

THE COMMUNICATOR

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July August September Birthdays

Sue Mount	July 5	James Farmer	July 18
Charles Barner	July 6	Wendy Brinkley	July 21
Maxine Matthews	July 8	Edward Sereboo	July 24
Clorissa Wyatt	July 10	Annette Gearin	July 26
Ellen Ellen	July 12	Victoria McDougale	July 26
Huey Wirt	July 15	Jean Hopkins	July 27
		Tony Burrow	July 28

Gerald Smith	Aug 1	Belinda Edwards	Aug 19
Darrell Burgette	Aug 4	Renee Tharpe	Aug 19
Kelly Riggins	Aug 6	Brandy Greer	Aug 22
Sheila Fortner	Aug 10	David Whitney	Aug 25
Naikea Giles	Aug 14	Timmy Cooper	Aug 26
Jeff Smith	Aug 17	Earnie Totty	Aug 27
Diane Armour	Aug 18	Sammie Nash	Aug 28
Janelle Gatewood	Aug 18	Shelia Browning	Aug 29

Patrick Stubblefield	Sept 2	David Wise	Sept 16
Robert Kelley	Sept 4	Laurie Oldham	Sept 17
Mark McIntyre	Sept 4	Heather Farris	Sept 18
Clifford Wyatt	Sept 5	Rene Rial	Sept 20
Jimmy Miles	Sept 6	Ashlee Gonzalez	Sept 22
Tina Worthington	Sept 6	Amanda Frields	Sept 23
Neil Boe	Sept 8	David Sheridan	Sept 23
Scott Martin	Sept 8	Corey Parham	Sept 24
Kim Graves	Sept 13	James Petway	Sept 24
Sharon McMullen	Sept 13	Doyle Garrison	Sept 25
Ricky Carey	Sept 14	William Littleton	Sept 25
Joyce Franks	Sept 14	Susan Lairy	Sept 27
David Moser	Sept 14	Janet Maddox	Sept 28

Linda's Letters

IRS Rebate:

This is just a reminder. If you family member receives an allotment from Social Security, be sure to complete a tax return. This enables he/she to receive the \$300 rebate. It doesn't pertain to anyone just receiving SSI allotments.

Many of our clients that have community jobs or workshop jobs did file income tax. They were able to get earned income credit.

Yard Sale Successful:

The annual yard sale was held April 12. There were many nice quality items that had been donated by families, friends, and staff. The proceeds amounted to over \$2,000. Thanks to all who donated, purchased, and helped with the fundraiser in any way. I do collect all year and we have a storage shed, if you should have a few items to donate for next year.

To Thomas Kincade Collectors:

A friend of CDS donated a Thomas Kincade Plate Calendar for the yard sale. I didn't place it in the sale, since it was more valuable than normal sale items. This item has been featured in many magazines. It is a wooden box wall frame. There are wooden numbers for the calendar dates and 14 monthly and holiday ceramic plates. It is in perfect condition, except for a crack in one plate. Normally, these plates sell for \$30 each. If you would like to purchase this item for \$200, it will contribute to the yard sale proceeds.

"The Artist's Voice"

Saturday, May 17, was a special day for two CDS clients. Bobby Swift and LuWan Spivey and their guests were invited to a reception at The Frist Center in Nashville. A summer exhibition featuring Tennessee artists with disabilities "The Artist's Voice" recently opened at the center. Bobby's painting entitled "My Life" was one of the displays, and LuWan's piece was a runner-up in the competition. Accompanying LuWan and Bobby were Maxine Matthews, Belinda Edwards, David Sheridan, Karen Lewis, Linda Plunk, Evelyn Blythe, Amanda Frields, and Cherry Webb. The reception was very impressive with the entertainment, delicious finger foods, and a program speaker. All of the exhibited artists were recognized by the speaker. The exhibit had many outstanding works in different mediums and occupied the entrance hallway. Each attendee was awarded a free pass to the main part of the museum to see works of art by many of the great masters, such as Van Gough, Picasso, and Renoir. If you get a chance to be in Nashville, try to take time to visit The Frist Center. This special exhibit will be on display until September 14.

