



# THE SPARKLER

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May 2009

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## A Club Growing Stronger!!

SPARC received our first private foundation grant and we are able to welcome Michelle Burchett and Michelle Barbieri as new staff on the SPARC team. Monica, Michelle, Michelle, Sunny and Anne with our volunteers Brian, Mary and Cathy along with all the DCW's make the SPARC club house truly THE BEST! We're looking forward to a terrific year together!!!

SPARC members at Kyle's luncheon



## CRS Award for Jeff Watkins

Our friend Jeff surrounded by his many friends at Therapeutic Recreation this summer



Jeff Watkins was honored by his colleagues from Community Recreation Services at the Annual Adult Volunteers Award Ceremony April 25, 2009

Donna spoke to the recipients about the valuable services volunteers provide for non-profits. She noted Jeff's years of service as "one of the greatest gifts" in our county. Jeff's family, Monica, along with Philip, and Phyllis Wilcox were all in attendance at the breakfast award ceremony. Jeff's mom accepted the award in his name.

Therapeutic Recreation has also named their Annual Volunteer Award in memory Jeff.



## Get Ready for the SPARC PICNIC

The SPARC picnic is set!

JUNE 28, 2009 at Burke Lake Park, Shelter A. The event begins at 1PM and finishes up around 4PM.

Come join the SPARC team as they cook up a great hotdog bbq for family and friends.

We hope to see all our supporters at Burke Lake so our club members can extend our thanks and appreciation for all you do to keep our club growing.

Visit DIRECTIONS visit Burke Lake Park website or call (703) 323-6600

## Summer Schedule....

Beginning June 18th– Sep 4th friends can find the SPARC club at Tyson's Mall in the Community Room (and all over the mall!) on Tuesdays. We will be at the Reston-Herndon Senior Center on Thursdays and Fridays 1850 Cameron Glen Drive, Reston, VA 20190. We return to Southgate Community Center Sep 8th.

## Cheesecake Fundraisers—Place Your Orders

Marylou Cotnoir, (club member, Ryan's mom) is the Virginia representative for Jubilations Cheesecakes.

Marylou's new business venture was created to help organizations like SPARC with fundraising. We are looking for groups who would like to help fundraise for SPARC like churches, women's leagues, clubs, and corporate sponsors. Marylou will provide the support— we provide the friends!!

Remember, summer time is a busy time for parties with friends and cheesecakes are always a treat!! Please contact SPARC if you know of a group who would like to order cheesecakes and help SPARC too!!

## Our Distinguished Colleague...Monica

Our own Monica Benteler, Director of Programs, was honored with The Distinguished Colleague Award from our Fairfax County partners, the Department of Community Recreation Services.

Monica was recognized by our friends at Therapeutic Recreation and other agency employees at a ceremony on May 15th at the Mott Center.

Monica works tirelessly with club members developing and facilitating the dynamic program SPARC offers in our club!

We think Monica deserves an award everyday!!



## MetroAccess Policy Changes

MetroAccess, our public transportation service, is announcing some new policy changes.

MetroAccess is offering an “Easy Pay” system. Customers are able to set up an account with a credit or debit card and pre-pay for trips. Call MetroAccess to set this up or visit their website to see instructions.

Another policy change in effect May 1st is the NoShow/Late Cancellation Policy. In accordance with the new policy, service will be suspended for customers who book trips and then repeatedly fail to board the vehicle, and/or cancel trips less than two hours before the pick-up window. A letter was set to each customer to explain the new policy. If you have questions, be sure to speak to a customer service representative!

## Patriots Cup Race...

Despite the rainy weather the Arc of Northern Virginia Patriots Cup Race was a great success! Many friends and family members along with community partners gathered at GMU to volunteer or run in the race. Marylou, Donna, Michelle Burchett, Adam were some SPARC members in attendance. Congrats Marylou for your stellar race results in your category!! Thanks to all who participated!

## Be Sure to Check Out SPARC Notecards And Our New Calendar !

SPARC continues our entrepreneurial projects designing unique notecards. This fall the SPARC members will have a fantastic calendar for sale as well. Be sure to keep an eye out for this masterpiece!

