

TOWARD MAXIMUM INDEPENDENCE



*Quarterly
Newsletter*

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*TMI, Inc.
9370 Sky Park Ct. #250
San Diego, CA 92123*

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LIVING THE AMERICAN DREAM

Mark your calendars now for the Eighth Annual Involved Exceptional Parents' Day (LEP Day) on Saturday, March 2, 1991. The conference is designed for parents of school-aged children with special needs by parents, school districts and service agencies.

Dr. Thomas Powell, parent of a teenage son with autism and a professor at Eastern Montana College, will kick-off the conference with a keynote address entitled "Living the American Dream/" Dr. Powell is noted for his entertaining presentation style which is filled with personal experience of parenting a child with a disability. In addition, Dr. Tom Steiner, back by popular demand, will do a closing keynote address entitled "Maintaining a Sense of Humor in Tough Situations."

Following the morning keynote address, participants will have the opportunity to attend two workshop sessions. Important topics to parents such as behavior management, empowerment, self-esteem, single parenting, school transportation, attention deficit disorder, and sibling issues will be offered. Workshops will be offered in Spanish and both keynote presentations will be simultaneously translated into Spanish.

American Dream - Continued

Involved Exceptional Parent's Day has become an eagerly anticipated forum because it offers innovative parent education, foster home/school, community relationships and introduces participants to resources available in our community.

This outstanding conference will be held at the University of San Diego, March 2, 1991 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Pre-registration is a must for IEP Day as space fills quickly. The conference fee is \$15.00 single: \$25.00 couple. This includes continental breakfast, lunch and conference materials. Childcare is also available for a small fee. Registration forms will be available in early January and can be requested.

TMI WELCOMES A NEW DIRECTOR

November 7, 1990 was Dema H.'s first day at TMI. Dema came to us from Columbus, Ohio where she was National Director of Training and Technical Assistant for VOCA Corporation, a large for-profit company that provides residential services to people with disabilities. She recently relocated to San Diego and was looking for a position with an agency that operates in concert with TASH values. Fortunately for Dema, TMI was searching for a Director for our new Family Support Services project. We look forward to a long and mutually beneficial association.

FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES

Family Support Services has made a lot of progress since the Director began in November. The major project has been the development and submission of the licensure application for TMI to become a Foster Family Agency. That license will allow us to certify homes to be alternative families to children referred to us by Regional Center. We are also developing an application for ARM Level IV as our continuation funding after the grant period. The new year will see increased visibility from Family Support Services as we 'take to the road' recruiting interested families through radio interviews, presentations and various types of advertising. The Family Support Coordinator will also be interviewed and hired soon.

Family Support Services has an excellent Advisory Committee, comprised of a cross-section of professionals, as well as interested lay people and consumers. The first meeting was held in November and the second meeting is scheduled for January 9th. Sub-committees will assist the Director in properly matching children and families, developing policies and procedures and recruiting families.

If any of you readers out there have suggestions for community organizations which the Director should be contacting for a presentation, or you want to refer people as alternative families, please contact Dema H. at TMI.

INTEGRATED WORK

Integrated Work Services has shown considerable growth over the past 6 months. Ten job coaches are now providing support and training to 33 individuals residing throughout San Diego County. Although the crisis in the Middle East has recently had an impact on job development, we are hopeful that 6 additional individuals will soon be placed in paid positions.

INTEGRATED WORK - Continued

TMI welcomes Jerrilyn C. to the Integrated Work Services staff. She is busy providing community instruction in the North County coastal area to two individuals and is also assisting with job development in that region. Brett G., an employee of Target on Sports Arena Blvd. in San Diego, was recently awarded membership in Target's CARE CLUB for "demonstrating a positive and concerned attitude with a customer." Mike T. the store's District Manager, notified Brett of his award. Congratulations Brett!

