

BELIEVING IN THE POTENTIAL OF ALL

Imagine! That

Summer 2004

Volume 13.2

Newsletter of Imagine!

1400 Dixon Avenue, Lafayette, CO 80026-2790

Phone: 303-665-7789 Fax: 303-665-2648 www.imaginecolorado.org

Imagine! Is an Affirmative Action, Equal Opportunity Employer

Editorial note: This newsletter has been slightly reformatted from the printed copy and does not include photos which are in the printed copy newsletter.

Imagine! Active at Early Childhood Intervention Awareness Day

On April 21st, Imagine! played an active role in the Sixth Annual Early Childhood Intervention Awareness Day (EI Day) held at the Adams Mark Hotel in Denver. Colorado's first lady, Frances Owens was the Honorary Chair of the event. Natalie Tysdal, Denver's WB2 News Anchor, was the Master of Ceremonies. The EI Day luncheon was attended by 445 people.

Imagine!'s role in EI Day included speeches by Lisa Crompton, President of our Board of Directors, and Donna Wilson, Service Coordinator at Imagine!. Both Lisa and Donna are parents of children with special needs who advocate for persons with developmental disabilities and delays far beyond the scope of their own families. Also, Jeanette Gonzales received the Francis Owens Communities Helping Young Children Award for her tireless volunteer work as a Spanish speaking interpreter and translator for Dayspring. For years, Jeanette has fulfilled her commitment to weekly, ongoing sessions or groups as well as adapting her schedule on an on-call basis.

EI Day began in 1999 to help increase awareness of the many valuable resources to Colorado's young children at risk of developmental delays or disabilities and their families, and to encourage continued support of these programs.

It is estimated that 2% of all children up to three years of age have significant developmental disabilities or delays. The earlier a child is identified as having a developmental delay or disability, the greater the impact of services and support.

The goal of this year's EI Day was to reach families, professionals, and the general public in an effort to increase awareness of the importance of Early Intervention. Extensive studies have demonstrated that providing services early in a child's life often results in fewer resources being needed to support these children as they grow older. Approximately 1,800 children in Colorado are currently receiving EI services, and approximately 4,000 families with children with special needs are receiving family support services. For FREE screenings for children in Boulder and Broomfield counties, call your local school district's Child Find office, or contact Kids Connections at 720-890-1618.

Imagine! Board Approves Funding for Autism Spectrum Disorders

Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASDs) are defined as developmental disabilities nationally and in some other states but not in Colorado. Nonetheless, because of the tremendous need, the Imagine! Board of Directors has approved a new service for families of individuals who are diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (Autism, Asperger's Syndrome, PDD-NOS, Rett's Disorder, or Childhood Disintegrative Disorder). One of Imagine!'s goals is to make flexible and responsive services available to improve the living situation of persons who have Autism Spectrum Disorders.

Eligible individuals with ASD will be granted an annual allocation of funds for three years. The initial allocation is \$5,000, then \$3,500 the second year, and \$2,000 the third year. Each family can direct the funds for their son or daughter to the treatment of specific areas of need. Imagine!, in cooperation with the Autism Society of Boulder County, plans to serve 20 people the first year and increase to 60 people over the next three years. People are eligible for this new service if they are between three and 22 years of age, live at home with their parents or guardians, are not eligible for any other services through Imagine!, and are residents of Boulder County.

Families will access services by registering online, and direct their own services via an online consumer center. Beginning July 1, 2004, families can get more information and register for services at the Imagine! website. Look for Autism Spectrum Disorders in the Services tab <http://www.imaginecolorado.org/asd.html>. Families can also call Jennifer Swezey at 303-926-6444 to get more information.

Zololympics Benefits Imagine!

On Sunday, August 1st, 2004, from 11:00 am until 3:00 pm, the fifth Zololympics will be held at Zolo Grill, located in Boulder on Arapahoe between 28th St. and Folsom. Zololympics consists of four-person teams sponsored by local restaurants participating in a zany obstacle course. This is a premier spectator sport with food and beverages served throughout the event. There will be activities for children as well as adults. This is the second year in a row that Imagine! will be the beneficiary of Zololympics and all proceeds go to Imagine!. Last year Olympic speed skater Apolo

Anton Ohno was a surprise participant in Zololympics. A drawing for prizes will be held at 2:30 pm.

Spotlight on Cathy Rich

Cathy Rich is a remarkable lady! She is a 53 year-old woman who is deaf and blind. Cathy resides at Imagine!'s Foothills Group Home, and she participates in Imagine!'s Innovations day program four days per week. Part of Cathy's day program provides opportunities to make presentations on a monthly basis. Cathy really enjoys teaching sign language, meeting new people, and sharing her experiences growing up deaf and becoming blind later in life. Cathy also participates in art, music, and movement therapy during the course of the four days of service. She helps her roommates and residential counselors with their acquisition of sign language. Cathy's mode of communicating is very unique. She communicates with others through finger spelling and sign language hand over hand.

In February, Cathy was a presenter at the "Courage to Risk" educational conference in Colorado Springs at the Broadmore Hotel. The Colorado Department of Education sponsored the conference, and educators from all over the state attended. Innovations, Imagine!'s residential program, presented a poster session emphasizing the importance of diversity within an organization and having the vision to forge one's own path. Cathy met many special educators, taught some people the signed alphabet, and conducted a deaf-blind exercise to simulate what it would be like to be both deaf and blind. Imagine!'s Board of Directors president-elect Diane Carroll also attended the conference and emphasized the importance Imagine! plays in fostering awareness of developmental disabilities both regionally and state wide.

