & Duct Tape Wallet Night!**  
The Arc Common, 20 Chapman Street, Greenfield, MA  
Come make wallets and anything else you can think of with multicolored duct tape. RSVP by 6/22.

## Self Advocacy Programs for Adults

**Congratulations...** to the ten area graduates of the Self Advocacy Leadership Series. Each graduate prepared an impressive speech or PowerPoint which were presented to an audience of family and friends on 5/25 at St. James Church in Greenfield, MA.

### Pioneer Club: Self Advocacy Group in the Greater Greenfield Area

Meetings are held Thursday evenings from 6:30–8 PM at The Arc Common 20 Chapman Street, Greenfield, MA Join with other adults for sharing and learning to be a strong self advocate. Transportation is available in the greater Greenfield area. For information contact Loreen Flockerzie, Advisor at 413-824-1415 or email: [pioneerclub@unitedarc.org](mailto:pioneerclub@unitedarc.org)

### Frontier Club: Self Advocacy Group in the North Quabbin Area

Meetings are held the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month from 5:45–7:30 PM in Athol, MA. For information contact Linda Daneault, Advisor at 413-824-1401 or email: [frontierclub@unitedarc.org](mailto:frontierclub@unitedarc.org)

**Grandparents Support: Support groups & networking opportunities for Grandparents raising Grandchildren.** Tuesday mornings 10AM–noon Come chat and knit at the Arc's Family Support Center, 110 Harrison Avenue, Greenfield, MA Additional support groups held in Greenfield and Athol. For information call Carol Broga at 413-834-4072.

The United Arc will lead in forging a society that values, respects, includes, and recognizes the contribution of community members with disabilities.

## WORKSHOPS, TRAININGS & EVENTS



**Celebrate the Start of Summer with The United Arc Annual Family Picnic!**  
**Wednesday, June 29 from 4–7:30 PM Camp Keewanee, Greenfield, MA**  
Fun, Food, Frolic, Friends! Swimming, crafts, skits, clowning and games!  
We'll have the grill on—please bring a potluck item to share.  
*(RSVP to 413-774-5558—See enclosed flyer for details.)*

**Saturday, June 4, 2011 10AM—1 PM Living Independently: Learning to Live and be Productive in a Neurotypical World at Elms College, Alumnae Library Theater, 291 Springfield Street, Chicopee, MA.** Guest speaker Nomi Kiam, a recently independent 28 year old with Asperger's Syndrome will cover a range of topics related to independent living, developing a social network, proactive crisis planning and the pros and cons of living alone. This workshop is geared for older teens, young adults and their families and support professionals. Sponsored by The Asperger's Association of New England & the Elms College Communications Sciences Disorders Department. No fee. For more information or to register go to [www.aane.org](http://www.aane.org) or contact [robin.lurie-meyerkopf@aane.org](mailto:robin.lurie-meyerkopf@aane.org) or call 617-393-3824 x 11.

**Monday, June 6, 2011 7 PM How Can I Change My Child's Problem Behaviors at Hampden Thornton Burgess Middle School, Hampden, MA with guest speaker, Shannon Kay, Executive Director of the May Center for Child Development.** Learn how to consider the family's priority behavioral concern, break it down to its simplest form, draft an initial plan to minimize contributing factors and events, identify a communication response that might replace the behavior and gain a better understanding of how to plan for future behaviors. Sponsored by the Hampden Wilbraham Special Education PAC. For information email: [andrea.bertheaud@verizon.net](mailto:andrea.bertheaud@verizon.net) or call 413-566-2262.

**Thursday, June 9, 2011 6:30-9:30 PM Estate Planning for special Needs: Securing the future of individuals with disabilities.** Presentation by Berkshire Life Insurance Company of America at 700 South Street, Pittsfield, MA 01201. Registration on site begins at 6 PM. Free workshop. Learn about financial and legal considerations to secure the future of a love one and ensure that your relative maintains his or her benefits.

**Friday, June 10 & Saturday, June 11, 2011 Sexuality, Relationship & Asperger's Syndrome.** Focus on experiences of adults and adolescents with AS. Guest speaker, Dr. Isabelle Henault from the University of Quebec in Montreal will provide an in-depth presentation on "Understanding Relationships and Sexuality in Individuals with Asperger's Syndrome." For more information or to register visit the AANE website at [www.aane.org](http://www.aane.org) or call Lisa Graffeo at AANE 617-393-3824 x 10.

**Saturday, June 25, 2011 2-4 PM Ice Cream Social at the Hampshire Family Support Office, 41 Russell St., Hadley, MA** Celebrate summer! RSVP to Maggie: 413-585-8010 or email: [mcdonaldm@theassn.org](mailto:mcdonaldm@theassn.org)

**Thursday, June 30, 2011 11—4 PM Individuals Requiring Additional Assistance School Emergency Preparedness Conference** at Greenfield Community College, Downtown Campus, 270 Main Street, 2nd Floor, Greenfield, MA RSVP to Hope Bodwell at [chbodwell@gmail.com](mailto:chbodwell@gmail.com) or call 413-636-8839.

**Would you prefer to receive this newsletter by email? Would you like to receive other e-alerts from the Arc? If so, please email Anne Kowaleck: [annekowaleck@unitedarc.org](mailto:annekowaleck@unitedarc.org)**



Partner  
Agency

Leslie Kinney, Family Support Director      Susan Jones, Positive Parenting Director  
Family Support Program Manager: Martha Lewin, Family Specialists: Karen Diamond, Rob Goetting, and Donna Walden @ The Franklin Center; Jennifer Lemoine & Mary Lunny @ the North Quabbin Center; AmeriCorps Member: Emma Connelly  
Parent Educators: Barbara Jaillet, Tasha Johnson, Kris Larson, Betsy Misch, Linda Porter & Judy Rathburn  
Family Friends (Volunteer) Coordinator & Grandparents Group: Carol Broga