Rehabilitation, Education, and Advocacy for Citizens with Handicaps Inc.

REACH of Dallas
8625 King George Drive, Suite 210
Dallas, Texas 75235-3275

Please help us save money!
If you no longer want to receive this newsletter or are receiving multiple copies, please call/contact Robin @ (817) 870-9082 or reachftw@reachcils.org.

REACH of Fort Worth Resource Center on Independent Living
1000 Macon Street, Suite 200, Fort Worth, Texas 76102-4527
817-870-9082, 817-877-1642 FAX
E-mail: reachftw@reachcils.org

REACH of Dallas Resource Center on Independent Living
8625 King George Drive, Suite 210, Dallas, Texas 75235-3275
214-630-0799, 214-630-6390 FAX
E-mail: reachdallas@reachcils.org

REACH of Denton Resource Center on Independent Living
405 South Elm, Suite 202, Denton, Texas 76201-6066
940-383-1062, 940-383-2742 FAX
E-mail: reachden@reachcils.org

REACH of Plano Resource Center on Independent Living
720 E. Park Blvd. Suite 104, Plano, Texas 75074-4844
972-390-1111, 972-390-9449 Fax
E-mail: reachplano@reachcils.org

REACH's website address: www.reachcils.org

Youth Summer Camps

REACH of Fort Worth - Youth Summer Camp
July 17 - 21, 2017 from 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Contact Miaka Palmer @ 817-870-9082

REACH of Dallas - Youth Summer Camp
June 26 - 30, 2017 - Call for more information
Contact Pam Momon @ 214-630-4796

REACH of Denton - Youth Summer Camp
June 20 - 22, 2017 from 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Contact Murphy Hardinger @ 940-383-1062
## Calendrier des événements

**Call us if you need any accommodations such as a sign language interpreter, Braille materials, etc.**

**June 2017**
1. Gatti's Pizza (5268 W. 7th Street, Fort Worth, TX 76107) - 1:00 - 2:30 PM
2. Adjustment to Disability Training @ the center 1:00-11:00 AM
3. Cooking Matters @ the center 1:00 - 3:00 PM
4. Taste Buds (7674 McCarty Ave, Fort Worth, TX 76133) - 1:00 - 2:30 PM
5. Adjustment to Disability Training @ the center 10:00-11:00 AM
6. Cooking Matters @ the center 1:00 - 3:00 PM
7. Main Event Bowling (4801 Citylake Blvd E., Fort Worth, TX 76132) - 1:00 - 3:00 PM
8. Movie and Bingo @ the center - 1:00 - 3:00 PM (There will be refreshments!)
9. Games @ the center - 1:00 - 3:00 PM (There will be refreshments!)

**July 2017**
1. Center Closed (4th of July)
2. Cooking Matters @ the center 1:00 - 3:00 PM
3. Cotton Patch (5030 South Hulen, Fort Worth, TX 76132) - 1:00 - 2:30 PM
4. Adjustment to Disability Training @ the center 10:00-11:00 AM
5. Cooking Matters @ the center 1:00 - 3:00 PM
6. The Rave Movies (Call for time and Movie)
7. Identity Development Across the Life Span @ the center 12:00
8. Identity Development Across the Life Span @ the center 11:00 AM
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**August 2017**
2. Adjustment to Disability Training @ the center 10:00-11:00 AM
3. Agape Psych Service Training - Identity Development Across the Life Span @ the center 12:00 - 1:30 PM
4. BJ’s Brewhouse (4720 S. Hulen St., Fort Worth, TX 76132) - 1:00 - 2:30 PM*
5. Adjustment to Disability Training @ the center 10:00-11:00 AM
6. Agape Psych Service Training - Identity Development Across the Life Span @ the center 12:00 - 1:30 PM
7. La Madeleine (6140 Camp Bowie, Fort Worth, TX 76116) - 1:00 - 2:30 PM*
8. Adjustment to Disability Training @ the center 10:00-11:00 AM
9. Agape Psych Service Training - Identity Development Across the Life Span @ the center 12:00 - 1:30 PM
10. Meet @ the center 1:00 - 3:00 PM (There will be refreshments!)
11. Meet @ the center 1:00 - 3:00 PM (There will be refreshments!)
12. Meet @ the center 1:00 - 3:00 PM (There will be refreshments!)
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30. Meet @ the center 1:00 - 3:00 PM (There will be refreshments!)
31. Meet @ the center 1:00 - 3:00 PM (There will be refreshments!)

