



Hampton Mayor's Committee For People with Disabilities

NEWSLETTER



Vol. 21 No. 3

Fall 2011

Jeanne E. Smith, Contributing Editor



HAMPTON MAYOR'S COMMITTEE ANNUAL AWARDS LUNCHEON

Thursday, October 20, 2011-Noon To 2:00 PM
HAMPTON ROADS CONVENTION CENTER

(See details pages 3 to 6)

The Jasmine Charitable Trust...Love That Works

By Dr. Beverlee Engle

As *technology and research advance*, more and more people live longer and longer. Many of us are disabled and leading productive, satisfying lives with minimal to moderate assistance. There is just one problem ... we forgot to raise a generation of caregivers. Children and grandchildren are caring for elders and the disabled while they attempt to have careers and raise families. They are exhausted and stretched beyond their capabilities and endurance.

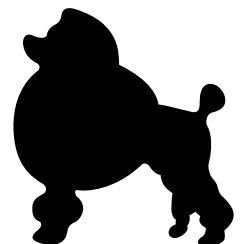
A 21st Century answer to the challenge of caring for us all is a well-trained Service Dog. To be sure, a Service Dog is not for everyone; but, for those who can benefit from their help a Service Dog can reduce the need for human care giving by up to 50%. At one time or another almost everyone has seen a trained dog helping a blind Partner, but blindness is only one disability. Mobility/Stability Dogs provide balance, assist in rising from a chair or even a fall; Medical Alert Dogs can smell the delicate chemical changes in blood chemistry associated with Diabetes, Cardiac conditions, and vascular changes. Seizure Alert/Response Dogs have been documented to

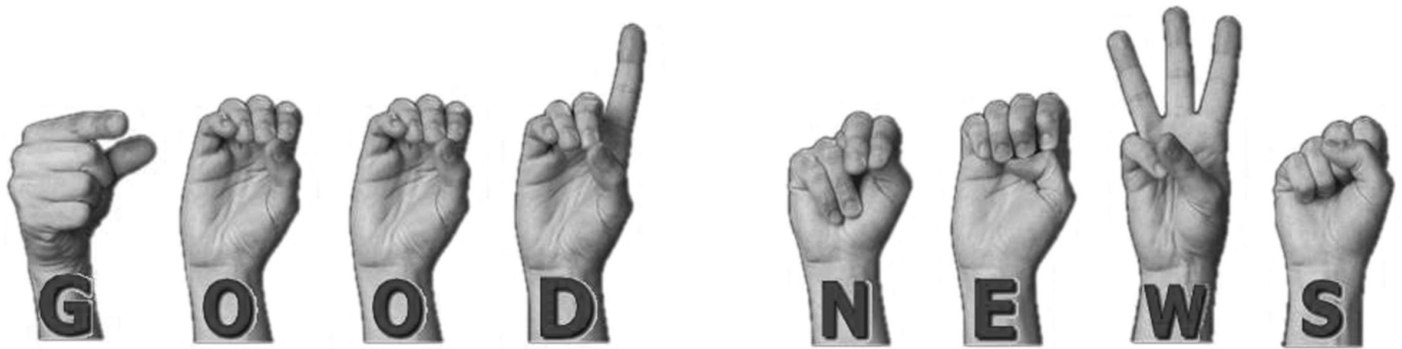
forecast a seizure up to 40 minutes before it occurs. Hearing Dogs alert their Partners to doorbells, telephones and smoke alarms.

The Jasmine Charitable Trust is a non-profit organization (501c3) that trains and places Standard Poodle Service Dogs with Disabled Partners all over the United States. Why Standard Poodles? They are the longest living of the water-retrievers and like their cousins the Golden Retrievers and Labs, they are well suited to the work by temperament and intelligence. They live and love to serve. They don't shed and are hypo allergenic, this makes them the perfect service dog for people with COPD, emphysema, asthma or allergies. They can serve 3-4 years longer than most large breeds, making them the most cost effective choice for the position of Constant Companion.

Quite simply, a Standard Poodle Service Dog is "love that works!"

Learn more by visiting the website: www.jasminetrust.org





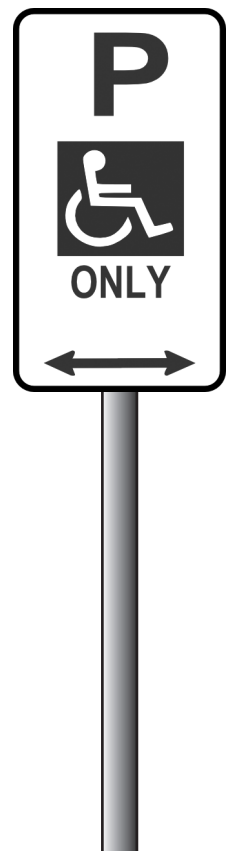
New Legislation Makes Sign Language Courses More Accessible

The General Assembly overwhelmingly passed Legislation that would make Virginia one of the more than 30 States where Sign Language counts toward foreign language requirements in High Schools and Universities. The Bill was signed into law by Governor Bob McDonnell.

