



Eastern MRA Chapter Newsletter



<http://mo-rehab.org>

Summer 2012

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Congratulations to the following people who received awards during the Missouri Rehabilitation Association Eastern Chapter Awards Banquet on May 4, 2012

The President Award: **Sadye Gartland**

The Consumer of the Year Award: **Suzanne (Suzy) Kieckers**



The Megan Piontek Memorial Award:

Jessica Miller

The Community Service Award:

Sam Malek

Employer of the Year Award:

Mt. Carmel Senior Living– Chris Brown Director

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The Barbara Parker Trust Fund

The **Eastern Chapter of MRA** is proud to announce the Barbara Parker Trust Fund, established to honor the late Barbara Parker, Director of the Maryville University Rehabilitation Counseling program and a rehabilitation professional who made a real difference in the rehabilitation community.

Criteria:

- Active Case with VA, VR, or Missouri VR (not on waiting list)
- Be a one time expense that is unexpected and could not be anticipated or budgeted for
- Have no other source for assistance (or if other source exists, applications were made and turned down)
- Not serve to “rescue” clients from natural consequences of bad decision making
- Be consistent with the client’s vocational plan/objectives

Budget:

The budget for distribution will be set each year by the MRA Eastern Chapter Board, an amount not to exceed the amount raised for the Fund the previous year until the Fund becomes self-sustaining. The committee would consist of the following members: President Elect (Chair), President, Past President, a VR Representative appointed by the President and a member that serves as liaison with the Fund Administrator. The committee would work within the budget to distribute funds to individuals in need and report activities annually in writing to the Board.

Application Process:

The client should complete the attached application form. This may be with their service provider from a facility or school. The client must obtain the signature of their VR Counselor and the form should be submitted to the President Elect of MRA Eastern Chapter. The committee will review the applications monthly around the time of the regularly scheduled board meeting. The applicant and providers will be notified the next day regarding the outcome so that arrangements can be made to obtain the funding or find other sources.

A special “Thank You” goes out to Delores Gonzalez of Gonzalez & Associates, who donated our initial start-up funding for the program in honor of her good friend, Barbara.

Please note that the VR Counselor working with the applicant should be the person completing and submitting the application. If a service provider is aware of a special need, please contact the VR Counselor to initiate the application.

ROXANA

Roxana sustained T-1 paralysis resultant of a motor vehicle accident. She used a wheelchair to assist with mobility. Her current wheelchair was falling into disrepair and she was in need of a new chair in order to safely get from one place to another. While her insurance covered a large portion of the cost of a new chair, resources to assist her with the co pay were limited. Living on a fixed income, she was not able to cover the cost of the co pay on her own. Funding from the Barbara Parker Charitable Trust Fund assisted her with the cost of the co pay. Without this resource, she would not have the means of obtaining a new wheelchair due to her insurance not being able to cover the entire cost. Her goal is to return to work in an office clerk or a related sedentary position. She expressed that she is eager to participate in employment services and contribute her accumulated skills in a meaningful position.

Ted

Ted sustained a traumatic brain injury as a result of a motor vehicle accident. Due to sustaining this injury, he needed to use a power wheelchair to assist with mobility. Vocational Rehabilitation assisted him with obtaining a Bruno lift so that he could use the chair in the community. Without this rehabilitative technology, the chair would be too heavy for his family to lift into their vehicle. His employability would be limited due to mobility issues related to not being able to access the power wheelchair in the community.

The Barbara Parker Charitable Trust Fund assisted him with funding for \$180.00 for a cover needed for the power wheelchair. The cover would be needed for days when inclement weather, such as rain, was occurring. Having the cover would ensure that the chair would not be damaged while being transported during these conditions. The protection of the chair will reduce the family's maintenance costs as well as ensure the longevity of the equipment. The client has been actively participating in Employment Services Plus and has begun volunteering in order to build up his work history.

