

# Save the Date!

THANK YOU  
for being a friend  
of Helping Hand

## A Message From the Director

October 1 / 10:00 am  
**Annual Family Picnic**

See enclosed invitation!

October 19 / 7:00 pm  
**Parent Network Night**

"Addressing Needs of Siblings of Children with Special Needs"

October 26 / 10:00 am  
**Children's Services Fall Fest**

November 30 / 7:00 pm  
**Parent Network Night**

"Toilet Training in the Early Years"

December 2 / 9:00 am  
**Annual Craft Fair**

December 14 / 5:30 pm  
**Children's Services Holiday Party**

December 8 / 11:00 am  
**Adult Services Holiday Party**

December 17 / 12:00 pm  
**Family Association Holiday Party**

*please mark your calendars early ...*

February 10 / 6:00 pm  
**Annual Dinner Dance**  
at the Chicago Cultural Center

For more event information,  
contact Keith Williams at  
708 352 3580 x246

Even though Helping Hand is a not-for-profit corporation, funding and finances are important to the organization. The truth is that our needed services cannot be delivered unless we have enough money to cover the cost of salaries, utilities, building costs, transportation and so on. While we do receive funding from public sources it is rarely enough to cover the full cost of providing a quality program. So we must also depend on the generosity of foundations, corporations, and individual donors to supplement our revenues.

In order to secure these generous donations, people must be familiar with Helping Hand and its mission. In other words, we must "market" ourselves so that we stand out from the competition. With this in mind it becomes clear that marketing and fund development must work hand in hand. Therefore, Helping Hand has been reorganized to include a new Marketing and Development Department. I am pleased to announce that this department will be directed by Elizabeth Kenney Augustine. Beth was raised in the LaGrange community, served on the Helping Hand Foundation Board, and has been instrumental in producing four different videos to assist with Helping Hand's previous public relations efforts. She brings energy, creativity, and fresh ideas along with her dedication to the Helping Hand mission. Her job is to guide the efforts of an equally creative and motivated staff consisting of Sue Tutt-Parsons, Keith Williams, and Amy Lynn. I hope that you will get the chance to meet this talented group of individuals and wish them well. If they are successful in their work, Helping Hand will be successful in achieving its financial goals so that it can live up to its promise of "service for life".

Dennis Trybus  
Executive Director



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# THE HAND PRINT

A Seasonal Newsletter for Friends of Helping Hand

## Good News!

FALL 2006  
VOLUME XI

### In This Issue:

One Year Since  
the Move to Beach St.



Ice Cream Social  
Was a Success



Back to School:  
We Welcome Our  
New Teachers



Free Parent Network  
Night Resumes

The Community Memorial Foundation has just announced that we are eligible for a \$10,000 (\$1 for \$1) Matching Grant in conjunction with our Annual Appeal. They are willing to match all money given to Helping Hand by new Annual Appeal donors, as well as increased amounts from those who have given before. In other words, if you donated \$25.00 last year and can increase that gift to \$50.00 this year, Community Memorial will match the \$25.00 increase.

This is great news! But we have a short time frame. This match expires in December! As many of you know, we usually begin our Annual Appeal right before Thanksgiving. The holidays are a time when many of us like to give, and we have experienced some wonderful generosity in the past because of donors like you. This year we need your donations just a little bit earlier in order to reap the benefits from this dollar for dollar match!

**Double Your Dollars  
with a match from the  
Community Memorial  
Foundation for our  
Annual Appeal!**

Inside this newsletter, you will find three donation slips. You can mail in one slip with your Annual Appeal contribution and then give the extras to your friends, neighbors, co-workers.... anyone who you would like to see invest in our mission. Remember that 100% of donations from new donors are eligible for this match, so, if you were ever thinking of asking someone to step up and become a Friend of Helping Hand – **NOW IS THE TIME!**

So, please, make your donation a little early this year, bump up the amount a bit, and spread the word among your friends. We appreciate your generosity!

