

Newsletter: The Arc of Southwest Alabama (formerly



January 2018

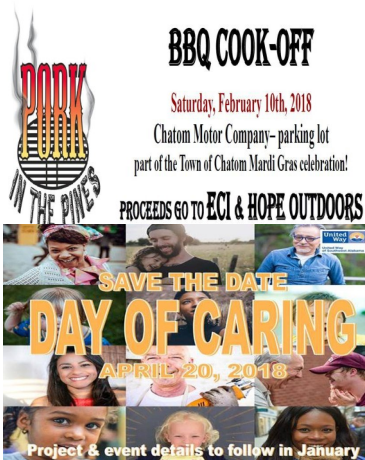
New Year and a New Name

The beginning of 2017 started off somber. ECI had lost a very special lady, Mrs. Weater Caten on February 3rd. She had devoted 15 years of her life to the individuals we serve through her hard work and dedication at ECI. She was ECI's biggest cheerleader! She will be missed by many, but her memory will live on with every dream and every accomplishment of each individual.



Each new year brings new beginnings. And with a new beginning, a change has come. The Educational Center for Independence, Inc. (ECI) is now the Arc of Southwest Alabama. The Arc of Alabama's primary purpose is provide advocacy for people with intellectual and developmental (I/DD) disabilities. The Arc provides support to 29 chapters in Alabama. As a charter member, our agency has access to many state and national resources, organizational savings, fundraising support, and training.

We are still an Educational Center for Independence, Inc. Nothing else has changed with ECI, same mission, same staff, same Board of Directors, but we now have a stronger support system in the state and a louder voice in the legislature that people we serve have the same rights and protection as everyone else.



Our mission is to reach goals and achieve success beyond expectations.

ECI Board of Directors:

- Judge Robert Montgomery
- Joe Wayne Taylor
- Lyna Schell
- Sylvia Williams
- George Rhodes
- Terrie Platt
- Holly Morales
- Lyna Schell
- Lori Moss
- Linda Walker

UPCOMING EVENTS



The Arc of Southwest Alabama, (ECI), is a private, non-profit agency for the intellectually and developmentally disabled adults of Washington County. Our goal is to assist these individuals to become the most productive, independent young men and women they can possibly be. Our staff does a great job as we work on a daily basis to help achieve this goal and the results speak for themselves.

If you would like to visit us sometime to meet and speak to the individuals that attend our program, please feel free to do so. We are proud of the work we do at The Arc of Southwest Alabama, and welcome your interest & support.



United Way of Southwest Alabama

Highlights of 2017

February 24 Pork in the Pines BBQ plate sale to benefit ECI & Hope Outdoors

March 23 Montgomery Golf Sectional at Winlakes Country Club. B. Sanderson partnered with Tom Adams who had competed in Scotland and won first place.

March 24 2nd Annual Hometown NFL Huddle Charity Golf Tournament. The WW Kirkland Charitable Foundations sponsored a team of ECI golfers to participate. D. Lindsey and partner, Tera Sellers, and B. Sanderson and partner, Brandon Armstrong, participated as a field golf team. They had the opportunity to play with NFL and former Alabama players. AJ MacCaron, Kevin Norwood, CJ Mosely, Ray Perkins, Sherman Williams, and Joey Jones were some of the players.

March 31 4th annual Washington County Special Olympics were held at the WCHS football field.

Special Olympic Krispy Kreme Doughnut Sale was a huge success! 465 boxes were sold by the individuals, families, and staff. Top Sellers: D. Lindsey-1st, F. Manuel- 2nd, M. Loper- 3rd. This fundraiser assist in the costs associated with the trip to Troy, AL for the Special Olympic State Games.

April 7 Special Olympic Regional Bocce competition at MARC. Players: T. Jones, S. Thomas, M. Loper, E. Harmon, C. Henderson, C. Brown, S. Morris, and J. Harmon.

April 20 United Way Day of Caring. BASF helped along with many others . Replacing wooden planks and refreshing the rose garden were some of the work that was done.

May 2 ECI was represented by T. Wynn, T. Jones, and D. Lindsey at the United Way of Southwest AL awards ceremony at the RSA Battlehouse Tower. ECI was awarded Outstanding Community Partner Award for Southwest AL.

The 2017 Special Olympic State Games was held in Troy, AL May 19-21. D. Lindsey was chosen for the torch run. Weater Caten was honored at the Closing ceremony during the Memorial Service that remembers athletes and coaches. Gold medal winners: B. Sanderson-Golf, D. Lindsey-Golf, C. Henderson-Bocce, C. Brown-Bocce, T. Jones-Bocce, S. Thomas-Bocce, M. Loper-Bocce, E. Harmon-Bocce, R. Rogers-Shot Put & Running long jump, C. Mitchell- 100 m Race Walk, & L. McBride- Tennis Ball throw & 25m assisted walk. Silver Medal Winners: F. Manuel-Golf, S. Morris-Bocce, J. Harmon-Bocce, G. Mitchell- 100 m Race Walk, & C. Mitchell- Shot Put. Bronze medal winners: C. Boman- Shot Put & 100 m dash, D. Gardner- \$100 m Race Walk, & T. Wynn- Softball throw & 100 m walk. 4th place ribbon: G. Mitchell- Shot put. 6th place ribbon: D. Gardner-Softball throw.

Jun 17 Wilcox Foundation & Gallery Fashion with a cause at Chatom Community Center to benefit ECI. T. Wynn, T. Jones, D. Lindsey, and F. Manuel participated. Dresses came from Angela's Formalwear.

F. Manuel's Alabama painting was displayed in the Alabama State Capitol in Montgomery for several months. He was invited to attend a reception on June 15, 2017.

July 3 ECI had their Independence Day Celebration with Food, fun, and swimming!

July 11 ECI Annual Training

August 15 ADAP & Medicaid Waiver for ID/DD Community meeting the Washington County Department of Public Health

September 7 Caregiver Training to prevent Adult Abuse & Neglect in Alabama at the Washington County Health Department

September 22 Softball game The Arc of Clarke Co. VS ECI in Jackson.

October 6 Weater Caten's Memorial Service & Rose Garden Dedication

October 31 ECI's Halloween party with food, games, and music.

November 21 Thanksgiving Dinner at ECI

December 16 S. Morris received a medal in the Legendary Push-Pull Meet in Moss

Christmas Holidays Christmas is a time for sharing and ECI had benefited from several generous donations in December. BASF donated Christmas gifts to 7 of the individuals.

They have been a huge supporter of our programs for many years. We appreciate all of their hard work and dedication through the years!

The individuals enjoyed their Christmas lunch at Jake's. on December 11th. Vivian Smith has always been a supporter of our agency. Each year she provides a Christmas lunch and a gift for each individual. The individuals ended the celebration with the tradition of Christmas carols.

ECI's annual Christmas party was held December 19th. The individuals received personalized cups as Christmas gifts. Music, food and laughter was enjoyed by all. ECI closed for the holidays December 20, 2017-January 1, 2018 to return January 2, 2018.

