



Legislative Breakfast to be held May 30th, 2008

The Southern Worcester County Arc, Inc. Center of Hope
The South Valley DMR Advisory Board, Life-Skills, Inc.

Alternatives Unlimited, Inc., and Rehabilitation Resources Inc.

Cordially invite the public to their
Annual Legislative Breakfast

Friday, May 30, 2008

8:30 a.m.



Featured Speaker:

**Dr. Jean Flatley-McGuire, Assistant Secretary,
Office of Disability Policy and Programs**

NOTE CHANGE:

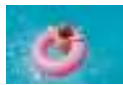
**Breakfast at Point Breeze
on Thompson Rd., Webster**

*We **MUST RSVP this year at (508) 764-4085 by May 26th.** All Advocates for People with Disabilities are urged to attend. Our Voices can be heard. The 30 Legislators from our area are invited, too. You are urged to encourage their attendance, as well as your neighbors and friends. Support Services for our families are *not* guaranteed. The public needs to hear from us to know what our concerns and needs are. This is an important year! Please join us!*

Donations accepted towards cost

Swim Night

On Thursday May 8, 2008 The Center of Hope will be hosting a camp swim night at the **Sturbridge Host Hotel** and Conference Center in Sturbridge. The swim night will be from 6-8. This night is designed for families to come and get information about camp. Representatives from the Center, DMR as well as Seven Hills will be available for questions. We will offer light refreshments for everyone. If you have any questions or concerns please call Monique Chapdelaine @508-764-4085.



**Don't forget your bathing
Suits.**

Job Club

The next Job Club meeting will meet on May 12th at Center of Hope Day Hab from 4:30 – 6:00. Bring \$5.00 to go to Coop's Scoops.

This group is designed as a support group for individuals who have community based employment. Many individuals do not get to see their friends as frequently once they find a job in the community and this evening gathering serves as a nice way to share information about work and time with friends.

Teen & Young Adult Prom May 18th

The Center of Hope Teen Prom is on May 18th. The Semi-Formal will be held at the Knights of Columbus, 487 Worcester Street in Southbridge from 4:00—8:00 pm. This event is for individuals from 13 - 25years old.

Look for your invitation in the mail, or call 508-764-4085 to reserve your space. Village Photo will be there to take professional photos. Proceeds will benefit CoH Special Olympics.



Need a Banner or Sign, then look no further. The Center of Hope can help you out. Call Carol Mahoney at 508-764-4805 or

cmahoney@thecenterofhope.org



Don't Forget to come have your car detailed at "Just the Details" by calling Brandy at 508-764-4085!

Highest Accreditation by CARF and Certification with Distinction from DMR



Southern Worcester County ARC, Inc. (Center of Hope) is pleased to announce that the agency has been awarded its first **Three-Year Accreditation** for its Day Habilitation programs by CARF International, an international accrediting organization.

This accreditation decision represents the highest level of accreditation that can be awarded to an organization and shows the organization's substantial conformance to the CARF standards. An organization receiving a Three Year Accreditation has put itself through a rigorous peer review process and has demonstrated to a team of surveyors during an on-site visit that its programs and services are of the highest quality, measurable, and accountable.

CARF is an independent, non-profit accrediting body whose mission is to promote the quality, value, and optimal outcomes of services through a consultive accreditation process that centers on enhancing the lives of the persons served. Founded in 1966 as the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities, and now known as CARF, the accrediting body establishes consumer-focused standards to help organizations measure and improve the quality of their programs and services.

SWCARC, Inc. is also pleased to announce that the agency has also received the highest certification possible by the Office of Quality Enhancement (OQE) of the Department of Mental Retardation, "**Two Years with Distinction**". Some of the conclusions that the survey team came to included the following: "A defining strength lay in the agency's commitment to improving the quality and variety of supports provided to individuals... The agency is commended for the variety of job options offered through its employment and community based day services, which enabled individuals to make satisfying choices about the work they performed... The agency is commended for having an overarching philosophy of personal involvement in people's lives and a positive presence in ways that go beyond the boundaries of work or day supports."

Special Olympics

Track and Field has begun practice at Westville Dam. Practice will run every Tuesday from 4-5p.m. until Summer Games. In order for families to plan ahead to attend, qualifiers will be held on May 3rd in Holyoke. The Home Town Games and awards and cookout will be held on June 10th at Westville Dam.

