

INTrain Newsletter

INTrain

Summer 2007

INTrain is a representative group of individuals with developmental disabilities, their families, advocates & service providers from various disciplines and agencies.

INTrain Mission Statement:

Our mission is to *provide leadership in planning, coordinating, evaluating and updating an effective, comprehensive educational system. By promoting and facilitating access to this system for all members of the individual's Support Team, we seek to ultimately improve the quality of life for all.*



INTrain Station

This quarter has been an exciting one for INTrain! The Family and Social Services Administration, Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services has funded a Direct Support Professional (DSP) Education and Training Initiative. Over the next three years, provider organizations in Indiana will have the opportunity to develop and implement innovative ways to recruit, train and retain their frontline staff. In Phase I the focus will be on building the infrastructure and beginning to train DSP's. Phase II will look at expanding training to supervisors and other support team members. Phase III focus on sustainability and further expansion. All three Phases include an evaluation component with the intent at the end of the three years to make recommendations for statewide implementation. Select highlights of the Initiative include the:

- Development of Education and Training curriculum based on Indiana Administrative Code and the National Alliance for Direct Support Professionals Ethics and Standards of Practice for Direct Support Professionals (see www.nadsp.org for more information);
- Creation of a Human Services - Direct Support Professional program at Ivy Tech Community College
- Hiring of three Regional Training Coordinators to assist with the implementation of the Initiative, and,
- Initiation of an Indiana Trainers Network

INTrain wishes to thank DDRS for making this Initiative possible. They are to be commended for their commitment to improving the lives of direct support professionals and the individuals they support.

Self Advocates Spot

Self Advocates of Monroe County will be holding a Fundraising Event on Saturday, August 11, from 5:30 pm to 8:30pm at Stone Belt Center, 2815 E. Tenth St. in Bloomington. Admission for the event is \$4.00 per person, or \$7.00 per couple and will include a Cook-out, music, fun and games. Proceeds of the event will help fund local self-advocates attendance at the National Self Advocates Conference which will be held in Indianapolis in the fall of 2008.

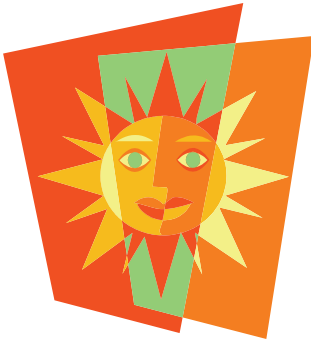
Self Advocates of Indiana, which is comprised of local chapters from around the state are in the process of planning the National Conference which will draw self-advocates from around the U.S.A.

Self-Advocates is an organization of citizens who speak out and educate for equal rights, respect, and inclusion for all in the community. They stand by the international slogan "Nothing About Us, Without Us" and have added a phrase "Hear Our Voice, Don't Make Our Choice". The State Organization and local chapters will be holding fundraisers around the state in upcoming months to allow people the opportunity to attend the Confer-

WHAT'S NEW!

Do you know about the National Alliance of Direct Support Professionals? www.nadsp.org is dedicated to professionalizing Frontline Staff and their Supervisors. It is a place to find out about how to become National Certified and on how to start an Indiana NADSP Chapter.

There is a new Ivy Tech Course for Nurses who want to learn more about working with individuals with developmental disabilities! Contact Kathy Auberry at 812-988- 1257.



Direct Support Professionals Place

Essie Machamire came to the United States in 2001 as an international student after completing her Bachelor's in Psychology from the University of Zimbabwe. She worked as a Mental Health Research Coordinator before joining IRL as a Direct Support Professional in January 2003, and was accepted later that year into Martin University's Master's in Community Psychology program, which focuses on tackling societal problems from a grassroots level. As part of her thesis project required to graduate, Essie conducted a study on the community's perceptions and attitudes towards individuals with disabilities, in particular the individuals' acceptance into volunteer programs at local non-profits. Essie recalls, "Where I come from, people with disabilities were hidden from society. Coming to the United States and working with [a particular IRL consumer], I was finally able to take what I was learning in school and put it into practice."

As much as she enjoys working in the developmental disability field, Essie's passion has always been HIV/AIDS awareness. In 2005, Essie returned to her home country of Zimbabwe. During this visit, she learned that many of her former classmates from school had passed away from AIDS, leaving their children orphaned. This inspired Essie to form a foundation called "Precious Child," whose purpose and mission is to assist orphaned children in her former hometown with their basic physical needs - from providing the kids with uniforms, shoes and other clothing, to buying groceries and offering financial assistance for school fees.

Although initially afraid of public speaking, to spread the word for her cause Essie has been addressing church groups and other agencies and believes "I'm speaking for these kids who don't have anyone to speak for them." She even organized a sweater drive in the last year and shipped the donated clothes overseas. Her goal is to address these basic needs and build a rapport with the orphans so they know there are people out there who care for them as they are grieving the loss of their parents.

Long-term goals for Essie's foundation include addressing the psychosocial needs by hiring a social worker for the school who can also do home visits, hopefully curbing a growing problem with abuse towards these children, and also to provide funding for medications and repairs to the tiny school building severely damaged by hail. Essie would also like to develop a pen pal program between

people in the US and these children, so again the children will feel a connection to people who care for their well-being.

