

BELIEVING IN THE POTENTIAL OF ALL



# Imagine! That

THE IMAGINE! NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 16, ISSUE 4

WINTER 2007

## BECOME PART OF THE IMAGINE! INITIATIVE: FINDING SOLUTIONS TO THE CRISIS FACING THE DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SYSTEM IN COLORADO

### The Crisis Facing the Colorado Developmental Disabilities System:

- Colorado ranks 48th in the nation in fiscal effort toward providing funding for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.
- There are currently 3,746 individuals with developmental disabilities on a waiting list to receive services in Colorado.
- Since 2001, the number of people on the waiting list for comprehensive (24 hour) services in Colorado has increased 189%.
- Since 2001, the number of people on the waiting list for Supported Living Services (used to supplement already available supports for adults who either can live independently with limited supports or are principally supported from other sources such as families) has increased by 117%.

Imagine! has long been recognized as a leader in creating innovative solutions and supports for people with developmental disabilities. One of the key reasons for our success has been our ability to partner with consumers, families, and service providers to develop effective programs.

Our success in developing meaningful partnerships with the people we serve and their families has been the driving force behind our latest project: The Imagine! Initiative. This series of informational meetings and strategy sessions is designed to bring families, providers, and Community Centered Boards together to create solutions to the crisis facing the Developmental Disabilities system in Colorado (see the box at the left for more information on these issues).

You can learn more about upcoming Imagine! Initiative events by visiting the Imagine! website at [www.imaginecolorado.org/initiative.htm](http://www.imaginecolorado.org/initiative.htm). You are encouraged to attend any of these free sessions, as well as to suggest topics for upcoming events (you can do so through the website listed above). Be sure to bookmark the page and come back often. Together, we can face this challenge and learn how to provide even better supports for the people we serve.

### Inside This Issue:

**PROVIDER SPOTLIGHT**  
PAGE 2

**FREE CLASSES AT ACL**  
PAGE 2

**SHARE YOUR STORY**  
PAGE 3

## PROVIDER SPOTLIGHT: PEOPLE FIRST

*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:*

**“WE ARE A  
'ZERO-PROFIT'  
ORGANIZATION  
AND PRIDE  
OURSELVES IN  
SUPPORTING  
PEOPLE TO BE  
HAPPY AND TO  
HAVE THE  
LIVES THAT  
THEY WANT.”**

People First has been providing comprehensive residential and Supported Living Services for adults with developmental disabilities in Boulder and Broomfield counties since 2006.

Here's what James Keller, People First's Executive Director, told us about his organization:

*"I formed People First in September 2006 because I wanted to draw upon my 27 years of experience to create a service agency for adults with developmental disabilities in Boulder and Broomfield counties that really does put people first.*

*"People First is dedicated to offering and providing services for*

*other people the same as we would provide for ourselves or for our family members. We provide comprehensive residential services in host homes and in apartments or PCAs. Fifteen people have selected us as their provider in our first year.*

*"We also provide Supported Living Services, and 17 people have selected us to provide that service for them. We are honored that these people and their families have chosen us and trust us to serve them or their family member.*

*"We plan to stay small and to serve people only in the Imagine! area. Staying small allows us to provide the personalized and responsive services that we have*

*promised to people.*

*"We also recognize the partnership between people serving and people being served. We strive to support our staff and host home providers in many extra ways in recognition of their responsibilities and commitment. We hope that this extra support and appreciation will lead to long-term relationships.*

*"We are a 'zero-profit' organization and pride ourselves in supporting people to be happy and to have the lives that they want."*

For more information about People First, please contact James Keller at (303) 513-8176 or [JamesKellerLLC@aol.com](mailto:JamesKellerLLC@aol.com).

## ASSOCIATION FOR COMMUNITY LIVING OFFERS FREE CLASSES

The Association for Community Living (ACL) is



**Association for Community Living**  
In Boulder County, Inc.

an advocacy group that supports people with cognitive and other developmental disabilities.

The ACL has served Boulder and Broomfield counties for more than 40 years.

