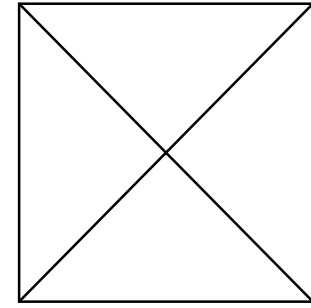


Darlington County Disabilities  
and Special Needs Board  
201 N. Damascus Church Road  
Hartsville, SC 29550

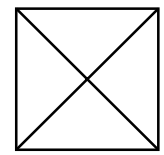
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PAID  
NON-PROFIT  
ORG.  
PERMIT NO. 50



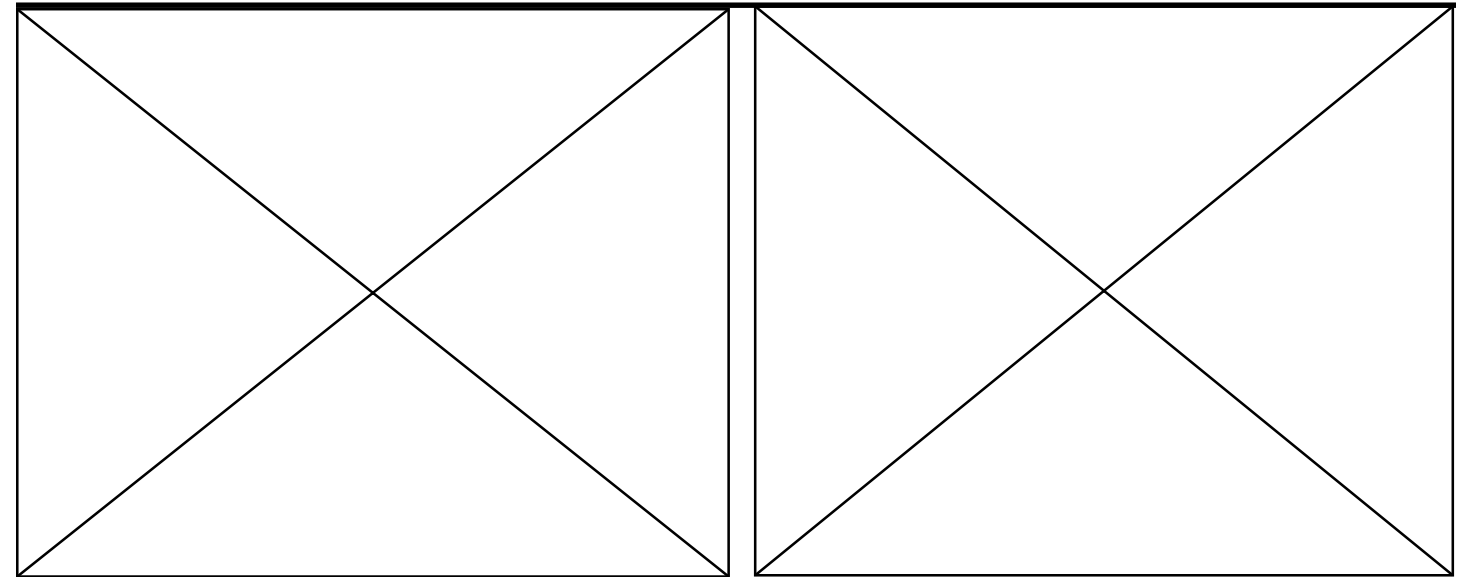
Challenging the community, families and individuals to make a difference  
*A Publication of the Darlington County Disabilities and Special Needs Board*  
The Lou Scott Center

Spring 2007

**Disabilities Awareness Month 2007 Celebrated**



United Way



Darlington Mayor Tony Watkins, Presents Disabilities Awareness Month Proclamation to Ruth Thomas, Executive Director of Darlington County Disabilities and Special Needs Board..

Rep. Robert Q. Williams, Dist. No. 62, pictured 2<sup>nd</sup> from left and Denny Neilson, Dist No. 56, far right, take time out from their work in the General Assembly to greet Elisa Samuel, far left and Catina Williams, 3<sup>rd</sup> from left as they toured the State House on Disability Advocacy Day, March 7<sup>th</sup>, in Columbia. The ladies represented Darlington County Disabilities and Special Needs Board along with hundreds of other South Carolinians with lifelong disabilities to urge their representatives and senators to support essential services for children and adults with disabilities.

