

**THE MICHAEL DUNN CENTER  
STAFF BULLETIN**

**NOW YOU KNOW**

Volume 3 Issue 2

March– April, 2006

edited by Roger Richmond

**A WORD FROM THE  
PRESIDENT** Mike McElhinney

**People Listen..**

I knew when I took this job that I would be expected to go to Nashville periodically for meetings, but exactly why and for what meetings I was not sure. When I learned a month ago that March 15<sup>th</sup> was the annual Tennessee Community Organizations (TNCO) Legislative Day, I was lukewarm about going. The Presidents and Executive Directors from other East Tennessee providers were going (like Walter Hunt from Bradley-Cleveland, Lee Chase from Dawn of Hope and Kyle Hauth from Orange Grove) so I decided I probably should force myself to go and learn what was going on.

I am sure glad I did. This was one of the best business trips I have ever taken in all 30 years of my professional work, both in terms of what I learned and the benefits

to my employer, the Michael Dunn Center. The purpose of this trip was for each TNCO representative to meet with his/her state representative and state senator. I received excellent training and coaching on how to do this from the TNCO staff and the other Presidents. We were briefed on four bills before the legislature that TNCO supports and were asked to explain these to the legislators, and, if possible, get them to sign a document agreeing to co-



sponsor the legislation. I met with Senator Tommy Kilby. He not only agreed to be supportive, but actually signed up to co-sponsor legislation that would require the state to pay direct support professional staff the same wages at MDC

*(Continued on page 3)*

**RANDOM THOUGHTS**

Roger Richmond



**What Are Your Pet Peeves?**

I don't know if it's a function of my getting older, or that I just notice them more, since I speak of them so often in training classes, but it seems that I have more and more "pet peeves" these days. Someone applying for a job recently asked, "What is a pet peeve?" I first learned of pet peeves from a favorite high school teacher, who had quite a few and frequently liked to point them out to us. Since I now seem to have quite a

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Do you remember...

**Alleged, suspected, or witnessed incidents of Abuse, Neglect, or Exploitation must be reported within 4 hours.**

If you witness or suspect abuse, neglect, or exploitation, contact your Department Director, Vice President, or MDC President immediately.

Allegations may be telephoned directly to DMRS Investigators at 1-800- 579-0023.

Failure to report, failure to report in a timely manner, or giving false information may result in disciplinary action

## VIEW FROM THE HENRY CENTER

Karen Alsup, RN BSN, Child Care Consultant

### Inclusion Benefits Everyone

Unless you are a parent of a child with special needs or otherwise involved in the special education system, the term *inclusion* may not mean much to you. However, to the families, day care providers, and teachers of this very unique group of youngsters, the word "inclusion" has significant meaning.

In the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, children with disabilities were commonly locked away or hidden by family members who lacked the education and resources to care for them. It was not until the 1950's and 60's that educators began to realize that children with disabilities needed organized support. Institutions were established that housed large numbers of children. Persons with disabilities often remained in these institutions for years – isolated from family and segregated from the rest of society.

In 1965 the Head Start preschool program was funded and ensured that children 4 and 5 years of age from low income families were sufficiently prepared, both academically and socially, to enter kindergarten. The Head Start Act Amendments of 1972 were some of the first to make provisions for the inclusion of children with disabilities in the program.

Coined in the 1970's, *mainstreaming* was introduced as a way of bringing children with and without disabilities together in a setting that provided opportunity

for growth and development. Children who were mainstreamed were enrolled in already existing programs and participated in activities that were suitable for their development level. Mainstreaming was an important milestone because it reflected the belief that children with disabilities had the same needs as their peers.

In the 80's, *integration* emerged as the politically correct term for describing the varying needs of children with differing abilities. An integrated program created an environment where every single child was an active participant in all activities. By making simple modifications in the routine, activity, or



environment, the every-day-little-kid needs of all the children could be met. Teachers and caregivers quickly learned that by doing what they do best – utilizing early childhood best practices and being flexible – they could effectively satisfy the needs of children with and without disabilities and everyone reaped the benefits.