* Denotes restaurants where tipping is expected!!

The above scheduled activities are subject to change or cancellation based upon weather conditions or other factors.

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**PROJECT RAMP - Fort Worth**

Do you or someone you know need a ramp built and/or handrails or grab bars installed?

The REACH of Fort Worth Resource Center on Independent Living offers accessible home modifications for low income individuals with mobility impairments who live in the City of Fort Worth. If you meet the following guidelines, you may be eligible for assistance in making these accessibility modifications.

You must be a person with a mobility impairment.
You can be any age.
You must be a homeowner, live with the homeowner or have a letter from the landlord giving permission to make the accessible modifications to the home. (No apartments.)
Must provide proof of total household income and must meet federal guidelines for low-income households. (You must provide a copy of income verification and a Social Security number from each family member living in the household who is 18+ years of age.)
Your property taxes must be current.

*Funds will be used on a first requested, first served basis.*

If you need more information about this program, please call Alma Hernandez, Project Ramp Coordinator, at 817-870-9082.

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*Offers accessible home modifications for low income individuals with mobility impairments who live in the City of Fort Worth. If you meet the following guidelines, you may be eligible for assistance in making these accessibility modifications.*

- You must be a person with a mobility impairment.
- You must be a homeowner, live with the homeowner or have a letter from the landlord giving permission to make the accessible modifications to the home.
- They must provide proof of total household income and must meet federal guidelines for low-income households.
- You must provide a copy of income verification and a Social Security number from each family member living in the household who is 18+ years of age.
- Your property taxes must be current.

*Funds will be used on a first requested, first served basis.*
Howard R. “Cowboy” Knieriem

“Cowboy” passed away March 31, 2017 at the age of 81. He was born December 25, 1935 in New Jersey.

In 1981, Cowboy orchestrated a move to live in Dallas, Texas because he had always been a diehard fan of the DALLAS COWBOYS. By 1982 he began his own long standing sports career that was the love of his life. As a member of the Disabled Sports Association of North Texas, Cowboy was active in Boccia, Bowling, Indoor Wheelchair Soccer and Track & Field events.

Cowboy also participated frequently in local road races, pushing his wheelchair backwards using his left leg. He qualified for and entered all National Games from 1983 through 2000, traveling to the host state with the DSANT team. 'Cowboy’s' love for adventure included a couple of solo trips flying from Dallas to the National Disability Sports Association facility in Newport, Rhode Island where he went sailing and enjoyed ocean front dining.

Cowboy’s strength, determination, and commitment to a full life never failed him. After having a stroke in 2000, he moved to a nursing home for a short time. Cowboy worked hard and again achieved independent living with assistance from staff at REACH of Dallas. He owned his totally accessible home and became an avid gardener. Cowboy continued to be active in the community with his own lift equipped van for friends and staff to drive.

Cowboy’s spirit and philosophy is best represented in the following quotes from news features about him:

*Sports have always given me the confidence to set goals and I know that I can achieve anything if I put my mind to it.* – March – May 2004 REACHing Out article by Carolyn Bush.

Contributions to REACH, Inc. (1000 Macon St., Ste. 200, Fort Worth, TX 76102-4527) may be made in Cowboy’s memory.

**Call us if you need any accommodations such as a sign language interpreter, Braille materials, etc.**

**June 2017**

1. Computer Training registration @ the center 1:00 - 2:00 PM Preregister with Harvey Spears
2. Independence & Beyond @ the center 1:30 - 3:00 PM. In a group setting, topics include self-esteem, family relationships, anxiety, medical stress, depression, boundaries & goal setting. Preregister with Kiowanda
3. Youth IL Skills Training @ the center 11:00 AM - 2:30 PM
4. Youth Game Night @ the center 6:00 PM - 8:30 PM
5. Independence & Beyond @ the center 1:30 - 3:00 PM Preregister with Kiowanda
6. Youth Summer Camp @ the center (Call Pam for more information)