Application for the Barbara Parker Charitable Trust Fund

Submit to: Peggy Ottersback, President Elect * Fax: 636-940-3300 * Phone 636-940-3313

Name _____ Date _____

Address: _____

Day Phone _____ Evening Phone _____

Items and Reason for Request: (please itemize):

How would this help you achieve your vocational goals:

Where else have you tried to obtain funds for this item? Reason for denial?

How will this need be met in the future?

Amount Requested \$ _____ Date Check needed by _____

Check should be made payable to: _____

Address: _____

Signatures:

Service Provider/Staff: _____ Phone _____

VR Counselor: _____ Phone _____

Date Received _____ Date Approved/Denied _____ Check Sent _____

Reason for Denial:

MRA Eastern Chapter President Elect Signature: _____

MRA Eastern Chapter

2012 Calendar of Events

Board Meetings are Open for All to Attend

- o **June 3-5-MRA Conference—Tan-Tara Resort—Lake of the Ozarks**
- o **Late June/Early July-MRA Mixer**
- o **July 9, 11:30am-Board Meeting at St. Charles VR**
- o **Aug. 13, 11:30am-Conference Call Board Meeting**
- o **Aug-educational training on Assistive Technologies-Date/Time TBD**
- o **Sept. 10, 11:30am-Board Meeting at United Access**
- o **Oct. 6, 7pm-Fourth Annual Trivia Night—Disability Awareness Theme**
- o **Oct. 15, 11:30am –Conference Call Board Meeting**
- o **Nov. 8, 6:30pm-Board Meeting at Maryville University**
- o **Dec. 10, 11:30am-Board Meeting at St. Louis Arc**

****VARIOUS COMMITTEES MAY HAVE ADDITIONAL MEETING TIMES****

Coming Soon... Disability 101

A free online database that includes benefits planning sessions with calculators. This service will allow you to help the people you support better understand how their benefits will be affected if they do work.

FYI: A great resource for
the people you support

CLAIM- State Health Insurance Assistance Program

Questions answered including:

- Enrollment and billing
- Medicare Prescription Drug plans
- Long-term care planning and insurance

Call 1-800-390-3330

Amanda Koysan receives the Megan Pointek Scholarship

I received the Megan Pointek Scholarship for the 2011-2012 school years. Receiving this scholarship helped create the person I am today in many ways. Financially, the scholarship helped ease the tension of graduate costs; classes, books, organization membership costs, etc. This scholarship was created based on maintaining the Megan Piontek philosophy and love of the community. By receiving this scholarship I have increased my involvement in the community and commitment to school.

I have become a board member of M.U.S.A.R.C.A. (Maryville University Study American Rehabilitation Counseling Association), Vice-President specifically. By doing so I am involved much more with the Maryville community and the outreach performed by the University. My commitment to school has increased as well. I will be graduating in May of 2012 with my Master's. I have continuously made an effort to carry on Megan's name and do my very best in every aspect of school, work and life.

I have attended Maryville for 6 years now; completing my undergraduate degree at Maryville as well. It is hard to narrow down a memorable class; there have been so many! The class that keeps popping into my head is Research Methods with Dr. Michael Kiener. This class was the one I feared the most. Dr. Kiener made it tolerable at 1st; then he made the class exciting to the point now that it is the class that stands out in my mind. I once feared research, primarily due to the fact that I found it boring, unrelated to counseling and difficult to grasp all the concepts. Ever since the last day of that class I no longer find it to be any of those things, I even recently used it in my job and internship! When looking back on all the classes though, I thoroughly enjoyed each and every one of them, all for different reasons.

I am currently working as an Independent Living Specialist at Delta Center for Independent Living located in St. Charles, MO. I completed my undergraduate practicum at Delta Center and I am also currently doing my internship at Delta Center. I have pretty much built a good foundation at there. I was hired after completing my practicum, which I took as a huge compliment. I decided to do my internship at Delta Center as well to begin working on projects that they have instilled, such as Work Force Transit, a transportation route between Troy & Wentzville, MO.

As for the future, I do not know what will come about, but I know I will be prepared to handle it based on the education I have gained at Maryville and through my work experience at Delta Center. I have many ideas about what I would like my ultimate future to look like, such as possibly a private practice with a few colleagues, working in a similar non-for-profit organization such as Delta Center, or any one-on-one counseling based facility.