As inclusion began to become more and more a part of early childhood programs and classrooms, the advantages to the special needs child, the typically developing child, their families, and society in general began to surface. Children with special needs were driven to do the same things their peers did. Their language and social skills increased and self-esteem soared. Typically developing children learned about differences in growth and development and humans in general.

They were more accepting of their own limitations and those of their differently abled friends. Families from both sides began to develop more positive attitudes, feel less socially isolated, and experience an improved perception of their own parenting skills. The potential of individuals with disabilities was maximized in the inclusive setting. As a result, a more productive citizen emerged into society and the long term financial benefit to the community was realized.

Inclusion has changed the way providers care for young children, the way teachers educate young children, and the way people think about young children. It is frightful to imagine how different the life of a child with a disability is today compared to that of the same child twenty or thirty years ago. Inclusion should be a value we hold as a society. It supports the rights of all children, regardless of diverse abilities, to participate actively and wholly in natural settings within their communities. It gives them the opportunity to succeed to the best of their ability. And after all, isn't that what we want for all children?

*Karen is the Health and Safety Consultant with The Henry Center Child Care Resource Center.*

## People Listen

*(Continued from page 1)*

that are paid to staff at state-operated institutions like Green Valley. Senator Kilby also signed up to co-sponsor legislation that would exempt MDC vans, buses and cars from the state sales tax that is on gasoline.

During my meeting with Representative Ferguson he signed his name to be a co-sponsor of both bills mentioned above that Senator Kilby co-sponsored. He went a step further and also signed up as a co-sponsor of legislation to increase the number of ICF/MR beds within the state.

All three of these bills are a long way from becoming laws, and the chances of any single one making it through the legislative process and being signed by the governor is probably slim. However, upon reflection I realized that these guys agreed to be supportive not because of anything that I said or that was printed in the TNCO brochure I gave them. Rather, they were supportive because Michael Dunn Center was asking for their support, and they believe in our mission and our great reputation. This is a tribute to all of the great staff here today, and the great history of our organization. This is a tribute to great leadership over the years from Kyle Hauth, Eileen Harris, C.R. Lay, Martin Skinner, and many others. It is very obvious that *"When Michael Dunn Center talks, people listen!"*

It also confirms that the reference checking I did on the Michael Dunn Center when I was a candidate trying to decide if I wanted to work here was accurate. I am very fortunate because this is a great place to work, with a great reputation. Thanks again to all of you.



## *New HR Director* Roger Richmond

Please join us in welcoming Michaele Butler, formerly of The Advocacy Group (TAG), to the position of Michael Dunn Center Director of Human Resources. We are excited with the prospect of gaining Micheale to our Administrative Team, as she brings a high degree of commitment and passion for the services we provide for people. Even before she had accepted her new position, Michaele had been discussing creative ideas for a "cosmetic make-over" of our physical facility, to improve our agency's appearance.

As an Independent Support Coordinator, Michaele has been directly involved with 25 individuals at MDC for most of the past year. Many staff who already know her have expressed enthusiasm about her addition to our agency, and she comes highly recommended by previous employers and other professionals. Descriptives such as "people person", "sincere", "honest", and "enthusiastic" seem to follow her around.

Michaele has a Bachelor of Science and Behavioral Science degree with a double major in Criminal Justice and Psychol-

## Pet Peeves

*(Continued from page 1)*

few of them, myself, I can now readily relate to my high school teacher and her peeves.

One of my peeviest of pet peeves involves discourteousness, a behavior that seems to be more and more prevalent these days. I became very frustrated, to the humor of my 13-year-old son, on a couple of Christmas-time excursions into the mass hysteria of the Best Buy parking lot. It's hard to imagine that some engineer actually thought it would be good to have so many sections of the parking area dumping simultaneously onto one exit.

