

Gem State News

GSDC Celebrates 30th Anniversary

Gem State Developmental Center, Inc. is celebrating its 30th year of providing assistance and quality services to individuals with developmental disabilities.

As the first non-governmental administered and managed developmental disability agency in the state of Idaho, we are proud of our accomplishments, the advancements in our developmental disability industry, achievements of people with disabilities, and their successes towards maximizing their strengths to better their lives, their families, and our community.

Over the course of thirty years, there have been innumerable changes, challenges, amazing stories, as well as opportunities to take action as experts and leaders in the developmental disability field.

As we continue to work hard to assist and enhance the lives of those that receive services and those that render such services, we are optimistic about the future and poised to meet all new challenges to the upmost success.

Before we begin another 30 years, Gem State Developmental Center wishes to thank you, all those that receives or received services, all those that was and is a part of our wonderful history, our community, and our state for making “what we do” such a gratifying and priceless experience.



Volume 1, Issue 1
August 2013

Special points of interest:

- GSDC is 30 years old
- We have some “Amazing” individuals
- Our Children’s Redesign program is going great
- We love to volunteer

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The Idaho Miss Amazing Pageant

Gem State Developmental Center was very fortunate to have four of its own clients participate in the 1st Annual Idaho Miss Amazing Pageant earlier this year in Kuna, Idaho.

The Idaho Miss Amazing Pageant celebrates the abilities of girls and young women with disabilities and this served as a foundation and inspiration for Stefanie Christensen, Mia Homeister, Courtney Schreiber, and Brenda Ward to showcase their talent and beauty within the presence of other girls and young women.

Over the course of 2 evenings in early February 2013, these young ladies, along with about 30 other contestants got to feel what it is like to be in the spotlight, with displaying their talented skills such as singing and rapping the first night, and then modeling themselves in evening wear the following night in the presence of their family and friends.

It was truly an opportunity of a lifetime for these young women that they will never forget with many memories and rewards they gained from it. They not only gained many new friends from the pageantry experience, but more importantly, they gained the confidence, self-esteem, and ability to realize that they are all beautiful in their own unique way and that dreams do come true.

Channel 7 honored the Idaho Miss Amazing Pageant with a Seven's Hero broadcast segment highlighting many aspects of the pageant and interviewed one of GSDC's clients, Mia Homeister and allowed her to showcase her talent of a rap song she wrote especially for the pageant about having a disability. Courtney Schreiber won the Miss Queen title for her division.



By Jessica Lowry

Greetings from the Gem State Children's Program!

So what is new with children's services...*EVERYTHING!*

Our new array of services with the Children System Redesign are now in full swing. (Please see the Children's Services page for full detail of the new services). **Thank you** to all of our families for your efforts, patience and preparation for this big change.

At the beginning of the summer we introduced our New Habilitative Support Program, **PIECES**. This program breaks down the 6 main focus areas of the GSDC Hab. Support Program:



- P** racticing Skills,
- I** ndependence and Self-Identity Building
- E** xploring Interests,
- C** ommunity Integration,
- E** xpanding and Reinforcing Skills, and
- S** ocialization & Friendship Building

So far the kids are having a great time this summer. According to our most recent poll of the kids, some of their favorite activities this summer have been the Splash Pad, Aquarium, Cooking Projects, lunch at the park and Tour of BSU.

Don't forget to check out the Children's Services Page to see what new and exciting things are planned for the upcoming months and check out the monthly activity calendars.



By Anna Crane

Holy SIB-R, Batman!

Every year, or less often if we are lucky, the onslaught of questions comes and we must give answers. The Scales of Independent Behavior-Revised (SIB-R) is used in Idaho to help determine individual budgets for people that qualify for developmental disability services. Being knowledgeable about how to answer the questions can be important for the individuals' budget and service eligibility. There are 14 different categories with 259 questions and 8 questions about problem behaviors.

Here are some tips on how to respond to the questions.

HOW INDEPENDENT ARE THEY?

"Do they have the potential to do these things?"

Answer as if the person was living on their own and alone, NOT on their potential. How would they really do at making balanced meals? How safe would they be using appliances? What would they do if there was an emergency (e.g. fire, illness, injury).

BE HONEST & FACTUAL.

"I'm not doing my job if they aren't getting better scores."

It can be very hard to rate a person on their current ability when we are asked to think in a positive manner about them and encourage them at every small success. We are very endeared toward the people with whom we work and it can be very difficult to state that they can't do a lot if things. This is not an evaluation of how you are working with them; it is a report about where they are today.

DOCUMENTATION!

"They have terrible problem behaviors, why can't I just tell you?"

The key to proving that your responses are accurate and a current reflection of the person's current abilities is what and how documentation is recorded. Keep logs of behavior concerns with *date, time and a description of what occurred*, regardless of if it a minor occurrence (talking to self) or something more severe (yelling, cursing, making physical threats). Take your documentation with you just in case the evaluator has questions.

COMMUNICATE!

"I am not comfortable going to answer the questions."

The team that provides training and support to the individual should share documentation with each other and pick the best person to answer the questions for the SIB-R testing. Do they have more difficult behaviors at a developmental center, home or work? Who would be best able to answer the questions that have the most direct knowledge of the person's behavior and current abilities?

If you ever have any question on what the SIB-R is, how to give the most accurate answers or any other questions, we are here to assist you as much as we can. Just give us a call or send us an email.

Nampa News

Some of you may not be aware that the Nampa participants volunteer in community services within the Nampa area.

Several participants go to the Nampa library a few times a week to sort and clean the books before they are placed back on the shelves. Their community service ensures that when you check out your books to take home they are clean and free of papers and cookie crumbs. In addition several participants vacuum the steps and the lower library level. Our participants were invited to the ground breaking ceremony for the new library and received recognition for their services.



Our participants will also be taking part in the packing and distribution of the books to the new library center which is projected to be done in Spring of 2014.

Sears home center also receives weekly assistance from our team of dedicated volunteers who clean showroom appliances and assist in various other activities as needed.

By doing these activities our participants not only maintain their independent living skills they also aid their community in completing acts of service.

By Tricia Kutz

Gem State Developmental Center
818 NW 15th St.
Meridian, ID 83642
(phone) 888-5566 * (fax) 888-5578
www.gsdcdda.com

