



A Chapter of Christopher &
Dana Reeve Foundation



June 2009

We're on the Web!
www.azspinal.org

5025 E Washington St #110
Phoenix, AZ 85034
Phone: 602-507-4209
Fax: 602-507-4214
Toll-free: 888-889-2185
info@azspinal.org

*"A monthly update on the
happenings and upcoming events
in the Association and
Community Partners."*

Member E-Newsletter

Arizona Spinal Cord Injury Association

4th Annual Spinal Cord Injury Retreat

The SCI Retreat will be held on Thursday, August 13 – Sunday 16, 2009 at Whispering Hope Ranch in Payson. Please visit www.azspinal.net. The website is now live! Registration and payments are now accepted.

3rd Annual Arizona JV Wheelchair Basketball Tournament

Please mark your calendar for Saturday, November 7th and Sunday, November 8th. Hosted by Phoenix Banner Wheelchair Suns and sponsored by Arizona Spinal Cord Injury Association, Arizona Disabled Sports and Cox Communications. Location will be determined at a later date.

If you have any questions, please contact Gary Venjohn at 602-790-7909 or gwvenjohn@cox.net.

Art Competition for Youth With Disabilities

VSA Arts and Volkswagen Group America are now accepting entries for Accelerate, a juried exhibition of young emerging artists with disabilities. The program is open to artists ages 16-25 who live in the United States and who have a physical, cognitive, mental, or sensory disability. It must be original work completed within the last three years and after the onset of disability. Eligible media include, but are not limited to, paintings and drawings (oil, watercolor, acrylic, pencil, or charcoal), fine art prints, photography, computer-generated prints, digital art, and time-based media (video, film). Work must have a visual component. Both representational and abstract work is welcomed. Prize awards total \$50,000. For entry details, visit <http://www.vsarts.org>. Submission deadline is June 19, 2009.

Disability Law Handbook Now Online

The Southwest DBTAC is pleased to announce that the Disability Law Handbook is now available on our website at: <http://www.swdbtac.org/html/publications/dlh/index.html>. We encourage you to download and print as many copies as you would like. We will keep you on our listserv and update you when we have more publications of the handbook available and other resources we are developing. The book will also be translated into Spanish and we expect to have it available electronically in about three weeks.

This Disability Law Handbook is a 50-page guide to the basics of the Americans with Disabilities Act and other disability related laws. Written in an FAQ format, The Disability Law Handbook answers questions about the Americans with Disabilities Act, the ADA Amendments Act, the Rehabilitation Act, Social Security, the Air Carrier Access Act, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act, and the Fair Housing Act Amendments. "Listen to the Disability Law Lowdown Podcast at <http://dll.ada-podcast.com>"

Claims Representative Positions

Official title: Social Insurance Specialist

The Social Security Administration would like our help with their current recruiting efforts! They are currently recruiting under the Federal Schedule A Hiring Authority (applicants with a disability) and are seeking to complete all necessary interviews within the next 3 to 4 weeks.

Position Overview:

As a Claims Representative, you will assist the public in person or by phone to establish entitlement to Social Security benefits. Your contacts will allow you to obtain, clarify and verify data used to analyze claims and make benefit entitlement decisions. Your career as a Claims Representative will allow you to develop skills that provide a solid foundation for future advancements.

Benefits: You will be eligible to participate in a retirement program, thrift savings plan, health benefits for individuals or families, and life insurance. There are 10 paid federal holidays per year.

Work Location: Phoenix Downtown District Office, 250 N. 7th Ave., Suite 100, Phoenix, AZ 85007

Technical Training: Before beginning the job, Claims Representatives must successfully complete a four month training program. This program provides the necessary technical instruction in SSA programs and prepares new employees to interview, furnish information, and provide assistance to the general public and beneficiaries on matters relating to the various SSA programs and Medicare.

How To Apply: Resumes must be received via mail or fax by 06/01/2009. Please contact Barb Reimers or Billie Armenta at 602-379-4044 (phone), 602-379-4698 (fax).

VOICE Support Group

The group will be attending the Arizona Diamondbacks game on Thursday, June 11th. Tickets will be \$8.00 each. For the July meeting, a representative from the Metro Light Rail will speak and answer some of the concerns and questions about riding the light rail.

Focus Group or Telephone Survey

Do you or someone close to you have experience dealing with substance abuse problems? Local grassroots coalition is seeking consumers, family and caregivers to share insights on personal and community problems as these involve the disability community in Maricopa County. Volunteers will receive a \$25 or \$10 gift certificate.

All personal information is kept strictly confidential. To schedule a time and location contact: Pam Allan, ABIL at 602-864-9149, pama@abil.org or Kathryn Robins, YMCA at 602-509-2455, krobins@vosymca.org.

Seeking Professionals in Disability and/or Substance Abuse Field

Do you work in a field that brings you in touch with adults with physical disabilities who struggle with substance mis-use, abuse or addiction? Does someone close to you, who experiences disability, have experience dealing with substance abuse problems? Local grassroots coalition (with grant funding from Magellan) is seeking 8-10 professional share insights on community needs and resources related to substance abuse and adults with disabilities in Maricopa County. Earn a \$25 gift certificate to a major supermarket.

