

BELIEVING IN THE POTENTIAL OF ALL

# Imagine! That

Autumn 2004

Volume 13.3

Newsletter of Imagine!

1400 Dixon Avenue, Lafayette, CO 80026-2790

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**\*Editorial Note: The format of this newsletter is different than in our hardcopy newsletter. We have taken out the photos and rearranged the order of articles. All of the articles are included though.**

## **Vote Yes on Boulder County Ballot Issue 1C Help Imagine! Annually Retain \$240,000 Already Approved by Voters**

The following letter is from  
John Taylor, Executive Director, Imagine!

Boulder County voters' issue 1C is a confusing but necessary ballot issue to be voted on this November. The failure to pass 1C could result in a cut for essential services. Unfortunately, we at Imagine! are in the unenviable position of being on the list of agencies facing potential cuts that will be necessary if 1C fails. If 1C does not pass, there will be an estimated annual loss of \$240,000 for services to people with developmental disabilities in Boulder County. The irony here is that two years ago, the voters approved these funds in a countywide election, funds that will now be lost because of TABOR.

Because TABOR requires that countywide spending not exceed a formula that depends on the rate of inflation and growth in our community even if the revenues are there to fund these services, and because the cost of living figure for Colorado is very much less than was projected a year ago, the amount of funding for services for people with disabilities in Boulder

County will actually be less than one mill this year, resulting in a very real "cut." We certainly have not seen this purported reduction in the cost of living for the people receiving services from us, their families, our staff, or our neighbors. Have you? The Board of Directors of Imagine! discussed the implications of TABOR and 1C on our services and unanimously voted to support the passage of 1C.

We hope that the voters of Boulder County will join us in voting yes for 1C this November.

## Traumatic Brain Injury Trust Fund

In 2002, the Colorado Traumatic Brain Injury Trust Fund was created to ensure that all Coloradoans affected by TBI have access to available services. Imagine!, in collaboration with the Boulder County Health Department, is providing care coordination to families with children ages 0-20 in Boulder County. Imagine! and the Trust Fund do not pay for medical or therapeutic services.

Eligibility requirements include:

- U.S. citizenship and Colorado residence.
- Medical documentation of a Traumatic Brain Injury.
- Ongoing impairment of cognitive or physical function as a result of a TBI.

If your child meets the eligibility criteria and would like to apply for services, please contact:

Brain Injury Association of Colorado at 888-331-3311, or visit the BIAC website at [www.biacolorado.org](http://www.biacolorado.org)

## The BVSD Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Seeks New Members

The SEAC mission is to support and promote quality education services for children in an environment that accepts the diversity of each student as a valued member of a community of learners. SEAC carries out its mission by:

- Supporting and advising
- Networking
- Representing and taking action
- Linking with the community

SEAC welcomes you to come to the monthly meetings and find out if you would like to be a part of this committee. SEAC also welcomes parents to come and voice a concern to the committee during the 15 minute public participation time that is set aside each month. To reserve a time to speak, call Terry Freeman at 303-447-5155.

SEAC meets monthly on the 3rd Tuesday of every month, 6:00 - 8:00 pm, in Conference Room Two, BVSD Education Center, 6500 Arapahoe Rd., Boulder. Please consider joining as parent input is needed!

If you would like to talk with a parent currently on SEAC, please call Diane Mosley at 303-924-9461. For more SEAC information visit:

<http://www.bvsd.k12.co.us/spedseac/seacindex.shtml>

## Calling All Interested Families

A Special Olympics family is interested to learn if there are families within the state of Colorado who might be interested in a private, nonprofit type of residential option for their child as described below:

- God-centered environment
- Will foster a lifelong opportunity for vocational, social, emotional, and spiritual growth
- Residential and business enterprises on same site
- Semi-independent residents, 22 and older, with employability skills
- Family-like community
- Designed to become largely self-supporting, free of direct government funding
- Providing ongoing life skill classes
- Establish community for lifelong care
- Modeled after the Brookwood Community near Houston
- (link: [www.Brookwoodcommunity.org](http://www.Brookwoodcommunity.org))

This community will be built in Longmont. If you have an interest in this idea, please contact:

Jim or Sandy Hembd at 303-410-9699 or email: [sandyhembd@comcast.net](mailto:sandyhembd@comcast.net)

### *Riding the Bus with My Sister*

Will air on CBS in late April or early May 2005

Rachel Simon's book, *Riding the Bus with My Sister*, is based on her experience with her sister Beth, who has a developmental disability. The TV version of the book will air next spring as a CBS Hallmark movie directed by Anjelica Huston, starring Rosie O'Donnell as Beth and Andie McDowell as Rachel. Rachel was a speaker at Special Transit's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary party in September and gave a rousing presentation about her sister's endeavor with regard to self-determination. Imagine! was delighted to be one of the collaborating non-profits associated with Rachel's visit.

## Imagine! Welcomes Donations

Imagine! and the Imagine! Foundation are very grateful to the hundreds of donors from 2003-2004 whose names appear in this newsletter. Thanks to gifts such as these, we have been able to raise more than \$800,000 from the local community in the past three years. Funds have been used for furniture, equipment, and vans for our homes, funding for summer camp, support for therapeutic activities for children up to three years old, assistance to young people with developmental disabilities who are obtaining their first job, and the purchase of housing to provide appropriate, permanent homes for residents with developmental disabilities.

We hope that you will take this opportunity to support Imagine! at a level that is comfortable for you (a remittance envelope is enclosed for your convenience). It is vitally important that we continue to raise local funds to meet the needs of those with developmental disabilities in our community so that they can continue to live fulfilling lives of independence and quality.

