

BELIEVING IN THE POTENTIAL OF ALL

Imagine! That

THE IMAGINE! NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 17, ISSUE 3

FALL 2008

END THE WAITLIST NOW: VOTE YES ON AMENDMENT 51

Did you know that more than 12,000 children and adults with developmental disabilities in Colorado are currently on a waiting list for the vital services they need, such as 24/7 supervision, help with daily tasks, a place to live, job training, or nursing services? **Solving this urgent problem is critically needed and long overdue.**

That is why Imagine! has teamed up with The Association for Community Living in Boulder County and nearly 100 other organizations across Colorado to ensure a safety net for Colorado citizens with developmental disabilities such as autism, Down syndrome, and mental retardation.

As you know all too well, the waiting lists for people with developmental disabilities aren't made up of nameless, faceless people—they are our friends, our neighbors, and our sons and daughters.

Most Americans agree that our government has some basic responsibilities to our most vulnerable citizens. With new funding, we can immediately provide a safety net for children and adults with developmental disabilities. This is why more than 131,000 signatures have been collected to place Amendment 51 on this November's ballot.

When passed, this ballot measure will help thousands of children and adults with developmental disabilities, through a modest, phased-in sales tax of 2/10 of 1%. **When fully implemented, it will raise approximately \$186 million per year, which will go directly towards services that families need now.**

Our effort to pass a statewide ballot measure is vitally important to families whom we all know. **With the expected high turnout for the 2008 elections, we have an unparalleled opportunity to reach supportive voters.**

That is why your assistance is so important. You can help in many ways: just visit the Amendment 51 website at www.endcoloradowaitlist.org to donate or to learn about volunteer opportunities. And don't forget to encourage all of your friends and neighbors to get involved as well.

Most important, vote yes on Amendment 51 this November! Together, we can solve this crisis facing so many people with developmental disabilities in Colorado.



DISCOVERY CLUB OFFERS FUN FOR PEOPLE OF ALL ABILITIES

Easter Seals of Colorado is again teaming up with Imagine! to host the

Discovery Club, which will provide a chance for kids ages 6—18 with disabilities to explore and learn, while parents get some time to themselves.



The Discovery Club will be held on the second Saturday of each month from now through May from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM at Boulder Valley

Christian Church. Kids at the Discovery Club will be able to take part in arts and crafts, sports and games, drama and singing, and group activities. Snacks will be provided, but kids will need to bring their own lunches. There will also be a Friday night session on January 30, from 4:00 to 9:00 PM.

Meanwhile, parents will get some time to meet with their friends, be with their spouses, and have the luxury of time for themselves and for

other children.

Professionals and trained volunteers will provide care for kids who need help with mobility, eating, and other special needs, and a nurse is on staff at all times. There is a \$25 registration fee, and the fee for each Saturday is \$20 per person per day, or \$15 per person per day for two or more from the same family.

For more information or to make reservations, contact Jenn Barta at (303) 569-2333 x 312 or jbarta@eastersealscolorado.org.

UNSUNG HEROES NEED A PAY RAISE, TOO



By 2010, there will be 10 million more jobs available assisting people with developmental disabilities than people to fill them.

Many Americans have begun to realize that the professionals who take care of people who need help need some help, too. These unsung heroes, the Direct Support Professionals

(DSPs), need a pay raise.

As many as 75 percent of those who assist people with intellectual and developmental disabilities leave their jobs every year because of low wages that average about \$8.68 an hour. At the same time,

the need for DSPs is growing. By 2010, there will be 10 million more jobs than DSPs to fill them.

To learn more about the DSP workforce crisis and how to contact your legislator about this issue, visit www.youneedtoknowme.org.

DDD OFFERS DIRECT ACCESS FOR QUESTIONS FROM FAMILIES AND CONSUMERS

The Colorado Division for Developmental Disabilities (DDD) has reactivated the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) process that was initially established during the development and changes to the Home and Community Based Services waiver for the Developmentally Disabled (HCBS-DD/a.k.a. Comprehensive Services). The e-mail address and website are available so that the general public has direct access to DDD to ask questions regarding a variety of issues.

The FAQ e-mail address is: DevelopmentDisabilities.FAQ@state.co.us

The FAQ website address is:

<http://www.cdhs.state.co.us/ddd/UserGuidesManualsReferenceMaterial.htm>

Examples of the some questions/topics that may be addressed are as follows:

- Questions associated with the waiver amendments or renewal application for HCBS-DD/ Comprehensive Services waiver, HCBS-SLS waiver, or HCBS-CES waiver.
- Questions related to the rate setting methodology being developed for all DDD waiver services.
- Questions related to case management services for the above waivers, including waiting lists for services. These should not be questions related to a specific individual.

Should you have any questions concerning this process, please contact Jay at (303) 866-7455 or jay.kauffman@state.co.us.

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**Imagine! That
is the newsletter of Imagine!**

**1400 Dixon Street
Lafayette, CO 80026-2790**

Phone: (303) 665-7789

Fax: (303) 665-2648

www.imaginecolorado.org

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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.**

Imagine!
1400 Dixon Street
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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

DDD offers direct access
for questions from families
and consumers

Read More Inside.

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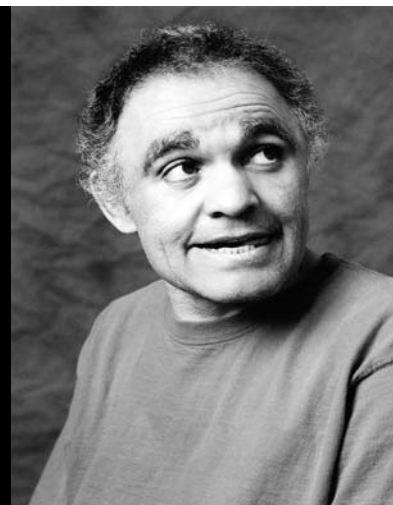
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