## Member News...

Jonathan has a new job at Service Source 3 days each week! He is also “the voice of The Arc of NoVa”!

Justin will work for TR this summer and attend Easter Seals camp!

Hazem will volunteer at TR!

Pierre will attend Easter Seals camp!

Ryan will attend Camp Courageous!

Kyle hosted a SPARC luncheon!

Adam is volunteering at Our Daily Bread!

SPARC received Kellar grants to purchase two new laptops in support of our photography business ventures!

## A New CD is Planned!

Club members are busy with our Music Director Sunny Trippel working on a CD that will feature “Camp Songs”. SPARC club members will be playing instruments in this new project! We’re sure to “go platinum” on this one!

## Meet Club Member Rachael.....

Each issue of The Sparkler a name is drawn of a club member to interview. This round goes to Rachael ! Rachael was interviewed by her fellow club members.



Arif: Tell us some things you like to do?

Rachael: I like going to Starbucks, the movies, mall, hanging out with friends and I like going outside.

Justin: On the days you don't go to SPARC what do you like to do?

Rachael: I like to hang out with my dad go to work with my dad.

Pierre: What stuff do you like to do at SPARC?

Rachael: I like the Wii and I like cooking.

Justin: When you go to work with your dad, what do you do?

Rachael: Say hi and greet people. Sometimes I can help the receptionist

Do you get paid – no!

Pierre: What is your favorite food?

Rachael: Italian. I like manicotti !

Monica: Cheese or meat?

Rachael: Cheese!

Pierre: How did you find out about SPARC?

Rachael: From friends that came to SPARC

Monica: Have you ever been on a cool trip with your mom like Tokyo?

Rachael: Los Angeles was cool. We went to brunch at a cool place and it was fun!

Monica: How was your plane ride and your hotel? Was it accessible or easy for you?

Rachael: Not really. It was hard for me to sit in the airplane.

## Meet Pamela...Elise's Teammate at SPARC !!!



Ryan: What do you do for Elise?

Pamela: I go to Elise house and help her get out of bed and ready for the day. After breakfast we pack up lunches and get MetroAccess to go to SPARC. On the days we don't go to SPARC if we stay home, I help Elise make phone calls to her friends, watch movies, listen to music and make lunch together.

Ryan: How do you feel about your job?

Pamela: It's a wonderful job! You feel at the end of your day that your day is well spent. You get to be with a person you like very much and assist them in all the things they like to do.

Hazem: Is Elise a good boss?

Pamela: Yes! Elise is a good person and she makes me laugh. We like working together.

Cathy: Do you help Elise a lot?

Yes. I help Elise with anything she asks me to help her with plus, I help her with eating her meals, dressing and traveling on MetroAccess and all the things we do at SPARC.

Monica/Pierre: What country do you come from ?

Pamela: Ghana.

## Meet Pamela.....

Kyle: Are you married?

Pamela: Yes, for two years

Kyle: Do you have children?

Pamela: Yes, my son. He just turned one year old.

Monica/Hazem: Have you taken your son back to visit relatives in Ghana?

Pamela: Not yet. My mom is dying for me to bring him back for a visit. But, now we are planning for my mom to come here for a visit.

Hazem: Who babysits your son when you work with Elise?

Pamela: I take him to a babysitter.

Ryan: Have you only lived in Virginia?

Pamela: No, Maryland for a little while.

Monica: Why did you move to the United States?

Pamela: I visited several times and my last visit I de-

ecided to move to the US (I had met my husband by then too – big smiles from everyone!)

Kyle/Cleo: How long is a flight to Ghana?

Pamela: 10 hrs -16 hrs depending on what kind of flight

Ryan: When did you begin working for Elise?

Pamela: Feb 23, was my first day working for Elise.

Pierre: What is your best experience with Elise?

Pamela: Laughing! Elise has a great sense of humor and when she gets giggling it cracks me up. She loves to laugh!

**THE SPARC CLUB HOPES TO SEE ALL  
OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS AT OUR**

**PICNIC AT BURKE LAKE**

**WE WANT TO SAY THANK YOU TO ALL  
OUR SUPPORTERS!!**

**HAVE A WONDERFUL SUMMER.....**