

BELIEVING IN THE POTENTIAL OF ALL

Imagine! That

THE IMAGINE! NEWSLETTER

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STEPPING STONES PROVIDES PATHWAY TO PREPARE TEENS FOR WORK

A key component of Imagine!'s mission is to ensure that people with developmental disabilities have the opportunity to develop vital skills and become active participants in their communities by working at local businesses.

One way Imagine! is working toward that goal is through its Stepping Stones project, which provides young people aged 16 – 18 who have a developmental disability with a learning opportunity that will prepare them for work. The project, a collaboration between Imagine!'s Out & About and Labor Source departments, provides assessment, training and

supervision that helps these youth to gain the skills, confidence and practice that will help them acquire jobs in the future. The program creates a foundation upon which a life of productive work will be built. Stepping Stones operates during the summer, with crews working one full day a week, and during the school year, with crews working once a week after school.

In Clover, a Boulder-based company that creates medicines for dogs, cats and horses, has been using Imagine! consumers as part of its staff for the last two years to help with packaging and labeling of products.

This fall, In Clover started using a Stepping Stones crew. According to Rebecca Rose, In Clover's president and CEO, the Stepping Stones collaboration has been extremely beneficial. "It has really been a great experience for us," she said. "The partnership has increased our flexibility and allows us to respond to special customer requests on a dime. It is like having a staff of 30 people."

The benefits aren't just about the bottom line, however. "This has played into our overall mission as a company," says Rose. "It has been an added bonus for us to get to know the



Imagine!'s Stepping Stones project provides teens who have a developmental disability with a learning opportunity that prepares them for work.

Imagine! consumers."

If you are interested in learning more about the Stepping Stones project, or know someone who would like to participate, please contact Hanni Ruehrdanz at (720) 274-2245.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE SUPPORTS INTENSITY SCALE (SIS)

As many of you are perhaps aware, major changes are occurring in the Colorado Developmental Disabilities Services system that will impact those of us here in Boulder and Broomfield counties. One of the most

important and significant changes is that everyone who is receiving Medicaid funded comprehensive services in the Developmental Disabilities system in Colorado will need to be assessed by a

trained individual using the Supports Intensity Scale (SIS). To learn more about how this may impact you, visit Imagine!'s website at www.imaginecolorado.org and click on "What's New."

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AROUND THE SPOs

Did you know that Imagine! does business with more than 170 service provider organizations (SPOs) throughout Boulder and Broomfield counties to ensure that consumers and their families have access to a wide and varied range of options when choosing services? Below is a consumer success story that one of our SPOs shared with us recently:

CARMEL COMMUNITY LIVING CORPORATION: PAUL THOMPSON

When it comes to longevity on the job, Paul Thompson is right there with the best of them.

Paul has been working at the Millennium Hotel in Boulder for more than 18 years.

Progressive Job Solutions, Carmel Community Living Corporation's vocational program, enjoys having such a dedicated worker in its program. One day a co-worker did not show up

and Paul, on his own, went to the hotel since he had a feeling this could happen. Upon discovering a day's worth of dirty dishes, he jumped in and worked to get things back in order, with his dad, Bruce, helping out.

Paul's mother, Lois, said that Carmel has been terrific for Paul. "We can't say enough about them," she said. Carmel has supported Paul at

work and in his independent living situation.

Paul and his parents are grateful for the support the Millennium Hotel managers have given him, including regular pay raises and increases in vacation time.

Paul is always willing to work, including weekends. His work ethic and reliability are

reasons why he received the Association for Community Living's Employee of the Year award in 1989.

For more information on Carmel Community Living Corporation, please call (303) 444-0573 or visit www.carmelcorp.com.



HELP STOP THE SPREAD OF FLU

As the season starts to change and the first snowflakes begin to fall, an unwanted guest often comes to visit: the flu. However, a few simple precautions, like regular hand washing and covering the mouth and nose when coughing and sneezing, can help limit the spread of flu and other respiratory diseases in Colorado this year.

Dr. Ned Calonge, the state's chief medical officer who is based at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, said that following these and other precautions listed below are particularly important as the holidays approach and large groups of people gather indoors to celebrate.

To Stay Healthy:

- Clean hands often with soap and water or with an alcohol-based hand cleaner.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick, if possible.
- Get vaccinations for flu and pneumonia as recommended for your age and health conditions. Vaccines for these diseases can prevent some serious respiratory illnesses.

Stopping the Spread of Germs:

- After coughing, sneezing or blowing your nose, always clean your hands with soap and water or with an alcohol-based hand cleaner.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Do not share eating utensils, drinking glasses, towels or other personal items.

The state's chief medical officer said that health officials are continuing to recommend flu shots. "The best defense we have is to get a flu shot," Calonge said. "People may still get the flu, but receiving a flu shot can make the illness less severe."

Information on where to get a flu shot can be obtained by visiting www.immunizecolorado.com or by calling the Colorado HELP hotline at 1-877-462-2911.

SPECIAL TRANSIT'S EASY RIDER PROGRAM OFFERS FREE TRAINING

Special Transit's Easy Rider Program helps seniors and people with disabilities expand their transportation options in Boulder County. During the past three years, dozens of Imagine! consumers have completed the training. This free, comprehensive, one-on-one mobility training teaches trainees to safely and confidently use public transportation (RTD) in addition to Special Transit service. The training can also help people decrease their transportation costs.

Travel Training Includes:

- Planning a bus trip using a route schedule and map.
- Getting on and off buses using the proper fare.
- Identifying landmarks.
- Transferring from one bus to another.



Before one-on-one training begins, an expert trainer conducts an in-home assessment with each trainee to get acquainted and help determine needs and goals. Training sessions are then scheduled to provide first-hand experience riding buses in the community. Each trainee's needs and abilities are different, so the amount of training time varies from person to person.

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

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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!
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Special Transit's Easy
Rider Program Offers
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Read More Inside.

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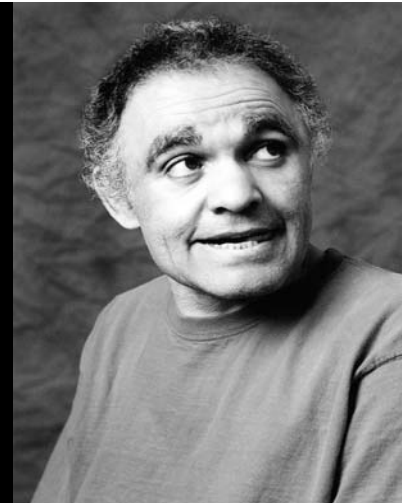
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*Innovative Resources For Cognitive and
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