The ACL offers classes

that are free of charge to Imagine! consumers. The classes include expressive

art, fun with music, yoga, and cooking. If you would like to receive a monthly schedule of ACL's classes and information about special events offered by ACL, please contact Weslyn Austin at (303) 527-0888, Ext. 221, or by email at [waustin@aclboulder.org](mailto:waustin@aclboulder.org), and provide her with your email or home address.

# SHARE YOUR STORY WITH IMAGINE! AND GET A FREE DVD

In 2008, Imagine! will mark its 45<sup>th</sup> year of providing tools and support for thousands of people with cognitive and developmental disabilities that have allowed them to become successful citizens and contributing members of our community. To celebrate this milestone, we are initiating a new project to create an oral and video history of Imagine! – and what better way to do so than through the stories of the people we serve?

That is why we are inviting

you to share your story with us on Saturday, December 8, at Imagine!’s Coal Creek Conference Center in Lafayette. Consumers and family members are encouraged to sign up now to take part in a video interview. We will interview individual consumers and family members in 45-minute time periods. As our way of thanking you, we will give you a free DVD of your interview so you can have a treasured keepsake to share with friends and loved ones

for years to come!

To RSVP, please email Fred Hobbs at [fhobbs@imaginecolorado.org](mailto:fhobbs@imaginecolorado.org) or call (720) 274-2249.

Please include your name, phone number, email address and a few details about the story you would like to share. We’ll schedule a time for you to be interviewed. You must RSVP to participate.

We look forward to hearing your story, and we look forward to another 45 years of service!



*Imagine! is launching a new project to create an oral and video history of Imagine!, and we want you to participate!*

## DONATE YOUR USED WHEELCHAIRS

*Wheels for the World* accepts wheelchairs, crutches, canes, walkers or other rehabilitation equipment and then restores

them for distribution around the world. *Wheels for the World* has distributed more than 38,000 wheelchairs to more

than 86 countries. To donate locally, contact Beth Fisher at (303) 774-1473 or (303) 669-7508.



### Imagine! Board of Directors

Bill Sabin, President

Diane Carroll	Jeffrey R. Maxwell
Bob Davis	Kevin Nelson
Donna Fairchild	Jerry Rudy
Dennis Fase	Deb Skarda
Lisa Fiero	Susan White
Racheal Goodman	Mark Zentner
Annette Higgins	

**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](http://www.imaginecolorado.org)**

John M. Taylor, Executive Director

### Imagine! Foundation Board of Directors

George M. Karakehian, President

Clair Beckmann	Julia McIver
Robert F. Charles, Jr.	John Mehaffy
Kathy Coyne	Terry Palmos
David DiPane	Dennis Paul
David Edwards	Kathey Pear
Don L. Fort	Ron Secrist
Marilyn Haas	Jack Stoakes
Tom Kahn	Leona Stoecker
Jerry W. Lewis	Shari Tebo
Eric V. Love	Eric Wallace

**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

Share Your Story With  
Imagine! and Get a Free  
DVD.

Read More Inside.

NONPROFIT ORG.

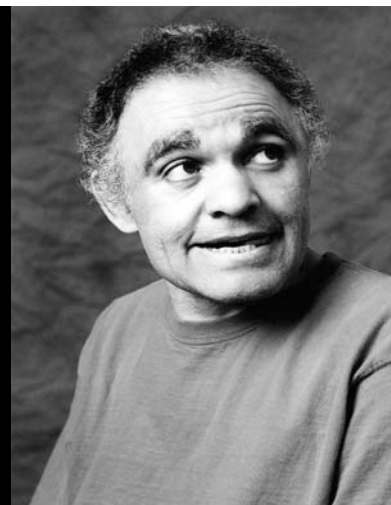
U.S. POSTAGE

**PAID**

BOULDER, CO

PERMIT NO. 926

Watch me  
contribute.



BELIEVING IN THE POTENTIAL OF ALL  
**Imagine!**  
*Innovative Resources For Cognitive and Physical Challenges*

[www.imaginecolorado.org](http://www.imaginecolorado.org)