



## Council Celebrates 30 Years of Vision & Achievement

The North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities (NCCDD) kicked off a year-long celebration of its 30th anniversary at the annual Jack Hefner award luncheon in August. The NCCDD is celebrating three decades of vision and achievement, while committing itself to a new generation of leadership, systems change, and capacity building activities.

“This anniversary gives us an opportunity to reflect on past initiatives and strategically plan together for the future,” said Executive Director Holly Riddle. “Our accomplishments—shaping vision, leadership, services, and supports—have literally changed the landscape in the state and continue to urge that we keep pace with the best in the nation. We’ve made the benchmark of excellence those policies and practices that honor, support, and realize the strengths, aspirations, and contributions of people with disabilities and families to the life of the community, the state, and the nation.”

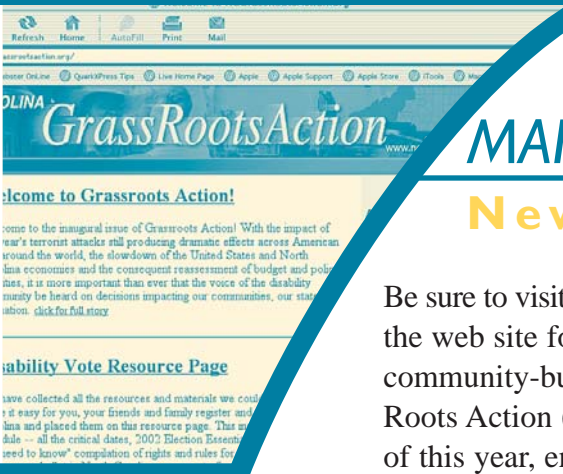
The NCCDD has led the state into “the era of community supports.” Its 30-50 grant awards each year and its advocacy efforts have, among many accomplishments: promoted personalized services and supports; assisted in crafting a major, state legislative plan for developmental disabilities; provided countless “state-of-the-art” keynote presentations and workshops; demonstrated approaches that enhance quality of life by involving communities, families, and friends; supported leadership development in the self-advocacy and parent movements; funded incisive policy analysis; introduced outcomes-based methods of measuring systems performance; and strengthened the participation of

people with disabilities and families in the development of local management entity business plans. Additionally, the Council is credited with such “firsts” in the state as:

- Partners in Policymaking
- Supported Employment
- “First in Families” family support
- The introduction of and extensive support for person-centered planning
- The Participant Involvement Fund
- A decade of criminal justice and developmental disabilities partnerships
- The first state plan on aging and developmental disabilities
- Advancing the self-determination movement
- “That All May Worship” grants to communities of faith
- Inclusive arts grants
- Micro-enterprise development

The NCCDD’s work is about partnership. Council members—60% of them people with disabilities and family members—join policymakers, organizations, and individual citizens in bringing forward new ideas. The Council acts as a catalyst, crystallizing a vision and providing funds to make that vision a reality. Each year, the NCCDD funds and manages 30-50 projects; its members and staff are a visible presence across the state.

Watch for the new “celebrations” logo in the newsletter and on our web site—[www.nc-ddc.org](http://www.nc-ddc.org).



# MAKING OUR VOICE HEARD

## New Medium for the Message

Be sure to visit [www.ncgrassrootsaction.org](http://www.ncgrassrootsaction.org), the web site for the NCCDD's newest community-building initiative. NC Grass Roots Action (NCGRA), formed in June of this year, encourages people with disabilities to get more involved in the workings of local, state, and national governance. The web site, which is under development, is one of many tools NCGRA plans to use to raise awareness about public process and why people with disabilities should engage in it.

The community of people with disabilities in North Carolina has been described as a "sleeping giant" of sorts. A large segment of the population is still relatively uninvolved when it comes to representing its own interests. There are good reasons for this, of course, among them the health concerns, transportation difficulties, and financial constraints that are often part and parcel of living with a disability. The community is also spread out across the state. Many people don't know about each other or about what's being done in communities outside their own, don't have a way to share knowledge and experience, and often feel powerless as a result.

