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HRAbility

TIMES

Path to Independence Through Ability and Opportunity



Summer 2002 Volume 3, Issue 4

HRA CELEBRATES SILVER ANNIVERSARY

On Thursday, May 23, 2002, HRA celebrated our 25th anniversary with a small gathering of friends and the family of our founding father, Sam Provence. On this date in 1977, the Articles of Incorporation were received establishing HRA (then called the Arlington Handicapped Association) as a full-fledged non-profit organization in the state of Texas. Since that time, literally thousands of people with disabilities have been supported in remaining in their home communities and participating fully in the lives of those communities. Thanks to the tenacity and vision of this one man, many lives have been touched and enhanced through these last 25 years. It was with great honor and privilege as Sam's brother Joe Provence and his sister Sara McCorkle unveiled a beautiful plaque bearing Sam's photograph, which now hangs proudly in the front lobby of HRA's office in Arlington. Also joining in the celebration were several former board members, as well as a former Executive Director, Annette Shaver. Through the veil of tears and fond memories, stories of Sam's warmth and vitality were shared among those present, proving that one person can make a difference!



News To Use

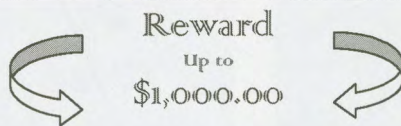
Free Legal Advice Available

Free legal advice is available over the phone to Dallas County residents. The advice is available through Legal Line, the Dallas Bar Association's community service program, at (214) 220-7476. It is offered the second and third Wednesday of each month. Spanish-speaking attorneys are available as needed. Lawyers answer questions on a variety of legal issues ranging from intellectual property to traffic tickets. Corporate lawyers also participate.

Fort Worth Star Telegram

Two Programs Provide Electric Wheelchairs

Miracle of Wheels provides electric wheelchairs to non-ambulatory senior citizens (65 years old and up) and to permanently disabled individuals of any age, usually at no out-of-pocket expense, if they qualify. No deposit is required. The electric wheelchairs are for those who cannot walk or self-propel using a manual wheelchair in their home or independent living quarters. For more information, call 1-800-749-8778.



HRA is offering to sublet their Dallas office space near Regal Row and Stemmons.

"AT BELOW MARKET VALUE"

548 sq ft includes 3 offices on ground floor overlooking courtyard, with ample parking.

If you know of anyone who may be interested in sub-leasing our Dallas office space and your tip results in a contractual agreement, YOU get the reward!

For more information contact Vicki Taylor at:

817-469-1977

Chairman's Chat Room

During these past few years, I have had the pleasure to serve as President of the Board for HRA. Many of you may wonder what tasks are involved in this role of leadership. Surprisingly enough, the other Board members, along with the extremely competent HRA staff, have made my term not only easier than I ever imagined, but also more rewarding than I ever deserved. Serving on the HRA Board of Directors is a commitment of time, so-called "talent", and sometimes treasure. I, along with the other leaders of HRA, have done our best to mold this agency into a pillar of our community that will continue to be remembered as what John Dycus calls "the best-kept secret in Arlington," to be looked at in the future as one of the finest organizations in the Metroplex. I remember a man once telling me that "real leaders are ordinary people with extraordinary determination". I do think of everyone on the Board as ordinary people, but the clients we serve are the ones with the extraordinary determination. I have been privileged enough to meet a few of our clients, and let me assure you, it is these clients that inspire the entire HRA staff to bring to life the true helping spirit of Helping Restore Ability. Our clients need help doing some of the daily activities we take for granted, and without the attendant staff of HRA our clients' lives would be significantly different. HRA's life, however, would be nonexistent. Each of our attendants exemplifies the best in the business. Although I have not met all of them, I would wager to say that each one of them can make their client smile anytime he or she is feeling down. I like to think of our attendants as real heroes, and I am willing to bet that our clients would agree with me. Being a Rotarian, I regularly use our motto "service above self", and rest assured that it is our attendants who epitomize service and inspire the Board members to do what we do. Living in this wonderful community, I have had the opportunity to visit and be a part of many worthwhile organizations. I once read that "pride is the first requirement for performance", and I could not be more proud of my affiliation with each and every one of you that make up the entire HRA family.