However, since they made it that way, in my own personal Happy Land each driver politely takes his/her turn, allowing other drivers to exit smoothly and efficiently from each row, causing no one's blood pressure to reach the boiling point. Unfortunately, that's not the way of reality. Each driver gets as close as possible to the vehicle ahead, refusing to let anyone merge ahead of him/her self. If you happen to be the guy politely waiting your turn, it gets pretty frustrating sitting while so many drivers display total disregard for anyone other than themselves. Such behavior leads to increased frustration and anxiety for all involved and can create dangerous driving situations.

How about discourtesy to your coworkers or towards the people you support? When you arrive late for work, or generally don't do your job as assigned, others have to cover for you, which also leads to tension and hard feelings. Maybe your coworkers don't say anything directly to you, but the feelings are there, just the same. And as to discourtesy towards the people you support, if you are guilty of that, you seriously need to re-think your profession! Fortunately, by the large majority, MDC staff are *very* caring of the people we support and deserve praise for their genuine concern for individuals in their care. But do pay attention to the little things you do and always ask yourself, "Am I treating this person as an *equal partner*?"

Be mindful of your conduct at all times and pay attention to those "pet peeves"; if something is bothersome to you, it is likely bothersome to other people. To their credit (and sometimes our benefit), the folks we support are very forgiving of our shortcomings. Let's not give them anything to dislike or to be peevied about in our work habits and our behaviors in general.

Wouldn't you agree that they deserve our best behavior?



ogy from ETSU. She has managed the coordination of Waiver programs and served in Human Resource Department capacities in her previous employments. She has been employed in service related positions for the past 5 years. Please help us make Michaele feel at home. She holds the Michael Dunn Center in high regard, and we feel certain the feeling will be mutual. She joins us on April 10.

## TIME MANAGEMENT

reprinted from HP Learning Center

The following article is reprinted, in abbreviated format, from HP Online Classes, "**Get organized: managing time, space, and paper**". The full course is currently available at:

<http://h30187.www3.hp.com/index.jsp>

**T**he first step in learning how to manage your time is to understand where it goes. There are many ways in which we use up our time, or create schedules that cause us to feel overwhelmed.

**Procrastinating** means putting off a task until later. Overt procrastination is easy enough to identify: putting off starting a project to do something you'd rather do. Covert procrastination is harder to spot. Suppose you have two tasks you must complete at work. The more important one is challenging and stressful. The other is easy but time-consuming. If you spend your morning doing the easy, time-consuming task, you are covertly procrastinating. You look busy, and it may appear to others and even to yourself that you are working hard. But putting off the most difficult and important work until later is just another way to procrastinate.

**Perfectionism** Some people will not begin a task because they fear that they will not do it perfectly, which will cause them to feel rejection. Others will start a job, but then refuse to let go of it for the same reason. If you have perfectionist tendencies, breaking the habit will help bring time under your control. For example, if you are sending an internal company memo to a colleague, proofreading it one time is probably enough -- you are wasting time if you proofread it again . . . and again . . . and again.

**Overload** Good time management means knowing what tasks you

should delegate to others, what to pay or persuade someone else to do, and what to cut out of your schedule altogether.

**Wasted time** Simple, wasted time is the most straightforward and easy-to-identify logjam in most peo-



What are you doing to save time?

ple's schedules.

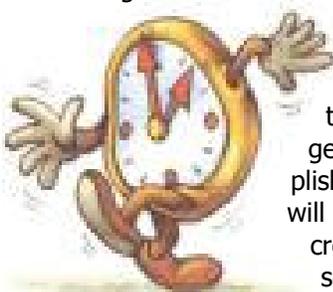
There are some fundamental elements of time management that can help you get a grip on your time and your life.

**Make a roadmap** The key to making a plan is breaking down your goals and dreams into manageable tasks. Achieving your dream of sailing away on a yacht may seem overwhelming, but if you break it down into steps, it starts to look more doable.

