



# Peak Community Services, Inc.

"The Back Page" for May 2007

## A Place In The Community



Quietly and without much ado, the last state funded institution for people with developmental disabilities closed the week of April 16, when the last resident of Fort Wayne State Developmental Center left the facility.

I worked at the Center twice, once in 1976 and once in 2003. While the Center changed in many positive ways in that interval, frankly, it was long past time that the facility close. Whatever stories you may have heard about the conditions and treatment within that institution in recent years, for the decades before, the situation was worse.

Across the street from the Center on the IPFW campus is a graveyard. Buried there in unmarked graves are the many that died while residing at that facility. With the closure of the Center, they can at last rest knowing that no one else need experience what they endured. We are now finding a place for people with developmental disabilities within the community rather than in institutions.

Over fifty years ago the women who sat around those now legendary kitchen tables changed the lives of hundreds of people in Cass and Pulaski Counties. Because of their frustration with the lack of choices for their children, and because of their persistence and creativity, Peak Community Services is here today. We have expanded on their dream. We now provide a continuum of services for persons with developmental disabilities in both counties.

Indiana now joins the ranks of other states that have closed their institutions for people with developmental disabilities. For the sake of those we serve, and in honor of the thousands who endured life at that facility, please join with me in celebrating this important milestone.

*Don*

## Suggestion of the Month

**ANDRA TRIBBETT**



I would like to see an ADA Accessible Pass (with ADA law/rule included) created that could go on the back of the Peak Community Services ID badges so staff can be admitted on consumer outings without being charged admission fees.

## So What's Up With That?

Human Resources and the Development Office will look into this possibility and keep everyone posted. Thanks!

## WC Employee of the Month

**CONNIE ENGLISH**



Connie always has a positive attitude and her laugh is infectious! She donates her time, money, and personal belongings to the agency if it will help someone. She has raised the morale of the programs in which she is involved in immeasurable ways!

Thanks Connie!

## PDS Employee of the Month

**TOO TOUGH TO CALL THIS MONTH!**



There must have been too many good choices at PDS to choose one for May!

## Welcome New Employees!

Pam Bell	Kelly Hook-Shidler
Crystal Callaway	Brittany Ludgate
April Davis	Molly Putnam
Michelle Dunkin	Fallon Vore
Sharon Case	Bill Warf
Ruth Hoff	Tonya Wilson
Rich Holcomb	Andrea Woodke

## Safety Suggestion of the Month

Practice good ergonomics at your desk. Adjust your computer monitor to be at or slightly below eye level. Keyboards should be placed so that wrists are in a neutral position. Take frequent breaks from staring at the screen, look away into the distance for a few minutes every hour to reduce eye strain.

## WC Consumer of the Month



## PDS Consumer of the Month

**JAIME BOPE**

For the past couple of weeks Jaime has taken it upon herself, with staff support, to engage some of the other consumers in leisure time activities, such as table games and cards in the absence of the PDS Life Skills Instructor. Thanks Jaime for seeing a need and filling that need on behalf of your co-workers.