*State and Federal Funds cannot be used for many activities that we provide to enhance the lives of the people we serve!*  
*All contributions are tax deductible and appreciated.*  
*Donation envelopes are included for your convenience.*

201 North Damascus Church Road  
Hartsville, SC 29550  
Telephone (843) 332-7252 • Fax (843) 332-3168 • E-Mail [www.dcdsnb.org](http://www.dcdsnb.org)

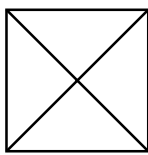
**Ruth Thomas, M.A.**  
Executive Director

**Board Members:**

- Amanda A. King, Chair
- Rev. Troy Shaw, Vice-Chair
- Jean Riley Lee, Secretary
- Belinda G. Valle, Assistant Secretary
- F. W. (Chip) Auman, III
- Dr. Ronald L. Carter
- Jerry A. Cheatham
- Hattie E. Hughes
- Dr. Jeffery Eric Long

**Foundation Members**

- Jim Stock, Chair
- Richard Jones, Chairman Elect
- A. T. (Bud) Register, Secretary
- Louise Scott
- Lamar Caldwell
- Debbie Fink
- Ronald E. Holley
- F. W. (Chip) Auman. III
- Hattie E. Hughes
- Gregory Alexander



United Way

**INSIDE**

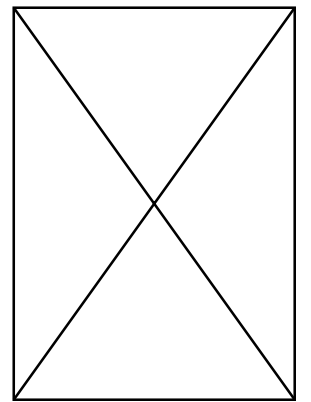
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- Family Advisory Council.....3
- ICF/MR News.....3
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**Happy Anniversary DCDSNB**

**1967 - 2007**

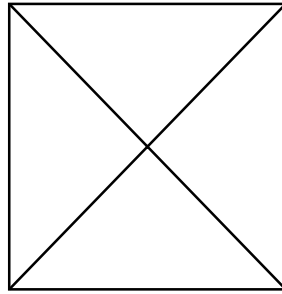
**40 Years**

**LEE CIRCLE CTH II  
SOON TO BECOME A REALITY!  
Contract Awarded to  
Carolina Construction  
WATCH FOR  
GROUNDBREAKING DATE!!!**





Spring days and day light savings time are here! The 1st quarter is almost over! This year the Darlington County Disabilities and Special Needs Board (DCDSNB) is celebrating 40 years of service to the citizens of Darlington County. The vision that Mrs. Lou Scott had in 1967 to serve children with special needs continues today with an agency that develops and provides the finest services to over 475 qualified individuals. In the very near future, we will begin construction of a new CTH-II home that will house four females. This home will be located directly behind the King House. We are very excited about this new endeavor and look forward to subsequent residential development to address the needs of our waiting lists.

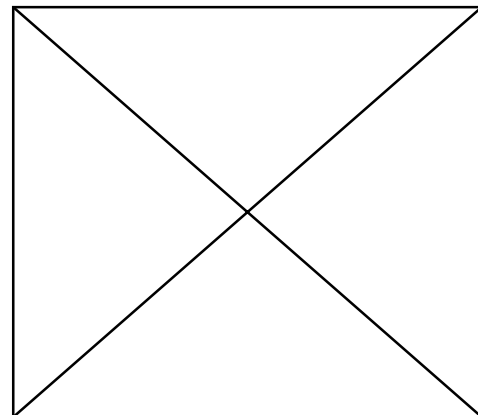


At DCDSNB we have high standards, goals in place, policies set by our board; and all we have to do is adjust our attitudes and just do the right thing each day. During this 1st quarter, we focused on training. Our residential director provided training in Positive Behavior Supports for residential staff each Tuesday during the month of February. Our annual training for all employees was held on March 14-15. Employees were trained on the "revised" Abuse Neglect and Exploitation Policy and proper reporting procedures. They heard from Judith Samuel Jackson and board attorney, Art Justice. They received training on slips, trips and falls from Brooke Russell, ED with the National Safety Council. Additional training was given on medication administration and bloodborne pathogens by our own Shannon Bennett, RN. We took a break from the training to celebrate over 85 years of loyal services from 12 of our employees.

