

Inspirations

Summer 2011



Director's Corner— Mary Lynn Bisland



GREETINGS TO ALL TARC MEMBERS:

The summer has been very busy maintaining contracts and business production. Although very hot and humid, the many enterprise businesses that are operated from the TARC Business Complex continue to grow and enhance the job opportunities for the individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities served by TARC. Everyone seems to enjoy their jobs and the opportunity to earn a paycheck biweekly. There are always smiles on the faces of staff and clients on payday!

Don't forget the TARC Restaurant and Gift Shop for breakfast and lunch. The doors open at 7 AM—10:30 AM for breakfast and from 10:30 AM—1:30 PM for lunch daily, Monday-Friday. Our daily specials are great home cooked meals like your momma used to make and the salads are made fresh daily. The po-boys are awesome, with the shrimp po-boy being the BEST anywhere. Try a tender, fried catfish po-boy for a little different seafood treat! While you are there, take time to browse the many hand-made items made at TARC by the adults employed by TARC Enterprises. Check out the candy from Cajun Confections, the "to die for" brownies, from Cajun Confections Bakery, or pick up a jar or two of their pepper jelly and salsa while your at it.

In the Gift Shop, you'll also discover fragrant candles made by Maison d' Art, slumped wine bottles to give as gifts, and one-of-a-kind artwork done by artists in the same department. If not sold out due to special orders, you might even find a Cajun paper towel holder with either a crab, crawfish, alligator or fleur-de-lis to decorate your table. This group of adults stays extremely busy as do all of our enterprises.

These items are just a few things that you will find in the gift department. Other items to look for are: Mardi Gras beads, worm tea bags, garden marble flower seed balls, printed t-shirts, t-shirts with rhinestone designs, koozies, caps, TARC cookbooks, and many more items to choose from. Do yourself a favor and visit us soon!

TARC Annual Report Now Online!

This year, TARC's 2010 Annual Report will not be distributed to our membership to save on costs of paper and production. However, please review it online at www.terrebonnearc.org, under "About TARC." In this year's report, you will find our financial statement, contributors, business information, and much more! It will review all the ways TARC "creates opportunities" for all of our individuals.

TARC is now hiring
the following:

CLS

SIL Coordinator

PCA-Weekends

Direct Support
Worker

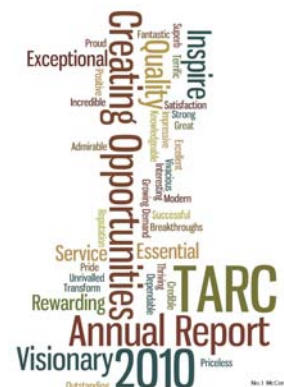
Job Coach

CDL Driver

www.terrebonnearc.org/careers

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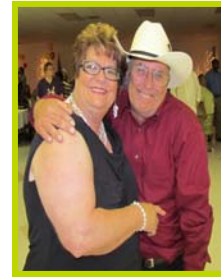
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Let's Get Together Club



Let's Get Together has been having a lot of fun! In April, the group watched the New Orleans Zephyrs play Round Rock at the Zephyrs field in New Orleans. Over 80 people came to the game. The Zephyrs lost, but it didn't stop us from having a great time! The whole group also received free Zephyrs' visors. In June, the club sponsored a summer dance at the Woodmen of the World in Houma. Dance goers thoroughly enjoyed a delicious dinner and danced the whole time. Cajun Crate worker, Herman McElroy, DJ'd the event for the first time. Everyone had a blast! The club would like to thank South Terrebonne High School Student Council for volunteering their time at the dance. In July, the club accepted the fall dues and held a t-shirt fundraiser. We are looking forward to a barbeque and prize bingo in August, a Harvest/Halloween dance in October, and our Annual Christmas Gift Exchange in December.



TARC Garden and Market Festival

On April 30th, TARC held the TARC Garden and Market Festival. TARC teamed up with the La-Terre Master Gardeners and LSU AgCenter to provide a variety of educational opportunities, guest speakers, garden related vendors, and a garden-themed art show. TARC embraced this new opportunity and enjoyed having the community visit TARC. Entertainment was provided by Billy Stark, Frank Ball, TARC Bell Choir, and TARC Express.

TARC showcased their food, gourmet candy products, bakery products, worm tea fertilizer, salsa and pepper jelly. New TARC products were also revealed at the event that includes Maison d'Art's creative stepping stones and Houma Grown's Garden Marbles. The TARC grounds were also renovated with an exceptional garden and raised beds. The Houma Grown Farmer's Market was open with fresh produce and an array of beautiful plants. TARC appreciates all of the community support, and is now looking forward to next year's garden market.



Betty Anderson-DSP of the Year-ANCOR



Betty and her Yard Krewe- Horace, Stephen, Willie & Charles

On June 7, the American Network of Community Options and Resources (ANCOR) awarded Betty Anderson of TARC in Houma its 2011 Direct Support Professional of the Year in Louisiana. "TARC is proud of Betty Anderson's recognition. This honor is a reflection of Betty Anderson's commitment and the quality services provided by TARC," said Mary Lynn Bisland, TARC Executive Director. Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) provide daily support services for millions of Americans with disabilities. "It is important to recognize the vital services provided by Betty and direct support professionals throughout the country," said Wendy Sokol, president of ANCOR. "They make an incredibly important contribution to the social and economic fabric of our communities. Betty Anderson represents the highest caliber of DSPs."

