



RICH/LEX NEWS

A DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL NEEDS BOARD UPDATE

Morgan Fixes Playground, Soars to Eagle Scout

Nate Morgan wanted to give back to Epworth Children's Home. Nate was diagnosed with Down Syndrome and attended Epworth's Early Intervention program. It was an important place to him because it was his first school. He attended Epworth from 5 months through 5 years of age. When Nate picked his Eagle Scout service project his old childhood school came back to him.

By asking for donations from his friends and family, Nate was able to receive enough money to buy needed items for Epworth's playground. On July 15, 2006, Nate,



with about 30 members of his Boy Scout Troop 99, power washed the playground equipment, assembled a sand box, and filled it with sand. They even installed a garden swing for the younger children to enjoy. After writing up his project and going before a review board Nate was awarded the highest rank a boy scout can receive. He received his Eagle Scout rank. A ceremony was held on April 29, 2007 to honor him. Nate reported upon completing his project that, "It felt good because I helped other people and I finished my Eagle Scout requirements." Congratulations Nate!

Disaster Planning: Is it On Your "To Do" List?



At your annual plan meeting your service coordinator will be asking you about your disaster plan. Remember and discuss the following:

- ⇒ Where will I go during a natural disaster?
- ⇒ Can I stay with family that live in another place?
- ⇒ Are emergency/contact numbers written down and easy to find?
- ⇒ Is there a shelter near my house?
- ⇒ Does my family have an emergency meeting place?

September is EdCeptional Kids Month at EdVenture Museum

During the month of September EdVenture Museum will host Ed-Ceptional Kids Month. Events will include performing art groups, musical performances, demonstrations of assistive technologies, and hands-on exhibits.



- September 11th– Family Night 5:00pm- 8:00pm (tickets are \$1.00 per person)
- September 22nd and 29th– Free Admission with a special EdVenture flyer

Please contact your Service Coordinator or Early Interventionist if you are interested in free admission or need further information. EdVenture Museum is located at 211 Gervais St. Columbia, SC 29201. For more information and dates on special events visit <http://www.edventure.org/events.asp>

Prevention Tip

Wear your seatbelts any time you are driving in the car. Buckle up whether you are going down the street or taking a cross county trip.

Seatbelts save lives!





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Youth Leadership Forum



This July Megan Jennings attended the Youth Leadership Forum hosted by the University of South Carolina in partnership with DHEC, SCVRD, Developmental Disabilities Council, Department of Education, Continuum of Care, South Carolina Assistive Technology Program (SCTAP), Pro-Parents, and the Center for Disability Resources. High school students that have a disability could apply to attend the forum. Megan reported that the goal of the forum was to connect with other leaders of "differing abilities," to be empowered to be effective leaders, and to encourage the leaders to move forward in their lives, regardless of ability. Megan and the other leaders heard speakers on a variety of topics and worked on team building exercises and games. Megan heard about this program when she attended the Assistive Technology Expo in March. Megan said the most important thing she realized while attending the forum is that she is not alone. There are others similar to her and she feels connected to others. For more information about this program visit http://www.scvrd.net/i_ylf.html



We need your help!

Any feedback, comments, or suggestions on the new look of our newsletter would be helpful. Please direct your feedback to Sara M. Rieger at srieger@rldsn.state.sc.us



We want to keep you informed!

In an effort to give you information quickly we are in the process of obtaining email addresses for all people served by our agency. Your service coordinator/early interventionist will be contacting you soon in order to ask for your email address. If you would like to give it now please contact your SC/EI at 252-5179.



Calendar of Events

- ◆ **September 11, 2007**– Family Night at EdVenture Museum 5:00pm-8:00pm
- ◆ **September 22 & 29, 2007**- Free Admission to Edventure Museum with Flyer (see cover article)
- ◆ Our Board of Directors meets the third Tuesday of every month beginning at 6:00pm. These meetings are open to the public. Please call to verify meeting time and date.
- ◆ The Commission of the South Carolina Disabilities and Special Needs holds monthly meetings every third Thursday at 11:00am in conference room 251 in the central administrative office, 3440 Harden St. Extension. These meetings are open to the public.



Greater Columbia Disabilities Foundation

Third Annual Golf Tournament Sponsors

The following sponsors support people with disabilities. Please remember them next time you are out shopping or need a service.



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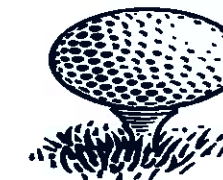
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Time Warner
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The Trophy Shop
Todd & Moore
USC Athletic Department,
Special Thanks to
Steve Spurrier
Webb-Rawls Gallery & Fine Art

Third Annual Golf Tournament

On June 11, 2007, the Greater Columbia Disabilities Foundation hosted its Third Annual Golf Tournament at Charwood Country Club. Money raised will help support people with autism, mental retardation, and head and spinal cord injuries. Thank you to all golfers and sponsors for another successful event!



What is the Greater Columbia Disabilities Foundation?

The Greater Columbia Disabilities Foundation is an organization established to provide support to people with mental retardation, related disabilities, people with head and spinal cord injuries, and similar disabilities who are served by the Rich/Lex DSN Board. It is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. This organization is able to accept items for donation, memorials, or direct monetary contributions. In the past, the Rich/Lex DSN Board has had inquiries about donations and "tax write offs." The Greater Columbia Disabilities Foundation provides an avenue to those who wish to make a contribution to the Rich/Lex DSN Board. It also provides an avenue for grants and other like contributions. If you are interested in donating to the Greater Columbia Disabilities Foundation or you would like more information please contact the Rich/Lex DSN Board at 252-5179.

The Back Page

www.GovBenefits.gov



Check out this free resource website. By simply filling out a web questionnaire you can acquire information on numerous resources such as home ownership, education costs, child support, work, disaster relief, and programs for people with disabilities.

Rich/Lex DSNB is located at:
420 Rivermont Dr.
Columbia, SC 29210

Our Phone and Fax:
802-252-5179
803-252-5981(fax)

Our website:
<http://www.rldsn.org/>



Back to School Safety Tip

Find a safe place away from the street and traffic to wait for the bus.



News You Can Use

Virginia Hylton Park is an accessible park that has wheelchair accessible playground equipment. It is located behind the Lexington Town Hall at 111 Maiden Lane in Lexington, SC.



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