As executive director, I will focus on improving the quality of training. This will improve the knowledge of procedures, the planning of all activities and align them with our agency's mission.

*Ruth Thomas, Executive Director*

My name is Whitney Cranford. I am 21 years old and I am a senior at Coker College majoring in psychology and communications. Soon after graduation, I hope to attend graduate school at Francis Marion University and obtain my degree in Clinical Psychology.



You probably noticed from the picture that I am a wheelchair user. I was born with Mild Spastic Cerebral Palsy. As a result of this I am weak on the left side of my body, I have poor balance and vision problems that cause me to use glasses. What I would like people to know and understand about me is that this is just my diagnosis... not who I am. My family always taught me that I can do anything I set my mind to. Your dreams will come true if you want them badly enough. I have been through many trials and tribulations throughout my life, but thanks to God and my family and friends I have come through them all a better person.

Yes, I have had my down moments, but I focus my energy on staying positive. My parents gave me some of the best advice years ago. They said, "Whitney you have a choice. You can either accept the physical challenge that you have and the path God chose for you or you can give up." I chose the challenge and the path. When people ask me how I have accomplished all the things that I have, I tell them that I do not let people get in my way! If you tell me I cannot do something it just makes me want to do it just to prove them wrong. You also have to believe in yourself. I embrace my physical challenge and I believe in and accept who I am. The motto that I live by is "God made me beautiful, but my wheelchair makes me sexy." Embrace your challenge and who you are. You can be anyone you want to be if you just believe that you can do it.

Through DDSN, I have been put on a waiver that provides medical equipment as well as services for me to live on my own. If services like this did not exist I would not be able to reach my full potential. Believe in yourself and do not be afraid to ask for help. Your dreams will come true if you want them badly enough.

*Employee Anniversaries - Jan...Feb...March  
Diane Person...5 Years...*

***Congratulations and Thank You!***

**Darlington County Disabilities Foundation (DCDF) would like to thank all of our generous donors. The following Donations were received since the last printing of the Challenger.**

*Honorarium Gifts were received from*

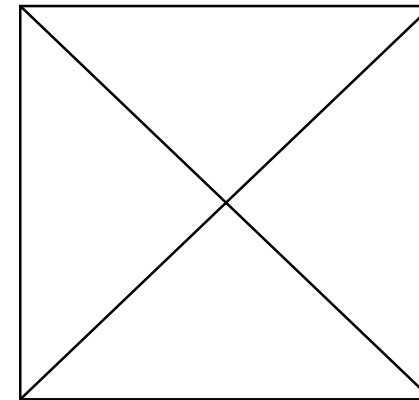
*Ruth Thomas  
In Honor of  
Lou Scott*

*Robert L. DuPree  
In Honor of  
Curtis Davis*

Other Donations Were  
Received From:  
Julia B. Pigg  
Mike McPhail

*Memorial Gifts were received from  
James L (Lamar), Jr. and Lucy S. Caldwell*

*In Memory of  
Etta Pate  
Henry I. Register  
Marsha D. Clair*

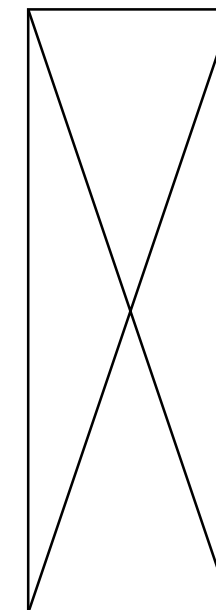
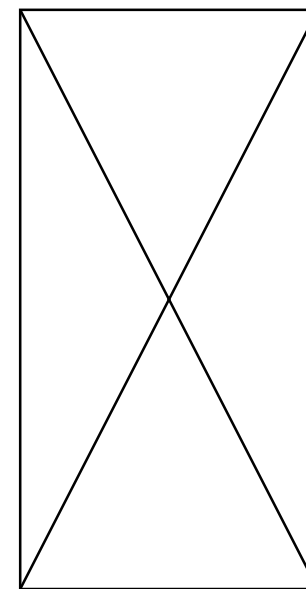


