
South Central Conference

Disabilities Ministry Newsletter

It's "A-bility" – Not "Dis-ability" that Counts"

January 2007

South Central Conference (SCC) **NEWS**

Oakwood College Church News

The Oakwood College Church Nominating Committee appointed the following individuals to serve on the Church Disabilities Ministry team.

Emerson Cooper	Ola Emerson
Rodney Morris	Marlene Hudson
George Hamilton	Flore Hamilton

We will submit other names for consideration to the church board in the coming months. If you are interested in serving or have disability concerns or questions, please feel free to contact any of us at your convenience.

Oakwood College Disabilities Presentation

Mr. George Hamilton, SCC Coordinator for disabilities ministry, and Dr. Calvin Matthews, Oakwood Church disability team member and Professor of Psychology at A&M University, gave a presentation in the General Psychology class of Dr. Howard Weems, Chair of the Psychology department at Oakwood College. The presentation was in two segments. Segment I was a general overview of disabilities and segment II addressed disabilities from the Psychological perspective. The class enthusiastically accepted the presentation and took some specially prepared information packets for future reference. This is the disabilities ministry teams second presentation in Dr. Weems class. The team also gave a presentation in Dr. Edith Fraser's Sociology class in 2004. We hope that other departments will follow their example by extending invitations to the ministry.

Oakwood College Church Disabilities Day 2007

In a landmark decision heretofore unexplored, the church disabilities ministry team voted to turn planning for Disabilities Day January 27, 2007 to the youth of the college and church. Dr. Craig Newborn, Senior Pastor of the church, concurred on the decision. Giving the student body more input and participation in the services and programs at the church, has been a concern of our current and former pastors for some time. We feel certain that this decision will be one of many steps in accomplishing this goal.

NATIONAL NEWS

NAD Commends Adoption of UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities

The National Association of the Deaf (NAD) commends the General Assembly of the United Nations (UN) on the adoption of Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities on December 13, 2006. This would require UN member countries to guarantee freedom from exploitation and abuse for individuals with disabilities, at the same time protecting their human rights. The Convention will open for signature by UN member countries on March 30, 2007 - once it is ratified by 20 countries, it will become an official international treaty.

"This is truly a remarkable achievement in addressing the rights of persons with disabilities in both industrialized and developing countries worldwide," said Bobbie Beth Scoggins, president of the National Association of the Deaf. "We want to congratulate everyone who collaborated on this

historic international Convention—disability organizations, advocates, governments, and international organizations—for their efforts to ensure recognition of the full rights and inclusion of persons with disabilities as equal members of society. In particular, this is significant for 80% of deaf people globally, who, according to the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD), do not have any access to education.”

The NAD represents the United States as a member of the WFD, which has been a part of the UN Convention process for the past five years. Recognition of the linguistic rights of deaf people worldwide in the Convention is a significant achievement, which involves the right of deaf people to receive education and have access to information in sign language. This includes the ability of deaf people to use their native sign languages, with access to professional sign language interpreters, and the promotion of the cultural and linguistic identity of the deaf community within each nation and worldwide.



Christian Record Services Receives Right to Use BBB Seal

The BBB Wise Giving Alliance, America’s most experienced charity evaluator, has given Christian Record Services and its National Camps for Blind Children the green light to display its seal.

<http://www.give.org/seal.asp?ID=21810312006>

This is a clear and concise sign that Christian Record Services meets the Alliance’s Standards for Charity Accountability. The BBB Wise Giving Alliance national charity seal carries meaning for both donors and charities.

“Putting the seal on our materials is the culmination of a demanding process,” said Christian Record’s president, Larry Pitcher. “Before we could even apply to use the seal, we had to undergo evaluation by the BBB Wise Giving Alliance. And the evaluation process is anything but superficial. It involved rigorous scrutiny of our governance, effectiveness, finances and solicitations and informational materials. The standards go beyond what government regulators require.”

Only organizations that come through an Alliance review with a “meets standards” conclusion are eligible to participate in the seal program. Not all choose to do so. But

more and more charities report that the seal provides an efficient way of demonstrating their commitment to accountability and ethical practices, the values that donors are looking for. This commitment is all the more credible when it is verified by the familiar and respected BBB Wise Giving Alliance.

“National charities that display the BBB Wise Giving Alliance seal can do so with pride,” says Art Taylor, president and CEO of the Alliance. “Not only are they attesting to their organizations’ adherence to sound standards; they are also helping to increase donor confidence and strengthen public trust in giving.”

Credits: National Association for the Deaf (NAD) & Christian Record Services (CRS)



HOW DO YOU DECIDE WHO TO MARRY? **(written by kids)**

You got to find somebody who likes the same stuff. Like, if you like sports, she should like it that you like sports, and she should keep the chips and dip coming.

-- Alan, age 10



This is the fourth (4th) edition of the SCC Newsletter which is published quarterly. If you have news relating to Disabilities Ministry, please contact George Hamilton at 256-503-9521 or via email at

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