Special Olympics Fishing

Team Hook, Line, and Sinker



Call to join the Center of Hope's 2nd annual Special Olympics Fishing Team!

Practices will be held on Wednesdays from 3:00 pm - 4:30pm at Westville Dam starting Wednesday May 14th.

Transportation will be provided from programs to Westville Dam. **Transportation is not available for athletes after practice!! All athletes must have their own transportation arrangements home after every Wednesday practice.**

A fishing license is required for all athletes and we will assist athletes in obtaining their licenses if needed. Athletes may use their own fishing equipment; otherwise, fishing equipment will be available for use.

If you have any questions please feel free to call:

Ryan Thompson at (508)765-6611 or

Jessica Castro at (508)764-4085

Unified Softball

The Center of Hope will be holding tryouts for its softball teams in early May. Players with and without disabilities are encouraged to try



out. If you would like to join one of our teams call Monique Chapdelaine at 508-764-4085. Call for more information and tryout times!

COH Annual Meeting to be held

June 16th, 2008

The SWCARC Annual Meeting
will be held on

Monday, June 16th, 2008 at 6:00 p.m.

All families and interested persons are welcome to attend to hear how the Center of Hope met the goals of 2007 and learn the new goals of 2008.

Welcome to One North St. DMR & DTA

The Offices of the area Department of Mental Retardation and the Department of Transitional Assistance have moved in as tenants in the former Boniface Tool & Die Space at 1 North St. in our building. WELCOME!

THE 24TH ANNUAL HUMAN RIGHTS CONFERENCE

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

8:00am - 4:00pm

Early Bird Registration Discount Available!!
A Presentation of The Massachusetts

Department of Mental Retardation

In Partnership with

The Center for Business & Professional
Development at Holyoke Community College

At the DCU Center in Worcester

• Host •

Thomas C. Anzer, Director, DMR Office for Human Rights

Elin M. Howe, DMR Commissioner

Charles Carr Commissioner

Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission

JudyAnn Bigby, M.D. Secretary

Massachusetts Executive Office of Health
and Human Services

Call Martin Rachels at 1-800-328-3123 x 5006

or email to: Martin.Rachels@state.ma.us

SWCARC has brochures with more information—508-764-4085



Event Schedule 2008

Date	Event	Location	Time
May 18	Teen & Young Adult Prom	Knights of Columbus,	4 – 8 p.m.
June 8	Family Festival	Hyland Orchard, Sturbridge	12-6 p.m.
July 20	4th Annual Poker Run	Center of Hope/ Knights of Co-	9:00 a.m.
August 20	Hope's Swing Golf	Cohasset Country Club, Southbridge	8:00 a.m.
September 19	Fall Dinner Dance	Knights of Columbus,	6:30-9:30
October 24	Halloween Dinner Dance	VFW, Southbridge	6:30-9:30
October 26	Halloween Buffet & Dance	K of C Oxford	1:00 – 4:00
November 14	8th Annual Talents and	Periwinkles, Oxford	5:00 p.m.
November 21	Thanksgiving Dinner Dance	VFW, Southbridge	6:30-9:30
November 22	Running for Hope	Southbridge Common	9:00 a.m.
December 19	Holiday Party Dinner Dance	COH Day Habilitation,	6:30-9:30

Southern Worcester County ARC, Inc.
P. O. Box 66
Southbridge, MA 01550

Nonprofit
US Postage Paid
Permit No. 20
Southbridge, MA 01550

Family Festival at Hyland's

**June 8th, 2008
12:00-6:00p.m.
Hyland's Orchard and Brewery,
Arnold Road, Sturbridge**

Come spend the day with family, friends, your community and us as we enjoy good food, games, brewery tours, wagon rides and live music from area bands. This year "Weight of Gravity" will play for us again, and "Jabooda" will join us. If you know a band who'd like to play please let Marty Currie know at 508-764-4085.

Poker Run



Looking forward to our Fourth Annual Poker Run on Sunday, July 20, 2008
For information or to sponsor this event please call (508)764-4085

Center of Hope Golf Tournament

The Center of Hope is proud to announce our
2nd Golf Tournament

**Wednesday, August 20th, 2008 at 8:00 am
Cohasse Country Club Southbridge, MA**

If you are interested in joining the Golf committee, or to play that day please contact Marie Barse at 508-764-4085 or mbarse@thecenterofhope.org



There are also many sponsorship opportunities available for this event.

Learn more at www.thecenterofhope.org