Data will be reported in aggregated form. All personal information is kept strictly confidential. To pre-qualify, contact Kathryn Robins, YMCA at 602-509-2455, krobins@vosymca.org.

America's Most Wanted 2009 All-Star Award

Each year, America's Most Wanted holds the AMW All-Star competition. This competition serves to honor first responders from all over the country for their hard work and dedication. All of the nominees in the 2009 AMW All-Star competition are heroes, but there can be only one winner.

America's Most Wanted traveled down to the NASCAR Sprint All-Star Race. Here, the prize is given out to the winner of the AMW All-Star Challenge, in the midst of the hustle and excitement and a crowd of over 80,000 people all coming to watch a race that brings the top NASCAR racers into competition for a \$1 million prize.

This year, Officer William Weigt is the recipient of the All-Star prize, for his sacrifices and heroism. After suffering a gunshot wound to the neck during pursuit of a suspect which left him paralyzed from the neck down, his heroism and continued service are being honored.

Presenting the award at the NASCAR All-Star Sprint Race helps to bring a lot of positive attention to each of these heroes who are nominated. "It's a great race," John said. "Lots of entertainment, and Sprint really does a great thing in honoring these cops."

Thank you for voting for Bill Weigt. It is amazing to have someone from Arizona recognized for this prestigious award.

HOPE Research Institute

Do you have chronic nerve pain after Spinal Cord Injury? You may qualify for a Clinical Research Study of an investigational medication for pain after spinal cord injury.

The purpose of this clinical research study is to evaluate if the study medication may be effective in relieving chronic nerve pain associated with spinal cord injury. As with many clinical research studies, the study medication will be compared with a placebo (inactive substance).

If you qualify to take part in this study, you will attend eight appointments over five months. The study medication (or placebo) is in capsule form and will be taken twice a day. The study doctor will assess your response to the medication. This research study will include 200 participants in approximately 35 sites across the United States.

You may qualify for a Clinical Research Study if you:

- Are at least 18 year old
- Have had a spinal cord injury more than one year ago
- Have chronic nerve pain after spinal cord injury
- Are able to attend 8 clinic visits over a 5-month period

You may not participate in this Study if you:

- Have pain associated with conditions other than spinal cord injury
- Anticipate needing surgery during the course of the study
- Have medical conditions that would interfere with study participation

Study Participants May Receive Study-Related:

- Medication or placebo (inactive substance)
- Physical and neurological examinations
- Electrocardiograms
- Laboratory tests

For more information please visit: www.spineinjurypain.com or contact HOPE Research Institute, LLC at 602-288-4673.

Spinal Cord Injury Chronic Pain Study

If you experience chronic nerve pain a year or more following a SCI you may be eligible to participate in a 5-month clinical study sponsored by Pfizer of an investigational medication. The goal of the study is to evaluate the effectiveness of the study medication in relieving chronic nerve pain associated with SCI. Participants may receive study-related physical and neurological examinations, electrocardiograms, and laboratory tests at no cost, plus compensation for their time. Transportation will be provided, or travel costs will be reimbursed. Most important, your participation may help others by contributing to research that may lead to improved treatments. For information, visit www.spineinjurypain.com or call Inclinix at (888) 898-7425 ext. 2072.

Nominate a Housing Hero

BRIAN MICKELSEN HOUSING HERO AWARDS

ADOH is now accepting nominations for the Brian Mickelsen Housing Hero Awards to be presented at the 2009 Housing Forum at the Buttes Resort on September 15th.

Information and nomination forms are available at
<http://www.housingaz.com/ShowPage.aspx?ID=226>

This year's categories are Local Initiatives, Innovative Partnerships, Superior Sustainable Design, Tribal Initiatives, Elected Official Award, and the Arthur Crozier Partner in Housing Arizona. Entry Deadline is June 12, 2009.

Daring Adventures 2009

The Daring Adventures offices have moved south! They are now located at the South Mountain Environmental Education Center in South Mountain Park, 10409 S. Central Avenue. Along with a new location there is a new coordinator for Daring Adventures, please welcome Joey Casto to the Outdoor Adaptive Recreation Team. Joey's number is 602-534-0527, joey.casto@phoenix.gov or 602-495-5078 (Linda).

New Registration Process!

Daring Adventures is ready to enter the twenty first century so we are requiring all of our participants to create an ACTIVE account to register for programs. You can do this at www.phoenix.gov/parks then click on classes and programs and scroll down to new customer.

There has also been a price increase for some of the programs and a nonresident fee for participants that do not live in the City of Phoenix. The fee structure is as follows: Kayaking \$100, Cycling \$30, Backpacking \$100, Hiking \$5 per hike, Camping 3-day trip \$80 4-day trip \$100, Cross Country Skiing \$150, Sled Hockey \$80. Nonresidents will pay an additional 50%. **VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED.**

House For Rent

One year lease with first, last and \$500 deposit. Half refundable upon inspection, 1,350 square feet. Home address: 4207 E St. Anne Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85042. Cross streets are Southern and 40th Street. Asking for \$1,175 per month. Major interior and exterior remodel and all work completed by a licensed general contractor.

If you are interested, please contact Mike Starkovich at 602-570-4821.

Upcoming e-news information.....

If there is anything that you would like to share with your fellow members, please contact Vangie Mortenson. She will ensure that the information will be posted on the e-news.

THANK YOU!