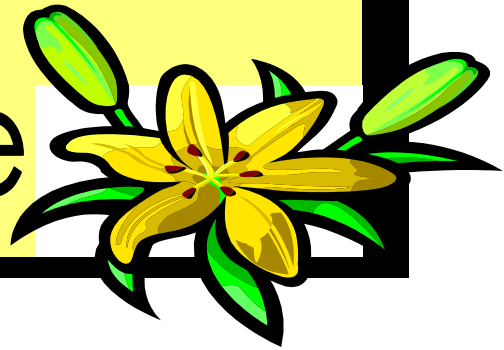


The Update



Pennsylvania's Independent Living (IL) Project Newsletter MARCH 2003

2003 IL State Conference "Ain't No Mountain High Enough"

Jennifer Mariani, IL Specialist, has been hard at working making plans for this year's state conference scheduled to take place from Wednesday May 28 – Friday May 30. The event will open at 6:00pm on Wednesday with a staff reception that includes timed round table discussions, a full day of training Thursday, closing out with a half day of training on Friday. If you have not yet made your hotel reservations, keep in mind that lodging space at the conference site, the Penn Stater, is limited. Other lodging in the area includes the Nittany Lion Inn (814) 865-8500, Days Inn (814) 238-8454, Hilton Garden Inn (814) 272-1221, Hampton Inn & Suites (814) 231-1899, Atherton Hotel (814) 231-2100 and many others. Some of the topics this year include: Transfer of Learning, Adolescent Anxiety, Alternate Funding Sources, Mentoring, PILOTS Instruction and much, much more. Registration materials for this free event will be mailed in April.

Art Work Needed

The Youth Retreat Steering Committee is looking for the art work of your youth to put on the retreat T-shirt. The deadline has been extended to April 25, 2003. Awards will be given to the top 3 entries with the winner receiving \$200 and each runner up receiving \$100. Entries should be mailed to the attention of Bill Motsavage, Valley Youth House, 103 West Fourth Street, Bethlehem, PA 18015.

State Web-Based Fact Sheets

The National Resource Center for Youth Development is excited to provide a new resource for those committed to positive youth development, and interested in improving their series to older youth by evaluating services and policies nation-wide. These pages include information on State Coordinators, the Foster Care Independence Act of 1999 & Chaffee, Services for 18-21 year olds, Youth Advisory Boards, Child & Family Service Reviews and more. To access information on Pennsylvania and other states go to www.nrcys.ou.edu/NRCYD/state_home.htm.

White House Announces Task Force for Disadvantaged Youth

Just before Christmas, President Bush announced the formation of a federal Task Force for Disadvantaged Youth. He assigned it the purpose of; (a) coordinating interagency efforts to address the problems of failure among disadvantaged youth; (b) developing a unified research plan to identify effective practices that help disadvantaged youth; (c) incorporating positive youth development practices that help disadvantaged youth; and (d) analyzing and quantifying the impact of Federal efforts aimed at disadvantaged youth. A preliminary report *is due* by April 30, 2003. The report will consist of their initial overall assessment of the Federal response to failure among disadvantaged youth under existing authorities and programs, including a work plan that details the goals and objectives for the Task Force and evaluates the potential for expanding successful Federal disadvantaged youth programs through program consolidation, redirection of resources, and elimination of ineffective programs; and by October 1, 2003, a final report describing the actions of the Task Force to respond to the problem of youth failure and submitting for the President's approval a comprehensive Federal response. Go to www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2002/12/20021223.html for a copy of the announcement.

IL Scholarships

Within the next few weeks, you will be receiving ILP Scholarship Applications. It is our goal at the ILP to see more youth than ever apply for the scholarship monies. In order to encourage youth to complete the application why not fill out during an education group or during an individual session. Completing the application could also include a trip to the post office allowing youth to photo copy their application, have their package weighed and mailed and obtaining a receipt for deadline verification purposes. Last year each youth was awarded close to \$1,000 to help defray college expenses. If you have any questions about the IL Scholarship please contact Jennifer Mariani at 717-795-9048 ext 226.

Philadelphia's Adolescent Initiative Program Profiled

Philadelphia's Achieving Independence Center (AIC) was highlighted in the City & Region section of the Philadelphia Inquirer on Sunday March 2, 2003. The center has been up and running for just over a month and will also be profiled in this quarters edition of the IL-Luminator. For additional information on this unique endeavor please feel free to contact Linda Blanchette at 215-717-4005 (lblanchette@pwdc.org) or Stephanie Galindo at 215-599-6350 (sgalindo@pmhcc.org)

There's Going to be a Wedding

Lenore Moton of the ILP was engaged to Trevor Wyant on November 14, 2002. An October wedding is being planned. Congratulations to the happy couple.

Upcoming IL Meetings/Events:

March 12	Project Management Team	CBT, Mechanicsburg
March 20	Education & Employment Subcommittee Meeting*	CBT, Mechanicsburg
March 25	Prevention & Program Eligibility Subcommittee*	CBT, Mechanicsburg
May 2	Youth Retreat Steering Committee	Damon's, State College
May 8	Project Management Team	CBT, Mechanicsburg

*If you would like information about participating on one of the subcommittees, please contact Lenore Moton at 717-795-9048, or William Wilson at 717-214-3810.

Upcoming IL Conferences:

April 23-25	NRCYD's Pathways to Adulthood Conference	Chicago, Illinois
May 28-30	2003 IL State Conference	State College, PA
August 13-16	Daniel Memorial's Growing Pains 2003	Orlando, Florida

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