Elizabeth Ham is not new to this field. She has twenty years of experience working with the special needs population. Her experience with cultivating relations with donors, foundations and corporations was just what the Foundation Board was looking for in helping with their vision of increasing the awareness of the Darlington County Disabilities Foundation and their purpose throughout Darlington County. Her extensive and successful grant writing experience along with her thorough knowledge of funding sources and governmental accounting experience should be an asset in her new position. Ms. Ham will begin her duties on Monday, April 16..... Welcome Elizabeth!

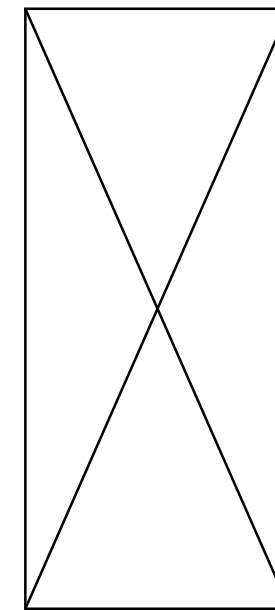
**A Valentine's Ball**

***On behalf of the CTH II and ICF/MR consumers, many thanks to the staff and volunteers that so graciously give of their time and talents to makes these events so special for the people we serve. You are special!***

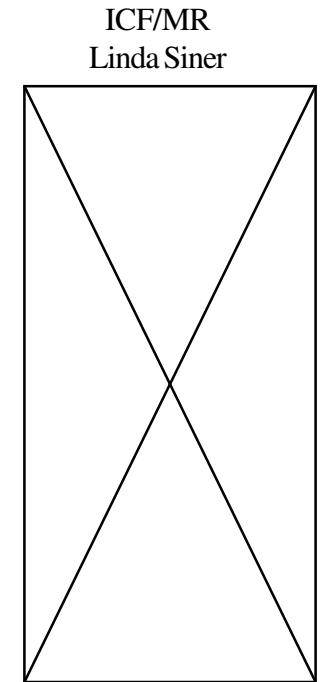
CTH II Queen  
Missy Reagan



CTH II King  
Jimmy Chappell



ICF/MR King  
Ulysses Miles



ICF/MR  
Linda Siner

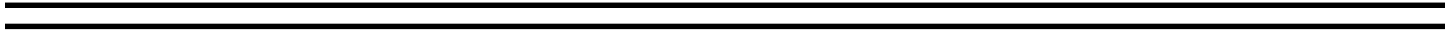
***State and Federal Funds cannot be used for this type of activity that certainly enhances the lives of the people we serve! If you would like to help with events like this, please consider making a donation. Donation envelopes are included for your convenience.***



*A Message from the Director*

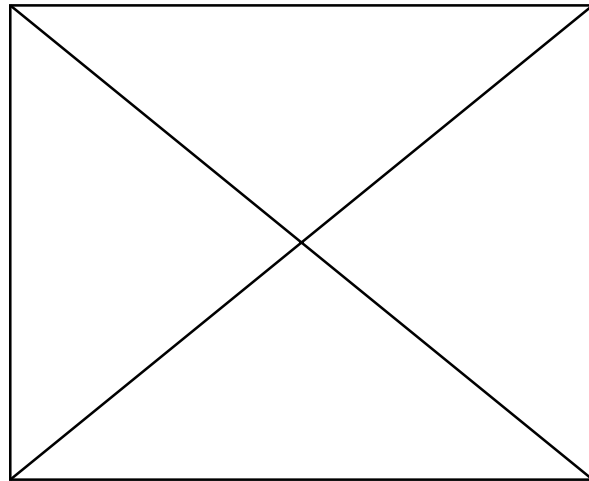


***FOUNDATION BOARD HIRES  
ELIZABETH HAM  
AS RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR***



*Profile of Service*





Linda Siner is thrilled at being serenaded. by Elvis

QUALITY CORNER by Wilton Griffith

One of the basic ideals of quality improvement is that the organization must solicit the input of its customers. We, the representatives of the service provider, listen and often probe further to fully understand the concerns and issues being identified by the service user. Other stakeholders from whom we seek inputs and ideas include service organizations and members of the community. Without these suggestions and "problems" shared with us by those concerned with the quality of this agency, we would be unable to successfully provide services that people want or need. When you read this, please think about what we need to do to improve. Then pick up the phone and let us know your thoughts, ideas and concerns.