Cathy has also participated in the recent Innovations art show at the Dairy Center for the Arts in Boulder and will be conducting a diversity training through the Denver Public Schools in May. Cathy is a remarkable woman who is playing an important role in educating the community about people with disabilities and demonstrating their special abilities.

Congratulations, Troy

Troy Peterson, who receives services through Imagine!'s Community Partnerships program, was recently voted onto the prestigious prom court at Longmont High School. In a large outpouring of support for Troy, hundreds of his classmates voted for him to receive this honor. Troy thrives both academically and socially at Longmont High School.

All of us associated with Imagine! extend our congratulations to Troy for being such a successful ambassador to the community for people with disabilities.

Imagine!'s 40th Anniversary Tribute

In early 1963, Joe and Betty Bowar were two of the dozen or so people who met a couple times a month at the basement of the old County Hospital on Broadway and Iris in Boulder. What they had in common was that they were all parents of children with a developmental disability. Joe and Betty were in the group because as Betty put it, "When we moved here from South Dakota and found out that Christi couldn't attend the public schools, it kind of ruffled our feathers." The group met to provide support to one another and to brainstorm for ideas to improve the lives of their children and their friends.

On August 6th, 1963, their advocacy was recognized with the founding of the "Boulder County Interagency and Citizens Council on Mental Retardation," which is now Imagine!. While these advocates initiated the process of successful integration for people with developmental disabilities, it could not have occurred without the support of local citizens.

Three weeks after Imagine! was founded, Martin Luther King Jr. gave his "*I Have a Dream*" speech on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial. Changing only a few words, part of Dr. King's message could read, "I have a dream of a situation where little children with and without disabilities can join hands and walk together as brothers and sisters." Sometimes dreams come true.

Harley Davidson Raffle Ready to Roar

Raffle tickets for a custom built Harley Davidson Motorcycle valued at \$25,000 are available to purchase. Proceeds from the raffle will benefit Imagine!. Raffle tickets cost \$20.00 each and may be purchased at the front desk of the Millennium Harvest House, Boulder, or at the FACs (Friday Afternoon Clubs) in the garden at the Millennium. Other sales outlets for raffle tickets are Coaches' Corner Sports Bar, Harley Davidson dealerships in Boulder and Frederick, and Imagine!'s office in Lafayette.

The raffle drawing will take place in the garden of the Millennium Harvest House, Boulder, at 9:00 pm on Friday, August 20th, 2004. The winner is not required to be present to win. The event on the 20th begins at 4:00 pm and lasts until 10:00 pm. A band will provide live entertainment, a special celebrity guest will be on hand throughout the evening, and prizes will be given away during band breaks. Please contact Allen Feld, Imagine!'s Resource Development Director, at 303-926-6402 for additional information about this terrific raffle.

Charley's Ride Set for Saturday, September 11th

Another motorcycle-related event which benefits Imagine! is the third annual Charley's Ride, a poker run sponsored by the Denver Mint Motorcycle Riders Club. This year's ride will be on Saturday, September 11th and is slated to originate in the parking lot at Imagine!. The starting time is 10:00 am with the last bike out at 11:00 am. More than 100 motorcycles are expected to participate. All two and four wheeled vehicles are welcome.

Charley's Ride is organized by Ron and Rose Kelly, the parents of Charley Diederich, a client of Imagine!. Much more information about the ride, including the cost, route, locations of scheduled stops and the after-ride barbecue, will be available soon on Imagine!'s website: www.imaginecolorado.org in the What's New section.

If you would like to be removed from our mailing list, please call Gary Stebick at 303-926-6404, or e-mail gstebick@imaginecolorado.org If leaving a phone message, please spell your name and give your address. Thank you.

Imagine! Board of Directors

Lisa Crompton, President

Diane Carroll	Pat O'Neill
Julie Erikson	Dianna Osborn
Donna Fairchild	Tom Plant
Dennis Fase	Jerry Rudy
Annette Higgins	David Sanderson
Philip Langer	Bill Sabin
Eric Love	Richard Tarvin

Imagine! Foundation Board of Directors

Jack Stoakes, President

Clair Beckmann	George M. Karakehian
Stephen M. Brett	Jerry W. Lewis
Elle Cabbage	Julia McIver
Robert F. Charles, Jr.	John R. Mehaffy
Lee Christian	Katie O'Shea
Kathy Coyne	Dave Query
Marilyn Haas	Gene Sullivan
Sandra Hembd	Shari Tebo
Tom Kahn	

Table of Contents

Page 1: Early Childhood Intervention Awareness Day

Page 2: Autism Spectrum Disorders Project
Zololympics
Spotlight on Cathy Rich

Page 3: Troy Peterson Elected to Prom Court
Imagine!'s 40th Anniversary Tribute
Harley Davidson Raffle
Charley's Ride

Page 4: Address Page
Boards of Directors
Golf Tourney

Golf Tournament, Sat., July 17th, to Benefit Imagine!

At Saddleback Golf Club, 8631 Frontier Street, Firestone.
Registration at noon with lunch. 1:00 pm tee times. \$85 per person/\$340 per foursome, includes steak and spaghetti dinner with live entertainment, prizes, gift certificates, cash prizes at Pete's Place, 201 5th St., Firestone. Call Tom at 303-833-2818 for more info. Prizes for 1st, 2nd, 3rd places in each of three divisions.

The 2004 Imagine! Annual Plan is available online at www.imaginecolorado.org or at the front desk at Imagine!.