

Inspirations

September 2008

Terrebonne Association for Retarded Citizens



Director's Corner

Dear TARC Friends and Supporters:

The months of July and August 2008 were filled with activities which included vacations and seminars. All has quickly become a blur due to the visits of Hurricane Gustav and Ike. TARC residential community homes and supervised independent living (SIL) participants and staff evacuated to West Monroe, Louisiana on Saturday, August 30th and returned on Wednesday, September 10th amid the threat of Hurricane Ike. The First United Methodist Church of West Monroe was our home

away from home. TARC evacuated approximately 50 staff and clients to West Monroe and waited out the passing of Hurricane Gustav, never expecting to stay for 12 days. With each passing day and very little information coming out of Houma and Terrebonne Parish, the love, compassion, and brotherhood that connects TARC staff and clients together was quite heartwarming. Also, the church pastor and congregation were so loving and supportive in our time of need, that it was actually a pleasure and blessing to be a part of their family. The church quickly adopted us as family and as their southern cousins. With great meals, a nice place to lay our heads (air mattresses) and air conditioning, we counted our blessings and did not complain about being displaced.

As soon as we heard that it was clear to come home, we

packed everyone and everything and came home only to have to evacuate anyway to higher ground. Like so many others who live along the southern most boundaries of our coast, TARC staff too, thought that Ike was no real threat to Houma; but, with the danger of rising water in lower Terrebonne, we chose to evacuate the Jane home and Dixie home for a short time to the west side at the Wellington Home, due to the waters brought into east Houma by Hurricane Ike.

We would like to thank NREC and Brian Chaisson for donating the use of a large diesel generator for us to operate our Dixie home the weekend after Ike so that the residents could finally be home. Thanks Brian for your generosity!

Thankfully, the Jane home and Dixie home stayed for a short time at the Wellington home

due to the threat of Hurricane Ike. Neither of the storms did irreparable damage to TARC. We had some minor roof damages, branches and tree limbs down and refrigerators to clean. We feel blessed that this is all that we had to report to our insurance company and everything can be easily repaired. Like so many in Terrebonne Parish, we dread the next one! Without Terrebonne Parish, there will be NO TARC!

We ask each of you to continue to write our representatives in Congress and ask them to fund our restoration projects and hurricane protection levees or we will not survive as a community.

I believe that if we do our part, God will do His!

God Bless,
Mary Lynn

Sweet Sensations Partners with Chevrolet for Essence Music Festival



Sweet Sensations, TARC's candy department,

partnered with Chevrolet this summer for the Essence Music Festival in New Orleans, LA. Chevy provided its VIP guests with an assortment of unique gifts to remember their experience at the Essence Music Festival. Media from all over the U.S. including Detroit, Dallas,

and New York went home with Mardi Gras-themed, handmade chocolate candies from Sweet Sensations Confections. Maggie Zchiedrich, Project Coordinator for Sweet Sensations, said "this was a great opportunity to work with Chevrolet as well as a part of Essence Music Festival to educate more people about TARC's services through our products. It's about what we can do, what we can achieve,

and what we can prove with our participants and our candy."

Chevrolet contacted Sweet Sensations after seeing the products in the New Orleans International Airport. From this point, collaboration began on the special project and the challenge set forth from Chevrolet proved to Sweet Sensations they can achieve anything with the staff and participants' expertise, training, and their



ability to execute and complete the project from start to finish.

"We were really blessed to be a part of the vendor selection for the media package, said Zchiedrich."

Mary Lynn Bisland wins National NCE Rising Star Award

TARC Executive Director, Mary Lynn Bisland has won the prestigious NCE (National Conference of Executives of The ARC) Rising Star Award. The Rising Star Award recognizes an Executive Director/President/CEO who is in his or her first 5 years in that role with a chapter of The Arc, and who has made significant contributions to their chapter. This individual must demonstrate support for the core values of The Arc. She will receive the award November 5th at the NCE Annual Convention in Albuquerque, NM.

TARC is very excited for this national achievement through Mrs. Bisland's exceptional efforts and creative achievements in her first 18 months as Executive Director.

Mardi Gras Beads Wanted!

Do you have beads that need to be sorted and packaged before Mardi Gras? Our **Bayou Packers** department can do that for you!



Let's Get Together Movie Night was a hit!

OUR WEBSITE IS UPDATED! CHECK IT OUT AT WWW.TERREBONNEARC.ORG

TARC is now hiring the following:

Residential Floater

PCA

SIL Specialist

DSW1

DSW2

DSW3

Pre-School Teacher

Part-Time Maintenance/Delivery Driver

CDL Bus Driver

Upcoming Events

- ◆ **October 25th**—Harvest Dance at Woodmen of the World
- ◆ **November 8th**—TARC Open House
- ◆ **November 15th**—Let's Get Together Goes to Global Wildlife
- ◆ **November 24-28**- TARC Closed/ Thanksgiving Holidays
- ◆ **December 9th**-Let's Get Together Holiday Party
- ◆ **December 24-Jan. 2.** TARC Closed/ Christmas Holidays