

# Connections

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Questions? Comments or Ideas:

Contact "Connections" through

Developmental Disabilities  
417-335-4135

## Summer Camp Scholarship Program

Developmental Connections will provide Camp Scholarships for children who are enrolled in the Special Services Programs to attend recreational/social activities and camping programs in 2009. Scholarships are provided free of charge to children with developmental disabilities who are residents of Taney County. Families or advocates who desire to apply for a Camp Scholarship are required to contact the Board's Administrative Office for an application and confirmation of funding. Call 417-335-4135 for additional information. The Summer Camp Scholarship Program is provided throughout the summer months, but early appli-

cation is important. Some of the camps supported through the scholarship program are:

Wonderland Camp—Rocky Mountain, MO [www.wonderlandcamp.org](http://www.wonderlandcamp.org) Located in the Lake of the Ozarks area, they provide five-day camp sessions May through August.

Camp Barnabas—Purdy, MO [www.campbarnabas.org](http://www.campbarnabas.org) Offers week long camping sessions June through mid-August. Each schedule identifies camp sessions especially geared to accommodate campers' unique health and behavioral needs.

Camp Determination—Kansas City, KS [www.kumc.edu/aarc](http://www.kumc.edu/aarc)

Sponsored by the Autism Asperger Resource Center at the University of Kansas Medical Center for campers with autism spectrum disorders, ages 4-12.

Camp Black Hawk & Camp Carpe Diem—Rolla, MO [director@bearriverranch.com](mailto:director@bearriverranch.com) Camp Black Hawk is known for its small group size and high number of paid camp counselors. Camp Carpe Diem is a co-ed camp for children and adults with severe forms of developmental disabilities. Bear River Ranch offers modern barrier-free facilities, air-conditioned cabins, swimming pool, activity pavilions and a zoo of more than 250 animals of over 90 different types.

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## Residential Dwelling Accessibility Tax Credit Available



"The Residential Dwelling Accessibility (DAT) Tax Credit is to help persons with disabilities and their family recover some of their expenses for home accessibility improvements. The credit is refundable, so a household doesn't have to owe any taxes to be eligible for a credit up to \$2,500.00. A person with a disability must be a permanent resident of the home. Persons (or a mar-

ried couple filing jointly) who have a federal adjusted gross income of \$30,000 or less can get a credit to cover the costs of home access improvements up to \$2,500.00. \$30,000 to \$60,000, they may claim a credit to cover half of the expenses up to \$2,500.00. Your expenses must have been since January 1, 2008 and spent toward: modifying bathrooms for accessibility; constructing

ramps to your home, stairway lifts, widening doorways or hallways; modifying hardware of doors; installing handrails or grab bars; moving electrical outlets and switches, installing or modifying fire alarms, smoke detectors, and other alerting systems. This year, there will only be \$100,000 available statewide, so you must file as soon as possible.



For more information contact Marty Exline, at [mexine@swbell.net](mailto:mexine@swbell.net)

For tax forms and instructions go to: [dor.mo.gov/tax/taxcredit/dat.htm](http://dor.mo.gov/tax/taxcredit/dat.htm)

## What's New and Other Quick Notes

**\*\*Developmental Connections (The Taney County Board for the Developmentally Disabled) Board of Directors** elected new officers at their monthly meeting on Thursday, January 8, 2009. The following members were elected for one year:

President: Dr. Dean Porter

Vice-President: Kathy Dodds

Treasurer: Cheri Coffelt

Secretary: Brenda White

The above members will also serve as officers on the Dorgan-Weaver Housing Corporation Board.

**\*\*Upcoming Trainings from MPACT-** Missouri Parents Act (MPACT) trainings are provided free of charge to parents of children with disabilities. The Springfield, MO office is located at 2100 S. Brentwood Suite G, telephone number 1-800-743-7634. To view a comprehensive list of all trainings provided by MPACT or to sign up go to: [www.ptimpact.com/training/training\\_complete](http://www.ptimpact.com/training/training_complete),

**\*\* Missouri Autism Coalition** The families of the Statewide Autism Projects Advisory Committee invite all individuals to join the 6th Annual Autism Awareness Rally **February 10, 2009**. It will be held in Jefferson City at the State Capitol Building, first floor rotunda 10:00–11:30 am. For more information on the rally, legislation or how to schedule an appointment with your legislator, visit: Missouri Autism Coalition Autism Buzz at [www.missouriautismcoalition.com](http://www.missouriautismcoalition.com)

**\*\*Disability Rights Legislative Day** Join hundreds of advocates at the Capitol in Jefferson City for the Annual Cross Disability Rights Legislative Day **Wednesday, March 25, 2009**. For more info contact the co-chairs of the planning committee: Dolores Sparks: [dsparks@mpcdd.com](mailto:dsparks@mpcdd.com) or Becky Dicky: [badrid@juno.com](mailto:badrid@juno.com)

