

# Partners in Transition

January 2008

## E-NEWS

### TRANSPORTATION

**ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORTATION TRAINING SCHEDULE: People on the Move:** Using All Transportation Options (ADA and Beyond...) is a free "train-the-trainer" initiative to increase accessible transportation in local communities. Training courses start in February 2008 and continue through July 2008. Locations are San Diego, New Orleans, Washington DC, Bloomington IN, and Eugene OR. For details go to [http://projectaction.easterseals.com/site/PageServer?pagename=ESPA\\_people\\_move&autologin=true&JServSessionldr009=53bbmya1.app28a](http://projectaction.easterseals.com/site/PageServer?pagename=ESPA_people_move&autologin=true&JServSessionldr009=53bbmya1.app28a)

### HOUSING



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### EMPLOYMENT

#### **Empowerment for Americans with Disabilities: Breaking Barriers to Careers and Full Employment**

This report reviews issues integral to the employment of people with disabilities. It has two broad aims: 1) to summarize existing knowledge regarding employment of people with disabilities; and 2) to present new information on the perspectives of employers, people with disabilities, and disability specialists on key barriers and facilitators of employment. The National Council on Disability offers recommendations to supplement best practices and existing public policies and initiatives.

[http://www.ncd.gov/newsroom/publications/2007/NCDEmployment\\_20071001.htm](http://www.ncd.gov/newsroom/publications/2007/NCDEmployment_20071001.htm)

#### **RSA: Promising Practices for Basic VR Agencies Helping Transition Age Youth**

The Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) monitored 23 state vocational rehabilitation (VR) agencies in FY 2007 as authorized by Section 107 of the

Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. These agencies, their stakeholders, and RSA identified promising practices that provide useful samples of programs and services that promote youth with disabilities transitioning from school to employment. These promising practices are unique to the VR agencies providing the programs and contact information is provided for each practice. Summaries of the practices are below with links for the agencies' websites. <http://www.ed.gov/rschstat/eval/rehab/promising-practices/transition-age/index.html>

## **HEALTHCARE**

The Florida Office on Disability and Health (FODH) was recently established by funding from the National Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). FODH is located at the University of Florida in the College of Public Health and Health Professions.

The overall goal of the project is to improve the health, well being and quality of life of Floridians living with disabilities. Disability is likely to impact all people at some time. Thus, it is important to have a sound framework for addressing disability and health issues.

During the first year of this project, through the guidance of an advisory board comprised of various stakeholders, a Florida Strategic Plan will be developed to focus on these issues. Through your participation in this survey, you will provide important information to assist in the development of this strategic plan.

Your participation in this survey is completely voluntary and no compensation is offered. You may skip questions and you may withdraw from participation in this survey at any time. Your identity will not be known and no personal identifying information will be obtained through your participation in this survey.

They need your views; help by participating in this very important survey! Visit the website <http://FODH.HealthIssuesSurvey1.sgizmo.com>

## **COMMUNITY LIVING**

### **Blueprint for Action: Developing Livable Communities for All Ages**

Each day, decisions affecting residents' ability to age successfully in their communities are made by housing officials, transportation planners, planning and zoning specialists, parks and recreation officials, and economic development leaders. This guide provides local leaders with tools to build collaborations, a quick-reference kit for practitioners looking for tools, resources, best practices and it also includes a topic-specific list of studies, articles, and leading organizations. <http://www.n4a.org/pdf/07-116-n4a-blueprint4actionwcovers.pdf>

## RESOURCES

### New Florida HS/HT Programs

The Able Trust awarded grant funding to three non-profit agencies to implement local Florida HS/HT programs. Funding for these grant awards is made possible by the Florida Department of Education, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR). New Florida HS/HT programs have been implemented by the following agencies: The Independent Living Resource Center - Nassau County, The Dyslexia Research Institute - Gulf County, and Ability1st (The Center for Independent Living of North Florida) - Wakulla County. For more information contact Donna Mundy, HS/HT State Coordinator at [flhsht@aol.com](mailto:flhsht@aol.com) -or- Cat Keen, HS/HT Program Manager at [cat@abletrust.org](mailto:cat@abletrust.org)

## EDUCATION

### Florida school considered mainstreaming model

Adam Nystrom, who has learning disorders, used to be taunted by classmates for taking special-education classes, but that changed when his high school began mainstreaming students with special needs by pairing special-education teachers and mainstream teachers in integrated classrooms. Students with disabilities at Florida's Choctawhatchee High School are urged to take Advanced Placement and honors courses. [The Wall Street Journal \(free content\)](#) (12/31)

