

BELIEVING IN THE POTENTIAL OF ALL

# Imagine! That

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Newsletter of Imagine!

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## Bolder Boulder Training Group Goes Beyond Limits

Thanks to the effort of Henry Guzman and eight other volunteer trainers, Nike, Bolder Boulder organizers, and 15 consumers associated with Imagine!, the Beyond Limits Bolder Boulder team is active, working hard, and improving as they train for this year's event which will be held on Memorial Day, Monday, May 26. Henry works for the Boulder Running Company and asked Nike to provide a full sponsorship for some of Imagine!'s consumers for the Bolder Boulder. Nike agreed to the sponsorship, which includes running shoes, jackets, shorts, gloves, and shirts, and also pays the race registration fee for the 15 participants and nine trainers.

The training began in February. Based on the abilities of each participant, the training regimen started with a combination of running and/or walking and has gradually increased. Originally the training times were set for Monday and Friday mornings for one hour, but many of the interested participants had trouble making it then. Henry and the other trainers adjusted the training schedule and offered Monday, Wednesday, and Friday afternoons. They requested that the participants make two of the trainings each week, which has worked out successfully.

The Beyond Limits team will be wearing bright orange tops for the race. Please cheer them on as they pass you if you're a spectator, or root them on during the race if you are participating. The participants are: Michael Atencio, John Austin, David Carton, Liz Creech, Dawn Dieffenbaugh, Tessa Dillard, Lori Kissinger, Mike Langer, Jason Leszcynski, Tim Miner, Jackie Panzeralla, Alex Schenk, Chris Troicky, Rhiannon Uhler, and Arlen Welch. The volunteer trainers are: Carol Creech, Christine Garabedian, Patrick Gelinas, Lorraine Gruber, Henry Guzman, Kristen Guzman, Mary Keith, (who helped a lot organizing the participants), Jen Lamboy, and Kathy Leszcynski.

The team members are dedicated athletes who deserve recognition for their training effort. It is apparent that the team is building the foundation for some long-term friendships too. This has been a very positive experience, thanks to everyone involved.

Is this newsletter useful to you? Do you have ideas and/or suggestions to make this more valuable for our consumers and their families, constituents, and citizens of Boulder and Broomfield Counties? Please e-mail your comments to

[gstebick@imaginecolorado.org](mailto:gstebick@imaginecolorado.org)

or phone Gary at 303-926-6404

Any kindness, sensitivity, or empathy that accompanies your comments is truly appreciated.

# State Budget Cuts Impact Imagine!

by John Taylor, Executive Director, Imagine!

The dismal Colorado economy has hit home! The state legislature's Joint Budget Committee (JBC) has proposed the following cuts for developmental disabilities in fiscal year 2003-2004: \$1,000,000 from the adult supported living services program, the previously approved comprehensive services' 2% "base rate" increase, and 1/2 of the funding for the family support services program. Statewide, this amounts to about \$5,500,000. The cuts occurred despite strong support from the legislature and governor. Our thanks to Representative Tom Plant of Boulder County who is on the JBC and has continued his vigorous support for our services.

Next year Imagine! itself will experience a reduction of about \$500,000. It's too early to say which services will be impacted. Fortunately, the passage of 1A will help mitigate the impacts of the cuts to people currently receiving supports in Boulder County, but moving the funds to cover the cuts will reduce the amount of support we can provide to those on our waiting list. It could have been worse, and still could be! If anyone has any questions about budget cuts or how we're handling this at Imagine! please call me at 303-926-6406.

## Family Financial Planning Seminar Draws Large Crowd

Left to right: John Taylor, Executive Director, Imagine!; Eric Love, Attorney and Presenter; Martha Ridgway, Attorney and Presenter; Sue Thomas, Vice President ASBC; Michael Parks, Executive Director of CFPD and Presenter; Jan Rasmussen, Director of Family Services, Imagine!; and Theresa Wrangham, President, ASCB.

On Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, a delightful, sunny, Colorado spring day, almost 60 people chose to spend the day inside in order to attend the 6<sup>th</sup> annual Family Financial Planning Seminar. This year's seminar was co-sponsored by the Autism Society of Boulder County (ASBC) and Imagine!. The presenters answered dozens of questions from the audience while they shared their knowledge in their areas of expertise with the attendees.