**Set priorities** It is crucial that you learn to rank the tasks you want to accomplish by order of importance.

**Be realistic** Lists are only as effective as they are realistic. If you keep including

five tasks on your daily list that never get accomplished, it will only increase your sense of frustration.



(c) www.charitygoodness.com

**Do one thing at a time** Sometimes we all have to multi-task. But try to keep it to a minimum, as it often makes you use up more time than if you simply allot a period for each task.

Making lists is a valuable skill that will help you manage your time on a daily, weekly, and long-term basis.

**Long-term list** Your long-term list should include goals in the major life categories you set out in the previous section (home, career, family, etc.). Revisit it at least four times a

year so that you can compare the goals you have set to the progress you have made toward them.

**Daily list** One of the most immediate and effective things you can do to gain control of your time is to write a daily list. Every workday morning, write a list. Every time you have to accomplish something in your personal life, such as plan a vacation or organize a party, write a list. And to make your lists really effective, follow these principles:

- **Prioritize.** Always order your list by assigning a number to each item: use 1 for the most important tasks and 4 for the least important.
- **Be realistic.** In general, count on most things to take longer than you think they will. Unfinished tasks will just make you feel more defeated at the end of the day.
- **Allow for the unexpected.** In a typical day, the unexpected comes in the form of mistakes, long-winded phone calls, and last-minute demands. But you

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## Time Management, continued

(Continued from page 4)

probably can make a good guess as to how much of your time goes toward these intrusions. Plan accordingly.

Every day, try to accomplish at least five high-priority tasks on your list. Those that do not get accomplished should roll over to the next day. At the end of the week, try to clear your lists so that every priority, from high to low, has been crossed off. That way, you can start Monday with a fresh slate.

Now it's time to discuss strategies for overcoming some common challenges in time management.

**Getting there on time** Continually showing up late causes you stress and creates friction between you and others, who are probably far more annoyed by your habitual tardiness than they let on.



Try these tricks to help change your ways:

- Set your clock or watch five minutes ahead.
- Put off distractions. If you notice or remember something that needs to be done just as you are leaving, write a note to yourself and do it later.
- Try to arrive early. If you always aim for 8:00 a.m. and arrive at 8:15, do everything in your power to arrive at 7:45. This is a surprisingly effective trick.
- Streamline the process of getting ready. If you get bogged down trying on different outfits every morning, deal with it by planning what to wear the night before.
- Always keep your keys, cell phone, and other essentials in the same place so that you do not spend time looking for them.
- When you are late, acknowledge and apologize for it. After apologizing several times to the same people, you will probably grow more reluctant to do so, giving you added incentive to stop being late.

**Procrastination** Learning to overcome procrastination may be the single most important step to gaining control over your life. Procrastination is what separates those who dream about succeeding from those who actually do. There are many reasons for procrastination: perfectionism, a fear of failure, and reluctance to do a boring or difficult task are just a few. Sometimes we tell ourselves that we cannot do something until the time or circumstances are just right. Whatever your reasons are for procrastination, here are some steps you can take to overcome it:

- Nothing helps resolve a procrastination deadlock like breaking down the problem. Instead of tackling a project all at once, separate it out into discrete tasks
- Reward yourself for tasks accomplished.
- Alternate unpleasant tasks with ones you enjoy.
- Do the best you can with what you have. Do not wait until the stars are perfectly aligned to start a project; do it with the resources and knowledge that you have right now.
- Get help. Sometimes we feel uneasy about facing a task because we are afraid that we do not know how to do it. If you admit this to yourself and get help, you may find that it was easier than you thought.

- Finally, to overcome either procrastination or lateness, practice, practice, practice!

Tools like calendars, notebooks, and software cannot actually organize your life for you, but they can make getting organized much easier. Everyone needs a system, but what works for one person will not necessarily work for another. Choose the tools that fit your lifestyle. Keep it simple. If using a new tool requires too much time to learn, or is too much of a hassle, try something else.

