



"We scored a House"

Email received from staff about a person we support:

Sherri has been working with a gentleman in Individual supports for about 3 months now. He needed massive repairs to his mobile home and did not have a way to pay for them. Sherri and I discussed the problem, and she pursued contacting Davidson County Habitat for Humanity about helping to pay for the repairs. They came out today to look around. Then they all agreed that he could come to their warehouse and pick out what he needed for repairs. Right after that, the two guys from Habitat asked Sherri to come outside - they told her that from what they knew of the situation that he should be qualified to get a house built by them. It would take about a year for him to complete the community service part and then they could start on **his** house. We scored a house!

The Arc of North Carolina Announces Forums

The Arc of NC is doing a series of public forums around the state to gather information about why so many students with disabilities are exiting school without real outcomes (marketable skills, jobs, preparation for living successfully in the community, self-advocacy skills). We have 14 forums scheduled, 7 of which we have completed. To schedule a forum in your area--call Ellen Russell at 1-800-662-8706.

In addition, the surveys that are distributed at those forums are available at www.arcnc.org and we encourage family members, students, and professionals to complete those surveys and send them to The Arc of NC. Go to www.arcnc.org, click on "Education Initiative" on the home page, then scroll down to the 2 surveys to choose from. Or you can print them out and distribute them to people you know who might be interested.

Please help the Arc of North Carolina gather information that will determine statewide issues that can become part of our Advocacy agenda.

The Stanly County forum will be held February 19, 2008 at 6 pm at First Lutheran Church of Albemarle. Child care will be provided.

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Here is a fascinating site that families and teachers should know more about.

www.tarheelreader.org

"When Professor Gary Bishop imagined Tar Heel Reader, the virtual library for older beginning readers with disabilities, he dreamed big. He hoped that by the end of the first year, he'd have 1500 books available online. But there are few resources for older readers at the kindergarten reading level, and the concept became so popular that in less than six months, the online library has nearly 1600 books, with about 100 more added each week.

Free registration at the site allows users to read and to create books which are nearly all very short, illustrated page sequences for kindergarten-level readers. Creation is simple: search Flickr(r) for images of a desired subject--say turtles or baseball. The search will turn up hundreds of photos; selecting one creates a new page for the book. Write a word or simple sentence in the text area under the photo and move on to the next page. Save it, and it becomes the newest book available on Tar Heel Reader..."

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