In the coming year, the web site will connect the community with chat room and email features that will allow readers to communicate

with each other, tell their stories, and join in issue discussions. While the site presently promotes voter registration, absentee voting, and other basic elements of grass-roots action, offering helpful information and resource links, the future focus is decidedly larger than getting out the vote. Regional meetings and video conferencing across the state will bring people together to discuss common problems and agree on ways to approach them. Reports on government activities and legislation, issue updates, and community action stories will keep readers informed and encouraged to work together.

For more information, contact Karen Hamilton at the North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities in Raleigh at (919) 850-2833 or toll free at (800) 357-6916.





# DD COUNCIL AWARDS GRANTS

## New Medium for the Message

The North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities (NCCDD) announced the recipients of six grants in the areas of community inclusion, housing, the arts, and inclusive faith communities. The grants were awarded to Community Living-Wilmington; Housing Works, Inc. of Asheville and Raleigh; Even Exchange Dance Theater, Raleigh Ensemble Players Theatre Company, Inter-Faith Council for Social Service of Orange County; and the Community Integration Training, Inc. of Salisbury. These grants will establish four Olmstead Regional Technical Assistance Consortia in North Carolina, organize grass-roots advocacy efforts for supported housing, promote inclusive opportunities in the arts, and create inclusive and participatory opportunities for people with disabilities in faith communities.

The Council awarded a five-year, \$100,000-per-year grant to **Community Living Wilmington (CLW)** to develop four Regional Technical Assistance Consortia (RTAC) across the state. The Consortia will lend their support to those people who reside in institutions who wish to live in the community assisting implementation of the Olmstead decision in the state. With guidance and training from state and national experts, the CLW learning laboratories will be sources for information on promising practices related to person-centered planning, community living supports, community safeguards, and the values and practices of self-determination.

**Housing Works, Inc.** will organize grassroots advocacy for supported housing across North Carolina with its three-year grant from the DD Council (first year funding \$100,000). Working through 18-20, locally run “Open Doors” Coalitions of people with disabilities, families, advocates, developers, and community leaders,

Housing Works will organize advocacy and education campaigns, facilitate communications among the coalitions, and provide technical assistance. Housing Works will also provide local development assistance and work closely with state and federal agencies that control critical resources for supported housing.

Three organizations received “The Art of Relationship: Creativity, Community and the Human Spirit” project grants. The grant award for the first year of the three-year funding cycle is \$25,000 per project. The **Even Exchange Dance Theater** will concentrate on providing inclusive opportunities in artistic, creative, modern dance through a variety of activities. Even Exchange plans to seek out school children with developmental disabilities for inclusion in workshops and performance, involve dancers with developmental disabilities in company work, and provide inclusive classes for pre-school-age children with developmental disabilities. The **Raleigh Ensemble Players Theatre Company** will offer artists with disabilities a community in which to develop their artistic and creative voice; improve avenues of accessibility and communication between the company, the disability community and the community at large; develop innovative, inclusive, educational projects; and advance efforts to create an inclusive, professional theater. The **Community Integration Training, Inc.**’s Eastside Cultural Garden will create an inclusive, arts-based community resource center. The Center will be a unifying force for the community of East Charlotte, offering creative-expression opportunities, micro-enterprise development and creative marketing.

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### Grants Awarded

#### First-year funding:

**Community Inclusion/Olmstead**  
\$100,000

5-year project  
*Community Living-Wilmington*

**Housing**  
\$100,000

3-year project  
*Housing Works, Inc. of Asheville and Raleigh*

**The Arts**  
(3 awarded)

\$25,000 each  
3-year projects

*Even Exchange Dance Theater of Raleigh*

*Raleigh Ensemble Theatre Company*

*Community Integration Training, Inc. of Salisbury*

**Inclusive Faith Communities**  
\$65,000

3-year project  
*Inter-Faith Council for Social Service of Orange County*



## NEW & RETURNING MEMBERS

### Three first-term appointments

A number of North Carolinians have received first-term appointments and reappointment to the NCCDD. **Governor Mike Easley** has appointed:



**Ellen Perry** has been an effective advocate for people with disabilities and their families for more than 20 years, serving on numerous boards and task forces in and around her Orange County home of Carrboro. Ellen has a disability that allows her to bring firsthand knowledge of issues and challenges to the work of the Council.



