

The Inside Connection

A Newsletter From CCAR Industries

Charleston, Illinois

Spring 2009

Busy Spring at CCAR!!

During the early Spring the staff at CCAR have been working away with several other groups planning a series of activities.

For the fifth year in a row, CCAR Industries is teaming with the Charleston Rotary Club and Charleston Troop 410 Studio 2B on March 27th to fill 100 backpacks for the local Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) office. After the backpacks are filled with personal care items, paper and pens, information on personal safety, comfort items, and toys, they are distributed by DCFS to children when they enter the foster care system.

The hope is to provide these children with the sense that others care about them, to give them necessities, and to provide them with something to carry their personal belongings or schoolbooks. We would like to thank the numerous local businesses who also donated items for this project. We are glad for our programs to have a way to give back to their community.

The third Camp New Hope and CCAR Industries benefit

bass fishing tournament will be held on Lake Mattoon on May 30th.

This year we are pleased to announce a \$5,000.00 guaranteed grand prize. Registrations are now being taken with participation limited to 60 boats



The father and son team of Dan McDowell and Garrett of Mattoon won with a five fish limit weighing 15.53 pounds at the last bass tournament

with a waiting list in case of late cancellations. The entry fee for the tournament is \$150.00 per two-man team.

CCAR has had the pleasure of working with Illini Team Trail who organizes and operates the tournament. A huge thank you goes out to Mike and Penny Black for their hard work on this project for the past three years and their positive support of both Camp New Hope and

CCAR Industries.

Take off for the tournament will be bright and early at 6:00 a.m. at the Lake Mattoon Main Ramp with the weigh-in at 2:00 pm at Camp New Hope. We want to invite the public to come out and support the tournament teams during the weigh-in and be on hand to congratulate the winner.

Any questions you may have about participating in the event should be directed to Mike or Penny Black at 217-923-3098.

In addition, Lyla McGuire CCAR Executive Director, has worked closely with Russ Leverenz, a senior business management student at Eastern Illinois University to organize the "Shoot Par for CCAR" a four person scramble including dinner, prizes, and a live band after the golf. This event will be held on April 25th at the Meadowview Golf Course in Mattoon, Illinois.

Entry fees are \$50.00 per player which includes green fees and dinner. You can contact the Meadowview Golf Course to register: 217-258-7888. Cost will be \$5.00 per person not playing golf for dinner and live music.

A BUSY TIME FOR DEVELOPMENTAL TRAINING



DT Lincoln consumers stand for the pledge during the inauguration of President Obama

January 20th was a big day for Democrats and Republicans alike as they watched the Inauguration of President Barack Obama. Consumers at the DT Lincoln program made sure to take some time out of their day



Mable enjoys a dance with one of her staff at the DT Valentine Party

to watch a little bit of history.

The DT Programs held their annual Valentine's Party on February 13th. Donnie Irwin provided music for dancing and refreshments were enjoyed by everyone. A special thanks to all of the family members who

donated snacks or other items for the party.

On March 20th, DT Lincoln held its first annual "Over the Rainbow" party and scavenger hunt. Consumers were split into six teams and they went on a hunt throughout the CCAR administration building, workshop and the DT building looking



Some of the winners of the scavenger hunt pictured with their prizes!

for gold coins. Items on the hunt included CCAR's mission statement, pictures of past and present program directors, picture of the current U.S. President, and answering the question "Who is the DT Program Banker?" (Angela King, DT QMRP). Also included in the day's festivities were a muffin walk and indoor bowling. Anthony, Patty, Chris, Russell, Lynn, and Travis were on the winning team coached by Doris.

On March 27th, CCAR held its annual "Backpack Project" with the Charleston Rotary



Part of the crew that put together the backpacks

Club and the local Girl Scout Troop. Each year, around 100 backpacks are filled for DCFS children who are about to enter foster care. CCAR staff from the DT program and workshop collected monetary donations from local businesses to go shopping and purchase items to go into the backpacks. The backpacks contain anywhere from personal hygiene products to fire safety literature. CCAR staff will then deliver the backpacks to the local DCFS office later in April.



Several of the filled backpacks ready to be taken to the DCFS office

WORKSHOP CONSUMERS DEVELOP NEWSLETTER



A few consumer newsletter writers

In December 2008, three Workshop consumers began writing and developing ideas for a consumer-focused newsletter. They released the first edition in January, 2009. Since its start, the newsletter has grown to 11 writers with a rotating group of contributors all who participate in the vocational programs.

Writers report on the news



Amber Daubs teaches Mary Madden the basics of typing

and opinions of fellow consumers. The newsletter has an eclectic mix of creative writing, art, humor, trivia, and sports. From start to finish, the consumers develop story ideas, write the articles, perform the data entry, help with the Microsoft Publisher layout, and edit the finished product. In addition, they

take photographs and create original artwork that is scanned into the electronic document.

Once completed, the newsletter is emailed to parents, staff members, consumers, and other individuals who have expressed an interest in receiving this. A



Nicole Elder, Editor

limited number of printed editions are also distributed to individuals who do not have internet or email capabilities.

Newsletter members recently voted on rules for partici-



Our luncheon at Los Potrillos

pation and elected an Editor-In-Chief, Nikki Elder. A few of these rules are: demonstrating

respect for others, helping fellow writers produce their articles, and attending meetings on a regular basis. Of course, there are a few additional rules: no lollipops unless you bring enough for everyone, no making “fishy faces” at the meetings, and no double-dipping chips (...that rule was handy at Los Potrillos...). As you can tell, the writers like to have fun while they work!

Looking ahead, newsletter members would like to continue their monthly luncheon meeting and weekly “brain-storming” meetings. In addition, they would like to take a trip to a local newspaper and learn about library resources/technology.

In February, twenty five articles were submitted. The original idea was to produce a four page newsletter. However, with the growing number of articles, next month's edition may be ten pages.



The writers test the limits of the “Yacker Tracker” which is a device that monitors noise volume for an article

**CCAR Industries
1530 Lincoln Ave.
Charleston, Illinois 61920**



Phone: (217) 348-0127

Fax: (217) 345-2968

Website: ccarindustries.org

One-Time Economic Recovery Payment

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, which the President signed into law in February, provides for a one-time payment of \$250 to people receiving Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits.

The one-time recovery payments will go out in May 2009 and all payments should be received by the end of May. In April, Social Security will send a letter with additional information to each person who is eligible for the one-time payment.

All adults who receive Social Security benefits, including disabled adult children (but not minor children) are eligible for a

\$250 payment. In addition, all persons who receive SSI payments, including minor children, are eligible for the payment.

Anyone who receives benefits or who was eligible to receive benefits during any of the three months prior to enactment (November and December of 2008 and January 2009) will receive the one-time payment

The payments will be made in the same way that regular monthly payments are made. People with direct deposit will receive their payments electronically. Those who receive paper checks will receive their payments in the mail. People who receive regular payments

through the Direct Express debit card will receive their one-time payments through the card.

If someone receives both Social Security and SSI, only one payment of \$250 will be made. The economic recovery legislation also provides for a one-time payment to recipients of Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) benefits. However, if you receive Social Security or SSI benefits and you also receive VA and/or RRB benefits, you will only receive one \$250 payment. The Social Security Administration will send you this payment.

Information is available at