**\*\*Children's Medical Services** Missouri Medicaid Children & Youth Program on Incontinence provides disposable diapers and pull-up underwear for participants 4–20 years of age. They

can provide monthly delivery to participants (home or living facility); NO out of pocket expense to participant or family; they work directly with the participant's physician. For more information or to enroll, please contact Toll free: 877-984-5050, or FAX: 417-882-9441 or email: [children@sbcglobal.net](mailto:children@sbcglobal.net)

**\*\*Attention Teachers: March is Disability Awareness Month** The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) guarantees and protects the rights of people with disabilities as American citizens and makes discrimination based on a person's disability illegal. This act signifies awareness that people with disabilities deserve the same rights of citizenship as people without disabilities. **People with disabilities are people first, their disabilities are second.** The Missouri Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities can assist you by providing free instructional materials. For more information contact the MO Planning Council at 800-500-7878 visit their website [www.mpcdd.com](http://www.mpcdd.com)

*It is in our differences that we are all the same*

*- Eckhart Tolle*

## MO Youth Leadership Forum: July 26-29, 2009



The Governor's Council on Disability is recruiting for the next Missouri Youth Leadership Forum (MYLF). The application and other pertinent information is available at [www.disabilityinfo.mo.gov/gcd/2008ylyf.shtml](http://www.disabilityinfo.mo.gov/gcd/2008ylyf.shtml). The application deadline is **April 15, 2009**. The forum is open to high school juniors and seniors with disabilities who possess leadership potential. The program's focus is to promote students' leadership, citizenship, and social skills de-

velopment. Forum topics include leadership principles and applications, disabilities experience and resource sharing, assistive technology, career goal development, independent living and advocacy skill building. The students will also have a great deal of fun while they are learning to become active leaders in their communities and pursuing their education, training and employment goals for the future. Students will be inspired by the successful role models they will meet during the forum.

## Champion Athletes Sports Celebration—February 6, 2009

Nominees for the 2009 Sports Celebration are:

### *All Star Athletes*

Donnie Bass Samantha Eisenhauer

Gary Gildin Joe Kellett

Jessica Winnie

### *Life Skills*

Bobbi Lowery

### *Unsung Heroes*

Brad Beattie Cathy Brown

Greg & Louis Fels Howard Fisk

Mary Ellen Gilbert Thomas Halter



## Calendar of Events



### February

- 2 Ground Hog Day
- 10\* 4:30 PM—5:30 PM Bowling, Dogwood Lanes 2126 E. State Hwy 76. Branson
- 12 Lincoln’s Birthday
- 14 Valentine’s Day
- 14\* 10:00AM—12:00 noon Swimming classes at Palace View - Branson
- 16 President’s Day
- 21\* 10:00AM—12:00 noon Swimming classes at Palace View - Branson
- 22 Washington’s Birthday
- 28\* 10:00AM—12:00 noon Swimming classes at Palace View - Branson

### March

- 7\* 10:00AM—12:00 noon Swimming classes at Palace View - Branson
- 8 Daylight-Savings Time Begins
- 11\* 4:30 PM—5:30 PM Bowling, Dogwood Lanes 2126 E. State Hwy 76. Branson
- 14\* 10:00AM—12:00 noon Swimming classes at Palace View - Branson
- 17 St. Patrick’s Day
- 20 Spring Begins
- 21\* 10:00AM—12:00 noon Swimming classes at Palace View - Branson
- 28\* 10:00AM—12:00 noon Swimming classes at Palace View - Branson



### April

- 1 April Fool’s Day
- 4\* 10:00AM—12:00 noon Swimming classes at Palace View - Branson
- 8\* 4:30 PM—5:30 PM Bowling, Dogwood Lanes 2126 E. State Hwy 76. Branson
- 9 Passover
- 12 Easter



\* Bowling & Swimming classes are sponsored by Champion Athletes of the Ozarks. You must register you athlete. Call to register 417-890-1599

**Disclaimer:** The information provided in this newsletter is obtained through a variety of sources, including networking, referrals by professionals, other agencies and newsletters, mail advertisements, etc. Developmental Connections cannot attest to the quality or qualifications of individuals or organizations described. We encourage you to be a wise consumer and ask questions in order to make you own independent evaluation. We share information about research projects, but in doing so, do not provide an endorsement of any type.

<u><b>Developmental Connections Board of Directors 2009</b></u>		
Tracey Barton Branson	Cheri Coffelt Kirbyville	Tim Connell Branson
Kathy Dodds Branson	Don Ingram Hollister	Karen Lashley Branson
Dean Porter Branson	Clint Smith Branson	Brenda White Branson

Developmental Connections is a publicly funded Board created by the voters of Taney County in November 1980. The Board's goal is to work with local agencies to develop the resources necessary to meet individual family needs and enhance the lives of persons with developmental disabilities.

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*Developmental Connections seeks to be the central resource of services and supports for all individuals with developmental disabilities in Taney County.*

**Connections** is a quarterly publication of Developmental Connections, (Taney County Board for the Developmentally Disabled. If you have any questions about the content of this newsletter, please contact Jean St. Peter, Editor at 417-335-4135

***Investing Taney County Resources in Taney County Residents***

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