**Look for the donation  
slips inside this issue!**





## What a Difference a Year Makes

by Amy Lynn

It's hard to believe that it's been a year since we expanded the work program for our adult clients. Although many were accustomed to coming to Helping Hand's main building in Countryside for both work and day program services, about 100 clients now look forward to spending at least half of their day working for Subcon Industries at the Beach St. location, about 2 miles away. The expansion of the work program was initially planned to create more space for the renovation of the Countryside

### Clients work at "The Hand Stand" lunch counter at Beach St.

building and to provide a brighter, more modernized work atmosphere for clients than the older space in the Countryside building. However, the positive results from the move to Beach St. have far exceeded these initial plans. For one thing, clients are being trained to work on more types of jobs than they had been at the Countryside location, creating more diversity in their daily work and allowing them to develop more skills for potential employment in the community down the road. There are also people from the typical community who work alongside our clients, providing them with a more accurate picture of a real world workplace. This expansion has also allowed us to streamline our resources -- there are now staff members whose role is to train clients on new jobs and help them become more productive on the jobs that they have already learned. Another exciting change has been adding our second "Hand Stand" lunch counter. Clients take orders, stock food and drinks and handle the cash transactions. In addition, we have doubled our Job Club offerings, also increasing the number of clients who choose to participate in these weekly work readiness

**"There's more work and I'm keeping busy before I start my job at Sephora. I like to work here."**

- Jane Boggiano

peer learning groups. Probably the most visible difference in the clients is the look on their faces when they get off the Helping Hand bus at the Beach St. site, arriving at their own workplace, a site differentiated from their day program by the five minute bus ride.



### Debbie's Story

by Joe Elzy, Employment Services

For the past few weeks, Debbie Folta has been working hard to learn how to **Clients, including Debbie, tie FHP mop heads** assemble and cut FHP mops. This task can be a difficult job for anyone. There's a lot of twisting, tying, measuring and cutting involved with little room for error. Debbie has shown remarkable patience and persistence. At first, she focused on tying the strings well, and trainers assisted her with the rest. She mastered tying and moved on to the more difficult task of cutting the strings. Debbie had rarely used scissors in her life. Unable to see where to cut, and afraid of making a mistake that would ruin the mop, Debbie used her well developed sense of touch to feel for the right parts. Debbie kept trying and overcame the challenges. Because of her hard work and dedication she is able to do every step on her own now!!

## Parent Network Night

Hosted by Helping Hand Children's Services for Parents of Children with Disabilities or Delays



free

### Improving Child and Adolescent Social Skills

Thursday, October 19  
7:00 - 8:30 pm

Presented by Katherine Kubal

### Please RSVP

Carol Boyke, 708-352-3580 x 383

by Monday, October 16

We hope to see you there!

## Friends Family Fun Ice Cream!

by Joyce Carlson

The Family Association Officers expected a nice afternoon event to socialize with other families in the Helping Hand Community, but were overwhelmed to find that 300 people attended this year's Ice Cream Social! "Fortunately," as Eileen St. Clair, president of the Family Association stated, "the scoopers had it down!" We didn't expect any less from Ron Paraday, the General Manager from Edy's



Ron Paraday, Edy's General Manager, and his crew / Betsy White (above)

Ice Cream, who volunteered to manage the event, with help from his crew of family members and the 300 scoops of ice cream, all donated from Edy's. Last year, Helping Hand client, Betsy White, suggested we contact her brother-in-law to help out with the Ice Cream Social. We had no idea how our relationship with Ron Paraday and Edy's would grow to the point of feeding ice cream to 300 people! We wish to extend our heartfelt thanks to Edy's Ice Cream for their ongoing support and generosity! We would also like to thank Helping Hand clients for baking the brownies, the Helping Hand Family Association for sponsoring and coordinating the event, staff for organizing games, family members for volunteering and Bill Bright, a Board Member, for contributing bowls, spoons, water and ice. The Family Association Officers invite all people with a passion for our mission to join and help promote quality of service for the clients, families and friends of Helping Hand.

## School News

by Yoli Cintron

Less than two years ago, we started



our school for autism with one student. Now we have 13 students in 3 classes! We have two new teachers to welcome aboard this fall. Kim Copenhaver has a masters degree in Special Education from UIC and is teaching in the youngest classroom. Claire Wilkin, who's teaching the 9-11 year olds, is a graduate of Marquette University and worked with the Wisconsin Early Autism Project. Natalie Murzynski continues as the veteran teacher in the 12-14 year old classroom. We extend a welcome to Kim and Claire and a thank you to all returning staff!

