



# ARK ADVOCATES - NEWS & VIEWS

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## **ANNUAL AWARDS POTLUCK**

**YOU ARE INVITED** to attend the annual ARK Advocates awards potluck and help us honor the following award winners (see invitation in this newsletter).

Distinguished Community Service - Samantha Freise & Yvonne Lyons (Lifetouch Photography)

Professional of the Year - Pat Loso

Teacher of the Year - Stacy Francois

Para-educator of the Year - Kelli Decker

Super Sibling of the Year - Stacy Rissman & Michelle Bahl

**LET'S HAVE A HUGH TURNOUT** to show our appreciation to the award winners, officers, and board members who work to make life better for people with disabilities. We will also have a brief meeting for the membership to vote on new board members and by-law changes.

# Congratulations Award Winners

## **Recommended By-Law Changes**

The following changes (in bold) have been recommended for the By-Laws and will be voted on at the annual potluck by ARK Advocates membership.

**Article V. Section 7:** Unexcused absences of two (2) or more board meetings may result in the removal from the ARK Advocates Board of Directors. **An unexcused absence is no notification to the Executive Secretary prior to a scheduled meeting.**

**Article VIII. Section 5:** Internal audit shall be performed **annually in September** by an active board member.

**Article XI. Section 1:** The Executive/Operations Committee: This committee will interview and recommend to the Board the hiring of the Executive Secretary as needed. The committee will develop and evaluate the job description and conduct the annual appraisal of the Executive Secretary. This committee will put together the annual contract of the Executive Secretary including the benefit package to be approved by the Board of Directors. This committee shall provide orientation for new board members, to include responsibilities, committee appointments, review of ARK Advocates By-Laws, and an overview of the organization.

# ANNUAL AWARDS POTLUCK

## ARK Advocates

**DATE:** *Tuesday, May 19, 2009*

**TIME:** *6:00 P.M.*

**PLACE:** *Albrecht Acres  
14775 Sherrill Road  
Sherrill, IA*

*ARK Advocates is holding its Annual Potluck/Awards  
Night and you are invited!!!*

*Bring a covered dish to pass and your own table service. Meat, rolls,  
and beverages will be furnished. BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY!*

*It is a great way to visit with old friends and make new friends.  
Following the meal, ARK Advocates annual awards will be  
presented.*

# ANNUAL AWARDS POTLUCK

# SO Sports Day

*By Lori Anderson*

I am assisting Arena of Dreams in sharing information on the Special Olympics Sports Day which will be held on Saturday May 16, 2009 between 10:00-3:00 at Arena of Dreams. I know I sent information out to most families a while ago, but wanted to give you the additional information I just received.

Arena of Dreams is located in Hanover, IL. It is a few miles past Chestnut Mountain Ski Resort in Galena, IL.

This is a Special Olympic event for the tri states (Illinois, Iowa and Wisconsin) residents with disabilities and they are also looking for volunteers for the event.

The aim of the event is to raise awareness of Special Olympics in general and also to show people the new facility at Arena of Dreams.

The event will feature fun activities revolving around different sports: Bocce, Golf, Volleyball, Basketball, Aquatics, Snowshoeing (Yes Snowshoeing!) and equestrian. Refreshments will be on site and souvenirs and prizes for participation. The idea is to get athletes, families, volunteers, and coaches out for a day of fun and discovery.

## **ATHLETIC PARTICIPANTS:**

To register for the event, please contact: Dr. Karen Maloney at 630-523-4747 or 815-776-9420 or you can email her at: [ccu8@netzero.com](mailto:ccu8@netzero.com)

## **VOLUNTEERS:**

Volunteers are needed to assist in running the games, mark participation cards, as well as people to hand out flyers and assist athletes if needed.

To assist in volunteering, please contact: [dwilson@theworkshopgalena.org](mailto:dwilson@theworkshopgalena.org), Dean Wilson.

## **REFRESHMENTS:**

The following items will be served: hotdogs, chips and soft drinks.

Please pass this information along to any other individuals whom you believe would be interested. If you have questions, I am also available. Please feel free to contact me at: Dubuque Community School District 552-3089, email: [loanderson@dubuque.k12.ia.us](mailto:loanderson@dubuque.k12.ia.us)

## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE GRANT

*By Johna Butler*

Recently, ARK Advocates gave financial assistance to Mrs. Butler's class so that the students could take a class trip to Camp Courageous for a fun-filled day of activities. Following is a thank you letter and picture from the students. This kind of grant would not be available if it wasn't for the support of our members.

4/19/2009

Dear ARK Advocates,

Thank you for sponsoring our class trip to Camp Courageous. With your generous support we spent the day participating in many fun activities. We enjoyed horse back riding, petting animals, mini golfing, arts and crafts, lunch on site, and swimming. We had a blast!

Mrs. Butler's Class



## Assistive Technology a Life Line to Communication

*By: Jennifer Hoffmann*

Imagine not being able to tell someone your stomach hurt or that you love them. Even the simplest things to most can be the hardest for others. Communication is a key component in our everyday lives. Assistive technology can be the life line to communication for those who have difficulty with communicating. As a third year teacher I'm still on a journey learning about how to use assistive technology. It all started with a student that was affected by echolalia. A condition in which a person echoes the words spoken by another. It was soon after working with this child that I learned about using the Picture Exchange Communication System. I realized that my student could use pictures as a way of communicating. We started very basic with the pictures for requesting food and toys but it has since turned into her gaining a communication device full of pictures. This device allows her to select pictures and it will speak the words/pictures she chooses. Ever since the initiation of using pictures to communicate this child has blossomed into a communicator. She is now responding to questions without echoing, she is initiating conversations, telling people how she feels and more. Assistive technology has served as her life line to communication.



**Mark your calendar:**

**Buddy Walk**

**November 14, 2009**

**1:00 - 4:00 P.M.**

**Loras College- Graber Center**



**ARK Advocates  
P.O. Box 3024  
Dubuque, IA 52004-3024**

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**Membership Application for January 1, 2009 - December 31, 2009**

**Please cut out and mail to:**

**ARK Advocates  
P.O. Box 3024, Dubuque, IA 52004-3024**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**New Member:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Referred by:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Renewal:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-Mail Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**1 year membership \$30.00** \_\_\_\_\_

**ARK Silver Club \$50.00** \_\_\_\_\_

**ARK Gold Club \$100.00** \_\_\_\_\_

Do you wish to have your name published in  
our newsletter. \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

Please make your check payable to: ARK Advocates

Please indicate below the name, address and birthday of your disabled family member. We will add this person to our birthday list.

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Birthdate:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_