**Rosemary Bernauer** is a tireless advocate for persons with disabilities. She has served as a board member of the Governor's Advocacy Council for Persons with Disabilities and as a project director for the Sandhills Family Support Network. Rosemary has a son with a developmental disability and is from Mt. Gilead, NC.



**David Horowitz, MD** is a Cary pediatrician who chairs the Mental Health Committee of the NC Pediatric Society. David brings a unique perspective to the Council as both a care provider and the parent of a 10-year-old daughter with a developmental disability.



In addition, Governor Mike Easley has reappointed:

**Susan "Nikki" Thompson**, from Raleigh, is a young woman whose disability has not kept her from an active community and family life. She is returning to the Council for her second term, having served with distinction in the past.



**Sadie B. Barbour** is an informed and active leader in activities promoting the mission of the Council. Sadie has two children with developmental disabilities, and she has significant hearing loss as well. She is from Clinton, NC, and was first nominated by the Council on Indian Affairs.

Governor Mike Easley has also appointed representatives from our two sister agencies, the State Protection and Advocacy Agency and the University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, and Services: Allison L. Bowen, Interim Director for the Governor's Advocacy Council for Persons with Disabilities; and J. Gregory Olley, Ph.D., Associate Director, Clinical Center for the Study of Development and Learning, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

## LARA PARKER HONORED BY DD COUNCIL

### 2002 Jack B. Hefner Award

In recognition of her many contributions to enhance the lives of people with disabilities, the North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities posthumously awarded Lara Jane Parker the 2002 Jack B. Hefner Award.

Accepting the award on her behalf at the August awards luncheon was her mother, Lura “Missy” Galloway Lohr, and her stepfather, Jacob Andrew Lohr.



The North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities established the Jack B. Hefner Award to recognize exemplary leadership in the disability advocacy community. The award is named for Jack B. Hefner, a Council member from 1982 until his death in 1994. He was a parent of a son with a developmental disability and a passionate advocate for people with developmental disabilities.

Parker was appointed to the North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities by Governor Jim Hunt on April 28, 1994. When appointed, she was the youngest member ever named to the body. At the time of her death, she was serving in her second term as the Council’s Vice-Chair and was also a member of the Disability Systems Change Committee. Always an ardent advocate, Parker served on numerous state and local committees, advancing issues of concern to people with disabilities.

Parker, who had cerebral palsy, was considered a pioneer in the self-determination movement. The way she lived her life made the principles of self-determination real for others. She asserted her right to live the life of her choice; insisted upon the authority to direct that life; and secured the supports she needed to be the person she wanted to be.



*Left to right: Ruth Hefner, Missy Lohr, Holly Riddle, Brice Parker Lohr (Lara’s sister), and Jake Lohr.*



## POSTER & POSTCARD SERIES

### Council Spotlights DD Issues

Through a new communications initiative, the NCCDD is spotlighting important issues for people with developmental disabilities and their families. The Council is creating and distributing a series of postcards and posters that highlight an issue, discuss related Council activities, and provide a call to action.

“As a Council, we are intent upon addressing the most pressing issues facing North Carolinians with developmental disabilities,” said Executive Director Holly Riddle. “We fund projects centered on community inclusion, self-determination, getting a real home and a real income, and reforming guardianship practices, to name a few, but we want to do more.”

“Through activities like the postcards and posters series, the Council wants to raise awareness of the issues as well as our approach to addressing them, said Riddle. “To succeed, we need policy makers, local area programs, people with disabilities, family members, government officials and other advocates committed to a shared agenda—one that ensures that people with developmental disabilities lead self-determined lives.”

The first postcard in the series addresses “real work and real income”. Through NCCDD funding, people with disabilities are getting assistance setting up their own businesses or micro-enterprises. These grants also provide training about micro-enterprises to disability professionals, the local business community, advocates, and people with developmental disabilities and their family members. In addition to providing funding, the Council is calling for systemic changes that will result in new policies and practices that secure a living wage and engage people and their communities in mutually beneficial ways.

