



Press Release

November 2004

*Peak Community Services Announces
Annual Meeting of Local Arc Chapters*

The local chapters of the statewide organization that advocates for services for people with developmental disabilities will hold its annual meeting on Tuesday, November 16. The Arc of Cass County and The Arc of Pulaski County will meet at Peak Community Services / Woodlawn Center, 1416 Woodlawn Avenue in Logansport, at 7:00 PM.

The local chapter is led by Peak Community Services. The President of the Board, Arden Cramer, will be reporting agency statistics at the annual meeting. This past fiscal year - from July 1, 2003 - June 30, 2004 - Peak Community Services provided over 243,000 hours of service to individuals with developmental disabilities in Cass, Pulaski and surrounding counties. In addition, 1,139 days of foster care, 8,972 days of residential care, and 10,412 round trip transportations were provided.

Over 3,000 hours of adult education were provided in both Cass and Pulaski County. Education includes basic academics as well as living and social skills. Over 17,500 hours of day treatment were provided to adults with profound developmental challenges, and over 16,600 hours of day treatment were provided to adults with both physical and developmental disabilities.

Nearly 2,500 hours of supportive services were provided to families who have children or adults with developmental disabilities, and in addition to this, 1,139 days of foster care treatment were provided in the community.

The two workshops - at Woodlawn Center in Logansport and at Pulaski Developmental Services in Winamac - provided over 146,500 hours of service. These hours are a combination of industrial service to local business and industry and pre-vocational services to individuals whose work skills are still developing.

Employment Services provided over 1,200 hours of job coaching and follow-along services to adults with developmental disabilities and to local small businesses. In addition to serving individuals with developmental disabilities, Woodlawn Center provides job placement services for under-employed individuals referred through the IMPACT program. 93 individuals were placed in jobs in the community through this program.

The agency owns and manages five group homes: three in Logansport and two in Winamac. In total, 8,972 days of residential service were provided to an average of 24 adults per day. Residents receive 24 hour supervision, either by group home staff or staff in other programs, including workshop services.

Individuals with developmental disabilities who live semi-independently in the community received almost 55,500 hours of supportive service, including group or individual training on home management, budgeting, healthy living and other areas.

The agency has a budget of just over \$4 Million. Funds come from a variety of sources, but

the majority of the funding comes from State and Federal program funds set aside for persons with developmental disabilities. 88% of the past fiscal year's income came from those programs. The agency also receives funds from local business and industry for services provided. Almost 86% of the hours of service in the workshops were spent doing light industrial work for local business and industry.

Peak Community Services is a United Way organization in both counties. United Way funds are used to support pre-vocational activities in the two sheltered workshops. In the past fiscal year, 20,635 hours of pre-vocational services were provided in the two workshops. Pre-vocational services are geared toward developing work skills.

Peak Community Services continues to provide services to adults with developmental disabilities, and to families with loved ones who have developmental disabilities, with the goal of increased independence. Families gain skills and are relieved of some of the burden of care. Consumers continue to reach a higher level of independence. Taxpayers pay less for community-based services than they would for institutional services. Business and industry spend money locally, keeping jobs in the community and receiving a good service for a fair price. Consumers earn money in the community, pay taxes, and spend money in the community. Small businesses gain loyal employees, receive tax breaks and save on job training.

If any of these areas interest you, and if you want to be part of a win-win situation, please attend the annual meeting of the local Arc chapters on November 16, and consider joining a worthwhile cause.