### Choose your tool

- To-Do List
- Calendar
- Address book
- Personal organizer
- Computerized organizer

### Find what works for you...and stick with it

You may have to try a few different organizational tools before finding the ones that really work for you. But once you have found your method, it's important to stick with it. Habit really helps. If you change your system every two months, you will never really know where to look for a phone number or notes on a past event. If you stick with your system over time, you will be able to dredge up information you jotted down years ago.



# TIMAS IS COMING

Dee Ann Lindsay

As you may have heard, Michael Dunn Center is moving forward into the 21st century with a new electronic database system. *DON'T PANIC!* The program is designed to be easy. The developers created it in such a way that even staff who have minimal computer skills can use it readily, with lots of drop-down, click-on menus to fill in blanks. TIMAS is a fully integrated information management system that is user friendly and will make many of our jobs easier to do. Some of you may feel a little uneasy or intimidated by the thought of "going electronic", but we will be gradually phasing in to this new system, and everyone will be amazed at how easy it will be to learn to use.

One of the areas we struggle with as an agency across the board is communication, and the TIMAS system will keep everyone informed of the most up to date information on the individuals we serve, agency news, DMRS news, and various events of interest. The TIMAS company team will provide ongoing training in all areas specific to each user's needs. For example, Residential staff, who will be utilizing the Residential component, will be trained in that area. Staff from Case Management, Financial Services, School Services, Human Resources, and many other areas will have unique needs, and will be trained in their specific areas. You may notice people coming around installing cables, computers, software, or taking pictures of employees for identification in the system. Remember that this will be a good thing, and will ultimately improve the services we provide for the individuals we serve at the Michael Dunn Center. It will also make your lives easier, with respect to information transference and paperwork.

The Timas database includes 7 modules: Service Recipients, Human Resources, Medical Information, Management, Service Recipient Finances, Accounts Receivable, and Events. Timas also provides over 500 standardized reports, including those listed below:

- \* Healthcare Oversight
- \* Staffing Plans
- \* Training Reports
- \* Medication Authorization
- \* Staff Time Keeping
- \* Recipient Inventories
- \* Quality Assurance / Safety
- \* Employee Analysis
- \* Service Recipient Analysis
- \* Recipient Finances
- \* Video Training



## Welcome Words From Timas:

Quality information management is critical to today's service delivery system. In today's world, coordination of health related services requires that provider agencies be on the 'cutting edge' of technology.

To accomplish this, companies must make 'the right choice' when choosing a database system. The right choice involves many factors.

\* It is critical that the company's database system stay current with the many changes in information management that take place continually at the State and Federal level.

\* We believe that your software management system should put the provider agency's interests above others.

\* Staff, such as direct support professionals, must be able to use it.

\* The database company must provide long-term training and support.

\* The database should understand your service work environment.

\* We offer long-term experience, serving provider agencies since 1989.

\* We promise to provide support in helping you to facilitate a change.

**Please be mindful of people's safety.  
The speed limit in the MDC parking lot is 5 MPH.  
Be a responsible driver.**





**Team Report** *Tonya Watts, Team Captain*

The Michael Dunn Center will have a team participating in the 2006 Roane County Relay For Life on June the 23&24. The Relay will be at Roane State Community College. More information will be posted about the Relay, and activities the day of the Relay, closer to June. The MDC team will have several fundraisers between now and the day of the Relay. Currently we are selling coupons for Puttin' On The Ritz by GPR. This is a portrait package that can be purchased for \$9.95 and this entire price will go the American Cancer Society. Certain restrictions and rules apply; please contact me for more details. We are also selling 'Suns' and 'Moons'. The Sun represents someone who is a survivor and the Moon symbolizes remembrance of someone who lost his or her life to cancer.

