



disAbility Resource Center

The Advocate

Advocating for the Rights & Empowerment of Individuals with disAbilities
in the Lower Cape Fear Region

January/February 2012

In This Issue

[The 18th Annual Coming Together Conference](#)

[NC is Failing Children with "Dual Diagnosis"](#)

[Become a Friend of the dRC](#)

Join Our Mailing List!

Volunteer Today

Find us on Facebook 

[2012 Scholarship Announcement and](#)

From the Executive Director

Dear Debbie,

Thanks to the generosity of some Holiday elves, the disAbility Resource Center was able to make the Holidays a whole lot brighter for two young individuals with disabilities in New Hanover County.

This year we were able to help a young boy with Spina Bifida and a teenage girl with multiple disabilities who had been deserted by her mom. The following two stories demonstrate what a community can do TOGETHER to help individuals during their most difficult times.

The gift of fun, independence and

Application

Through the Looking Glass and its National Center for Parents with Disabilities and their Families are pleased to announce new scholarships specifically for high school seniors or college students who have parents with disabilities. A total of fifteen \$1000 scholarships will be given out Fall 2012. Scholarship information and applications are available on Through the Looking Glass' website www.lookingglass.org

WANT TO TAKE A COMPUTER CLASS?

Click [here](#) for the
January 2012
Computer Class Schedule



normalcy.

For young B.J., who has Spina Bifida, all he wanted for Christmas was a bicycle so he could "hang with his friends." However, due to his disability, his mom would need to purchase a customized bicycle that can range in price from \$450.00 to over \$2000.00. To complicate the situation was the fact that mom was currently unemployed. Her position was eliminated and has been without a job for almost a year. In August her son had to have surgery at Duke and she continues to make multiple trips back and forth for follow up. Therefore, trying to put food on the table, keeping up with her mortgage payments and taking care of her son's medical needs certainly didn't make it feasible to purchase such an expensive gift for her son. So she reached out for help when she seen the commercial for Weller's Wheels. Weller's Wheels is a great Holiday gift drive by Francis Weller & WECT-TV to collect new bicycles during the Holidays for those who are less fortunate. A bicycle like the one B.J. would need is not a type of bicycle they could provide so Francis Weller forwarded the information to David Morrison, the StarNews Media Disabilities Columnist. Mr. Morrison then forwarded the request to disAbility Resource Center.

We immediately knew this was a wish we wanted to help make come true. Within minutes of sending out an email to some of our most loyal donors, the donations were pouring in. With the help of mom, his local physical therapist and Two Wheeler Dealer we were able to determine the

bicycle that was most appropriate for him, ordered it, had it assembled and delivered just in time for Christmas!

The gift of shelter and clothing

Our next gift recipient is a teenage girl with multiple disabilities that found herself without a place to live and with few belongings after her mom deserted her shortly before Thanksgiving. Her grandmother was able to help her find a place to live but considering she is a teenager and still in high school she had no income to pay for rent, food, and all the other critical basic necessities. Again, very generous individuals from our community stepped up to help. Thanks to their donations, dRC was able to pay for her first month's rent and provided her with multiple Gift Cards to some of her favorite stores so she could buy herself some much needed clothing, including a warm jacket and shoes.

dRC would like to thank all of our donors, volunteers and supporters over the past year that allows us to help individuals with disabilities TO BE MORE INDEPENDENT!!

If you would like more information on all the services we have to offer please call (910) 815-6618 or visit our website at www.drcwilmington.org

Sincerely,

Gloria Barton, Executive Director

**18th Annual Coming Together
Conference
Monday February 20, 2012**

Cheri Britton, M.Ed, is a speaker, author, coach and trainer who has been helping individuals and organizations effectively BOOM Think for over two decades. Through metaphors, anecdotes, and powerful journaling exercises, Cheri challenges executives, employees, entrepreneurs, parents and regular folks to confront limiting beliefs and break out of their "velvet rut," where they survive, but definitely don't thrive. The results are literally transformational.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2012

8:15AM to 3:15PM

SNIPES ACADEMY

OF

ARTS & DESIGN

2150 Princess Place Drive

Wilmington, NC

For more information and to register, [Click Here](#)

A study released by Disability Rights North Carolina says NC is failing children with a "dual diagnosis," such as having both autism and bipolar disorder

An advocacy group for people with disabilities is calling on North Carolina officials to better care for children who have both a mental illness and a

developmental disability, hundreds of whom have been sent to live in facilities outside the state because of a lack of adequate resources closer to home. A study released by Disability Rights North Carolina says the state is failing children with a "dual diagnosis," such as having both autism and bipolar disorder. A lack of available mental health services in the state is leading to waits in hospital emergency rooms that can last days. Hundreds of North Carolina children have been sent to out-of-state residential treatment facilities hours away from their families. "These are not isolated cases," said Vicki Smith, executive director of Disability Rights NC. "Sadly, they are examples of what happens every day to North Carolina children with complex needs." The report shows the state quadrupled the number of children housed in facilities outside North Carolina between 2005 and 2010, from 117 to 494. Last year, Disability Rights NC filed a federal complaint against the state over thousands of adults with mental illness being housed in adult care homes alongside the elderly, sometimes in substandard conditions. The U.S. Justice Department found the state was violating the civil rights of these patients under the federal Americans with Disabilities Act. [Click Here](#) to read the full report.

Be a Friend of the dRC!

*I Want to be a
FRIEND of the dRC!!*

As a Friend of the dRC my contribution will:

- Help individuals with disabilities that are homeless or living in institutions move into independent housing.
- Help dRC advocate with local, county and state government officials to address the barriers preventing people with disabilities to live independently.

- Will help create new programs and services to empower people with disabilities to live independently and inclusively in our community.
- Demonstrate my commitment to creating a more inclusive community!!
- Be tax - deductible.

Friendship Levels:

<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$25
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$35
<input type="checkbox"/> Organization	\$50
<input type="checkbox"/> VIP Sponsor	\$100

To Become a Friend of the dRC [Click Here](#)

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