


HRAbility TIMES

Path to Independence Through Ability and Opportunity

SUMMER
2000

VOLUME 1, No. 4

July 4, 2000, marks the beginning of a new era for HRA—a period in which the nonprofit organization hopes to realize extended services to an even greater number of persons in the Metroplex living with severe disabilities, thus providing them a degree of independence.



ANNUAL Giving Campaign

To accomplish these goals, HRA kicked off its first **Annual Giving Campaign** on the very day that our country celebrates its independence—July 4. Your financial support—individual donors and corporate underwriters—allows HRA to continue to provide quality personal assistance to its clients.

We invite you to give in accordance with your ability 'til it "feels good." In addition to receiving a big thank you from the bottom of our hearts, and those of our current and future clients,

you will earn 500 American Airlines Incentive Miles for a \$100 gift, 2,000 Miles for \$500, and 3,000 Miles for gifts of \$1,000 or more. ♿

Note: You may charge your donation using VISA, MasterCard, or American Express credit cards. Or set up a monthly or quarterly donation schedule.

NEWS TO USE

ADA's SCORE CARD

Examining the Americans with Disabilities Act after 10 years

Despite results of a recent survey which shows strong public support for the needs of the disability community, 25 percent of respondents with a disability claim not to have found a job because of their disability.

The newly released survey by HalfthePlanet.com, an Internet resource for people touched by disabilities, reveals strong public support (94 percent) for programs that increase accessibility—such as building ramps and curb cuts—for persons with disabilities. Results also indicate that 85 percent of respondents who do not have a disability say they are "very" or "somewhat" comfortable

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW FOR CELEBRATION HRA! 2000

Friday, October 20, Wyndham Hotel in Arlington

HRA plans a BIG SPLASH for this year's Celebration HRA! dinner gala when we will honor a GREAT FRIEND to HRA and to all persons with disabilities, **Jim Hayes**. Hayes has long been the University of Texas at Arlington's Director, Office for Students with Disabilities/ADA Coordinator. His new title, Coach of the Movin' Mavs/ADA Coordinator, effective September 1, reflects his intense love for UTA's wheelchair basketball team.

We especially look forward to the Performance Dance troupe from Tarrant County College Northwest Campus (some of whom perform in their wheelchairs) during the reception hour and Kennard Haggerty, a clarinetist with multiple disabilities, who will play during mealtime.

The souvenir program book commemorating the TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) should make everyone proud to be associated with HRA and these friends. Call the Arlington office to learn how you can help sponsor, donate auction items, buy or sell drawing tickets, stuff envelopes, or help with the plans for this festive fund-raiser. Our dinner chairperson, Beverly Salvant, an HRA Director and State Farm Insurance agent, welcomes your suggestions and your pitching in! ♿



HOT OFF THE PRESS!

Introducing our new brochure...

HRA is proud to share with you our new "Now what?" agency brochure. Use the tear-off panel to offer your resources to help HRA meet its mission of providing personal assistance services to adults with severe disabilities in the Metroplex. Or share it. Call the Arlington office if you need more.

We will also use this printed piece to help with recruitment of attendants, clients, underwriters, volunteers and to insert in media information kits and handouts at seminars and other meetings. ♿

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT ROOM

ASSURE YOUR LEGACY THROUGH PLANNED GIVING

Consider making a bequest to HRA in your will

You've heard these words before—a gift that “keeps on giving.” But do you know what it means or how it works?

Simply stated it means that a lump sum is set aside for future needs and only the interest and/or dividends earned by that money are used. The initial investment (money) is left intact indefinitely.

Money earmarked for future needs is called an endowment. One of the best ways for a human services agency like HRA to ensure it will still be here “tomorrow” serving the needs of its clients is to set aside an endowment.

You might ask, “Where does the money come from to set up the endowment?” Again, simply stated, it comes from YOU—individuals, corporations, and organizations that want to help make sure that HRA is still here tomorrow!

By specifying in your will that a lump sum be distributed to HRA, you are helping this organization set up an endowment. Distribution through your will is but one method available to individuals who wish to leave a legacy. You may explore other avenues by talking with your financial planning professional or by calling the Arlington HRA office and asking for the names of professionals who can guide you through the process to make sure your specific wishes are respected.

Thank you for helping us ensure that HRA services remain available to future clients.

*Keith Aholt, Chairman
HRA Board of Directors*

DATABASE UPDATES—PLEASE HELP!

YOU can really help us...

Since we are in the middle of a database updating process, you could *really help* us by letting us know by August 31 if:

- you want your information corrected and in what ways, or
- you would prefer not to continue receiving our newsletter and other periodic mailings, or
- you just want to let us know you *like* getting these mailings.

Call Olivia Acosta at Metro 817-469-1977 or fax her at Metro 817-461-2334 or e-mail us at HRAbility@aol.com.

Thanks for your help!

WHAT Would Make HRA Happy?

A gift of any of the following...

- New phone system for Arlington office
- Small microwave for Dallas office
- Copy paper
- Paper towels/toilet tissue
- Soft drinks/fruit juices
- Wall hangings—both offices
- Desk for Dallas office
- More attendants for Tarrant County

ENRICHING ONE'S QUALITY OF LIFE

Service hours last quarter

During the quarter just completed, HRA's Personal Attendants provided more than 34,320 hours of services to clients in the DFW Metroplex. The quality of life for our clients is enriched immeasurably by these services.

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working in close proximity to or working for someone with a disability.

So what is the problem? Explains David Brenner, founder and CEO of HalfthePlanet.com: “While the general population has changed its attitude toward people with disabilities, the attitude of employers hasn't kept pace. It is clear that much work needs to be done to create real opportunities for people with disabilities to participate meaningfully in the workforce.”

According to the survey, 69 percent of respondents with a disability reported having never been discriminated against by their employer because of their disability. However, 21 percent of disabled respondents claimed that their employers have discriminated against them.

Additionally, the survey found that fewer than 10 percent of the respondents with a disability have received job training through government programs.

Even in this boom economy, there remains a “seething discontent within the disability community that they are not getting their fair chance at the American dream,” said John D. Kemp, senior vice president for strategic development at HalfthePlanet.com and a Presidential appointee to the National Council on Disability.

The national survey, comprised of 800 individuals equally divided between men and women, ages 18 and older, was conducted by telephone in June and July 2000. Of all respondents, nearly half (46 percent) either have a disability (14 percent) or have someone in their immediate family or circle of friends who has a disability.

For purposes of the survey, a person with a disability was defined as having “difficulty in performing functional activities such as hearing, walking, talking, seeing or difficulty carrying out daily living activities such as getting out of bed, bathing, dressing, getting around the house or difficulty in performing other activities relating to everyday tasks or socially defined roles, or needing personal assistance to complete any of these tasks.” 