**July 2017**

(Bachman Therapeutic Recreation Center Swimming - TBA) Call Pam for details
(Vocational Adjustment Training with Pam @ the center (Youth Employment Training) TBA
3. Independence & Beyond @ the center 1:30 - 3:00 PM Preregister with Kiowanda
4. Office Closed (4th of July)
8. Youth Dinner Night (Time and Place - TBA) Call Pam for details
13. Computer Training registration @ the center 1:00 - 2:00 PM Preregister with Harvey Spears
17. Independence & Beyond @ the center 1:30 - 3:00 PM Preregister with Kiowanda

**August 2017**

3. Computer Training registration @ the center 1:00 - 2:00 PM Preregister with Harvey Spears
3 - 4. Youth 2 Day IL Skills Training @ the center 9:00 AM - 12:00PM
7. Independence & Beyond @ the center 1:30 - 3:00 PM Preregister with Kiowanda
12. Youth Outing - TBA Call Pam for details
19. Youth Outing - TBA Call Pam for details
21. Independence & Beyond @ the center 1:30 - 3:00 PM Preregister with Kiowanda
**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

Call us if you need any accommodations such as a sign language interpreter, Braille materials, etc.

### June 2017
- **7** General Support Group @ the center 1:00-2:00 PM
- **14** “Flag Day!” General Support Group @ the center 1:00-2:00 PM
- **20-22** Youth Summer Camp @ the center 10:00 AM-3:00 PM
- **21** No General Support Group
- **28** General Support Group @ the center 1:00-2:00 PM

### July 2017
- **4** Office Closed (4th of July)
- **5** “Independence” General Support Group @ the center 1:00-2:00 PM
- **12** “What’s Bugging You” General Support Group @ the center 1:00-2:00 PM
- **19** “Clean It Up!” General Support Group @ the center 1:00-2:00 PM
- **26** ADA Celebration @ the center 1:00-2:00 PM

### August 2017
- **2** “Forgiveness or Permission” General Support Group @ the center 1:00-2:00 PM
- **9** “Just How Old are You?” General Support Group @ the center 1:00-2:00 PM
- **16** General Support Group @ the center 1:00-2:00 PM
- **23** “Get It Together” General Support Group @ the center 1:00-2:00 PM

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**Susie Reukema Retiring**

As of June 1st this year, I will be retired from the REACH organization and no longer the Assistant Director & Relocation Specialist for the REACH of Plano center. Over 21 years ago when I applied for the position at REACH of Dallas, I had no idea of the challenges I would face in providing services to our consumers. Since that time, I’ve learned an incredible amount of information and saw changes that have benefitted people with disabilities. However, the barriers and challenges have not gone away and at times appear to have taken a turn for the worse.

I have to thank all the people who have helped me learn and told me which rock I need to look under in order to find answers. There are so many that I can’t even begin to name you all. Charlotte Stewart, REACH’s Executive Director, has shared much knowledge with me and has probably wondered at times what she was thinking when she offered me the position.

My passion became the relocation project - assisting nursing home residents on Medicaid attain their goal of living back in the community. My goodness, that has been an ongoing challenge! But when you meet someone who thought they could never see the light of day and are finally living an independent life again, it’s a huge motivator in continuing the struggle. There are people who have remained in the community successfully for many years and continue to do so. There are others who made it for only one day. There are some who died trying, but never managed to reach that goal. And there were always those who just wanted to dream again of the day.

Much appreciation and respect goes to Doni Green with the North Central Texas Council of Governments/Area Agency on Aging of North Central Texas who has been the Program Manager for the Home By Choice project over the past several years! When I ran into brick walls, she was the one to help me find resources and answers. She has been an inspiration and a wealth of information. Thank you!

Being able to be a part of the REACH of Plano office to provide services to the residents of Collin County was such a thrill! I never dreamed it would ever happen. But it did, and our staff has been so successful in providing services to this community. I’m so proud of all of you!

After all of this, I have to thank my coworkers, past and present, most of all. You have been my friends and my family. You have challenged me, fought with me and confided in me. I will miss you and the laughs we shared and the tears we shed.

Thank you all for the opportunity to be a part of your lives!

