



# Community Life

A Newsletter of Redwood Coast Regional Center

## Mindy Blumann: Proprietor of Walk and Roll Advertising



Mindy Blumann and Sammy working at Ukiah Crossroads Center

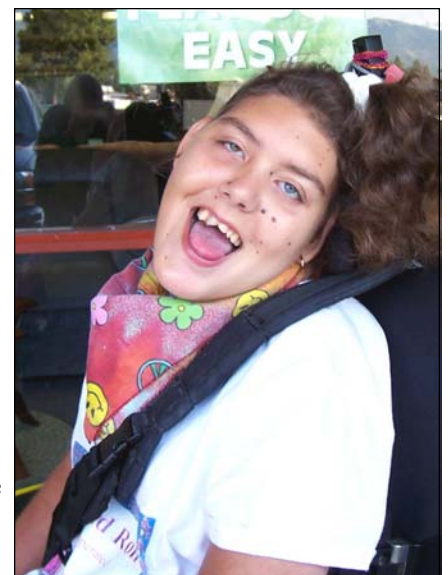
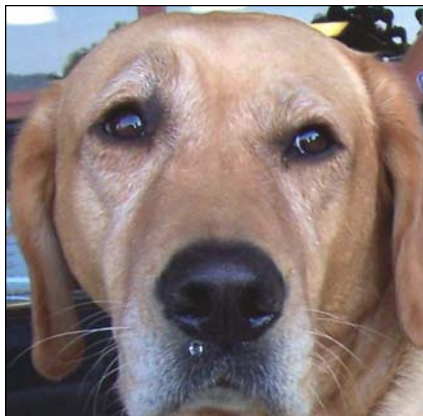
Mindy Blumann has been in business for herself since September, 2006. She is a marketer who sells ads for business establishments in Ukiah, CA. Ms. Blumann gets help from her mother, Sandra Marcell, as well as from her companion dog, Sammy, who walks with her as she rolls her power chair through various shopping centers in town. Ms. Blumann goes out into the community and distributes flyers for companies who appreciate inexpensive advertising. For a more than competitive fee, she distributes about 100 flyers a week for several businesses in town.

The company's name is *Walk and Roll Advertising*. It promotes local businesses and various public agencies by passing out their cards, announcing open enrollment dates for schools, and displaying signs for sporting and other events in the area. *Walk and Roll Advertising*, is still in its beginning phase so

Mindy Blumann runs the business from her

home. However, she has a goal to open a shop in a Ukiah location. She would like to be able to hire people who have disabilities or other issues that make employment in the community difficult.

When someone asks Ms. Blumann if she likes being in business, her expressive smile and bright eyes say "YES!"



# Nicky Fabyunkey and Chris Miller

## RCRC Consumer Advocates

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"My name is Nicky Fabyunkey. On November 1, 2006 I was hired as the Consumer Advocate for Lake and Mendocino Counties. I decided to take the

Consumer Advocate job because I like to help others know about their rights.

I made a flyer about my job. When people read the flyer, they know that I'm here to help them. I also work with Consumer Advocates from other regional centers. We are writing a handbook about the Consumer Advocate Network. It has some good stuff in it.

I'm the current secretary for People First of Ukiah and last year I was the president. I also serve as the alternate on the People First of CA. Board of Directors. In addition, I'm trained as an IPP Buddy. IPP Buddies advocate for people so that they can get the services they need written into their IPPs.

I have to say that the high point of this job so far was meeting Senator Chesbro and talking to him about his work. When I'm not working, I like to spend time with my nieces, nephew, and mom. I also like to read and go to church.

I encourage you to get a hold of me if you have problems, concerns, or need information."

phone: 462-3832 ext. 281  
email: [nfabyunkey@redwoodcoastrc.org](mailto:nfabyunkey@redwoodcoastrc.org)

Chris Miller, the new Consumer Advocate for Humboldt and Del Norte Counties, started at Redwood Coast Regional Center on September 5<sup>th</sup> 2006. Chris spent last year traveling extensively in



Washington and Pennsylvania after which time he decided to settle in Eureka. Chris has many ideas about how to approach his job. He believes that all people can be contributing members of their communities. He states, "I think the people that RCRC serves are incredibly smart and talented. If they, as a group, learn to use their voices. They have the power to create change."

Chris recently gave a small speech to the RCRC Board of Directors. In his speech he spoke about some current projects on which he is working. A few of these projects include getting People First running in Crescent City again, helping people get educated on voting and the issues that relate to them, and housing projects.