Happy Birthday!!



Sandy's Spot

Anniversaries

July –

Patsy Tibbs has been at the Weakley County Press for 11 years. She started her job there in July of 1997. She continues to be the “fastest paper roller” at the Press office!

August –

Sammie Nash has worked at the UT Martin cafeteria for 12 consecutive years. He has worked there through various management and name changes and now is employed by Sodexo. Sammie worked in the cafeteria about three years, tried another job and then came back there on August 12, 1996. Sammie works whatever scheduled is assigned to him and he works in any location needed. Sammie’s favorite day is pay day, but he does enjoy each day and his coworkers.

Phyllis Allen works at Sonic in Martin. She began work on August 27, 2003. Phyllis has also worked through management changes and job assignment changes, but she does very good work and is a valued employee of Sonic.

September –

Naomi Burcham has been at Bethel College in McKenzie since September 10, 2003. She works in the cafeteria and does an excellent job keeping the cafeteria clean.

Danny Suratt and **David Wise** both celebrate employment anniversaries at Sodexo in the UT Martin cafeteria. Danny has worked at Sodexo since September 24, 1996 and David began work there on September 20, 1999. These guys are hard workers, they have many tasks to complete each day and they only sit down once a day for lunch.

Diana Goodloe has worked at UT Martin in the art department for one year. She began last September. **Bonnie Wiseman** works with Diana each Friday, assisting Diana as needed with cleaning the art classrooms.

VR Referrals

Two of our VR referrals have employment anniversaries coming up. **Amber Brown**, from Paris, will have worked at the Lakeway IGA store in Paris for 4 years as of August 9, 2004. Amber works in the meat department 12 hours per week. She does packing and wrapping of meat.

Michael Helton, also from Paris, works at the EW James store in Dresden. He started working there on September 19, 2005. Michael works in the deli area. He cleans tables, washes dishes, takes out trash and basically does anything his coworkers ask of him.

Featured Employer—McDonald’s

McDonald’s is our featured employer in this newsletter. McWorth Management from Paris owns and operates several stores in the CDS service area and they employ 7 individuals via CDS.

Kathleen Goodrum worked at McDonalds in Martin, but has been off work the last two months for cataract surgery. However the management at McDonald’s wanted Kathleen to return and have held a job for her. We were able to place Laura DeLuca in Kathleen’s position to fill in and Laura has done a great job. Kathleen has returned to work at McDonald’s in a different position and is back to working Monday through Friday for 4 hours.

In addition to employing Laura and Kathleen, McDonald’s also has Mark McIntyre working 3 days a week and a VR referral, Amanda Warren, works 2 days a week.

And that’s just the Martin store. In McKenzie, we have one VR referral, Mike Smith. Kristy Riley works at the Dresden store and Eugene Malkin has been at the Fulton McDonald’s for 7 years.

We appreciate the good relationship that has developed with McWorth Management. They also support the annual Telethon of Stars with the Burger Bash. Mark your calendar for October 30 for this year’s Burger Bash.

2008 West Tennessee Employment Consortium Conference.

Four of our supported employment staff recently attended the annual WTEC employment conference in Jackson. Also attending were service recipients, Dawn Mohs and Charles Fenwick. CDS is proud once again to receive the Agency of the Year award. We were awarded in 2007 and again this year for our work in supported employment.

