

BELIEVING IN THE POTENTIAL OF ALL

Imagine! That

THE IMAGINE! NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 19, ISSUE 2

SUMMER 2010

ENRICH YOUR LIFE: BECOME A FOSTER PARENT

Imagine!'s Innovations for Children department is looking for eligible foster parents. Innovations for Children receives almost seven phone calls per day with referrals on children who are looking for homes.

Because of the level of support and care these children need, our foster parents receive a tax-free stipend ranging from \$24,000 to \$42,000 per year for opening their hearts and homes to a child in need. There is a \$200 referral incentive if someone you refer to this program completes the license process.

There is a thorough process to become a foster parent, which results in the success of our program. A foster placement worker will come to your home to complete a series of Structured Analysis Family Assessments (SAFE). This gives the placement worker an opportunity to really get to know you and your family in order to better decide what children would thrive in your home. During the home study process you will also be attending Imagine!'s required trainings, where you will learn how to best serve the population that you will be caring for.

Imagine! foster parents care for children who are usually between the ages of 12 and 21, and who have developmental disabilities and/or behavioral and mental disorders. Most of the children who are in our foster homes are dually diagnosed. Some of the birth parents still have rights and are involved actively in their children's lives, and some children do not have any birth family involvement. Foster parents coordinate with educators, psychiatrists, therapists, and primary care physicians to ensure success.

Our current foster parents have not only helped children lead successful lives, but they have also found this experience to be very rewarding. Foster parents continue to have close communication with the foster placement worker to ensure that the entire family's needs are met.

Innovations takes pride in the successes of foster placements. To become a foster parent or to find out more information, contact Amanda Pfeifer at (720) 544-6909 or apfeifer@imaginecolorado.org.



THE IMAGINE! WEBSITE CALENDAR WAS CREATED FOR YOU

No matter what role you have in the world of developmental disabilities, the Imagine! website calendar was created for you. The website calendar provides information on upcoming events, seminars, and local activities related to the field of developmental disabilities. The calendar is updated frequently, so please check it regularly at www.imaginecolorado.org/Calendar.htm.

SENSORY FRIENDLY FILMS FOR FAMILIES

The Sensory Friendly Films program, sponsored by AMC Entertainment and the Autism Society of America, provides an opportunity for families who enjoy attending movies but have a difficult time sitting quietly through a full length feature movie in a traditional setting. During Sensory Friendly Films, the lights are turned up, the sound is turned down, and no previews are shown before the movie. In addition, the audience is welcome to get up and dance or sing. Tickets can be purchased on the day of the show. Upcoming Sensory Friendly Films and theater locations can be found at www.autism-society.org/sensoryfilms.

BOULDER POLICE DEPARTMENT OFFERING FREE SAFETY FIRST CLASS FOR TEENS

In the past 15 years, more than 200 Imagine! clients have attended and graduated from the Boulder Police Department's Safety First class. The class was developed through a collaborative effort between the Boulder Police Department and the Association for Community Living (ACL) serving Boulder and Broomfield Counties, and is free of charge.

The Boulder Police Department will offer its Safety First Fall Class for Teens again this fall. The class is designed for teens with developmental disabilities who are 13 through 17. For consumers who are older than 17 but are still in school, please call Kris Gibson at (303) 441-3332 to discuss if the consumer is better suited for the teen or adult class.

The class curriculum covers decision-making skills, street-smart safety, home security, fire prevention, and safety while riding public transportation.

The classes will be held on the following Thursdays: Oct. 7, 14, 21, 28, and Nov. 4, and the classes are from 4:00 - 6:00 PM. The final day to register is September 23. **Call Kris Gibson at (303) 441-3332 to register for the class or if you have any questions.**

The Safety First Class for Adults is scheduled for the spring of 2011.



SPECIAL TRANSIT'S EASY RIDER BUS TRAINING CONTINUES TO BENEFIT IMAGINE! CONSUMERS

Special Transit's Easy Rider Program helps seniors and people with disabilities to expand their travel options in Boulder County. The travel instruction program is designed to assist people in learning how to safely and confidently use public transportation (RTD and Call-n-Ride).

Since 2003, when the program began, 63 Imagine! consumers have enrolled in the training. Sixty-two of those 63 consumers have successfully learned how to ride the bus by themselves, which is a remarkable testimony to the effectiveness of the program. Imagine! participants in the program have received a total of 1,259 hours of training, an average of 20 hours of training per consumer.

The registration fee for this one-on-one training is \$25. Before the program begins, an expert instructor conducts an in-home assessment with each individual to get acquainted and help determine the person's needs and goals. Travel sessions are then scheduled to provide first-hand experience riding buses in the community. Each individual's needs and abilities are different, so the amount of practice time varies from person to person.

Travel Training Includes:

- **Planning a bus trip using a route schedule and map**
- **Getting on and off buses using the proper fare**
- **Transferring from one bus to another**
- **Using safe pedestrian skills and stranger awareness**



For details on the Easy Rider Program, contact Susan Unger, Special Transit's Travel Training Coordinator at (303) 447-2848, ext. 105.

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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
Lafayette, CO 80026-2790

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Boulder Police Department
offers free Safety First Class
for Teens this fall.

Read More Inside.

NONPROFIT ORG.

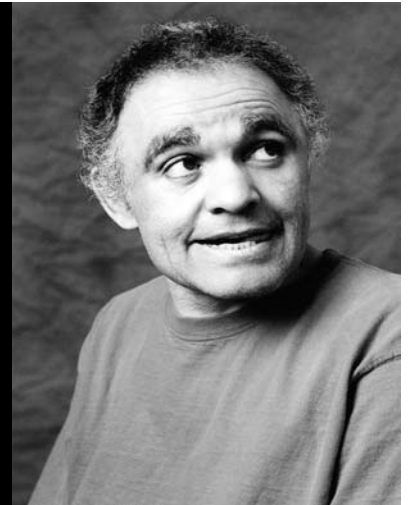
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Innovative Resources For Cognitive and Physical Challenges

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