

AABN Newsletter

October 2009

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AABN Partners with TPC for 2009 Parenting and Disabilities Expo

Since 2007, Access Allies of Bloomington-Normal (AABN) has held an annual "Parenting and Disabilities Expo," a free event showcasing agencies, businesses, and other services of use to people with disabilities of all ages. During the same period, the Transition Planning Committee (TPC) has held their own "Transition Expo" aimed towards students with disabilities preparing to transition out of high school.

This year, on October 20, 2009, AABN is joining forces with TPC to hold our first combined AABN/TPC Annual "Parenting and Disabilities Expo" on Tuesday, October 20 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Bloomington High School's Student Center!

Co-sponsoring exhibitors this year include: the Autism Society of McLean County, Baby Fold/Horizons Counseling, Cornbelt AMBUCS, LIFE Center for Independent Living, PATH Senior Services, Life's Plan Inc., Todd E. Bugg, Attorney and SOAR.

The Alamo II, the Normal Cornbelters and the Town of Normal are also Co-Sponsoring the event.

The Expo will also feature a Kids Area with crafts and educational games for kids to enjoy while parents talk to the various exhibitors. This year we also have clowns with face painting and balloons, Corny the Cornbelter's mascot and a puppet troupe scheduled to appear!

AABN's and TPC's goal for the Parenting and Disabilities Expo is to provide a one-stop information source for:

1. Students Transitioning out of High School
2. Parents of children with disabilities
3. Parents who themselves have disabilities
4. Adults caring for their elderly parents who may have acquired disabilities

If you'd like more information, or want to be included in next year's expo email chairperson@accessallies.org or call 309-824-1646.

Seeking Nominations for 2009 Business Recognition Awards!

If you know of a local business who you think should be recognized and awarded for providing exceptional accessibility and services to people with disabilities please fill out and return a nomination form! Forms can be downloaded from our web site or call us at 451-4497 to have one mailed directly to you. Mail completed Nomination Forms to AABN, 1709 Cook Dr. Normal, IL 61761

Other Area Accessibility Expos Coming Soon...

Transitioning to Adulthood and How to Self-Advocate

Monday, October 26, 2009

6:00-8:00 p.m.

Normal West High School,

501 North Parkside Rd.,

Normal, IL 61761

Fifth Annual Illinois Statewide Transition Conference

November 8 – 10

5:00-8:00PM

Renaissance Hotel and Convention Center, Schaumburg.

For info contact: Debbie Einhorn at 866-436-7842 x 116 or

deinhorn@fmptic.org

The Abilities Expo Comes to Chicago July 9-11, 2010!

Abilities Expo is the leading event for 54 million Americans with disabilities, their caregivers, healthcare professionals and corporate ADA/HR administrators to receive education and view the latest, life-altering technologies, products and services. Under new management in 2009, these 3-day expos will now have even more to offer the Community.

AABN Helped to Raise Over \$1200 for LIFE Center

AABN organized the silent auction for LIFE Center's Wheelchair Basketball fundraiser. The silent auction raised over \$1200! Thanks so much to everyone who donated baskets and volunteered, as well as those who bid on the baskets!

SAC Notes

So far in 2009 Students for an Accessible Community has been rather busy:

- SAC took over the Kids on the Block puppet troupe when LIFE Center lost funding and had to drop the program.
- SAC now meets at Normal Community West High School and has earned a spot in the yearbook this year. Thanks a million to our new teacher sponsor Deanne Collins!
- In April, SAC kids entertained the younger crowd at LIFE Center's Wheelchair basketball game fundraiser with the Kids on the Block puppets.
- SAC participated in McLean County's Relay for Life in June and raised over \$770 for cancer research.
- SAC held their annual 4th of July Party and SAC Fall Fling, bringing in new members and having lots of fun!

Winter 2009 Meeting Schedule

November 18, 2009

6-8 pm

LIFE Center's conference room
2201 Eastland Dr.

Suite 1

Bloomington, IL 61704

AABN Holiday Party

Brings friends and family to celebrate the season. Free food and fun! For more information call 451-4497.

January 27, 2010

5:30-6:30

LIFE Center's conference room
2201 Eastland Dr.

Suite 1

Bloomington, IL 61704

January Monthly Meeting

Discuss how the Expo went, what do to better, plan for the new year. For more information call 451-4497.

February 24, 2010

5:30-6:30

LIFE Center's conference room
2201 Eastland Dr.

Suite 1

Bloomington, IL 61704

February Monthly Meeting

TBA. For more information call 451-4497.

March 24, 2010

5:30-6:30

LIFE Center's conference room
2201 Eastland Dr. Suite 1

Bloomington, IL 61704

March Monthly Meeting

TBA. For more information call 451-4497.