FAMILY MEETING FOR SPECIAL NEEDS TRUST FUNDS

Later this summer, we will be holding a central family meeting at CDS to discuss *special needs trust funds*. We have been approached by First State Bank, who would like to work with us and our families in establishing trust funds for our clients. We will be in touch with you as soon as more details about these meetings become available. In the meantime, please read the following as you consider whether or not a special needs trust might be beneficial for you and your loved ones:

- Trusts provide management of your financial affairs in case you become unable to do so.
- Trusts supply you, or others, with income from the Trust assets in the manner and at the time directed
- Trusts help you and your heirs avoid the expense and delay of court or probate proceedings
- Trusts help you invest assets for both short- and long-term financial goals
- Trusts can be used to facilitate a gifting program that helps your beneficiaries; Trusts help you pass your assets directly to your heirs
- There are no fees associated with a First State Trust until First State takes an active role in facilitating the Trust’s assets. As long as the family is able to manage the fund, First State does nothing.

Finally, one of the largest benefits of a Trust, as it relates specifically to our clients and their needs, is that Trust assets cannot be counted against our clients when it comes to Medicaid eligibility. They must maintain their Medicaid eligibility to remain funded by DMRS and in our program.

June 20, 2008

Regina's Rambling'ssss

It's really hard to believe how time keeps going by so fast! Martha sent out emails reminding us of the newsletter going out. So I sat down to catch my breath to try to recall some of the things we have been up to. You know how time flies when you're having fun, we must be having a lot of it! First of all, we just heard the great news today that Kathy Dethloff is going to be a grandmother some time in January! My last article talked about how she really would like to be a grandparent. Her wish came true. She is somewhat concerned, due to the fact her son in law will be deployed in a few months. This makes it a little more complicated for her daughter, but we will pray that he will be able to return for the birth. Sherry Harris will also become a grandmother again for the 4th time later this year. Cherice Dupree's son has left to go to Nashville. He will be attending Nashville Auto Diesel College. We wish him all the best. Cherice has been filling in at the Life Options Program located at Willow Lane. She will be taking David Barnes' position, temporarily. We really miss David, but appreciate her taking on his responsibilities. She's doing a great job, as always. Lemont Beasley has just returned from a trip to California to attend an Urban Ministry Conference. He said he learned so much while there, but agrees there's no place like home. David Sheridan got an opportunity to go with CDS staff and clients to the Frist Center in Nashville on May 17th. They were having the opening reception for the art exhibit that will be displaying one of Bobby Swift's paintings. The art will be shown through September, if anyone will be in Nashville and would like to stop in. They have some beautiful art created by individuals with disabilities.

We want to welcome Jason Beasley back to the program. He has been out with some health issues for a few months. Betty Parham has moved to the Weakley County Nursing Home where she is closer to her Dad, who is also a resident of the home. Meagan Warren joined us the first of April and seems to be fitting in very well. We have finally started swimming at the public pool, and none too soon. It has been so hot, the water was just the thing on some of these hotter than usual days. We will be going every Friday, except July 4, through the months of June and July. We appreciate them giving us the opportunity to use the pool from 9:45 until 10:45. We get the pool all to ourselves, while they have a lifeguard on duty at all times for us. We had our bake sale during the annual yard sale again this year and it was a great success! Thanks so much to all of you who dedicated time, patience, baked goods, and battled the cold wind for the clients to have extra money for outings or special needs. Judy Steveson helped us out for our Easter celebration. She made sure we had pizza and baked several cookies for everyone to enjoy. She has been a Godsend to us and we appreciate all she does! She and her husband are constantly doing for others, God will surely bless them. The clients in the Life Options Program have been going to the local parks and having picnics while the weather has been tolerable. They are planning several inside outings for the near future. One outing everyone seems to enjoy, is the summertime matinee at the Cine' in Martin. Some have already planned on taking in a movie this week. They will only see PG or G rated movies and the clients will decide what to see. This gives them a chance to be independent by paying their way in the movies and making choices.

I am so proud to see lots of folks stepping up to help us through the financial setback that we are experiencing. You just don't realize how much it helps. We go through so many supplies not only at our day centers but all the homes. Then just today, I watched as the wrecker pulled one of our vans off to be worked on. How much expense will be incurred to repair that one van? Gosh I honestly don't know how they are still going. Most of the vans have over 100,000 miles on them. Now, more than ever, tires, gas, insurance, and upkeep is costing a fortune. I realize we are not alone, and it's hard everywhere. We all will continue to put it in God's hands and He will see us through, not just at CDS but everywhere.

