



PRESS RELEASE

March is National Disabilities Awareness Month

March 2006

The month of March is a highly celebrated month. Just consider some special days. In some years, Good Friday and Easter are celebrated. This year, we will celebrate Ash Wednesday in March. March is also the month for St. Patrick's Day and the little-known St. Urho's Day (the Finnish Saint of Grasshoppers). The Vernal Equinox is not only the first day of Spring, but one of two days in the year that the daytime and nighttime hours are each 12 hours long. And who can forget the Ides of March?

We celebrate Beer Day, Pig Day, Lips Appreciation Day, Near Miss Day, National Open An Umbrella Indoors Day, As Young As You Feel Day, International Goof-Off Day, Kite Flying Day, Swallows Return to San Juan Capistrano Day, and Bunsen Burner Day.

For those of us who can never get enough chocolate, we can look forward to National Chocolate Caramel Day and National Chocolate Covered Raisins Day. In fact, there is an entire week devoted to Chocolate: National Chocolate Week.

Let's not forget some of the other weeks that we celebrate. The Iditarod is run this month in Alaska (with lots of dogs and mushing); about every other year, there is one week of Arctic Winter Games (with such contests as the Mouth Pull and Ear Pull, the Knuckle Hop, and the Musk Ox Fight). As the Winter Olympics are being held this year, the Arctic Winter Games are not.

More than one Native American celebration is held in March, and the days of the month vary from year to year. In Alaska, the Athabascan Stickdance honors tribal men who passed away. In the lower 48, the Navaho Mountain Chant is held for nine days following the season of thunderstorms and before the spring winds. The Chant is held to restore harmony to physical bodies and relationships.

Some of the more obscure weeks may be: National Professional Pet Sitters Week, National Procrastination Week, International Brain Awareness Week, National Toad Hollow Week, National Bubble Blowers Week, and Week of Solidarity with Peoples Struggling Against Racism and Racial Discrimination.

And the month! The month is celebration to many things, including Honor Society Month, Humorists Are Artists Month, International Mirth Month, National On-Hold Month, and Play the Recorder Month.

Every day, week and month that is chosen for celebration is chosen for a reason. The people who are actively involved in the causes represented want their time in the public eye. They want to draw attention to their cause, hoping to raise awareness, and perhaps gain some followers to their cause.

We at Peak Community Services are celebrating National Disabilities Awareness Month in March. We, too, want our moment in the public eye; we want to draw attention to our cause and perhaps gain some interest in our cause. And what is our cause?

To get a feel for our cause: imagine a world in which everyone plays a part.

Imagine a world in which people of every color, every nationality, every ability can work, play and worship together.

Imagine a world where no one receives a second look because s/he might look or act differently than others in the room.

Imagine a world in which everyone plays the same tune, in glorious multi-part harmony.

“Band Together” is the theme of National Disabilities Awareness Month 2006. The theme reflects what Disabilities Awareness Month is all about. It reminds us that people with disabilities are an important part of our present and future, and it reinforces the ideas and behaviors - such as respect, fairness and inclusion - that band us together.

For more information, visit our website www.peakcommunity.com or any of the following websites: Indiana Governor’s Planning Council for Persons with Disabilities www.in.gov/gpcpd, INARF www.inarf.org, The Arc of Indiana www.arcin.org, and The Arc of the United States www.thearc.org.

Please enjoy and celebrate the month of March with all of its diversity! All of us, together, in multi-part harmony!

AND FOR AN ADDED TREAT, CHECK OUT THE CALENDAR FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH! GO TO THE PRESS RELEASE PAGE AND FIND THE LINK.