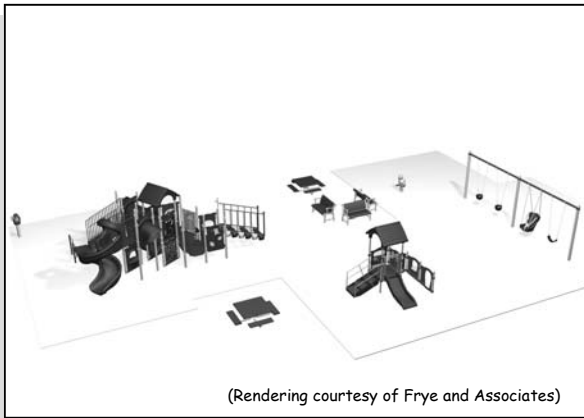


DCEC BUZZ

Beaver Playground Renovation Awaits Funding

The playground at the Beaver Center is in need of serious renovation, both the playground equipment and the surfacing tiles need to be replaced. The surfacing tiles, which help prevent injuries from falling, have begun to warp with age. The playground equipment was installed when the Beaver Center served older clients, and is not age-appropriate for the current clients. In addition to not



(Rendering courtesy of Frye and Associates)

This picture shows the potential lay-out for the new playground, looking to the south from the building.

ciates, have designed a new playground that is tailored to the needs of the current clients.

New Stuff

The proposed playground will have: "A number of tunnels, toddler friendly play-panels and easier-to-climb stairs. There will

even be a special structure just for the one and two-year-olds. That structure is designed on their level." says Jenny Schreck, "We will have four more swings, and it will be a much safer playground. It is a lot more accessible for our age-group. A lot can be accessed from the ground level. It will have steering wheels and bubble panels and lots of things that smaller children enjoy."

The cost of the new playground will be approximately \$72,000, most of

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is more accessible to the children, and conforms to the newer, more stringent safety regulations. The age of the equipment and the condition of the surfacing both were areas of concern during the Beaver Center's last licensing inspection, and the playground remains open temporarily, on the condition that a renovation is actively pursued.

Action

A task-force headed by DCEC Assistant Administrator Brian Fett and Get-Along-Gang Lead Teacher Jenny Schreck, in collaboration with playground-design firm Frye and Asso-



Photo by Tina Goff

The warped surfacing tiles.

being age-appropriate, the equipment is old, and needs to be replaced with modern playground equipment that

Day Care for
Exceptional Children
Volume 1, Issue 8

Editor: Karl Schmidt

May/June, 2003

Current Board

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 - *Roof Repair at Beaver
 - *Beaver Playground
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 - *Fundraising
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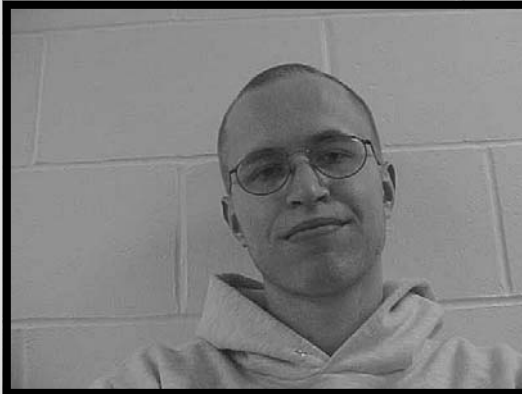
RR Lead Teacher, Karl Schmidt, departs DCEC

To the Parents, Clients and Staff of Day Care for Exceptional Children,

I regret to say that this summer will be my last with the Day Care, and that August 15th will be my last day. I will be moving to Leipzig, Germany to tutor English.

Travel has always been important to me, and I feel it is especially important as recent world-events have resulted in fewer and fewer Americans traveling abroad. I think that it is important for people in other countries to see Americans as faces, and not just in headlines.

I will deeply miss my time with the children and staff at the Day Care, and I have faith that the program will continue to flourish. Julie Coltrain, who will take my place as Rainbow-Room Lead Teacher, has



more than enough experience; in fact I worked under her on my first day at DCEC.

I take with me many fond memories, and positive experiences. I cannot express how much this job has changed me and helped me to grow. I am very grateful for the opportunity to work here, and I sincerely doubt that I will ever find another

job that is as enjoyable and fulfilling as this one.

I wish everyone the best, and know that the program will continue to thrive.

Cheers.

Karl Schmidt



Congratulations

Julie Coltrain on the birth of a baby girl!!!

Brian Fett on the adoption of a baby boy!!!!

Room to Room with: The (New) Ocean Room

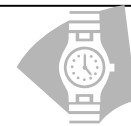
The Ocean Room will be getting a small face lift in the upcoming summer months. The room that has been traditionally occupied by the Social Living Group will now be taken over for the summer by a group of Super Stars. There will be about thirteen 9-14 year olds in the room.

Group leader Stephanie Willis states that she is excited for the move and the chance to work with the group. Upon a visit to the room this summer, one can expect to see many new small-group activities allowing clients to constructively work with many

of their peers. They will also be doing a lot of goal-oriented work focusing both on individual and group goals.