We are in search for TEAM MEMBERS. We need help organizing the fundraisers and developing a Team name and theme for the Relay. I am very excited about this event and the participation in the FIGHT against cancer. I would also like to mention that we have several survivors who work and receive services here at MDC. We should ALL take a part in this event, even if it is just a small donation of cash. If you have any questions, donations or want to become a TEAM MEMBER please contact me at 376-3416 ext 207. I am urging and hoping that all MDC employees get involved this year. Meetings will be scheduled for the TEAM at a later date.

**Where Your Money Goes**

Your support and involvement with Relay For Life supports lifesaving American Cancer Society programs and services. The ACS has one of the best records of fiscal responsibility for each dollar donated.

- Comprehensive cancer information is at :  
1-800-ACS-2345 or [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org).
- The Society is the largest source of nonprofit, nongovernmental cancer research funding in the United States, investing about \$130 million each year. To date the Society has funded 38 Nobel Prize-winning researchers.
- We fight for lifesaving laws to increase federal research funding, reduce tobacco use, promote early detection of cancers, improve access to care, and support cancer patients.
- The Society's services for cancer patients, survivors,

Relay brings people together from all walks of life with the common goal of eliminating cancer. No matter who you are, there's a place for you at Relay.

- 1. Volunteer**—Relay For Life is a community gathering, where everyone can participate in the fight against cancer. We need your help before, during, or after Relay. Fighting cancer is a team effort. The strength of people coming together for a common cause is greater than the strength of one.
- 2. Donor / Sponsor**—Relay For Life is a great way for corporations to demonstrate their commitment to fighting cancer in the community.
- 3. Survivorship Activities** – Survivors of cancer are our honorary guests in the Survivors Lap, which begins Relay For Life. Their strength and courage help the community see that cancer survivorship is real—that we are making progress in the battle against cancer.
- 4. Honoring Those We Have Lost**—Relay For Life represents the hope that those lost to cancer will never be forgotten, that those who face cancer will be supported, and that one day



caregivers, and those who love them include transportation to treatment, peer support group programs, and resources for practical assistance.

## WHAT IS THIS ICF/MR, ANYWAY?

**W**hat is ICF/MR? I've been asked this question repeatedly over the years when I talk about my work in this field of developmental disabilities. Quite simply, it stands for: Intermediate Care Facility for the Mentally Retarded.



I've worked for the past five years managing a community based ICF/MR. This is a home which is very much like any other home that supports individuals with developmental disabilities. Staffing ratios are set according to the needs of the individuals. The day begins with breakfast and showers. The kitchen is cleaned up. Then we head out into the community to help the individuals we serve to build natural supports and participate in activities that are of interest to them. Everything is built around the ISP (Individual Support Plan) and the ISP is built around the individual.

We work closely with various therapists due to the nature of multiple disabilities. Quite often these therapies are worked into community settings, such as the recent trip that we took to the Tennessee Aquarium in Chattanooga. This was a wonderful opportunity for two individuals to explore an environment that they had never been exposed

to. The looks of wonder on their faces made the two hour drive worth every moment of the outing. The outing also afforded good opportunities to teach communication, safety skills, and social skills while the individuals were curiously exploring their surroundings.

We also help individuals to learn to become more independent within the home. We work in training at every opportunity that presents itself. Sometimes the lessons we try to teach are as simple as shaking a person's hand



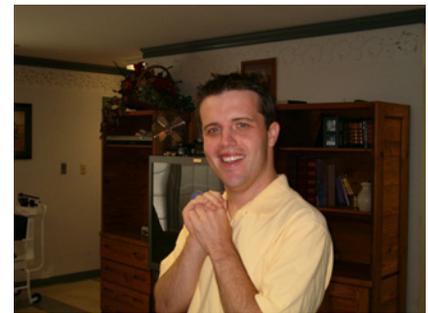
instead of grabbing inappropriately. The guys are always learning more about self help skills such as becoming more independent with hygiene, dressing, and feeding themselves. As Direct Support Professionals (DSP's) at an ICF/MR we teach, care for, cook for, and help with many aspects of the lives of those we care for. This is no different from any other residential setting.

