

# Allegheny Accents

a bimonthly newsletter from the **ALLEGHENY COUNTY CHAPTER**

**Pennsylvania Association for Retarded Citizens, Inc.**

1001 BRIGHTON ROAD Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15233 telephone: (412) 322-6008

April 1976

If you are a parent or other interested person in Allegheny County who:

- (1) is concerned about the availability and the quality of educational opportunities for people who are mentally retarded, and
- (2) is interested in working for the improvement and expansion of existing educational programs for individuals who are mentally retarded,

then you might be interested in the ACC-PARC Education Committee.

This ACC Board Committee has the responsibility to promote and monitor the educational opportunities available to mentally handicapped citizens. The rationale for this function has developed from the belief that quality education depends upon the involvement of interested people (parents and other concerned community members), outside of what we have traditionally defined as the education establishment.

Participation in this Committee will allow you to interact with other persons interested in the development of appropriate education experiences for people who are mentally retarded. You will reflect ideas, produce resolutions and develop strategies, all designed to improve the quality and the availability of education for mentally retarded individuals. Your committee involvement will include one meeting per month, but your level of activity within the sub-committee and special project groups can be governed by your interest, time and desire to participate.

Some of these activities might include: visiting existing programs; meeting with school directors, administrators, teachers and parents to discuss existing and needed services; working on inter-agency task forces concerned with education issues; reviewing laws, regulations, standards and policies that affect the education of individuals who are mentally retarded; making recommendations to the ACC-PARC Board of Directors for the development of agency policy.

Remember, as a member of the Allegheny County community, you are in many ways a consumer of the educational programs available. If you are concerned about these services, one avenue of involvement that might be of interest to you is the ACC-PARC Education Committee.

If you would like more information, or if you are interested in serving as a volunteer on this Committee, contact Bill Casile at the Chapter office.

Ellen Siciliano and Rosanne Graham  
Co-Chairpersons, Education Committee

## YOUTH-PARC IN ACTION



The Hampton Unit of Hope Corps Council moved into action when they heard that residents from the Highland Park Center could not attend a Youth-PARC sponsored dance at the Airport Sheraton Inn because they lacked transportation. An open plea to all the students at Hampton High School brought in nickles and dimes .. whatever change the students had in their pockets that day... that amounted to the \$70 needed to rent a bus. Quick thinking and the spontaneous response of many young people allowed those at Highland Park to have a Saturday night "get together" that will be long remembered.

The Western State Unit of Hope Corps Council is once again co-ordinating the Bike-Hike at Three Rivers Stadium. They will be manning check-points from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and invite any Youth-PARC members or friends who want to join them to call Nancy Daily at 276-3868. Have fun - get involved!

## DIAPER NEEDS SURVEYED

We have been informed that the Pamper Division of Procter and Gamble is considering the manufacture of heavy-duty disposable diapers in large sizes. They are now compiling statistics to determine the extent of interest in this product and its potential use. A supplier in New Jersey has expressed willingness to bring the product into this area if there is sufficient demand.

If you would be interested in purchasing heavy-duty disposable diapers in large sizes if this product were to be manufactured, write to the following two addresses and tell them so. Describe the sizes that would be most convenient and estimate how many would be used each month. Write to:

Customer Service  
Procter & Gamble  
Pamper Division  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

Tamoia Geacintov, Gen. Mgr.  
DRG Corporation  
P. O. Box 1178  
Mountainside, New Jersey 07092

## BICENTENNIAL CRUISE

The Clipped Wings (Stewardess Alumni Association)is sponsoring a "Bicentennial Cruise" on the Gateway Party Liner, Saturday, April 24th, from 9:00 p.m. to midnight. Funds are being raised for the benefit of the North Side Developmental Center. A full evening's entertainment has been planned .. Monte Carlo, dancing to a full band, strolling musicians, cash bar, prizes.

The Clipped Wings' "Flight to Nowhere" in February was sold out quickly and the Cruise is being planned as an additional fund-raising project for those who were unable to get tickets on the "Flight". Call Kay Widell, 831-8677, for ticket reservations.

## SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

PARC provides a limited sum of money for scholarships to outstanding students in the area of Special Education and allied fields.

Awards are usually limited to persons in their junior and senior year of college who have made a firm commitment to the field of mental retardation. Preference will be given to persons who are interested in obtaining degrees and/or certificates in Special Education, Vocational Rehabilitation, Social Work and other related areas.

Applications must be received by June 1, and awards will be made to applicants by August 15.

For further information, contact PARC Scholarship Committee, 1500 N. Second St., Harrisburg, Pa. 17102

## POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Unusual Employment Opportunity .. live-in attendant position, to care for adult male who is mentally retarded. Widower or early retiree. Position requires living in the home for seven days at a time, then seven days off. Salary \$550 per month. Send letter of application and work history to Ronald E. Archer, Esq., Executive Director, ACC-PARC, 1001 Brighton Rd., Pgh., Pa. 15233.

Relief Driver Needed .. man or woman; over 18 years of age; good driving experience; North Side area; 7:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., five days a week; \$22.00 per day. Contact Gigi Beatty, ACC office, 322-6008.



Male Counselors .. for Camp Sunshine; July 24 to August 28; residential camp near Butler; salary dependent upon experience; employment available first half of summer if desired. Call Sue Mussman, ACC office, 322-6008.

Registered Nurse .. for Camp Sunshine (a residential camp near Butler); July 24 to August 28; salary \$75.00 per week plus room and board. Call Sue Mussman, ACC office, 322-6008.

Summer Assistant .. to Camping Coordinator; experience in camping and working with people who are mentally retarded; man or woman, at least 22 years of age; all summer, part-time; salaried. Call Sue Mussman, ACC office, 322-6008.

Telephone Recruiters .. weekdays beginning June 7; downtown office; some experience preferred; \$2.30 per hour; call Jean Dawson, Fund Drive Coordinator; 391-0187.

## CAMP NEEDS

An electric dryer for use at Camp Sunshine; and

A free-standing storage cabinet. Call Sue Mussman, 322-6008.

## FLEA MARKET FUN!

The Volunteer Group of Robinson Developmental Center has planned a great day for bargain hunters! The volunteers will sponsor a Flea Market on Sunday, June 13, at McKees Rocks Shopping Center, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

They are seeking saleable items: household goods and small appliances; clothing; plants; baked goods; handcrafts; stamps and coins; toys; books; tools; glassware; antiques; etc.

Proceeds will be used to purchase articles for residents of Robinson where funds are not available. One of the first items will be a pair of orthopedic shoes needed by one of the residents.

If you have items you would like to donate for sale, call Mrs. Ann Shord, 835-3982.

## MUSICIANS ENTERTAIN

Music for the March 25 and May 27 ACC dances at Calvary Lutheran Church was provided by a grant from the Music Performance Trust Funds (Kenneth E. Raine, Trustee), a public service organization created and financed by the Recording Industries under agreements with the American Federation of Musicians. The grant was obtained the cooperation of Local 60-471, A.F.M.

Joseph M. Morrone and The Hausens played for the March dance; and the Bobby Cardillo Combo is scheduled for May.

**NARC  
PROTECTION  
PLAN**

Did you receive the recent Annual Enrollment mailing concerning the special insurance plan available from NARC? If not, or if you've delayed taking advantage of it, here's an easy way to get information about this unique protection. You may call the Protection Plan administrators free on their national telephone line. Just dial 1-800-237-7771 and ask for Pat. The administrators will answer any questions you may have and send you materials explaining the plan if you wish. If you prefer to write, the address is: NARC Protection Plan, P.O.Box 18384, Tampa, Florida 33679.

The Protection Plan is special insurance protection arranged by the NARC at much lower than normal rates. It's available only to NARC members and provides coverage up to \$50,000 without a health examination. It's designed to solve the problem of member parents' greater need of life insurance protection for their families.

**FREE TRAIN  
RIDE DENIED**

The South Hills Area Developmental Center had a compliment right before Christmas. The children were waiting to ride the train at South Hills Village, and the woman running the train told Jo-Ann, the teacher, that it cost 15 cents a child. There was some grumbling among the adults because the children had always ridden the train free.