The Megan Piontek Scholarship has been a wonderful achievement for me. It has helped me grow into the person I am today; for that I am very thankful. Even after graduation when I am on whatever road life leads me to I will take the Megan Piontek philosophy of education and community involvement with me.

My name is Amanda Kosyan. My email address is akosyan@live.maryville.edu & my phone number is 636-443-5257.



Mark your
Calendars!

Trívía Night

Saturday October 6, 2012 at 7pm.

It will be held at Greater St. Louis Associate for the Deaf (GSLAD)

\$25.00 per person or \$200.00 for a table of 8

National Council on Rehabilitation Education

“A Professional Organization Dedicated to Quality Services for Persons with Disabilities through Education and Research”

Statement on Unification

To The Rehabilitation Profession:

Change is a reality every profession must learn to navigate. The process of navigating change holds the potential for positive, as well as negative outcomes. Recent events in the areas of licensure and accreditation in the field of Rehabilitation introduced changes that have fundamentally altered the professional landscape of Rehabilitation. Regardless of the specific details and unresolved outcomes, we believe it is critical that our efforts as a field be united to retain the uniqueness of our professional identity and give us the opportunity, as a profession, to be part of the decisions that challenge our professional practice.

It is toward this end that the NCRE Board recommends that we, as an organization, explore the process of uniting with other Rehabilitation professional organizations. To be specific, we recommend that the Rehabilitation community consider the creation of a single professional organization to represent all Rehabilitation professionals. We wish to emphasize that we do not take this action and the subsequent responsibility lightly. We believe that this action will put the field in a better position to advocate for the professional identity of rehabilitation professionals, which will improve the quality of services to individuals with disabilities, and more effectively serve the members of all professional organizations. We believe that an organization can be created that not only holds the values of inclusion and openness, but also will represent the various constituents within the Rehabilitation profession, and will contribute to the growth and development of each group, as well as the field as a whole.

We recognize that the process of unifying many different organizations into a single entity is a monumental task. It will be a challenging endeavor both emotionally and organizationally. For these reasons, we believe the following values are critical in providing the foundation to a sound process.

- **Inclusion-** We value the diversity of types of professionals who identify with the field of Rehabilitation, and play an essential role in working with persons with disabilities. We believe that it is important that all professionals who identify with the field of Rehabilitation be welcome to engage in this process.
- **Focus on Commonalities-** The primary value that resonates for all Rehabilitation professionals is the provision of high quality services to individuals with disabilities. We believe that this process will proceed better if we can focus on this common mission, rather than differences among groups.
- **Retain Individual Identities-** We value the diversity of professional activities and interest areas that are represented by our professionals. Unification cannot represent a loss of identity for any specialized areas of practice.
- **Autonomy-** A primary value is that individuals and groups have the right to decide for themselves if they will participate in this process. If people, or groups, decide not to participate then that is honored and respected.
- **Choice-** Similar to autonomy, those who decide to participate (either groups or individuals), should do so of their own choice. There should not be any coercion at the personal or professional levels to participate. Nor should there be any repercussions for not participating.
- **Transparency-** This process should be inclusive, reflective, action oriented, and represent the agenda of the collective group, rather than the agenda of a portion of individuals.
- **Representations-** We are dedicated to the principle of hearing all voices involved in this process. However, the reality is that it is not possible to get input from every person in the field. It is necessary to proceed with individuals representing the groups of professionals who are participating. All Rehabilitation professional groups who are interested in this effort are encouraged to actively participate in this initiative.

At this point, details regarding the structure of a unified organization are not available. In keeping with the values above, the details will need to be developed in dialogue with participating individuals and organizations. However, if the values stated above guide the process, we are confident that a strong organization that meets the needs of all participants will emerge.

The NCRE Board has discussed these issues and stands ready to being a dialogue with other Rehabilitation professional organizations that are interested in engaging in this process with us.

Respectfully,
The NCRE Board