The Bill could make sign language courses more accessible by opening doors for the deaf and hearing impaired. And it could also help their friends and family looking to better communicate with them, as well as help to bring an awareness that sign language really is a language.

What's Your Excuse???

- Despite over 30 years of disabled parking statutes in Virginia, the police officers still encounter citizens with a lack of knowledge about the rules.
- Here is a few of the excuses our police officers have heard when they encounter citizens confronted with a ticket for parking in a designated marked handicapped parking space.
- I would have moved my car if a disabled person had needed the space.
- I didn't know the striped space was part of the handicapped parking space.
- All the other spaces were full and there was no other place for me to park.
- The lines were not painted blue so I didn't think it was a handicapped space.
- I was running an errand for a disabled person who stayed at home so I thought I could use his permit.
- \$250 to \$500!!! If I had known the fine was so high, I wouldn't have parked there.



The Hampton Police Division maintains a policy of "strict enforcement" and issue tickets whenever handicapped parking violations are observed.

***THERE IS NO EXCUSE !!!**



**Hampton Mayor's
Committee for
People
With Disabilities**

**October 20th, 2011
Annual Awards
Luncheon**

**32 Years of
Serving the
Hampton
Community
and its'
Disabled Citizens**



Awards Luncheon Registration Form

October 20, 2011

Attendee's Name: _____ Telephone Number: _____

Address: _____ Menu Selection: _____

Additional Attendees Name(s). Use reverse side or additional sheet if necessary:

Name: _____ Menu Selection: _____

Name: _____ Menu Selection: _____

Name: _____ Menu Selection: _____

Entrees are:

- (A) Herb Roasted Beef Tips in gravy or
- (B) Chicken Ala King over wild rice or
- (C) Vegetarian Dinner

*each entree includes tossed salad, mashed potatoes, baby carrots , rolls, coffee or iced tea,
and chocolate cake*

Fifteen (\$15.00) dollars per person advance registration
Make check payable to HMCFPWD

Please Indicate Reasonable Accommodations and/or Financial Assistance required, if any:

[] Attendant [] Financial Assistance for meal and/or Handi-Ride contact Pat Brown
at 826-7185 or e-mail: pbrown33@cox.net
Braille and large print programs will be available

Deadline: No later than **October 15th** **NO EXCEPTIONS**

Mail form to:

Story W. Smith
228 Winchester Drive
Hampton, VA 23666-2120

Office Action: Date Mailed: _____ Date received: _____

Check # _____ Amount: _____ Date posted: _____ Date to Treasurer: _____

HAMPTON MAYOR'S COMMITTEE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

NOMINATION CRITERIA

All nominees must either live, work or volunteer at a location in Hampton

Stephen T. Capo Employer Of The Year Award

To honor the Hampton located business that has done the most to enhance the employment of people with disabilities within the past year.

Criteria: The business should have demonstrated outstanding achievements in the workplace for people with disabilities or made contributions to increase public awareness of employing people with disabilities. Entries should include a description of outside activities (those that are not a normal part of business functions). This may include accommodations exceeding ADA requirements such as changing the worksite for an employee with a disability to make it more convenient; working with independent living centers or the Department of Rehabilitative Services to provide job opportunities or to create jobs for people with disabilities; supporting community ventures, provide needed services and any other area that can ultimately result in the employment of individuals with disabilities.

Employee Of The Year

To recognize an employee with a disability who within the past year has displayed exemplary skill, leadership, initiative, and courage necessary to help advance opportunities for all people with disabilities.

Criteria: The information about this person should discuss their involvement in the workplace, This may include time and/or effort spent to benefit the company or business and positively influence public opinion about employing people with disabilities.

Charles A. Wornom Helping Hands Award

To recognize an individual or group who within the past year has been an advocate for disability rights, who has made contributions that had a major impact on the lives of Hamptonians with disabilities, and who has unselfishly volunteered time and effort in disability advocacy.

Criteria: This information should include how this person or group demonstrated outstanding achievements for people with disabilities or made contributions to increase public awareness of people with disabilities. Entries should include description of the nominee's involvement in issues and areas of importance to people with disabilities. This may include sponsoring charities, supporting community ventures, encouraging local and state legislation, and any other area that can ultimately result in empowerment of individuals with disabilities.

Phil E. Everhart Youth Awards

To recognize youth (Male and Female), who within the past year have unselfishly volunteered to help disabled people of Hampton and whose contributions have improved the life of those people with disabilities.