TMI also wishes to congratulate Helen L. for her outstanding attendance at Toys R Us in La Mesa. She has been an employee of the toy store for over 1 year, Nice work, Helen! We are looking forward to an exciting year as this new project unfolds.

COMMUNITY LIVING

Community Living Services continues to be in high demand for individuals who want or need support. Community Living is currently serving 210 people with support levels ranging from 2 hours per month to paid roommates. There is currently a waiting list of 20 individuals, most of whom are in the South Bay area. Community Living will be adding 6 individuals who require an intense level of support before the end of March 1991.

IN MEMORY

We would like to extend our sympathy to Nita W. and her family. Nita's mother died on December 5, 1990. She was a dedicated advocate for Nita's independence. She will be missed by all who knew her.

LOOKING AHEAD

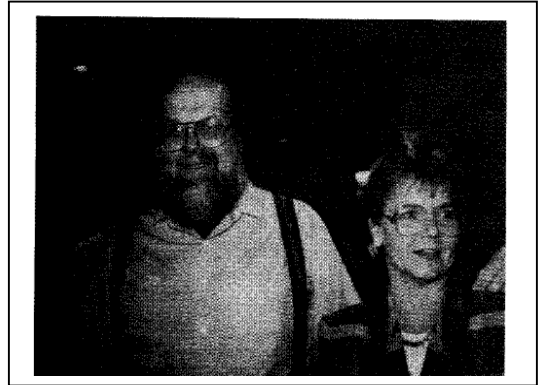
The 2nd Annual Self-Advocacy Conference for Persons with Developmental Disabilities will be held June 1st and 2nd at the Doubletree Hotel, Mission Valley, San Diego, CA. Among the many topics to be covered are: SSI, Employment, Transportation, and Living On Your Own. Hotel and meal accommodations are available.

CONGRATULATIONS

Tracy B., former Community Support Coordinator, has been promoted to the position of Family Support Coordinator, working with the program Director in the new alternative family project. Tracy brings a great deal of experience to the program having formerly provided counseling to families in crisis. This background plus her Masters Degree in Psychology and Counseling will be of great benefit to the program. Congratulations to Tracy on her upward mobility at TM1.

John O'Brien Visits TMI

In October John O'Brien visited San Diego. As a keynote speaker at our annual Seminar by the Bay he received rave reviews some of the strongest evaluations ever at this conference. As an international consultant who promotes organizational change for agencies working with people who have disabilities, John is well respected around the world. Recent work has been concentrated in Australia and Great Britain. Together with his wife Connie Lyle,



John has developed a one-week training offered through their consulting firm Responsive Systems Associates in Georgia. The workshop called Framework for Accomplishments can be used within an agency or more broadly for a community of agencies to utilize as a vehicle for promoting improvements in the quality of life for people with disabilities.

During his October visit John attended a "brown bag forum" at TMI during which he listened to staff talk about them selves, the agency and the people they support. He impressed many people with his listening skills by being able to pull many seemingly disjointed ideas and reflections together into common threads Together we considered our role in the life of individuals who look to us for support as well as our role in the professional community. Our time together was brief, but like so many who heard his master storytelling at Seminar by the Bay, we were left with much to think about.

What's Cooking?

Double Chocolate Brownies By Sandra Wyspianski

Ingredients

4 Eggs
2 cups sugar
4 squares
Baker's chocolate
2 sticks butter
1 cup flour
1 bag Hersey's
chocolate chips
1 cup chopped nuts,
(optional)

Preparation:

Melt butter and chocolate together over low heat. Put aside and let cool. Beat eggs and sugar together until light and fluffy. Pour butter/chocolate mixture into eggs and sugar. Add the flour and mix until smooth. Add chocolate chips and nuts. Mix and pour into greased and floured 9 x 13 pan. Bake at 350 degrees for about 30-40 minutes, or until center is done.

Looking for Advertising Space?

If you are, you might be interested in advertising in our quarterly newsletter. If this is the case, please give Roger or Sandra a call at 467-0600.