Eric V. Love, CPA, J. D., with Kingsbery, Johnson, Foster & Love, LLP and a former President of Imagine!'s Board of Directors, presented material on estate planning, including three options for disposition of assets at death. Those options are: a revocable living trust, a will, and intestacy (not having a will). The importance of having a will was Eric's main point, particularly in the case when an individual dies and there is no will and no surviving spouse. In that case, the assets of the estate would be equally distributed to the children. If one (or more) of the children has a disability and receives Medicaid, the assets (which would include any life insurance policies and real estate) of the deceased may be worth enough to jeopardize that child's Medicaid benefits. The phone number for Kingsbery, Johnson, Foster, & Love, LLP, is 303-443-4694.

Martha Ridgway, an attorney with Ridgway, Romeo & Vincent, LLC, spoke about supplemental care trusts. A supplemental care trust (also known as a special needs trust) is a trust which provides for a disabled person's supplemental or special needs without disqualifying the individual for public benefits. The trust funds cannot be used for food, clothing, shelter or medical expenses otherwise covered by Medicaid, but can be used to enhance the quality of life for the person who is disabled. For example, the trust funds can be used for non-traditional medical treatment such as acupuncture, chiropractic and massage; to purchase and maintain a car; for bus passes; to pay for school tuition and books; for tickets to sporting events, plays and concerts; for vacations; for the cost of a companion; etc. A supplemental care trust can be created while a person is still alive (called an inter vivos trust) or through his or her will (called a testamentary trust). Supplemental care trusts are particularly important to have in place for disabled beneficiaries who are receiving public benefits. Otherwise, the beneficiary could lose public assistance eligibility due to excess income and/or resources. The phone number for Ridgway, Romeo & Vincent, LLC, is 303-604-6030.

Michael Parks, Executive Director of the Colorado Fund for People with Disabilities, a non-profit organization, presented material on CFPD's supplemental needs trust. The purpose of the trust is to protect a person's Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Medicaid from being impacted should they receive funds that would make them ineligible for these or other public benefits. The trust can almost always be set up in a couple of days. For information on the trust, please call Michael Parks at 303-733-2867.

## **Employee Spotlight, Imagine!’s Lisa Joseph**

I would like to express my appreciation and gratitude for Lisa Joseph. She has consistently demonstrated high professional standards, while always remaining kind, sympathetic and patient. My phone calls and questions are either answered immediately or within a day. If she doesn't know the answer, she finds out and gets back to me. Lisa is always on top of the administrative issues, and, most impressively to me, she took care of my CES\* paperwork so well that I didn't need to edit or change anything. It is probably understandable to every parent of a child with a disability how much a good person can lessen the burden and make a difference in our lives. Just the fact that Lisa, as well as Jan Rasmussen and the other people I've dealt with at Imagine!, provide such good service and are so helpful, allows me to spend time on the real issue of taking care of my son.

Thank you Lisa, and others. I am grateful for your help.

Sincerely, Nancy Kepner Hill

- CES is a children's Medicaid waiver. Imagine! administers both the CES Medicaid waiver and the Children's Home and Community-Based Services waiver (C-HCBS). For more information on these waivers, please contact Jan Rasmussen at 303-926-6439 or [janr@imaginecolorado.org](mailto:janr@imaginecolorado.org)

## **Zololympics Benefits Imagine!**

On Sunday, June 1<sup>st</sup> from 11:00 am until 2:00 pm at the Zolo Grill in Boulder, the Zololympics will be held. The event will benefit Imagine!. The fourth Zololympics will consist of 20 restaurants sponsoring four-person teams. Each team will meet its doom in a tag team obstacle course challenging contestants' ability to amuse themselves while demonstrating their athletic prowess, team work, agility, useless knowledge, and general will to survive. Please come join the merriment and help to make this one of Boulder's premier spectator sports of 2003. Games, activities, and prizes will be available to the general public. A silent auction will also be held. Great food, live music, tequila, and beer will be available. The Zolo Grill is located in Boulder on the north side of Arapahoe between 28<sup>th</sup> Street and Folsom.

## **Boulder Creek Festival**

On Saturday, May 24<sup>th</sup>, Sunday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, and Monday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, Imagine! will be manning and womanning a booth at the Boulder Creek Festival. We will be promoting Imagine! by distributing literature, answering questions, having fun, and hosting a silent auction with great deals on wonderful items donated to Imagine!. Please come by and join us. We will be there from 8:30 am – 6:30 pm on Saturday and Sunday, and from 11:30 am - 3:30 pm on Monday.

## **Taste of Louisville**

On Saturday, June 14<sup>th</sup>, Imagine! will have a booth at Taste of Louisville which is from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm. The event is sponsored by the Louisville Chamber of Commerce and has excellent food, sidewalk sales, craft sales, and great entertainment. Please treat yourself to taste the "Quality of Life" in Louisville on Main Street between Pine Street and South Street, and please stop at the Imagine! booth and say hi to the volunteers.