

BELIEVING IN THE POTENTIAL OF ALL

# Imagine! That

THE IMAGINE! NEWSLETTER

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FALL 2007

## JOIN IMAGINE! FOR A FREE FAMILY FINANCIAL PLANNING WORKSHOP SEPTEMBER 18

*Workshop is designed to assist individuals in planning for and providing  
for their family member with special needs for life*

Are you concerned about what might happen to your child with a developmental disability when he or she becomes an adult? Do you have questions or concerns about what kind of planning you need to do to prepare financially? If so, then mark your calendar now to attend Imagine!'s Family Financial Planning Workshop from 6:00 to 8:00 PM, Tuesday, September 18, at Imagine!'s Coal Creek Building, 1665 Coal Creek Drive, Lafayette (just a few hundred yards south of Imagine!'s Dixon Avenue office).

### Topics Covered Will Include:

- Special Needs Trusts
- Wills
- Supplemental Security Income
- Social Security Disability Insurance
- Medicaid
- How to Safeguard Your Benefits



Speakers at this event will be Richard Vincent and Hal Wright. Both are experienced in Medicaid and financial planning specific to children with special needs. For more information, please contact Sandy Crowell at (720) 274-2248 or [scrowell@imaginecolorado.org](mailto:scrowell@imaginecolorado.org). *Please note: childcare will not be available at this event.*

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## PROVIDER SPOTLIGHT: MIRACLES THERAPEUTIC RIDING CENTER

*Did you know that Imagine! works with more than 215 service providers in Boulder and Broomfield counties? This is to ensure that our consumers and their families have access to a wide and varied range of options when choosing services. Here's a story about one of our many fantastic independent service providers (thanks to Imagine!'s Out & About department for sharing this story with us):*



*Therapeutic horseback riding gently and rhythmically moves the rider's body in a manner similar to a human gait, providing riders with physical disabilities improvement in flexibility, balance and muscle strength. For individuals with mental or emotional disabilities, the unique relationship formed with the horse can lead to increased confidence, patience and self-esteem.*

On Sandy Fink's first day at her therapeutic horseback riding class, she didn't want to pet the horse. Her instructor knew exactly what to ask next. "Sandy, would you like to ride the horse?" Sandy quickly replied, "Yes." Swiftly walking up the mounting ramp used to help riders gain easier access, Sandy was soon seated on the horse. Patting the noble creature twice, giving it the signal to start walking, she spoke to the best of her ability, "Walk on."

Sandy is a delightful woman who receives services from Chris Griffith, owner of Miracles Therapeutic Riding Center.

Sandy's care providers, George Otteni and Christine Kleiwerda, shared their observations about Sandy's horse riding. They noted, "As long as we have known Sandy, we noticed her showing an interest in horses, but also a reluctance to get up close to them and touch them. We signed her up for the class thinking that she might get more comfortable being around horses, and benefit from interaction with them. To our surprise, Sandy was riding a horse on the first day. The class has been a very positive aspect of her life."

It's obvious that Chris Griffith enjoys sharing her experiences of how

therapeutic riding has benefited the lives of people she has worked with. "One boy had no trunk control, he couldn't move his head on his own, and when he started riding it took four people to assist him. Now he can turn his head and can sit up by himself while riding," she stated. Another boy with autism uttered his first words, "Walk on," during a lesson. She explains that the horse allows people to have fun, and they don't even notice they are having a full hour therapeutic workout.

For more information about Chris Griffith's Miracles Therapeutic Riding Center, call (303) 883-4667.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR EXERCISE RESEARCH

**THE  
UNIVERSITY OF  
COLORADO  
HEALTH  
SCIENCES  
CENTER IS  
CONDUCTING  
RESEARCH ON  
THE EFFECTS OF  
DISABILITIES ON  
AN EXERCISE  
PROGRAM.**

The Rehabilitation Department of the School of Medicine at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center is conducting research on the effects of attitudes and disabilities on an exercise program. Volunteers are needed to exercise consistently for a 12-week period with the option of continuing for an additional

six weeks.

Those needed for the research include people with spinal cord injuries and people with or without developmental disabilities. You must be between the ages of 16 and 65 and have not exercised in the past six months. There is no compensation for being involved in the study, but

those participating will have access to exercise equipment.

Before people with developmental disabilities may participate, they must be medically cleared by their physician. If you are interested and qualify, please call Wayne Biever at (303) 315-1292 or Leslie McLachlan at (303) 315-1286.

# IMAGINE! TO HOST MEDICAID WAIVER-FUNDED SUPPORTED LIVING SERVICES INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS

As a result of an audit of the Colorado Comprehensive Services Waiver conducted by the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services in 2004, the State of Colorado was required to make extensive changes in the Comprehensive Services Waiver, primarily surrounding billing and accountability issues.

These changes, which are now underway, mean the State must also make billing and accountability changes in Medicaid Waiver-funded Supported Living Services. This has created major changes in how Imagine! and all of the Community

Centered Boards across the State operate Medicaid Supported Living Services.

During the next 18 months, Colorado will be required to make even more significant revisions to its Supported Living Services waiver, and those changes will most likely result in additional upheavals in services. Unfortunately, the information, interpretation and directives regarding these changes have come to us in separate pieces and at separate times, which has made it difficult for us to implement the changes and to get the information to you in a cohesive and timely manner.

To meet this challenge, Imagine! is planning regular meetings that will bring interested families, consumers, providers, staff and advocates together to review any and all Supported Living Services updates for all funding types, answer questions about current services and discuss what may happen in the future. **The first meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 30, from 6:30 to 8:30 PM**, at Imagine!'s Coal Creek building (1665 Coal Creek Drive, Lafayette). All interested parties are invited to attend this free event.

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TOGETHER TO  
REVIEW ANY  
AND ALL  
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LIVING SERVICES  
UPDATES.**

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### Imagine! That

**is the newsletter of Imagine!**

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**THE MISSION OF IMAGINE! IS TO CREATE AND OFFER  
INNOVATIVE SUPPORTS TO PEOPLE OF ALL AGES WITH  
COGNITIVE, DEVELOPMENTAL, PHYSICAL AND HEALTH RELATED  
NEEDS SO THEY MAY LIVE FULFILLING LIVES OF INDEPENDENCE  
AND QUALITY IN THEIR HOMES AND COMMUNITIES.**

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Read More Inside.

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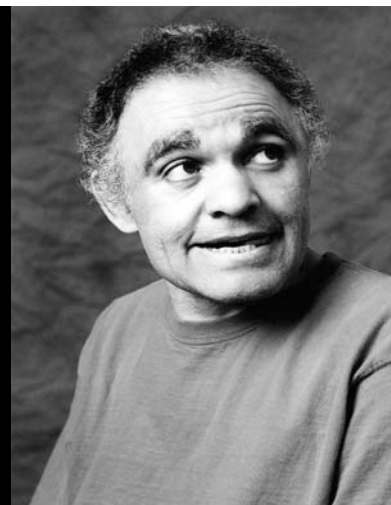
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