I realize that the ICF/MR home that I work at is just as unique as any home can be. The main difference between ICF/MR and Supported Living or Residential Services is the

John Clayton, RN

source of funding and the additional regulatory agencies that inspect us. We are surveyed by the Department of Health along with all of the other surveyors that inspect Supported Living and Residential homes. This does not affect the day-to-day routine for the individuals that we serve.

There is also a set criteria that an individual must meet in order to qualify for admission to an ICF/MR. The individual must require a level of care in order to be admitted to an ICF/MR. The level of care criteria must be evidenced by a PAE (pre-admission evaluation) application which has been approved by the Bureau of TennCare.



There are three Developmental Centers in Tennessee that are licensed ICF/MR facilities. They are Greene Valley Developmental Center, Arlington Developmental Center, and Clover Bottom Developmental Center. These are institutions that are run by the state of Tennessee. The institutional model is very different from the residential, or community based, model. I cannot explain how the developmental centers operate because I have no experience with them.

I do know that I am very proud to be a part of the lives of the individuals that I serve who live in a wonderful home that is classified as ICF/MR.

## PRICELESS

Petie Clinton, ICF

- Harlem Globetrotter ticket: \$30.50
- Coke, Popcorn, Cotton Candy: \$15.00
- Souvenir: \$25.00
- Keri's Meaningful day: *PRICELESS*

What is more exciting to a die hard basketball fan than spending an evening with the infamous HARLEM GLOBETROTTERS?? Add into the equation an abundance of popcorn, cotton candy, and coke and you have a certain level of heaven few people ever get to experience.

That was just the beginning of the night Keri Stewart enjoyed recently. The start of the trip held challenges such as not knowing how to get there, wheelchair issues, and long lines at the ticket counter. Once we were in our seats, popcorn in hand, all of the chal-

lenges seemed to disappear. *We were there...and we were ready.* The entire game was action packed, Keri only took her eyes off



of the action when a friend came walking by.

Harold Barton, with his own popcorn bucket in hand, was making his way to his seat and stopped to say hello in true "Harold fashion", making us all feel that we were the most beautiful women there.

At one point in the evening Keri showed an interest in visiting the souvenir stand. You all know the place well- the place where (for a small fortune) you can obtain a take-home memory of the event. Without hesitation, Keri chose the basketball and then happily returned to her seat.

As intermission approached it was  
(Continued on page 10)

## THE SPORTS PAGE

### HANGING WITH COACH PEARL

Jane DeHart

On March 13 Harold Barton and Steven Kyle went with Sandy Arrowood and Jane DeHart to the Texas Roadhouse at Turkey Creek for Dinner and to attend the Vol-Call radio show.

The Vol-Call is a weekly live call-in radio show for UT Sports fans in which the Coaches from many of UT's programs answer telephone questions and fields' questions from fans attending the event.

The program is hosted by the Vols announcer, Bob Kesling, and Brent Hubbs. Coach Bruce Pearl attended the event. Coach Pat Summitt was out of town and unable to attend; however, she did call in during the show. As many who know Steven are aware, Steven is a huge Vols fan. He keeps close tabs on the Vols schedule and can tell you who

Tennessee is playing, and when. He also keeps close track of the dif-

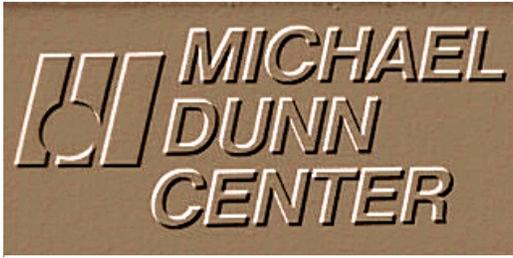


ferent players and their important plays during the games. He always makes it a point to let everyone know if Tennessee won or lost their game when he comes to MDC on Monday, and what the final score was.