I want to be sure and thank everyone that prayed for my father in law, Floyd Starks. Just 2 weeks ago he was told to call in Hospice, but today he is in the hospital in Paducah with hope. He has pancreatic cancer and was given a slim chance in Jackson. In Paducah his gallbladder was removed and they rerouted his stomach contents. Today, as I write this, they are talking about removing the tube, where bile was draining out and letting him go home soon. He said he's just hungry and ready to eat! He will start cancer treatments with Dr. Conkrite after going home. He is the only Dr. who gave us hope. He recommended Dr. West in Paducah. God sends us angels, if we choose to listen. His pain is down from a 9 to a possible 1 and that is worth everything. God bless all of you as I have been truly blessed!

HEATHER SCARANO JOINS CDS STAFF

Heather Scarano has joined the staff of Community Developmental Services as our first Communications and Development Coordinator in early May, through a generous grant from the Paducah Lions Club Telethon Board of Directors. Realizing telethon revenue was down in all the centers, the telethon board made "rainy day" funds available through a grant to develop the telethon and agencies in their respective states.

Cathy Cate, Executive Director said, "CDS is incredibly fortunate to have received the grant from the Paducah Lions Club Telethon Board of Directors, realizing a long standing dream of having a staff person dedicated to communications and development of CDS and the telethon. We are equally as fortunate to have learned of Heather with her previous background working for a non-profit agency, as well as her impressive education."

Heather comes to CDS from the University of Tennessee at Martin, where she worked as a communications specialist for the athletic communications department the last 9 months. Prior to her work with UT Martin, Heather was an executive assistant for three years for the International Forum of Bible Agencies, a non-profit organization in Woburn, Mass., where she coordinated the organization's communication activities, including a redesign of its brand and website.

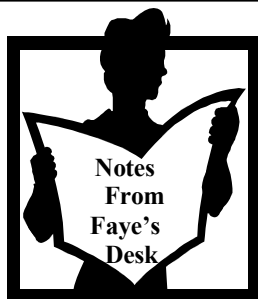
In addition to her work in the area of non-profit communications and development, Heather has accumulated a wide-range of freelance writing experience over the past few years. Heather's work has been published across a number of newspapers in Massachusetts and Tennessee, including the Wakefield (Mass.) Daily Item, the Winchester (Mass.) Star, the Weakley County (Tenn.) Press and the Union City (Tenn.) Messenger. She has also been published in the national, weekly news magazine, World Magazine.

Heather graduated from Harvard University in Cambridge, Mass. in 2007, with a bachelor's degree in psychology and journalism. The Fairfax, Va. native attended Harvard University's Extension School, where she was the recipient of the school's Dean's Scholarship, a full tuition grant her last two years in the program.

Heather's primary duties at CDS will be to coordinate the agency's media relations and fundraising projects.

"Heather has become part of the CDS 'family' very quickly and has learned quickly what are our most pressing needs", said Cathy.

Heather is married to Joe Scarano, a native of Lynnfield, Mass. and graduate assistant baseball coach for the UT Martin Skyhawks. They are the parents of two-year-old son Christian and reside in Martin. The couple is expecting their second child in August.



UMMER TIME NOTES

Summer is a fun season that allows us to get outside and enjoy various activities so safety is an important topic. We need to remember to exercise caution during the hot summer days by staying hydrated, drinking water is best and stop activities to take time to cool. If our service recipient is in your care, make sure they do not get too hot, always use sunscreen when outside, help our individuals to stay hydrated and advise them to cool if they become over-heated.

Be aware that many medications cause people to not be able to tolerate the heat.

Driving Safety Facts for the Road

Drive Focused. Stay Safe. Avoid Aggressive Driving.