Susie Reukema

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**Deadlines for Future REACHing Out Newsletters**

Welcome readers to the “THE INITIATIVE”!
Beautiful Spring Forecast
“The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.”
Eleanor Roosevelt

As we start the day with beautiful flowers, shades of green, and fresh cut grass (minus the allergies), we are reminded that spring is here. There is a sense of newness and rebirth of things, such as teenagers transitioning from high school to college or the workplace to economists and employers reviewing results of the first quarter forecasting of the job market. It feels like things are moving in the areas of employment and businesses, and if so, in what direction? The Automatic Data Processing (ADP) National Employment snapshot report showed U.S. private employers added 263,000 jobs in March. The growth sectors of Professional & Business added 57,000 jobs, Leisure and Hospitality added 55,000, Construction added 49,000 and Manufacturing added 30,000. Economists contribute the increase of added jobs to the market based on potential tax cuts, deregulations and infrastructure spending (Robb, 2017). According to the ADP National Employment report, the private sectors are where the market has been growing the first 3 months of 2017. The U.S. Labor Department’s Employment Report which covers government jobs in addition to the private sector reported 98,000 jobs were added in the month of March (Unemployment rate declined to 4.5 percent in March, 2017).

Whether the newness is graduating from an educational institution or re-evaluating the direction of your career, the Initiative wants to shed light on the job market. As the market has shown, here are lists of job titles that you may want to consider while drinking a tall glass of lemonade or ice tea. The list correlates with the sectors of growth. Professional & Business (office manager, administrative assistant, human resources assistant, web developer, business system analyst, insurance investigator, account payable/receivable; Leisure and Hospitality (guest service representative, reservation agent, front desk clerk, concierge, team member, greeter); Construction (carpenters, electricians, construction equipment operator, plumber, apprentice); and Manufacturing (production, material handler, quality control inspector, assembler, warehouse associate). There are hundreds to thousands of job titles that are available to review. Determine which sectors apply to your future.

Just know, “The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams” – Eleanor Roosevelt and, when you start your day, it is beautiful.

Remember…take The Initiative!!!


Unemployment rate declines to 4.5 percent in March; payroll employment edges up by 98,000. (2017, April 7). Retrieved April 7, 2017, from https://www.bls.gov/
FROM THE DIRECTOR’S DESK

REACH Demographic & Service Figure Highlights for Fiscal Year 2016 (10/1/15 - 9/30/16)

Employees assisted 980 consumers work on achieving their independent living goals.

- 57% of these consumers were female and 43% were male.
- 9% were 5-19 years of age, 12% were 20-24, 37% were 25-59, and 42% were 60+.
- 12% were Hispanic or Latino, 1% American Indian or Alaska Native, 3% Asian, 33% Black or African American, 49% White or Caucasian, and 2% of two or more races.
- 16% had cognitive disabilities, 8% mental/emotional disabilities, 35% physical disabilities, 4% vision disabilities, 37% multiple disabilities.
- 16% lived in Collin County, 31% in Dallas County, 9% in Denton County, and 44% in Tarrant County.
- 10,604 requests for information & referral assistance were handled.
- 873 instances of individual advocacy assistance was provided.
- 35 nursing home resident transitions to community living occurred.
- 20 job seeking consumers found employment.
- 38 consumers participated in adjustment to disability training sessions.
- 1,598 IL skills training sessions were conducted.
- 97 youth with disabilities participated in various activities to assist them as they were transitioning from high school to adult life.
- 882 instances of peer counseling/peer support were provided to consumers.

Sad News

REACH Board President and former employee Ben Johnson died unexpectedly on March 21. He will be missed by all of us. Julia Chalker, Vice President, has assumed the position of Board President.

FYI

GET READY!! REACH will again be participating in the North Texas Giving Day event. NTGD this year is Thursday, September 21st. More information about the event will be featured in the next edition of this newsletter, on the REACH website and via REACH Facebook posts.

Did you know that toy companies are creating toys that reflect children’s differences? For example, American Girl doll stores sell doll accessories such as hearing aids, a diabetes care kit and an allergy-free lunch sack. Toys R Us sells wheelchairs and crutches for its Journey Girl dolls and Lego introduced a boy in a wheelchair figure last year. These toys enable children with disabilities to play with toys that look like them and they can also be used to educate children who do not have a disability.

The REACH of Dallas center is seeking volunteers to assist us and update our list of local affordable apartment complexes. This volunteer activity would involve making phone calls to verify complex names and addresses, phone numbers, rental amounts, and miscellaneous information such as tax credit housing, income restricted housing, elderly and disabled status only housing, etc. Please contact Pam Momon, Housing Resource Specialist, at pmomon@reachcils.org if you’re interested in volunteering to help with this ongoing task.

