

FAMILY BASED SERVICES

Janet Springs

The Family Support program, which is funded by the Tennessee Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities, is designed to assist families caring for a relative who has a severe disability. The program provides assistance in the home, allowing the family to stay intact and remain living together in their home setting. The age of the family member is not a factor in receiving family support services.

By definition, a severe disability is attributable to a mental or physical impairment, is likely to continue indefinitely, and results in substantial functional limitations in three or more of the following major life activities: self care, receptive/expressive language, learning, mobility, self-direction, capacity for independent living, economic self-sufficiency.

The greatest element of the Family Support Program is family and consumer involvement. The Local Council, which is made up of family members and agency coordinators, meets on a regular basis to oversee the program and provide advice on the distribution of local services and funds. While the program has now existed for a few years, it has increased in size largely by word of mouth. Families are encouraged to call the agency and have their name placed on a waiting list; families requesting assistance are prioritized in order of need; as funding becomes available, their names move up the list. For more information about the Family Support Program please call 865-376-3416.

Family Support may provide such things as respite care, personal assistance, child care, homemaker services, specialized equipment and supplies, licensed nursing and nurses aid services, transportation services, maintenance and repair for specialized equipment, health related costs not otherwise covered, family counseling, training and support groups, specialized nutrition and clothing.

ADULT DAY SERVICES

The Adult day program would like to welcome **Karen Stempa** as a new employee; Karen is doing a terrific job with the ladies in the retirement room. Also, we welcome **Rita Holt**, formerly of Hope Haven 3 and **Tina Robbins**, from Webster House. Rita and Tina have been employed by MDC for some time, but recently transferred to Day Services.

We also welcome **Henry McCall**, a consumer who has recently moved into Simmons Manor. Henry is a real pleasure to talk to, and we hope he will enjoy a long, pleasant experience at this agency! Best wishes to all of these "new" people.



Henry McCall

We have recently said goodbye to **Bryan Chestnut**, as he has moved to another facility. He now resides at Generations, an agency that is located in Middle Tennessee. I'm sure he would love to hear from his friends here, so if you get a chance please drop him a line.

The folks in room 8 are getting geared up for the holidays. They are making homemade decorations for the Christmas tree that will be in their room. They are also working on a new contract for **Rep. Dennis Ferguson**, removing logos from business card holders. They are paid for their

Sally Wilkerson

work, and are very proud of the job they are doing, so when you see them, please congratulate them on their new job. We are looking for other paid jobs for people to do while at the center so if you know of anything please let us know.

Just a reminder that people need to be aware of how they are parking the vans in the parking lot, which Freddie and Gary recently worked hard to get re-painted with lines. The parking lot is designed for 4 vans to be parked on the back row and 4 vans to be parked in the front row, making it safer for the consumers when loading and unloading the vans. The first eight parking spaces in front of the white house are for MDC vehicles that are used daily for transferring people to various appointments. Please be considerate and park your vehicles properly to prevent problems.