As she continues her work with IRL, Essie will continue to develop her non-profit agency on the side, and will spend much of her free time in the coming year guest speaking on HIV/AIDS awareness, fundraising, completing paperwork to establish her non-profit, and developing a website to help with HIV outreach.

For more info or to share fundraising ideas, Essie invites you to contact her at 317-258-5693, or by email at essie-simunyu@yahoo.com.

Trainer Territory

Things are well on their way to get the first State of Indiana Direct Service Professional program off the ground. As explained earlier in the newsletter, there is a group of agencies that are going to take part in a certificate program in conjunction with Ivy Tech. The first step in getting this launched is the core course that has been titled *Foundations for Direct Service Professionals*. This course is composed of the required trainings all DSP's must have; but goes beyond the basic level by accelerating the knowledge and skills of the DSP's. Beginning drafts are currently in the works with hopes to have the Foundations course ready this Fall. Individuals who take this course will receive 2 credits from Ivy Tech toward the next level of training, the DSP Certificate program. To help with this process, the details are being completed by members of Indiana Institute on Disability and Community and trainers from each of the agencies who will be taking part of the first phase. As the first phase begins it is hopeful that current employees of the agencies will begin testing and certifying their knowledge to earn these 2 credits towards Ivy Tech DSP certificate program. Later on new employees will begin taking the Foundations course as part of the standard new employee training curriculum and earning the same credit toward the DSP certificate.

"The learning and knowledge that we have, is, at the most, but little compared with that of which we are ignorant"
- Plato



Mark Your Calendar

Every Issue of the INTrain Newsletter will highlight future trainings that may interest you. Each event is also on the INTrain online calendar (<http://www.iidc.indiana.edu/training>).

Save these Dates! These are the upcoming Summer and Fall conferences and workshops in Indiana for direct support professionals, consumers, families, and guardians.

These conferences aims and objectives are to bring together those supporting people with disabilities to exchange information and bring new contributions to the field. These conferences' main aims and objectives are:

- To raise awareness.
- To showcase best practice.
- To promote the rights of people with disabilities.
- To provide opportunities for learning, discussion and set challenges.

Fifth Annual Rights Conference - "Preservation of Dignity"
Indiana Protection and Advocacy Services
September 11 - 12, 2007
Hilton Indiana North – Indianapolis, Indiana
<http://www.in.gov/ipas/>

Indiana Assistive Technology Conference 2007
Tuesday, September 18, 2007
Marriott East – Indianapolis
<http://www.attaininc.org/>

The Arc of Indiana 2007 Conference
November 8, 2007
The Fountains Banquet and Conference Center
502 East Carmel Drive - Carmel, Indiana
<http://www.arcind.org/>

17th Annual INAPSE: The Network on Employment Conference
December 5-6, 2007
Holiday Inn Select North at the Pyramids – Indianapolis
<http://inapse.org>

Self-Advocates Becoming Empowered – 2008 National Convention
September 4-7, 2008
Downtown, Marriott - Indianapolis, Indiana
<http://www.SABE2008.org>

Contact Us

Do you have ideas and suggestions for INTrain about training you'd like to see in the future? Do you have any questions about our growing system of education and training? Please feel free to contact Mary Held (maheld@indiana.edu).

Next Issue

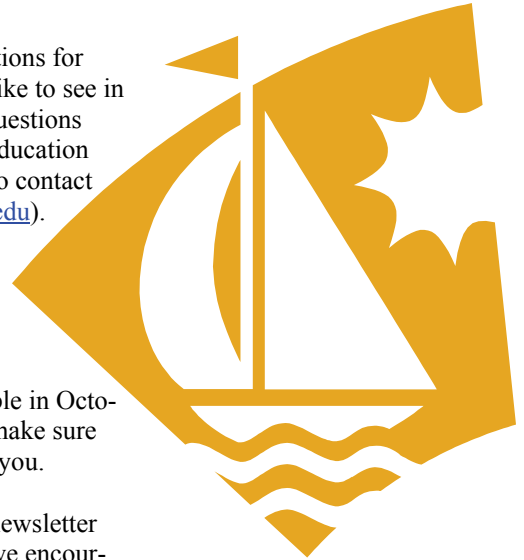
Our next issue will be available in October and we *need your help* to make sure that the newsletter is useful to you.

In order to make the INTrain newsletter both useful and informative, we encourage you to help by submitting an article.

The editor reserves the right to edit articles for length, style and content.

Send articles to:
Mary Held
Indiana Institute on Disability and Community
2853 East Tenth Street
Bloomington, IN 47408-2696
812-855-6508
Fax: 812-855-9630
TT: 812-855-9396

maheld@indiana.edu



“Appreciation is a wonderful thing: It makes what is excellent in others belong to us as well.”
- Voltaire

Library Links

Did you know that INTrain has a growing library of training resources? To see what is currently in the library, go to <http://www.iidc.indiana.edu/training/library.htm>

Borrowing is as simple as emailing maheld@indiana.edu. Items will be mailed to you at no cost and all you have to do is pay for the return postage.

Here are some of the newest items!

National Dysphagia Diet Task Force. (2002). *National dysphagia diet: Standardization for optimal care*. Chicago: American Dietetic Assoc.

Research & Training Center on Community Living. (2007). *Direct support professional recruitment toolkit*. Twin Cities, MN: University of Minnesota.