When Chris is not working he loves to read, do research on the internet, and be out with friends and family.

Contact Chris at:  
445-0893 ext. 318  
email: [cmiller@redwoodcoastrc.org](mailto:cmiller@redwoodcoastrc.org)



# Calendar of Events

A Publication of Redwood Coast Regional Center

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## **Autism Support and Information Parent Group**

Meets: First Friday of every month, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at Arcata Assembly of God Church, 475 5th Street, Arcata, CA. Contact: Sarah Crawford at 707-826-7038. email: [humboldtautism@webtv.net](mailto:humboldtautism@webtv.net)

## **Alliance of Service Providers**

If you are a regional center vendor and want to be a part of the Alliance of Service Providers Information Network, send your email address to [dshipley@hcar.us](mailto:dshipley@hcar.us). The purpose is to get as wide a distribution of information as possible in these rapidly changing times. For further information, or to get on the mailing list, vendors may also call Donna Shipley at HCAR, 707-443-7077

## **People First, Eureka Chapter**

Meets: Third Wednesday of every month, 7:00-9:00 p.m.  
Contact: Peter Narloch at 707-445-0893 Ext. 323

## **People First of Lake County**

Meets: Third Wednesday of every month at Round Table Pizza, Lakeport. Meeting: 5:30-6:30 p.m.  
Dinner on your own: 5:30-7:30 p.m. Contact: Joanne Dungan at 707-279-1785

## **People First of Ukiah**

Meets: First Monday of every month at 1116 Airport Park Blvd., Ukiah, 6:30-8:30 p.m.  
Contact: Nicky Fabyunkey, Secretary, at 707-467-3994

## **People First of Mendocino Coast**

Meets: First Friday of every month at the Veteran's Hall, Fort Bragg, 3:15-5:00 p.m.  
Contact: Lynnette Silveria, President, at 707-964-1136 (wk.) or 707-964-6408 (hm.)

## **Humboldt Community Network**

Meets First Thursday of every month, 3:00-5:00 p.m.  
Contact: Joyce Lowrey at 707-441-0279, Kim Puckett at 707-822-8382, or Cathy Prebor at 707-826-9352

## **Quarterly Residential Service Provider Meeting/RCRC Eureka**

Contact: Janet Foos at 707-445-0893 Ext. 324

## **Quarterly Residential Service Provider Meeting/RCRC Ukiah**

Contact: Cindy Claus-John at 707-462-3832 Ext. 224

## **Quarterly RCRC Medical Specialty Clinics**

Psychiatry, Genetics, Neurology, Ophthalmology, and GI/Nutrition  
Contact your RCRC Service Coordinator for specific information and referral protocol

## **Redwood Coast Developmental Services Corporation**

Board of Directors meeting every other month. For a schedule of meetings or more information, contact Donna Landry at 707-445-0893 Ext. 317

## **2007 People First of California Statewide Convention: *Expanding our Minds - Sessions that Educate Us***

June 8 - 10, 2007, Sacramento, CA. Information at <http://www.supportedlife.org>

## **Supported Life 2007: *21st Annual Conference***

October 3 - 5, 2007, Sacramento, CA. Information at <http://www.supportedlife.org>

## **NADD 24th Annual Conference: *Physical & Mental Wellness: Promising Practices***

October 24 - 27, 2007, Atlanta, GA. Information at <http://www.thenadd.org>

## **2007 Annual TASH Conference**

December 5 - 7, 2007, Seattle, Washington. Information at <http://www.tash.org>

*If you or your organization have upcoming events that you would like included in the Calendar, contact Sandra Tyrrell at 707-462-3832, ext. 227. email: [styrrell@redwoodcoastrc.org](mailto:styrrell@redwoodcoastrc.org)*

# Disability Services in Africa

## *Impressions from Maggie McNeill*

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"The disability movement is still young in Uganda. Historically, people with disabilities were considered to be useless. This attitude was grounded in the need for people to have the strength and endurance to work the land or to fight in wars. However, in the past ten years, nationwide organizations and schools have been established. The



Karumbi Association of People with Disabilities (KAWPD) in western Uganda supports people of all ages. This group, which numbered only 130 or so just a year ago, has become a force for positive, inclusive change in the region. The Association now has over 400 members. Due to limited financial resources and medical services, people with serious medical conditions almost always die young. There is a home for babies in the town of Jinja that is actively seeking an American adoptive parent for a two-year old with a heart problem that requires surgery. If they are not able to find such a person, the youngster will likely die before he is four.

