



February 2010

Fostering the Dream of Civil Rights for Those with Disabilities by Gale Prol, Behavior Specialist

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Special points of interest:

* Save the Date: May 1 will be this year's annual Foster Family Appreciation Picnic for District 1. Tucson date TBA.

Whatever the social setting and whatever the disability, people with disabilities share a common experience of social oppression – Paul Longmore, historian

When Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. declared that one day we would walk hand in hand as brothers, his words cast a net that would continue to unfold and encircle those who cannot walk, speak, or perhaps even hold a hand; those with visible and hidden disabilities. Though the Civil Rights Act of 1964 did not include people with disabilities at that time, it introduced to the American people the concept of protected classes of people under the law. It was not

until 1988 and the Fair Housing Act that people with disabilities would be included within the net of protection. However, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act is what continues to provide remedy through the courts for all protected classes including those with disabilities.

As a Foster Parent and advocate for your special needs child, you have the right and privilege to celebrate Black History month in a very tangible way. By caring for and inspiring your foster child to achieve and be happy every day and by supporting their growth in school and in the community you are an activist. With every step of independence your child

makes you are giving a yes where there was once a "no" and widening the net of acceptance in your community and in our nation. The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. once wrote, "Oppressed people cannot remain oppressed forever. The urge for freedom will eventually come." For people with disabilities, the urge for freedom has arrived and the means to achieve it is in reach. With your help, who knows what great things they will be able to accomplish.

Message From The Director

ATTENTION CDH FAMILIES:

DES is making a big change to their case management of DDD children. Effective immediately, DCYF will no longer transfer their DDD cases to the DDD foster care unit. DCYF will maintain the legal case and with that, be the guardian for the DDD children. Please watch for a letter from APTCH addressing this change in detail. Forward any rumors, questions or information you receive to your Family Specialist and request that it be forwarded promptly to my attention.

Thank you,
Michelle Trca, Director
mtrca@tocallhome.com

Census 2010

It has been confirmed that foster children and adult placements should be counted in the census when our foster/adoptive families receive their census documents.

The specific instruction is to include everyone on their census "who lives and sleeps most of the time at their residence, even if they are not related to anyone living in the home".

Make Every Kid and Adult Count! Every ten years the United States attempts to count every person living in this country. We need to make sure that no children or adults in care are left out.

According to the Children's Action Alliance, "the federal government distributes monies for programs like Head Start, Foster Care and Education based on the data collected in the Decennial Census. When the real number of

children isn't reported, not enough teachers are hired, not enough child care centers are built and not enough aid is given to those children in need."

Our adults with disabilities need representation as well, as their programs are government funded and based on the numbers reported.

Make sure your family and all placements are counted in the upcoming Census!



IT'S IN OUR HANDS

Coming Together by Brittany Cole

Most of us have grown up celebrating Valentine's Day in one way or another. I know, growing up, that I've seen my parents exchange gifts and given cards and candies to everyone in my class at school. These seem very typical to me and Valentine's Day would not be the same without these celebrations. There are, however, some very unique ways in which Valentine's Day has been celebrated around the world and still is today. In the Middle Ages, for example, men and women drew names from a bowl to see who their Valentines would be. They became partners for the whole Valentine's Festival and, in many cases, ended up getting married as a result. In Wales, carved wooden "love" spoons decorated with hearts and keyholes were given as gifts-The message being "you unlock my heart!" According

to Scottish custom, the first male or female encountered on the street or elsewhere becomes the person's Valentine and

Valentine's Day is celebrated with them. Over in Japan, women give gifts to men on Valentine's Day and men return the favor on White Day, which is March 14, a day said to be invented by the Marshmallow Chocolate Company. My favorite thing to do is bake something for my loved ones. These tasty Microwave Truffles are easy and quick enough to do with the kids!

"My favorite thing to do is bake something for my loved ones."

Microwave Truffles

Microwave Truffles

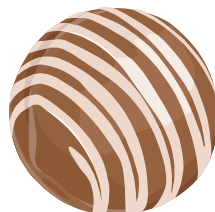
1 cup finely chopped almonds, divided in half

8 oz semisweet chocolate

¼ cup butter

¼ cup heavy whipping cream

¼ tsp almond extract



Place 24 small candy baking cups on a baking sheet.

Spoon half of the almonds into each; set remaining almonds aside.

In a microwave-safe bowl, combine chocolate and butter. Microwave for 1 minute or until melted. Stir in cream and extract. Beat with an electric mixer or until slightly thickened, scraping sides of bowl occasionally. Immediately pour into prepared cups and top each with remaining almonds. Yield: 2 dozen.