Client Spotlight – Samantha Bourdier



At only 20 years old, Samantha Bourdier exudes incredible maturity beyond her years with her delightful and charming personality that she shares with her co-workers in the Bayou Packers division at TARC and beyond. Samantha has been recently nominated for TARC's 2011 Worker of the Year.

New to TARC since December, Samantha is creating her own path by becoming an inspirational speaker to hundreds of junior high students and teachers at the BETA Club State Convention in Lafayette in May. The BETA Club promotes academic excellence and charity for grades 5-12. This year, the philanthropy is Muscular Dystrophy. Samantha's mother, Leslie Bourdier is the club sponsor at Houma Jr. High as well as the sponsor-elect for all of the junior BETA clubs in Louisiana. She helped Samantha with the speaking opportunity.

In her speech, Samantha told students "Don't take things for granted." "Don't treat me different, because I'm in a wheelchair. I am no different." She also stressed the importance of service in that she "hopes they remember service and responsibility even after they have finished school." She concluded her speech by thanking the students for raising money to help Muscular Dystrophy. Samantha said, "I wasn't nervous at all. I was polite, and I felt like a celebrity. I would definitely talk again."

One of Samantha's major platforms is bullying. "I was bullied a lot all my life, she said, and I want people to stop bullying others." An inspiration to all at TARC, she gives great advice to all individuals served, "Treat people like you want to be treated."

When asked about her future dreams, Samantha hopes to meet all of the New Orleans Saints one day and visit California. For now, she will continue to work in Bayou Packers completing utensil kits for Chabert Medical Center. "It's a real pleasure working with Samantha. She can do anything you give her," says Margaret Dubois, Bayou Packers Direct Support Professional. "She takes great pride in her work," says Mrs. Diane Bourg, Bayou Packers Direct Support Professional.

Music Hall Renovation and Art Project

In April, TARC's Music Hall underwent a major painting renovation. The Terrebonne Parish Sheriff's Inmate Work Program volunteered their efforts to complete the project. The Music Hall is utilized for music programs and music therapy. In addition, it will now be utilized as a meeting room and be a gallery to display our TARC artists work.

During this time, TARC created an art project for all individuals and staff. Each person put their handprint in paint and left their handprint on the canvas. Two canvasses now have a collage of over 200 TARC handprints. This art will hang in the Music Hall.



TARC received an \$11,000 grant through ConocoPhillips. Thank you!

TARC Tidbits



TARC participated at the TFAE 5K Run for Excellence by serving chicken and sausage gumbo.



Chaneika Smith received a Certificate of Appreciation for her term as Client Representative 2010-2011

New TARC Product! Garden Marbles

Want beautiful plants but don't have the time? With TARC's Garden Marbles from our Houma Grown division, you place them in potting soil, water, and watch them grow! This inexpensive and low maintenance gardening will have you a flower garden in no time! Garden Marbles are available in variety packs, easy to use, and can be stored or used right away and only \$4.95! Buy at the TARC Restaurant & Gift Shop or the TARC Online Store! Buy yours today for an instant garden!



We have 4 Garden Marble variety sacks: Butterfly Seed Mix, Daisy Seed Mix, Southeast Seed Mix, and Sunflower Seed Mix.

Upcoming Events

- ♦ **September 5th**– Labor Day.
TARC Closed
- ♦ **September 10th**– Art After Dark
Downtown Houma
- ♦ **October 29th**– Harvest Dance
Woodmen of the World

Department Spotlight – Cajun Crate Company



The 20 individuals in TARC's Wood department, now known as the Cajun Crate Company, learn carpentry skills while manufacturing custom designed wooden crates for oilfield tools, specifically, Houma business, Weatherford Houma Manufacturing.

A joint venture by both TARC and Weatherford transpired when discussing the need for more space to build the crates, especially when most of the crates were bought and used by Weatherford. With its Grand Opening in 2009, Weatherford's new facility was designed to include 5,000 square feet to be strictly utilized to relocate TARC's oilfield tool crate business. This new facility was not only ADA accessible, but also disability friendly to TARC individuals and Weatherford staff, as well as including personal lockers for the men.

"We feel a part of the whole operation at Weatherford. They even include the men with their spaghetti and chili cook-offs. They eat what they make," said Marcia Commodore, Cajun Crate Company Project Coordinator.

"Weatherford has been keeping us pretty busy. We are building 200-300 crates a week," said Marcia. The division continues to grow with added projects. In June, "We built a special crate, called a Reamer Crate," said Marcia.

Cajun Crate worker Tony Trahan has been in the division for at least 30 years. "I've improved over the years, and now I get paid a lot of money for it. I love working with the plywood and making crates." Tony said the best part of his job is that the "staff and clients treat me like family."

This historical moment for TARC is greatly appreciative of Weatherford for helping TARC follow its motto of "Creating Opportunities." The men of Cajun Crate Company are in the community with many other workers, and the opportunities are endless to achieve all that they desire in their work life.