KAWPD members teach skills in tailoring, shoemaking, carpentry and now tree growing, and they make/grow items for sale. The membership consists of people with amputations, residual polio, blindness, deafness, scoliosis, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, mental retardation, hydrocephalus, etc. Family members and spouses are also members and often, but not always, are the leadership as well. Some members can work and learn skills to support their families, while others cannot work at all and have no family member who can (often grandparents are the caregivers here too). So far, the cabbages, tomatoes, yams, etc. have been shared between those working the land and those who have nothing, They take the remaining products to market for sale.

There is a non-governmental organization (NGO) in Uganda that provides orthopedic and corrective surgery for children. The people who work at this NGO are a combination of paid Ugandans who have various amounts of training, and volunteers from other parts of the world who have medical backgrounds. The NGO



makes prostheses for amputated or missing legs, seating systems for trunk control, and various kinds of wheelchairs and mobility devices (hand driven three-wheeled bikes are popular), as well as crutches and footed walkers. The children live on site for up to sixty days after the surgery with one or two adult members of the family who help with bathing, dressing changes, physical therapy, and schooling. The NGO has a small farm to raise food to help feed everyone. The place is pretty overwhelming to see. Almost every child is in a cast of some sort. The buildings are brick and cement with lots of windows for light. The center drive/court is paved, so it is not muddy in the rainy time, but the rest of the area gets dusty and muddy depending on the season. Children are also treated for severe burns from charcoal stoves, for the serious flesh killing infections that come from simple bites, or for untreated accidents that happen far out in the bush where there are no medical services, supplies or even clean water."

**Isn't life amazing and wonderful and awesome???? -Maggie McNeill**

*Maggie McNeill worked at RCRC for thirty-one years. She now lives in Kampala, Africa.*

# DAVID A. ISOM EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE AWARD

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Each year, the *David A. Isom Excellence in Service Award* is presented to individuals who provide exceptional services to persons with developmental disabilities in Del Norte, Humboldt, Lake and Mendocino counties. Nominations are made by Redwood Coast Regional Center consumers and families.

Mr. Isom dedicated many years of his life to enhancing the educational and treatment opportunities for persons with developmental disabilities and their families in the State of Oregon, and as the executive director of Redwood Coast Regional Center. He honored each individual as unique and important, and always kept a focus on each person's dignity and quality of life.

The **Area I Developmental Disabilities Board, Redwood Coast Developmental Services Corporation**, and local chapters of **People First** come together to select the recipients of this award from your nominations.

*Do you know of someone who has provided excellent, dedicated and valuable services? Have you, a friend or loved one received exceptional quality of service from an individual? **Please nominate someone who you feel provides outstanding service.*** (Note: Regional Center staff are not eligible for this award.)

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## Nomination Form

### Send To:

Area I Developmental Disabilities Board, P. O. Box 245, Ukiah, CA 95482 – **By May 1, 2007**

Who do you want to nominate to win the award? (Both community volunteers and paid service providers are eligible)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_

### Why do you think this person should receive this award for providing outstanding services?

Please describe below.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Your Address \_\_\_\_\_ Your Signature \_\_\_\_\_

# What is TACT?

As the Telemedicine Assessment and Consultation Team (TACT) enters its ninth year, it is a good time to remind people about this project. TACT was developed to provide a creative resource and partnership between a variety of medical specialists and other professionals. Through the use of videoconferencing, a person with a developmental disability and his or her local team meet with a variety of specialists who come together at a site in San Francisco and collaborate to help the person achieve maximum health and wellness in all areas of life.



Jennifer Pittam, TACT Coordinator

The city team includes a psychiatrist, neurologist, dentist, behaviorist, developmental pediatrician, and nurse practitioner. By having these professionals involved at the same time, a *whole person* approach can be taken and multiple concerns are addressed in one setting. This approach allows team members to instantly consult with their peers from various disciplines (e.g. “how will this medication affect the focus person's seizure condition?”), bring up ideas in areas outside their specific field of expertise, and brainstorm ideas for the best possible outcome for the individual. In the majority of situations, a person's health and life improve significantly.

Referrals to TACT are made through the person's service coordinator with consultation from the RCRC clinical team. If you would like more information, contact Jennifer Pittam, TACT coordinator, at 707-462-3832 X 252.

*And More...*

*Walk and Roll Advertising*

*Disability Services in Africa*

*RCRC Consumer Advocates*

*Inside...*

<http://www.redwoodcoastrc.org>

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