Finally the woman came over to explain that she was sorry but only retarded or handicapped children could ride the train free. She looked surprised when told the children were retarded. It was almost worth paying to ride the train. Three cheers for normalization!

Ruth Kyle, South Area Mother

**DOWN'S GROUP  
MEETS**

ACC-PARC's Down's Syndrome Group schedules education meetings two or three times a year to teach parents and professionals more about Down's Syndrome (formerly called "mongolism"). For information concerning the Group's activities, call Sue Vandervort, 322-6008.

**"PRACTICE"  
APARTMENT  
PLANNED**

Southwest Habilitation Center is gathering items to furnish a "practice" apartment as a part of their independent living skills program. They would appreciate donations of useable kitchen appliances and utensils, household items, etc. Items may be taken directly to the Center, Bengs Building, Bridgeville, or may be brought to the ACC-PARC office, 1001 Brighton Road, North Side.

**ATTENTION  
OUTDOORSMEN  
(AND WOMEN)**



ACC staff members are enthusiastic about new summer programs for adults who are mentally retarded that will be implemented this year on a trial basis. They hope to obtain donations of camping and fishing equipment to begin the program. If it proves successful, the program will be expanded in the future and hopefully equipment could be purchased at that time. But for this year, it is hoped ACC members will respond to this appeal with their customary generosity and will donate useable camping equipment, fishing tackle, Zebco rods and reels, bobbers, sinkers, hooks, nets, stringers, etc.

Send or deliver equipment to the ACC office, 1001 Brighton Road, North Side, or call 322-6008 .. talk to Bob Kasten or Sarah Cook.

## A LOVE STORY

In 1972 Sue was a staff member at Western State School and Hospital and Richard was a volunteer. And now they're married and have an 11-½ year old son named Glenn.

Let's start the story back before Glenn knew Sue and Richard. Let's start with a boy named Bobby who was (and is) a resident of Western State. For five years, Sue and Bobby were friends and he spent weekends, holidays and summer vacations with her. During those visits, he seemed lonely and Sue wondered if she couldn't share those happy times with another resident. Bobby and Glenn were friends and last summer both boys joined Sue and Richard for their vacations.

When Sue and Richard decided they wanted a foster child to join them as a family, it was a difficult decision to make: Bobby or Glenn. But it appeared that Glenn would benefit most from a foster home setting and had more potential to develop. So, in December, Glenn moved in with Sue and began a new life in his first "real" home. He had been placed at a facility for infants and children, then transferred to Western State, and had lived in an institution all his life.

Sue and Richard are technically a "host" family since permission for Glenn to live with them was granted by Western State and a court ruling was not necessary. Glenn's parents are alive, but have maintained only minimal contact with him over the years. Limited involvement exists between Western State and Glenn. Sue and Richard receive a small Social Security Income check each month toward his room and board and clothing.

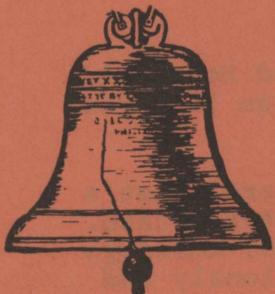
Glenn attends Pathfinder School and can continue to do so until he is 21. Then "who knows?", says Sue, "maybe a group home would be best for Glenn. We'll have to wait and see." But for right now, with Pathfinder for a school, and Sue and Richard for a family .. Glenn has learned (since December) to count to ten and is beginning to understand the numbers; some letters of the alphabet; to take a bath; to partially dress himself; to go up and down stairs; and almost write his name. His vocabulary now contains several hundred words and his speech is much clearer. His social behavior is more appropriate and he's more outgoing and friendly.

Glenn is a Down's Syndrome child, and Sue and Richard wondered what the reaction would be from their families and friends when he came to live with them. They need not have worried, because he has been welcomed as a member of both families. "Kids come to play", Sue says, "and there haven't been any neighborhood problems."