- Correct your own unsafe driving habits that are likely to endanger, antagonize or provoke other drivers.
- Keep your cool in traffic; be patient and courteous to other drivers and don't take their actions personally.
- If you think you have a problem, seek help. Look for anger or stress management classes or self-help books.
- Reduce your stress on the road by allowing plenty of time to reach your destination, plan your route in advance and alter your schedule or route to avoid busy roads.
- If despite all your planning, you're going to arrive late, accept it and avoid aggressive driving.
- Make every attempt to safely move out of an aggressive driver's way. If a hostile motorist tries to pick a fight, do not make eye contact and do not respond. Ignore gestures and refuse to return them.
- Report aggressive driving to the police. Provide a vehicle description, license number, location and the direction of travel.

The Nerves of Steel Survey is a national survey that reveals how Americans define aggressive driving.

Is this act aggressive?

Tailgating	95%
Making rude gestures	91%
Passing on the shoulder	90%
Pulling into parking space someone else is waiting for	88%
Failing to yield to merging Traffic	85%
Flashing high beams at the car in front of you	74%

OTHER SAFETY TIP AWARENESS AT WORK

All Work Areas: Report any UNSAFE conditions to your Supervisor/ Job Coach or the CDS Facility Manager.

Do your job as instructed by your Supervisor; No Horseplay, Keep work areas clean

Clean up spills immediately; Please do not wait for someone else to clean a spill!

Job Coach Safety: Ask the prospective new employer for safety checklist or rules and make the prospective employee aware of the safety rules. Instruct the employee to wear comfortable but safe shoes.

Wear personal protective equipment such as eye protection and/or back supports when lifting.

Be careful of wet floors. Use CAUTION signs to warn others.



PLEASE BE CONSIDERATE OF OTHERS

When you are driving a CDS vehicle, before you reach the quarter tank mark, please fill the vehicle with gas. This will prevent the next person using the vehicle from being late to appointments, etc.

Also, summer time heat is back! Please remember to use the sun visors in each vehicle when the vehicle is parked.

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Cathy's Corner

As we have made our financial difficulties known through articles in local newspapers and letters to families, we have been blessed with many responses of monetary donations or supplies for our "Needs List". We want to acknowledge those donations and volunteers being mindful we might miss someone. Occasionally, donations have come in without names. If you have sent something, or know of someone that did, and they are not acknowledged please let us know. We are absolutely so appreciative and want to express it appropriately.

As of Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Supplies from the "Needs List" have been received from:

South Fulton High School Beta Club
 Martin First United Methodist Church
 Debbie Robbins – Weakley County Board of Education
 Linda Pettit – Weakley County Trustee's Office
 Marci Floyd – Weakley County Department of Finance
 Heather Adams – Weakley County Department of Finance
 Johnny & Sandra McTurner – Parents – Obion County
 Lee & Barbara Sine, Jr. – Parents – Obion County
 Cindy Adams – Parent – Weakley County
 Shelia Thornton – Parent – Obion County

A special acknowledge needs to be made to Cindy Adams, mom of Center client Nicole. Cindy has organized donation boxes at several locations in Martin and has had announcements about CDS' needs made on the Martin radio station. She has also enlisted her co-workers at the Northwest TN Development District to donate supplies, too. Nicole has only been in services with CDS about two years but Cindy and her husband Steve are very passionate about the needs of our individuals.

Monetary donations have been received from:

Stanley's Chapel United Methodist Church, Stanley's Chapel Music, United Methodist Women Hunter Hynds Unit - Obion County, client Clorissa Wyatt's Church and her mom's UMW Club)
 Dresden First United Methodist Church –in honor of workshop clients Bryan Hardman & Gary Hicks that are church family
 Abundant Life Assembly of God Church – Sharon, client Lin Jones' Church
 Denson & Mary Ermis – Union City
 Mary McConnell – Martin
 Mary Beard – Martin
 Carol Windham – Martin
 Martha Ann Duncan – Martin
 Paula Arrington – Former CDS staff – Jackson