Criteria: A youth is defined as an individual who has not reached their nineteenth (19th) birthday and/or has not graduated from high school. The nomination should describe volunteer activities that improve the life of individuals with a disability. The activities include but are not limited to: academic tutoring; reading to the blind; writing correspondence; instructing individuals in tasks necessary to obtain employment; assisting individuals in different activities by being a companion or guide; providing physical fitness training; learning and using sign language to foster better communications; providing assistance with daily life routines such as: grocery shopping, cleaning living areas, lawn care and gardening.

Nomination Form:

Stephen T. Capo Employer of the Year Award:

For the outstanding Employer of disabled individuals during the last twelve (12) months.

Outstanding Employee of the Year Award:

For the outstanding Disabled Employee of the last twelve (12) months.

Charles A. Wornom Helping Hands Award:

For individuals, (male and female), agency or business who has made an outstanding contribution to the disabled community during the last twelve (12) months.

Phil E. Everhart Youth Award:

For the individuals (male and female) who have during the past twelve (12) months unselfishly volunteered to help disabled people and whose contributions have improved the life of people with disabilities.

Please review the specific criteria for nominations in each category.

Award Category: _____

Nominee: Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Nominated By: _____ Telephone Number: _____

Nomination form(s) must be attached to written recommendations, no more than two (2) pages, and must be received by October 5th

Mail To:

Story W. Smith
228 Winchester Drive
Hampton, VA 23666-2120

HAMPTON MAYOR'S COMMITTEE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Chairperson - Larry Townsend

Secretary - Susan Merryfield

Treasurer - Story W. Smith

Voting members - (appointed by the Mayor)
David Braunbeck, Patricia Brown, Renee Edwards, Mary Fountain, Susan Merryfield, Warren Mills, Paula Ogiba, Sara Ruch, Ellen Shackelford, Jeanne Smith, Story Smith, Stephanie Stacy, Fred Thaggard, Larry Townsend, Ethel Wilson

Associate members - (non-voting)
Polly Simmons

Liaison members - (non-voting)
Representatives of Hampton City
Departments include City Manager, Schools: Special Education, Emergency Management, Parks & Recreation, Fire Dept., Police Dept., Codes Compliance and also NASA Langley and Fort Monroe/Fort Eustis.

The Committee's areas of interest include: Accessibility, Education, Legislation, Public Awareness, Recreation, Transportation and how we can better advocate to meet the needs of the disabled in Hampton.

The Committee meets the 2nd Thursday of every month--except July and December, in City Hall, 22 Lincoln St, 8th floor, Council Chambers from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm. Come join us. **Visitors are most welcome!!!**

INSIGHT ENTERPRISES

By Ralph Shelman, Executive Director

Insight Enterprises, Inc., Peninsula Center for Independent Living is a private, non-profit agency established to help people with disabilities residing on the Virginia's Peninsula and Middle Peninsula to live independent lives in their homes and communities. There is no charge for services. The Agency receives funds from the Federal, State and local governments to provide services that help people adjust to their disabilities through counseling and by learning the necessary skills that will allow them to function at their highest level thus avoiding institutionalization or dependency on family in order to remain in the community. Counseling is provided by people who are themselves disabled and who have adjusted to their disabilities and are therefore capable of a unique understanding of the difficulties that a person with a disability encounters and must overcome. Agency consumers are provided with information that enables them to acquire needed equipment, services and financial assistance which empower them to be able to live independently. Staff assists consumers in resolving discrimination that they may encounter as a result of their disability and provide them with the skills to be able to advocate for themselves. Consumers are also provided with the skills and support that enable them to pursue goals such as education, employment, moving into their own homes or apartments and acquiring specially equipped motor vehicles. Consumers also participate in recreational and social activities which provide them the ability to acquire the courage and skills to involve themselves in family and community activities that they may have abandoned. For more information, call 757-827-0275.

Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities
City Hall
22 Lincoln St.
Hampton, VA 23669
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This is your newsletter!

This newsletter was established to serve the disabled population and to enhance public awareness by publishing interesting and informative articles that will specifically address the needs and interests of the disabled. We welcome your comments and suggestions concerning future articles. We reserve the right to edit all articles. We are not afraid of offering controversial views for the benefit of our readers. Consequently, views and interests presented will not necessarily be the opinions of the editors or of the members of the Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities.

*Our thanks to the Hampton City Council
for making these newsletters possible.*

**If you receive more than
one newsletter, please pass
the extra copy to a friend!**

*This Newsletter is designed and printed
at Sir Speedy in Hampton, VA*

Readers—Do you have a change of address? Would you like to be placed on our mailing list for this free newsletter? Please fill out this form and send to Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities c/o City Hall, 22 Lincoln St., Hampton, VA 23666, to be placed on our mailing list—OR CALL 757-826-0762

Name _____

Address _____

Former Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Questions, Comments, Concerns _____

Please Remove Me From Your Mailing List.