He's a real member of the community, too, attending Sunday School (with normal children) and church. And he attends the CEAAP (University of Pittsburgh) Leisure Learn Program at Trees Hall. And this summer he'll participate in Crafton Day Camp's activities. And he'll go to camp. This will be his fifth year at camp and Glenn thinks "it's the greatest" because he can swim every day. And Sue and Richard think Glenn's "the greatest" because he's their boy.

Incidentally, literally hundreds of our members know the Sue of this story: Sue Mussman, ACC's Camping and Recreation Coordinator. And you all know that this isn't really a love story about Sue and Richard. It's a love story about Glenn.

## PHILADELPHIA PLANS TOURS



The Philadelphia Association for Retarded Citizens has designed a regular series of three-hour historical tours for developmentally disabled and handicapped citizens. The tours, in special audio-equipped, air-conditioned vans, began April 1 and will continue throughout 1976.

For additional information, contact the Philadelphia Assn. for Retarded Citizens, 1211 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, Pa. 19107.

Tony Orlando has been named Honorary Chairperson for the National Association for Retarded Citizens.

"My sister Rhonda was born profoundly retarded," Orlando explained. "I've always wanted to be able to help her and the rest of the six million mentally retarded people in this country and do it in a big way. My sister died in August and since then my interest has become even more important and imperative to me. Now by serving as National Chairperson for NARC, I can work with 300,000 people who have a similar interest."

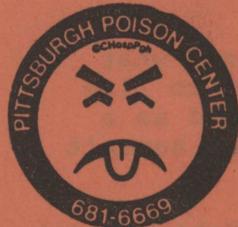
## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Did you know that in Pennsylvania mentally retarded adults are employed in more than 100 different vocations? ACC-PARC's Job Placement Counselor is responsible for the development of all job tryout sites and job placement activities for Parc-way Industries. He would welcome the opportunity to discuss possible employment opportunities for people who are mentally retarded; and cites a recent study which proved that hiring mentally retarded workers in jobs for which they are qualified is sound business practice. For further information, call Bob George, 322-6008.

## YOU ARE WELCOME ...

to attend a meeting of the ACC-PARC Board of Directors. Meetings are held monthly at the Chapter offices on the North Side. Call the office, 322-6008, for the date of the next meeting.

## "POISON-PROOF" YOUR HOME



"Small children, especially when they are at the age at which they crawl and begin to walk, are fast and fearless explorers. As they busily investigate new territories, they put anything they can into their mouths -- no matter what it looks or tastes like."

And so, Procter & Gamble has listed the following household items that should be kept out of the reach of children. They suggest that these items are stored in a locked cabinet or on a high shelf away from children's reach:

acids - after shave lotions - alcoholic beverages - all medication - ammonia - analgesics - antifreeze - antiseptics - aspirin - astringents - benzene - bleaches - boric acid - camphor - car polish - cleaning agents - cologne - cough syrup - cuticle remover - depilatories - disinfectants - drain cleaners - drugs - dyes - floor and rug cleaners - furniture waxes and polishes - gasoline - glue - hormones - insecticides - iodine - kerosene - laxatives - lighter fluid - liniment - lye - matches - mothballs - nail polish and remover - oil - oven cleaners - paint - paint thinner - paraffin - perfume - pesticides - petroleum - rat poison - rubbing alcohol - rust removers - shaving cream and lotion - toilet bowl cleaner - turpentine - varnishes - vitamins - washing soda - wax - weed killers.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

APRIL 26TH IS ACC-PARC'S TWENTIETH BIRTHDAY!

## FACT SHEET #3

### PAYING FOR MH/MR SERVICES

#### (1) Are MH/MR services free of charge?

Some MH/MR services are free of charge. (They are listed under question two.)

Payment is required for other services. (They are listed under question three.)

Payment is made in a monthly sum called a "liability". This liability is determined on your ability to pay. (This procedure is outlined under question four.)

