

# Progression



March 2009

## *Exciting News*

*Progression* will now be available on our website! In the following months, look for notification that new issues of *Progression* have been posted.

[www.thearcofshelby.org](http://www.thearcofshelby.org)



an affiliate of  
The Arc of Alabama  
and The Arc of the  
United States



**United Way  
of Central Alabama, Inc.**

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**2009**

## **Golf Tournament**

*Friday, May 1, 2009*

**7 AM Registration, breakfast and practice**

**8 AM: Shotgun Start, Best-Ball Scramble**

**\$125 per golfer included the following:**

Green Fee and Cart Fee

Timberline picture bag tag

Goodie Bag

Pre-round practice balls

Door Prizes

Closest to Hole Contest

Lunch provided by Texas Roadhouse, Pelham

Prizes for top three teams

Free \$40 green fee card for next Timberline visit (Mon-Thur)

Hole-In-One prize of new car, provided by  
Victory Pontiac, Calera

All proceeds go to support the programs of The Arc of Shelby County.

**Hole Sponsorship—\$150**

**Other sponsorships beginning at \$500**

**For registration and more information,**

[www.thearcofshelby.org](http://www.thearcofshelby.org)

**Or call 205-664-9313**



***Fact you may not know!***  
*“Adults with disabilities experience violence or abuse at least twice as often as people without disabilities, and adults with developmental disabilities are at risk of being physically or sexually assaulted at rates four to ten times greater than other adults”.*

Crime Control and Prevention Act of 2007

**Please contact Karen Stokes**  
**205-663-9313 to find out how to post information on your business or organization on The Arc of Shelby County website.**  
**Limited website sponsorships are available.**

## ***Upcoming Events!***

- March 21*** ***People First Social Activity Movie Party—Contact Susan Ellis***
- April 1—2*** ***Self Determination Conference Renaissance Ross Bridge***  
***www.acdd.org***
- April 7*** ***KidsFirst Farm Day Oak Mountain State Park—Contact June Romero***
- April 11*** ***People First Spring Fling 7-10 PM Lauren’s Home—Contact Susan Ellis***
- April 25*** ***Personal Safety Workshop For Self Advocates and their families Shelby County Community Services Building***
- May 1*** ***3rd Annual “Golf for Us’ Tournament Timberline Golf Club—Contact Karen Stokes Golfers and Sponsors Needed!***
- May 9*** ***People First Social Activity—more details to come!***



### ***Message From the Director***

It’s spring—so the Alabama Legislature must be in session!

This year’s session should prove very interesting as various stakeholders try to access a shrinking pool of funds. The American Recovery and Reinvestment of 2009 has been signed into law, possibly bringing special relief to some of the programs that support individuals with disabilities and their families. Some of those include: funding to K-12 special education; preschool special education funding; early intervention funding; adjustment to state % of Medicaid funding; rehabilitation funding and others.

However, advocates for individuals with developmental disabilities must maintain a close eye on Montgomery as much of the funding from Washington does not

prohibit states from shifting existing funds to make up shortfalls elsewhere. This could leave programs still under-funded.

There is also continuing work toward a comprehensive system for individuals with autism and their families. A statewide coordinator position will soon be filled and other issues are being resolved.

I have an email distribution list for Action Alerts and to keep individuals information on critical issues. If you wish to be added to this list, please email me at karenstokes@bellsouth.net with subject heading of “Action Alert”.

The Arc of Shelby County is grateful for all the supports you have provided over the years. This year, we ask that you consider a donation of your time. We are currently taking applications for committee members and for individual board members. These are very important positions and we are looking for individuals who are committed to assisting us our very important work.

## 2008 Annual Community Awards

### **2008 Employer of the Year**

Dick's Sporting Goods

### **2008 Supported Employee of the Year**

Adam Rosenwald

### **2008 Community Partner of The Year**

Liberty Baptist Church Little Lambs  
Mothers' Day Out

### **2008 Inspirational Family of the Year**

Meadows Family

### **2008 Distinguished Community Service Award**

Shelby County Commission

### **Volunteer of the Year 2008**

Travis Jackson

### **2008 Professionals of the Year**

Denise Davis  
DeEtte Currie

### **2008 Employee of the Year**

Angie Clark

### **President's Award**

Jeannette Minor



*Scenes from the 2008 Annual Meeting and Community Awards, held November 13, 2008. Approximately 100 person attended to elect new board members and officers and to honor the award recipients.*



### **Resources You Can Use**

We all have favorite websites. Please let us know if you know of one that you think other families and individuals might find useful! We have a few

of our favorites below.

[www.zerotothree.org](http://www.zerotothree.org)—Information for parents of infants and toddlers

[www.disabilityisnatural.com](http://www.disabilityisnatural.com)—Information for parents, individuals & advocates

[www.govbenefits.gov](http://www.govbenefits.gov)—information on government benefits for families/ individuals

[www.alabamarespite.org](http://www.alabamarespite.org)—respite information

[www.alabama.gov](http://www.alabama.gov)—State of Alabama website

### **The Arc of Alabama To Convene in Pelham**

The Board of Directors of The Arc of Alabama has selected Pelham, Alabama for the site of the annual convention. The Arc of Shelby County will be the host chapter for the convention, to be held at the Pelham Civic Complex on September 11, 2009.

Program agenda has not yet been announced; topics typically include sessions for parents, self advocates and volunteers.

Plan to join us on September 11th! Additional information will be provided in later newsletters.

**Please include The Arc of Shelby County, Inc.**

**in your will or estate plan and please tell us when you do.**

**The Arc of Shelby County, Inc.**  
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**205-664-9313**

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## **Board of Directors**

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## **Waiting List Crisis**

Waiting lists for services across the United States for individuals with Intellectual and developmental disabilities and their family members have reached critical levels.

Medicaid provides the majority of funding for the programs and services for people with developmental disabilities, including Home and Community-Based Services such as supported living, supported employment and other services (as well as Day Habilitation in Alabama). Each state has the discretion to decide what services they will offer, how many people waivers will serve, and how much funding they will allocate. As the economy has worsened, often the first cuts in budgets are services such as those provided to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

The Arc of The United States is firmly committed to addressing the waiting list crisis that adversely impacts the lives of the 7.2 million Americans with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The Arc is dedicating its efforts to educating and informing a wide audience on the inequities of the waiting list system from state to state. For more information, visit [www.thearc.org](http://www.thearc.org).

In the State of Alabama, the waiting list has now climbed to over 1900 individuals. Due to budget restraints, no new services are being provided in 2008 except those deemed as critical. The Arc of Shelby County continues to advocate for more community based services and for individual choice for services. Contact Karen Stokes—205-664-9313 for more information.