



PRESS RELEASE

Annual Meeting / Funds Raised

November 2006

Peak Community Services, the local chapter for The Arc of Indiana, held its Annual Meeting on Tuesday, November 14. New and returning Directors were elected. Returning Directors are Arden Cramer, Linda Leasure, Millie Redweik, Janet Thomson and Bruce Vernon. New Directors are Jeff Baker and Ryan Muller. All terms of office will end in 2008.

Following the Annual Meeting, the regular meeting of the Board of Directors was held. Among other business, the Board discussed the formation of a Foundation to receive, manage and disburse funds to further the mission of Peak Community Services. The agency hopes to launch the Foundation in January 2007. Initial funds for the Foundation will come from two sources.

Peak Community Services is pleased to announce a residuary bequest from the Herschell L. Sanderson estate. Funds accruing from this bequest will be used to deliver services for citizens in Cass County with developmental disabilities.

The agency is also pleased to announce a successful fund raising effort, the first annual Dream High Breakfast. The Breakfast was held on Thursday, November 2. Funds raised at this breakfast are also designated to the Foundation. These funds will support men, women and children with developmental disabilities who are on waiting lists. The individuals have been declared eligible for services, but State and Federal funding has not yet been made available. Through the Foundation, Peak Community Services will provide a bridge, providing services to adults and children in Cass and Pulaski Counties between the time they are declared eligible for services and the time the State provides funding. This period of time could be as long as 10 years for each individual.

The Dream High Breakfast brought together almost 200 community members for this cause. Through the generosity of heart and spirit of this community, over \$134,000 was raised that morning. Donations and pledges continue to come in.

At least 200 individuals are on waiting lists in Cass County and possibly another 50 in Pulaski County. The agency does not know who they are or what type or level of support is needed. The financial support necessary per person could range from \$5,000 a year to nearly \$170,000 a year. As stated above, each individual could be on the waiting list for as long as 10 years, and Peak Community Services would provide support until the State provides funding.

Over 50 years ago, in two communities, parents sat down at kitchen tables and envisioned a day when their children could dare to dream. In 2006, the Cass and Pulaski County communities in which these parents dared to dream continue to do so. The success of this breakfast demonstrates that the commitment that allowed for the creation of this agency is still with us. This community commitment is a driving force behind the commitment of Peak Community Services to end the waiting list for "the 250."