Raising Special Kids

by David Willing

Raising Special Kids, a non-profit organization of families helping families of children with disabilities and special health needs in Arizona, presented a workshop on Positive Behavior Systems at our most recent Quarterly Support Meeting. All programs and services are provided to families free of charge, for children of all ages and stages of a child's development. On their web site, www.raisingpecialkids.org, there are various links and resources that are extremely informative. We will be having another presentation done by Raising Special Kids at our Home Improvement meeting on March 8th, 2010. Please call Martha or Liliana at 480-456-0549 to RSVP for what I'm sure will be another informative session.

Training Schedule

District 1 - Please call Martha or Liliana to RSVP.

- 2/6—CPR/First Aid Recertification.
- 2/8—Home Improvement
- 2/15—President's Day OFFICES CLOSED
- 2/27—CIT Levels 1&2

District 2 - Please contact your FS to RSVP

- 2/5—CPR/First Aid Recertification
- 2/15—President's Day OFFICES CLOSED
- 2/25—Home Improvement

Tucson Area Events

2/6

Curves Laughter Yoga Club, 777-7544

Meets every Sunday at 5:30pm at Curves Studio, **2816 N. Campbell**

Open to men, women, & children. Come laugh your troubles away.

2/6

U of A Main Bookstore at Speedway & Mountain, downstairs.

If you "Give a Pig a Pancake" 621-2814.

Parents bring your little ones to campus to enjoy storytelling & fun activities. 10:30-11:30

2/10 - 2/14

Tubac Festival of the Arts 398-2704

In the town of Tubac off I- 19 & exit 40

AZ longest running art festival, features 175 juried artists from

around the country. Including roving entertainers & a food court. 10-5pm

2/13 11-6pm \$2.00 admission

Tucson Carnaval presented by Batucaxi

A global tapestry of celebration includes a parade, participatory procession, food & art vendors, working live entertainment, & children's activities.

Armory Park, 220 S. Sixth Ave, www.tucsoncarnaval.org 248-6388

2/20 10-4 Free

9th Annual AZ Animal Fair/ Largest AZ event celebrating animals

Featuring 100 exhibitors, 30+ rescue groups/ entertainment, educational demos, food, & live music. Reid Park, 22nd & Country Club, 275-0445

Dorothy's Light

This year we are excited to launch Dorothy's Light, a non-profit organization put in place to aid you, the families and foster children served by A Place To Call Home. The main focus of Dorothy's Light is to raise funds to help support immediate living needs such as clothing, infant needs, adaptive equipment, furniture, Christmas gifts, recreational activi-

ties and various supports to children and adults with special needs and disabilities that include foster children and adults in the community.

Our goal is to have our foster families be the driving force behind our advocacy, fundraising and marketing efforts.

If you are interested in being a part of

Dorothy's Light, on whatever level, please contact Jacqueline Destremps at:

jdestremps@tocallhome.com or 480-456-0549.

A Place To Call Home

1830 S. Alma School Rd, #122
Mesa, AZ 85210

Mesa Phone: 480.456.0549
Tucson Phone: 520-318-9906

E-mail: info@tocallhome.com

Serving children and adults with
special needs.



Phoenix Area Events

2/6 – 3/28

Arizona Renaissance Festival

10 am—6 pm Amusement park, shows, comedy, music, street performers, shopping and more. Tickets: \$10-\$20, discount tickets available at Fry's Stores

2/12-2/15

43rd Annual O'Odham Tash

All Indian rodeo, carnival, parade, dance arts and crafts. For more info call (520) 836-2125.

2/12-2/14

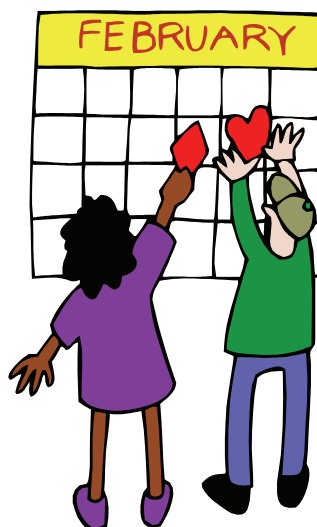
Alltel Ice Den Olympic Weekend

Free Olympic related events and activities for the entire family. Figure skating and youth hockey exhibitions and public skating with limited free skating lessons. For more info call (480) 585-7465

2/13-2/14

20th Annual World Championship Hoop Dance Contest

Heard Museum, 2301 N. Central Ave 9:30 am—5 pm. Cost: \$3-\$10, free for children under 4. For more info call (602) 252-8848



2/26-2/28

46th Annual Lost Dutchman Days

Three day rodeo, carnival, parade and two entertainment stages provide fun for all ages. Mission: To put smiles on kid's face. 1590 E Lost Dutchman Blvd, Visit www.lostdutchmandays.org for discounted advance tickets and more info.