### Colleges adjust to growing population of students with disabilities

As some 1.2 million U.S. students with special needs are pursuing post-secondary education, colleges are increasingly digitizing textbooks for use in screen-reading software and offering more counselors to support such students. [American City Business Journals](#) (12/21)

### Portfolios – In middle school, and the nuts and bolts



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## GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

### General Mills Offers Grants for Healthy Youth Program

Scope: The General Mills Foundation, in partnership with the American Dietetic Association Foundation and The President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports, developed the Champions for Healthy Kids grant program in 2002. The program awards grants to community-based groups that develop creative ways to help youth adopt a balanced diet and physically active lifestyle.

In addition, General Mills will sponsor as many as 50 youth, aged 6 to 17, to compete for The President's Challenge and Presidential Active Lifestyle Awards. The awards are given to youths who establish and maintain active lifestyles.

**Deadline: Jan. 15.**

Funds: \$500,000 for 50 awards of \$10,000 each. General Mills has invested nearly \$11 million and reached more than 2 million youth across the country to improve their nutrition and fitness behaviors.

Eligibility: 501(c)(3) and 509(a) status not-for-profit organizations and agencies, health departments, government agencies, schools and school districts and Native American tribes.

Contact: Beth Labrador, (800) 877-1600, ext. 4821

Web: <http://www.generalmills.com/corporate/commitment/champions.aspx>

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**February 13, 2008 - IDEA Way** more information at [www.thetransitioncenter.org](http://www.thetransitioncenter.org)



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**March 1, 2008 – Florida Center for Inclusive Communities Open House**



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### **AAIDD Announces 2008 Conference**

The American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD) has announced its annual meeting for May 28-29th, 2008 in Washington, DC. The conference theme is *The New Professional: Leadership in Science, Practice, Policy and Advocacy*. [www.aidd.org](http://www.aidd.org)

**The following webcasts were advertised through Reference Points, the electronic newsletter of the TETRA Project at the PACER Center.**

JAN 8, 2008 "K-12 AND BEYOND: THE IMPORTANCE OF INTERNSHIPS TO STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES AND BUSINESSES-FEATURING BOOZ ALLEN HAMILTON "EMERGING LEADERS INTERNSHIP PROGRAM" AS BEST PRACTICE" WEBCAST, 2:00 - 3:00 P.M. ET Sponsored by JAN. For more information go to <http://www.jan.wvu.edu/webcast/>

FEB 12, 2008 "CURRENT EVENST IN JOB ACCOMMODATION" WEBCAST, 2:00 - 3:00 P.M. ET Sponsored by JAN. For more information go to <http://www.jan.wvu.edu/webcast/>

APRIL 8, 2008 "SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT AND MENTAL ILLNESS: ADDRESSING THE SECONDARY ISSUES" WEBCAST, 2:00 P.M. ET Sponsored by CRP-RCEP. For more information go to <http://www.crp-rcep.org/training/webcastSeries.cfm/7>

MAY 6, 2008 "ACCOMMODATING EMPLOYEES WITH PSYCHIATRIC IMPAIRMENTS" WEBCAST, 2:00 - 3:00 P.M. ET Sponsored by JAN. For more information go to <http://www.jan.wvu.edu/webcast/>

JUNE 10, 2008 "CREATIVE EMPLOYMENT STRATEGIES" WEBCAST, 2:00 P.M. ET Sponsored by CRP-RCEP. For more information go to <http://www.crp-rcep.org/training/webcastSeries.cfm/7>

JULY 8, 2008 "AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER AND EMPLOYMENT" WEBCAST, 2:00 P.M. ET Sponsored by CRP-RCEP. For more information go to <http://www.crp-rcep.org/training/webcastSeries.cfm/7>

AUG 12, 2008 "ACCOMMODATION PROCESS" WEBCAST, 2:00 - 3:00 P.M. ET Sponsored by JAN. For more information go to <http://www.jan.wvu.edu/webcast/>

**Coming Soon....** The schedule for regional trainings based upon the Leadership Teams' information and assistance requested will be coming to your inbox soon.

**KUDOS....** To the Big Bend Transition Council! They're moving right along with their Spectrum of Services and Guide, updated annually and with continual additions such as assessment and benefits information this year. Way to go Big Bend!