ICF/MR News

The Bowen ICF/MR House welcomes Trammell Shake! His fellow residents and the staff have already gotten very attached to Trammell. Due to having Autism, Trammell has many challenges but seems to be adjusting well.

We congratulate the Reagan staff for a great DHEC survey! I really appreciate the wonderful care they give to our ladies. Their hard work does not go unnoticed! We eagerly anticipate DHEC coming to our Bowen facility. Everyone is working hard for a great survey!

CTH II News

Thank you to Ms. Edna Sims and Lakeview Baptist Church for providing a Valentine get-to-gether for King and Yarborough Houses.

A day trip is planned for April 5 for all (34)residential consumers. Staff will accompany consumers on a shopping trip to Columbia, a picnic lunch and a visit to Riverbanks Zoo.

Easter parties are currently being planned.

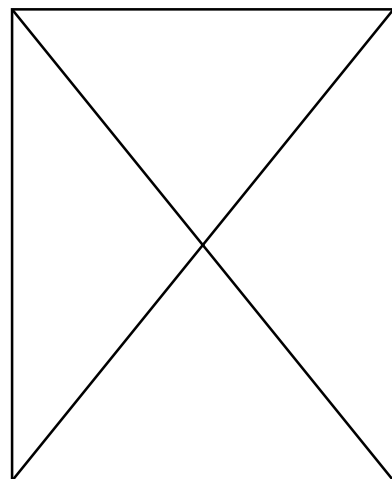
CTH 11 consumers will participate in the Annual Spring Fling sponsored by the Mental Health Association of Darlington County on May 15, 6:00 - 8:30 p.m. at Prestwood County Club.

- April 5.....Columbia Trip - Residential
- April 16 ..... DCD Foundation Meeting
- April 24.....DCDSN Board Meeting
- May 15.....Spring Fling at Prestwood
- May 18 ..... Lake Darpo Picnic
- May 29.....DCDSN Board Meeting
- June 8.....Staff Picnic at Scott Center sponsored by the EAC
- Sept.8.....Gigantic Yard Sale at Scott Center

**Employee Advisory Committee for 2007**

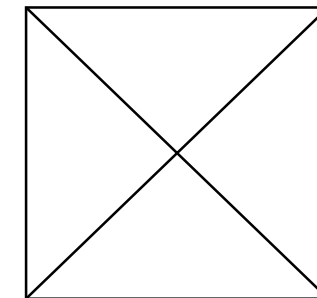
- Crystal Blakney - CTH
- Gloria Campbell - Service Coordination
- Yvonne Rouse - ICF/MR
- Byron Wilson - Day Program
- Sue Woodham - Child Program
- Carmen Brown - ICF/MR
- Dawanda Brown - Nursing
- Anna McBride - Day Program
- Bebe Chapman - EI

Beach Party ..... June  
Movie ..... August  
Hayride ..... October  
Date, time and location to be announced in flyer prior to event

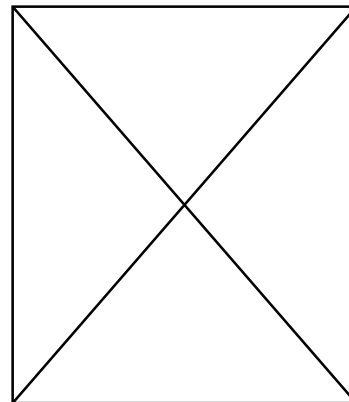


**"Book It! Beginners" program begins:** Staff must read to children 60 minutes per week; this entitles each child to a certificate for a free personal pan pizza from Pizza Hut!  
  
In February the children at BB enjoyed "The Red Shoes", a play by The Patchwork Players of Columbia...We also had a Valentine's Party in February! Thanks parents for all the treats you provided to make the party special.