Charlotte Stewart

Our Deepest Sympathy to the Johnson Family

The world has lost a very wonderful young man, Ben Johnson, President of the REACH Board of Directors and former Employment Specialist at the REACH of Dallas center. He was an incredible advocate for people with disabilities, loved life and, most of all, his son Jacob.
Rates for Advertising in REACH Newsletter

Below are the prices for placing an advertisement in the REACHing Out newsletter. The newsletter is published quarterly in December, March, June, and September. The newsletter is sent/distributed to 2,500+ readers living primarily in Tarrant, Dallas, Denton & Collin Counties and is available online at www.reachcils.org.

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If you have any questions, please call Becky Teal, newsletter editor, at REACH of Denton 940-383-1062 or contact her by email at reachden@reachcils.org.

These advertising rates may change without prior notice.

Worry is like a rocking chair. It gives you something to do, but never gets you anywhere.
Erma Bombeck

The REACH Resource Centers on Independent Living are members of the Texas Association of Centers for Independent Living, the National Council on Independent Living, and the Coalition of Texans with Disabilities.

Words to Live by!!

Durable Medical Equipment
Ceiling Track Lifts
Pool Lifts
Motion Alarms
Automatic Door Openers
Specifications

Insured - Bonded
ADAPTIVE MOBILITY of the SOUTHWEST LLC
Jim Chavez, Mobility Consultant- Proprietor
817-235-0670

Insured - Bonded

Durable Medical Equipment
Home Modifications
Bathrooms - Kitchens

Custom Ramps - Railing
Door Widening
Special Requests

817-704-3184 - Fax
amoofthesw@yahoo.com

Dates:
June 7 – July 12, 2017
Time:
Wednesdays
1 – 3 pm
Location:
Reach, Inc.
1000 Macon St., Suite 200
Fort Worth, TX 76102
To Register For Class:
Miaka Palmer
817-870-9082

Participants receive a bag of groceries each week, a workbook, and 65 healthy, delicious recipes the whole family will enjoy... all for FREE!
CARING to HELP

Honor your loved ones with a gift to the REACH Resource Centers on Independent Living. Donations in memory of a loved one or to celebrate a birthday, anniversary, wedding, Christmas, Valentine’s Day, etc. will help REACH continue its work in providing an array of independent living services to North Texans with disabilities.

Enclosed is my contribution of $____________

In Memory or Honor of (Name): _________________________________________

Check one: Memorial ____  Birthday____  Anniversary____  Wedding____  or Other (Explain)________________________________________________________

Send acknowledgement to (Name, Address, City, State & Zip Code):
_____________________________________________________________________

From (Your Name, Address, City, State & Zip Code):
_____________________________________________________________________

Make checks payable to REACH, Inc. and mail with this form to 1000 Macon Street, Suite 200, Fort Worth, TX 76102-4527. THANK YOU FOR YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT.

The contents of this newsletter were developed, in part, under grants from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC). The contents of this newsletter do not, however, necessarily represent the policies of HHS or HHSC and you should not assume endorsement by either the federal or state government.

REACH receives a majority of its funding to operate the centers from grants from HHS and HHSC. REACH of Denton receives 100% of its funding ($208,765) from HHS; REACH of Fort Worth receives 100% of its funding ($250,000) from HHSC; REACH of Dallas receives 94% of its funding ($402,694) from HHS and 6% ($24,559) from HHSC; and REACH of Plano receives 100% of its funding ($250,000) from HHSC.

JUST A REMINDER

REACH generates additional funds to enhance its mission by participating in the Tom Thumb, Kroger and Amazon Smile donor programs. Each company allows its customers to register so that donations go to a nonprofit organization that the customer supports. Then every time a purchase is made by the customer, the nonprofit receives credit for the total amount of the purchase. The Tom Thumb, Kroger and Amazon companies then periodically issue a donation check to REACH for a percentage of the total of its supporters’ purchases.

If you and/or your family and friends shop at or online at any or all of these companies and would like to make sure that REACH is able to continue providing services to North Texans with disabilities, please call any of the REACH offices for more information on how to enroll in these donor programs.