*Keith Aholt, Chairman
HRA Board of Directors*

Free Air Conditioners for Tarrant County Elderly

Catholic Charities has established a new program called "Summer Breeze". This program can provide a free air conditioner to persons over the age of 60 **in Tarrant County ONLY** who live in their own home or duplex (no apartments), do not currently have a working air conditioner, and have not obtained an air conditioner anytime within the past 18 months. Call United Way's First Call at (817) 258-8100, and be sure to ask about the "Summer Breeze" program.

HRA Board of Directors Meetings

July 17th

August 24th

September 18th

Holiday Closings

July 4th
Independence Day



Employee Spotlight

Jean Brown

For almost 20 years now, Jean Brown has begun her day by getting up 'in the middle of the night' to provide attendant services for HRA. Jean says that she "accidentally" came to work for HRA because she lived in the same apartment complex as a man who had a disability, and one day when she literally turned a corner and almost stumbled over him, he struck up a conversation with her and wound up becoming her friend! She could not refuse him when he asked her to assist him in moving to a new apartment, and a long-term working relationship was born, person to person, friend to friend. That was a long time ago (August 16, 1982 to be exact), and Jean found herself working in the Shared Attendant Program. At the time there were four (4) females and seven (7) men in the program. Flash forward to today...Jean is still getting up in the middle of the night to assist the same person that she has assisted for the last 12 years. The only difference is that now Jean has a husband (Tim) and a bouncing baby boy (Vincent) that fills up the remainder of her day! Jean says that she loves the flexibility of her job (morning and evening shifts) so that she has the whole day to take care of her family and all the other things that a working mom must do! In her spare time, Jean enjoys cross stitching, and she volunteers with HRA in assembling the newsletter and coordinating special events. HRA is very lucky to have such a wonderful person and friend as a long-term dedicated employee, and we'd like to say THANK YOU to Jean for being a part of the HRA family for so long!



HRA Donors List

HRA would like to thank the following individuals and businesses for their generous donations. You help us make a difference!

Mike Burgess

**Kiwanis Club of Arlington
Six Flags Sunrise**

Mary K. Petsche

Heartsaver CPR Class Schedule

(all classes are from 9:30am to 12:30pm
at the HRA Office)

July 9

August 6

September 3

October 8

November 5

December 10

Mission Statement

HRA's mission is to-

- Educate and Advocate
- Enrich and Empower Adults With Disabilities

Serving the entire Metroplex, HRA programs help persons 18 and older with various physical disabilities choose their assistant (s) from applicants provided by HRA. Clients establish their own assistant schedule and supervise all aspects of the service. Services may take place at home, in school, or at the workplace.

HRA Board of Directors

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Arlington's Westlake Hardware

Carolyn Pope-Griffin, President Elect

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Executive Director

Vicki Taylor

This newsletter covers current issues as they pertain to persons with disabilities, published by HRA with postage for this issue underwritten by

**Arlington's Westlake
Hardware**

Helping Restore Ability

(formerly "Handicapped Resource Association")

1635A West Division

Arlington, TX 76012-3821

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Postage Underwritten By:

Arlington's Westlake Hardware

Steve McCollum

City of Arlington

P.O. Box 231

Arlington, TX 76004-0231

Thanks Volunteers!

We couldn't do it without you!

Margaret Crisp

Sherrie Hightower

Donald Lane

Sharon Tapija

Marsha Welch

Jean Willis

Sharon Winchester

Dave Woodward

HRA Wish List

Items that we currently could use:

Digital Camera

Scanner

2-Drawer

Filing Cabinet

While due care has been exercised in the compilation of this newsletter, HRA is not responsible for errors or omissions. Inclusion in this newsletter does not constitute endorsement or recommendation by the publisher unless stated otherwise.

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