This was an incredibly rewarding experience for Steven, as he would have the opportunity to ask coach Pearl about some of the plays he had made. After he and Harold waited quite patiently in line they finally had the opportunity to ask Mr. Pearl a question. Steven asked

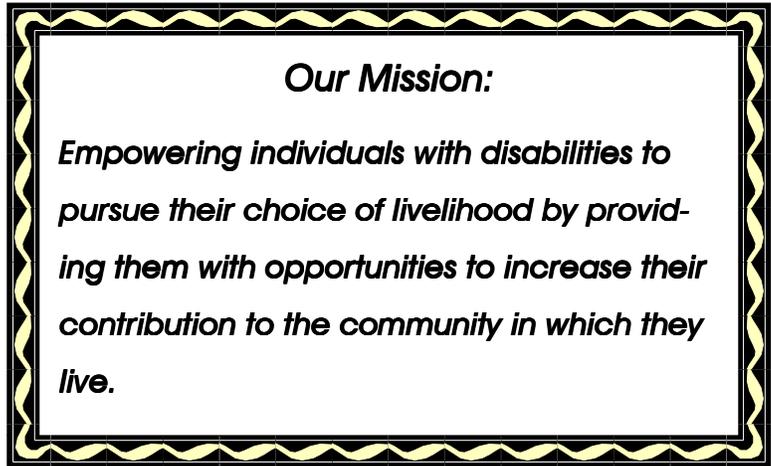
Coach Pearl what players he was going to start in the upcoming playoffs. Steven, who is by nature a quiet and reserved kind of guy, could hardly contain his excitement. Harold was not so much interested in asking any specific questions, but more so he was enjoying the hype and fanfare around him. Harold, as we all know is quite the social butterfly, was so excited he could hardly eat his dinner! Harold spent most of the evening soaking in the atmosphere and talking to people around him. Harold and Steven had the opportunity to tell all the staff and their friends at MDC about their trip the next day. They were both still very excited and had plenty of details to share with us all. It is times like these, when we help someone we serve to realize a goal or a dream, that remind us all of why we do the type of work we have chosen to do.

**THE MICHAEL DUNN CENTER  
STAFF BULLETIN**



**Phone Numbers:**

Poison Control.....1-800-222-1222  
Abuse Investigator....1-800-579-0023



Back issues of NYK can be found at [www.michaeldunncenter.com](http://www.michaeldunncenter.com)

*Priceless, continued*

*(Continued from page 9)*

announced that the players would be available for autographs at the end of the game. After fourth quarter we made our way down to the floor along with the other hundreds of fans, in hopes of getting the basketball autographed.

I am not exaggerating when I say there were hundreds, maybe even thousands, of people standing around the court being held back from the players by only a rope. As everyone around us held up their souvenirs yelling for attention from the players, Keri sat quietly in her chair.

She was holding her ball in her lap patiently waiting for an autograph. Suddenly, from out of nowhere, a man in a dark suit walked over and removed the rope in front of Keri, inviting her inside to obtain her autographs from not one, but *all* of the Globetrotters. After obtaining the coveted fully autographed ball, Keri exited Thompson Boiling Arena with her priceless take home memory.



**RELAY FOR LIFE**

**WHO:** Michael Dunn Center, Roane County and the American Cancer Society  
**WHAT:** Relay For Life is a fun-filled overnight event designed to celebrate survivorship and raise money for research and programs of your American Cancer Society. During the event, teams of people gather and take turns walking or running laps with each team trying to keep at least one team member on the track at all time  
**WHEN:** June 23 & 24, 2006 starting at 6 pm on Friday evening, finishing Saturday  
**WHERE:** Roane State Community College, walking trail  
**WHY:** To one day eliminate cancer. Your support and involvement with Relay For Life supports lifesaving American Cancer Society programs and services.

***"One person of integrity can make a difference."***  
*Elie Wiesel, Nobel Acceptance Speech*