#### (2) Which MH/MR services are free of charge?

- Sheltered workshops
- Therapeutic activity centers
- Preschools
- Initial interview
- Day camp
- Right to Education counseling
- Consultation and Education
- Information and referral
- Administrative services
- Ambulances in emergency cases
- Monitoring residential placement
- Psychological testing for Right to Education hearing  
(will soon be added to free list)

#### (3) For which MH/MR services is payment required?

Payment is required for all other services (not listed in question two), including:

- Interim care
- Group homes
- Counseling/therapy
- Living skills
- Medical consultation
- Psychological testing
- Behavior management training
- Recreation/socialization
- Babysitting
- Transportation

- continued -

Medication  
Play therapy  
Monitoring of services at other agencies  
Foster Home finding  
Residential placement  
Respite care (vacation or emergency)  
Life planning  
Toilet training  
Homemaking  
Mobility training  
Genetic counseling  
Sexuality counseling  
Language development  
Audiological services

(4) How is the charge determined?

The sliding scale is based on your ability to pay as determined by the MH/MR unit.

A formula is used to determine your charge. It includes consideration for: (a) total salary, (b) number of dependents, (c) federal tax paid, (d) work expenses, (e) educational expenses, and (f) medical expenses.

The liability clerk at the MH/MR unit will determine your cost. You have a right to know how or why the determination is made.

Changes in any of the factors listed above should be shared with the liability clerk. The liability will be adjusted accordingly.

(5) Do maximum payments reduce over a period of time?

Yes. For non-residential services, the maximum amount you can be charged is reduced.

At the end of three months, your new maximum liability is determined by dividing your previous payment by the number of dependents.

At the end of the first year of service, the maximum liability is reduced by 10% and continues to lessen by 10% each year.

Thus, consideration is granted for people who will use services over a long period of time. The longer you use services, the less you are required to pay.

(6) Are medications included as a service if you pay maximum liability?

Yes. If you are paying maximum liability, you are eligible for medication on the MH/MR lists at no additional charge.

(7) If your son/daughter is 18 years of age or older, how is the charge for services determined?

Once a person who is mentally retarded reaches age 18, the liability charge is based on his/her personal income. Until age 18, the liability charge is based on the parents' income.

This relief of financial obligation of parents resulted from the passage of Senate Bill #53, which was sponsored and supported by parents across the state.

(8) If services are not available from the MH/MR unit, can the MH/MR unit contract with a private agency?

When it becomes necessary to provide services that are not available within that MH/MR unit, the unit can, if fiscally feasible, contract for those services. In some cases, these services (speech therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, etc.) may not have higher priority than other needed services.

(9) Who should you go to if you think you are being overcharged?

Most questions about charges can be handled through the local MH/MR unit. However, you should be aware that a mechanism exists to appeal the liability. Contact PARC or the Allegheny County MH/MR office.

SUMMARY:

Some families will benefit by obtaining services from MH/MR units since the maximum cost is reduced each year. A sliding scale, according to ability to pay, is used to determine charge; and many services, including medication, can be obtained under the one fee.

Contact the Mental Retardation Services Coordinator at the MH/MR unit for more details on services your family needs:

- 9A-1 Mon Yough Community MH/MR - 664-9180 - Marvin Wheeler
- 9A-2 Homestead Hospital Community MH/MR - 462-9900 - Elizabeth Willard
- 9B-1 St. Francis Community MH Center - 361-6102 - John Figurel
- 9B-2 Allegheny East MH/MR Center - 243-3400 - Beverly Robinson
- 9C-1 Western Psychiatric Institute & Clinic - 624-2315 - Lynda Katz
- 9C-2 Turtle Creek Valley MH/MR - 351-0222 - Lee Richbaum

9D-1 Staunton Clinic - 741-6600 - Michael Angotti  
9D-2 Northern Communities MH/MR - 323-1330 - Michael Reardon  
9E-1 Southwest MH/MR - 344-6400 - Eleanor Sabol  
9E-2 Chartiers MH/MR Center - 561-7655 or 221-3302 - Nancy Green

Call ACC-PARC, 322-6008, if you aren't sure which MH/MR unit serves your locality. We'll figure it out.

Note: if you would like to suggest another MH/MR question that you would like to see answered in a future issue of the Accents, call Nancy Zirngibl, 322-6008.

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