Some field trips they are planning include swimming at the CHC Pool, making a trip to the mall, and going to the zoo. The group will be implementing a new behavior point system where clients are given a certain amount of points in a week represented by scoops of ice cream. If they behave well, they keep all of their scoops and receive a reward at the end of the week. The group also plans to enter a

team in the Woodland Baseball League and hopes to be successful in the upcoming tournament. The Super Stars are excited about the chance to be active in a larger space and are looking forward to a great summer!



Schedule Card Due Dates

<u>Cards are due:</u>		<u>Dates:</u>
5/27	for	6/2-6/13
6/9	for	6/16-6/27
6/23	for	6/30-7/11

Staff Focus: Donna Sanford

Hi, my name is Donna Sanford and I am the Food Director for both the Beaver and Woodland centers. I was born in 1964 in Chicago, Illinois and grew up there. My family then moved to Rice Lake, Wisconsin while I was still pretty young and I lived there for about twenty years.

I graduated from Hayward High-School and went on to get an associate nursing degree from UWS in Superior, Wisconsin. I am also a certified beautician.

I have one brother, a mother and father, a daughter and two grandsons: Michael age six, and Jonathan who is eight months old. Prior to working at



DCEC, I owned my own business in Wisconsin which was a group-home for the mentally challenged.

My hobbies are gardening, cooking and reading. I am also a family person and I love spending time with my

grandkids! The thing I like most about this job is being able to cook for the kids, because they are the most important part of my job!



News Briefs

Presidential Volunteering Awards

Two DCEC clients have been honored for extraordinary volunteering. **Drew F.** received the Silver Presidential Award for more than 50 hours, and **Porsha K.** received the Gold Award for more than 500 hours of volunteering.

DCEC Garage Sale

The DCEC garage sale on 4/26/03 raised **\$987.05**. The money will be used to purchase toys and equip-

ment for both centers. Thank-you again to everyone who helped out.

New Group Leaders for Summer

The Woodland Center has hired five new Group Leaders for the summer.

Kristin Luncsford is the Group Leader of the Desert Room, **Stephanie Willis** is the Group Leader of the Ocean Room, **Shanna Anderson** returns as Group Leader of the Jungle Room, **Nashina Morrison** returns as Group Leader of

the Caterpillar Room, and **Julie Coltrain** will return as Group Leader of the Ladybug room after she comes back from Maternity Leave. Julie will become the new Rainbow Room Lead Teacher after **Karl Schmidt** leaves (see related story on page 2).

Licensing Inspections Passed

The Woodland Center successfully passed its annual licensing inspection by the State.

What to Watch For...

May

May 22 Board Meeting 7 pm Woodland

May 26 Memorial Day (Observed)
-DCEC CLOSED-

May 30 Memorial Day (Traditional)

June

June 2-3 Training Days for Staff

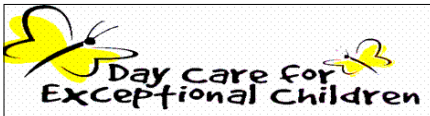
June 3 **DMPS Last day of School** for Elementary and Middle Schools, Early Dismissal.

Johnston Last day of School
Johnston Early Dismissal

June 4 **DMPS Last Day of School** for High School

June 15 Father's Day

June 26 Board Meeting 7 pm Woodland



Woodland Center
 641 24th Street
 Des Moines, IA 50312
 Ph: 280-5332
 Fax: 280-5446

Beaver Center
 2217 Beaver
 Des Moines, IA 50310
 Ph: 274-2831
 Fax: 274-3178

TO PROVIDE DAY CARE SERVICES TO PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY CHALLENGED CHILDREN IN ORDER FOR THEM TO REMAIN IN THE FAMILY/HOME SETTING.



Beaver Playground, Continued

(Continued from Page 1)

which goes for the surfacing. Due to the age of the clients, neither sand nor wood-chips may be used for surfacing. Instead, the playground will have a poured rubber surface that DCEC director James Cahill says "



Jesse B. plays with the steering-wheel on the present playground.

Will make you feel like Tigger."

In spite of a general down-turn in the economy, and funding uncertainties at the state and county level, progress is be-

ing made in fundraising. Close to \$4,000 has been raised so far specifically for the playground, and the Fundraising Committee has several projects in the works.

How You can Help

The Fundraising Committee, composed of Parents, Staff, and Volunteers; will be looking for help with its upcoming projects. The committee is looking into a "rubber turtle race" event in a river or swimming-pool, which will require many volunteers. The Day Care is also accepting donations, which are tax deductible.

"We are very excited to get a new playground that all of our children can enjoy." says Jenny Schreck, "It will be much more fun to play outside when the kids can use equipment that



Brandon G. looks out the window at the playground.

is their size." "The kids love to play outside and climb and run and swing, it is much more fun (to be outside) for children and staff." continues Jenny Schreck.

If funding can be secured, the new playground is tentatively scheduled to be in place by Memorial Day Weekend, 2004.