## Joey Crompton, Imagine! Consumer Throws Out First Pitch at Colorado Rockies Game

Throwing out the first pitch before a baseball game is an opportunity that just doesn't seem to come along to the average person. It's an exciting honor that is typically set aside for someone like the governor, a famous actor, a successful musical performer, an ex-ballplayer, or a fire department hero who pulled someone out of a burning building. That's one of the things that made Emma Eckert's offer to Joey Crompton to toss out the first pitch at a Colorado Rockies game so extraordinary.

Emma is Joey's former Special Education teacher. She has kept in close contact with Joey and his parents, Joe and Lisa Crompton. Last January, Emma and her friend Tom Sorensen attended the Imagine! Celebration Dinner and Auction. One of the auction items was the privilege of throwing out the first pitch. This magnificent auction item was donated to Imagine! by Bank One (now JPMorganChase). The bidding was fast and furious, and Tom was the highest bidder at \$800. He gave the prize to Emma, who intended to toss out the pitch but then decided Joey would probably enjoy it more than she would. Apparently she had to ask only once.

So there it was, Sunday, September 19, the weather was cooperative, partly sunny and not too hot. Joey, his mom and dad, Emma, Tom, and a group of friends met outside the stadium. Joey made us all feel very welcome as he danced about from one of us to the next, reminding us that we are all friends.

Joey got to enter the field through the players' entrance. He waited patiently through the other pre-game ceremonies and then it was his turn. He trotted out to the mound and threw one right over the plate. After some emotional hugs and a photo session with Dinger, it was time to "Play Ball." What a day!



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## Michael Hoover Still Shining

Michael Hoover, Imagine!'s reigning Consumer of the Year, has not sat back and rested on his laurels. First, Michael added another feather to his cap by being selected by the Colorado Association for Persons in Supported Employment (APSE) to receive the 2004 Personal Achievement Award. Next, he nominated Books West for the *Dan B. Davidson Awards for Excellence in Inclusion*, and Books West was selected as this year's Davidson award winner in the category of *Inclusion in Employment*.

Michael's APSE award recognizes an individual who has gained meaningful work through supported employment, who has contributed to his/her employer's business, and who has achieved a more empowered lifestyle as a result.

Books West was honored by the Colorado Developmental Disabilities Council at the Council's annual Davidson awards dinner for representing the clear interpretation of community inclusion and participation by individuals with disabilities. Congratulations to Heather Cole with Employment Link for her successful performance as the work site coordinator for Michael at Books West.

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## Consider Joining the Focus Group on Technologies That Could Help People with Cognitive Disabilities Use Public Transportation

AgentSheets, Inc. is looking for focus group participants to provide input for the next phase of its Mobility Agents project. Mobility Agents is a system that will help people with cognitive disabilities use the public transportation system independently.

The focus group will be conducted by Dr. Cathy Bodine, Director of Assistive Technology Partners, University of Colorado Health Sciences Center. The information provided from the focus group participants will be confidential and will be used only to improve the design of the technology to address the needs of your loved ones.

AgentSheets is looking for participants that fit the following criteria:

- Is a person with mild cognitive disabilities, at least 16 years of age
- Has been using or is thinking about using public transportation
- Would be willing to participate in field trials of the technology at a later stage of the project
- Is not particularly comfortable with technology but open to trying new things

At least one caregiver should be present and participate as well.

The focus group meeting will take place on Thursday, November 11 from 6 - 8 pm at Imagine!, 1400 Dixon Ave., Lafayette. Drinks and snacks will be provided. For more information or to sign up, please call Dr. Cathy Bodine, 303-315-1281 or Dr. Andri Ioannidou at 303-530-1773.

If you would like to be added or removed from our mailing list, please call Gary Stebick at 303-926-6404, or e-mail [gstebick@imaginecolorado.org](mailto:gstebick@imaginecolorado.org) We recently merged our mailing lists and hopefully prevented duplicate mailings but if you receive a duplicate please contact me so we can correct this. If leaving a phone message, please spell your name and give your address.

# Imagine! and the Imagine! Foundation

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all those who supported Imagine! and the Imagine! Foundation

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 David & Karen Kalis  
 K'how Thai Cafe  
 Kindermusik  
 Janice Lee  
 Lizard Mountain  
 Longs Peak Communicators  
 Doug Looney  
 Mane N-V Hair Salon  
 Mary Kay  
 Vicki McFurren  
 McStain  
 Meyers Jewelers  
 Mile High Glider  
 Mile Hi Water  
 Mydra Miller  
 Mudslingers Pottery  
 Maria Neary  
 NAPA Auto Supply  
 95th Street Clay & Art Studio  
 Ninety-Fifth Street Spa & Salon  
 Adele Noll  
 Olde Town 14 All Stadium Theatre  
 On Broadway Hair Salon  
 Pat O'Neill  
 Katie O'Shea  
 The Parlour  
 Petsmart  
 Senator Terry Phillips  
 Pikes Peak International Raceway  
 David Plati  
 Renaissance Suites at Flatiron  
 Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory  
 Rocky Mountain Popcorn  
 Sammy Bear Activity Center  
 Dana Simons  
 Skychairs  
 Peter & Carolyn Storz  
 Sturtz & Copeland  
 Tapestry  
 Winifred Todorovich  
 Top of the Rockies  
 Total Rejuvenation  
 Congressman Mark Udall  
 University of Colorado Athletics  
 Village Tavern  
 Walnut Realty  
 Walters & Hogsett Fine Jewelers  
 Western Disposal