The second postcard highlights guardianship reform. Traditionally, people in North Carolina with developmental disabilities haven’t had the option of such alternatives to full guardianship as limited guardianship or powers of attorney. NCCDD is funding Carolina Legal Assistance to develop and pilot a questionnaire that assists clerks of court in assessing the need for guardianship. The results can be used to inform the development of legal supports tailored to an individual’s needs. NCCDD is also calling for additional policy changes. People should retain or have rights restored whenever possible and receive the support necessary for full citizenship.

Currently, posters and postcards about micro-enterprises and guardianship reform are available. NCCDD will offer additional posters and postcards on support brokers and community supports in the near future. To order free copies of the postcards and posters, please complete the order form on page 7 and mail or fax it to the North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities, 1001 Navaho Dr., Suite GL-103, Raleigh, NC 27609, fax (919) 850-2895 or call the NCCDD at (919) 850-2833 or toll free at (800) 357-6916.

The Council is calling for systemic changes that will result in new approaches, policies and procedures for facilitating and promoting better employment opportunities for people with disabilities ...

# POSTCARD AND POSTER ORDER FORM

Qty.	Description
_____	Poster 1: Real Work, Real Income
_____	Poster 2: Guardianship Reform
_____	Postcard 1: Real Work, Real Income
_____	Postcard 2: Guardianship Reform

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Mail or fax this form to the  
 North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities  
 1001 Navaho Dr., Suite GL-103, Raleigh, NC 27609  
 fax (919) 850-2895 phone (919) 850-2833  
 or toll free at (800) 357-6916.



Poster #1



Poster #2



Postcard #1



Postcard #2

## PARTNERS IN POLICYMAKING PROGRAM UNDER STUDY

The Partners program has completed a decade of work with family members of children with disabilities, and individuals with disabilities. The most recent year of this decade has been focused on community organization efforts. The latest sessions were open to all former Partners graduates. Each graduate was encouraged to bring one other person to the sessions to develop the skills and knowledge for continued local community work. The program hosted the last session in this series in October in Greensboro.

Partners has reached a stage in its development where all agree that it is time to think carefully about where we want to be and what we need to do in the future.

With the encouragement and advice of the Partners Advisory Committee, Easter Seals, the DD Consortium and the NCCDD, we are working together to plan for the years ahead. The Council has hired a consultant, Kathie Snow, of Disability is Natural ([www.disabilityisnatural.com](http://www.disabilityisnatural.com)), to provide a national look at Partners, and to share with us in North Carolina the best practices that exist around the country. Based on this, the NC Council on Developmental Disabilities will release a Request for Applications. It is anticipated that a grant for the Partners program will be awarded by July 2003.

## NC Council on Developmental Disabilities

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## DD COUNCIL AWARDS GRANTS

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The **Inter-Faith Council for Social Services of Orange County** received a three-year grant for \$65,000 each year in the category of "Faith in Action: Building Inclusive Faith Communities." This project is designed to increase awareness in congregations across North Carolina about inclusive and participatory opportunities for persons with developmental disabilities and to support these efforts. It will also encourage communities and congregations to build upon the capacities, needs and gifts of all members, especially those with developmental disabilities.

The NC Council on Developmental Disabilities is part of a national network of organizations, authorized under the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act. The Council conducts and funds systems change, capacity building and advocacy activities that promote independence, productivity, integration, inclusion and self-determination for people with developmental disabilities and their families. There are over 140,000 North Carolinians affected by developmental disabilities.

This publication is produced by the North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities, established by the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (P.L. 106-402) to promote independence, contribution, self-determination, integration, and inclusion into the community for citizens with developmental disabilities.

The N.C. Department of Health & Human Services does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services.

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### Mark Ezzell

Chairman

### Holly Riddle, J.D., M.Ed.

Executive Director

## 2002 Jack B. Hefner Awards Luncheon

*... recognizing an individual who exemplifies leadership in the developmental disabilities community....*