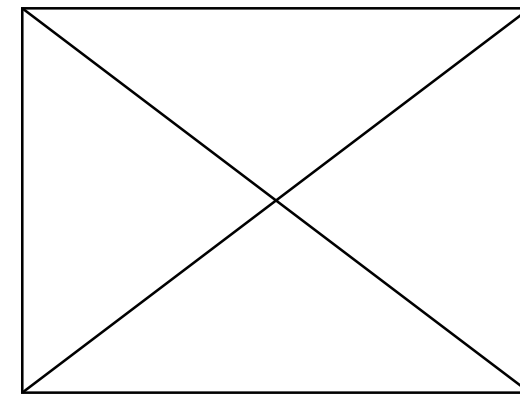
The Early Interventionists (EIs) and BB staff are all participating in training provided by First Steps of Darlington County and are especially enjoying networking with other providers of preschool services in the county. The EIs also attended a Pro-Parents workshop at the Scott Center. They were able to ask questions about the reauthorization of IDEA 2004 and gain valuable information that will help them assist parents with transitioning their child to school..



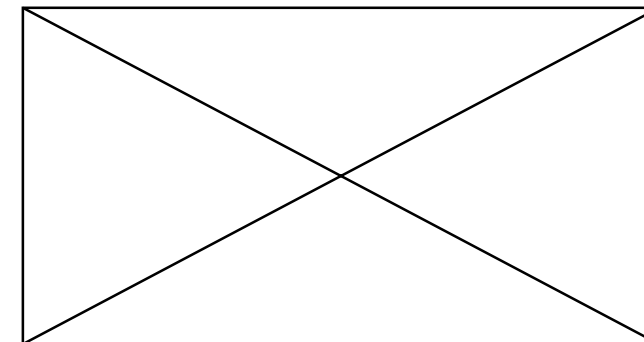
Pictured at left: Charles Metz strikes a pose in the garden



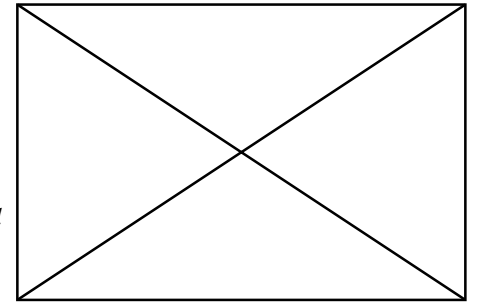
Staff is blindfolded to understand how it feels to be blind



Art Justice, Board Attorney stresses the seriousness of abuse.



At left, Board Member, Mrs. Hattie Hughes attended Staff Service Awards Luncheon and thanked staff for their service on behalf of the Board of Directors. Pictured above L-R Service Award recipients: Shelia Hicks...10 years, James Jackson, 15...years and Bebe Chapman...5 years.



Welcome New Employees

- Julia Bilsky
- Juanita Joe
- Rochelle Moses
- Woodrow Moses
- Javonnia Muldrow
- Lovely Williams
- Melinda Simpson-Wingate

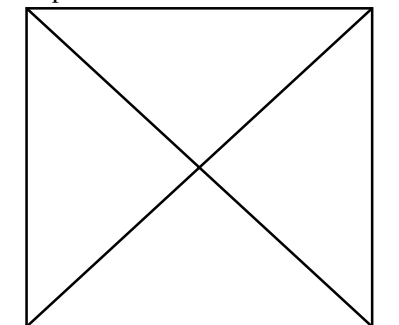
DCDSNBStaff Honored for Services at Luncheon

15 Years  
James Jackson

10 Years  
Cardelia Brewer  
Shelia Hicks  
Priscilla Soney

5 Years  
Diane Person  
Elizabeth Austin  
Monique McLaurin  
Verniell Hannibal  
Mary Lowery  
Gloria McPhail  
Bebe Chapman  
Tammy Johnson

Brook Russell of the SC National Safety Council focused on Slips, Trips and Falls.



**Family Advisory Council News**

**After Hours  
Valentine's Party  
with Elvis  
was a hit!  
Thank You Larry**

***Calendar of Events***



***After Hours Events  
Planned for 2007***

***Betty Walters represented  
Darlington County well in  
"The Stars Are Out" talent show  
sponsored by Florence Cty DSN Board.***

***Bright Beginnings and Early Intervention Updates***

***Day Program Update***

***Senior's Garden***



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***Annual Training for Staff Geared Toward Disabilities***