



**"The People Company"**

Serving Persons with Special Needs Since 1998

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### From the Director's Desk ~

*In the heart of the holiday season, I would like to take the time to thank all the employees for their efforts to make a difference in the life of the people we support. They truly are the back bone of the company.*

*AmeriServe is "The People Company" and is made up of people who focus on the things in life that really matter. All the people that work with us and live with us really matter.*

*All of us at AmeriServe would like to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas.*

**Tom Hoff**

# The Connector

*Choice ~ Respect ~ Participation ~ Presence*

Volume I, Issue VIII-IA December 2005

## AmeriServe International, Inc.

Making life better tomorrow than it was yesterday because of what is done today.

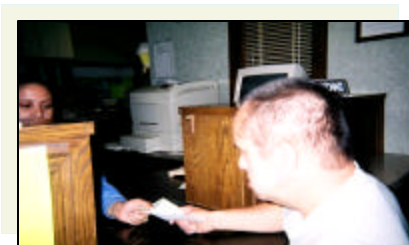
### Behaviors, Choices and Role Models

Many behaviors we view as challenging are nothing more than a logical reaction to an illogical life. People with challenging behavior often have minimal control over where they live, with whom they live, what they do for a living, what they have for dinner, and so on. Simply helping people who depend on others for support to experience life firsthand and to participate in the things most people take for granted, can reduce challenging behavior tremendously.

True choice does not exist unless it is informed choice. True choice cannot exist unless there is a basis for that choice in experience and/or knowledge. However, simply telling people of the variety of activities, jobs,

entertainment options, and other life choices available to them is usually not sufficient. Many people must repeatedly see, touch, feel and participate in a wide variety of experiences in order to truly have informed choice.

We are all influenced by the people with whom we live, work, eat, play, etc. Helping people improve their behavior is as much about inspiring them as it is about instructing and rewarding them. If the people who provide support and relationships in a person's life are not good examples, then it only makes sense for the individual to set his sights low. If, on the other hand, the person is



included with others at home, at work, and in the community who inspire them to create options and serve as good role models, they will set their sights higher.

Daily the employees and consumers who participate in our Community Connections Planning Centre inspire each other to create new options. In doing so, they not only create options for themselves but for the

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## What We Do

### Home and Community Based Services (HCBS)

Habilitation, Respite, Consumer Directed Attendant Care, Group homes

### Day Treatment Adult Day Habilitation and Community Integration Services

### Residential Support Supported Community Living, Specialized Living Arrangements

## Tax Changes for 2005 and 2006 Highlights

As the end of the year approaches and we celebrate the holidays, we put tax information on the back burner for another day. But here are a few of the general changes in federal income taxes for 2005 and 2006. Retain this list for your year end information and keep your mind focused on the holidays.

**The new Social Security base wage** is \$94,200 for 2006. After reaching the base, FICA is no longer deducted from your wage but Medicare is still withheld from your wages.

**The 2006 standard mileage rates** for the use of a car (vans, pickups or panel trucks) change as follows:

- 44.5 cents per mile for business miles driven;
- 18 cents per mile driven for medical or moving purposes; and

14 cents per mile driven in service of charitable organizations, other than activities related to Hurricane Katrina relief.

The business mileage rate was 48.5 cents for the last 4 months of 2005 because of the sharp increase in fuel prices.



**Katrina related charitable miles** have special rates. For the months of September through December 2005, the special rates are 34 cents for deductions and 48.5 cents for reimbursements. For 2006 the special rates are 32 cents for deductions and 44.5 cents for reimbursements.

**The IRS has announced a simpler procedure for a 6-month extension for most taxpayers in 2006.** Beginning January 1, 2006 most individuals and businesses will be able to request a full 6-month tax

filing extension, without a reason or even a signature. Of course, a tax-filing extension does not extend the tax-payment deadline. Form 4868 is the single IRS form needed for a 6-month extension for individuals and form 7004 for business taxpayers to file the 6-month extension.

### “IRS warns of e-Mail scam about tax refunds”

Bogus e-mails have hit the internet. The sender of this bogus e-mail is [tax-refunds@irs.gov](mailto:tax-refunds@irs.gov), and it announces that the recipient is eligible to receive a tax refund for a given amount. The e-mail has attachments to access a form for the tax refund. Do not open the attachment, the form requests personal and financial information. Do not open the form; it may contain malicious code that will infect your computer. If you are unsure of an e-mail from the IRS, contact them at 1-800-829-1040.

## Support Options

1. In-home Support—training to increase self-help, socialization, and adaptive skills within the home and community.
2. Day Habilitation— specialized sensory-motor, cognitive, communicative, social interaction and behavioral support.
3. Residential— designed to maximize consumer successes through the use of habilitative therapies, special developmental skills, participative enhancement, and sensory-motor development in the group home or specialized living setting.

**Call for more information today!**

**AmeriServe International, Inc.**

**712-322-0272**

**To read more and obtain additional details** for the information above please contact the IRS at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov).

## AmeriServe International Planning Centre Seeks Accreditation by CARF

AmeriServe International Day Habilitation services (The Planning Centre) was recently reviewed by CARF (Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities). The review was requested by AmeriServe International to ensure we have the processes and practices in place to support the best possible outcome for those we serve. CARF accredits rehabilitation and human services providers throughout the U.S., to Canada and Europe.

Accreditation means the company has passed an in-depth review of its services and has demonstrated that we meet internationally recognized standards and that we have made a

commitment to continually enhance the quality of services and programs with a clear focus on the satisfaction of the persons served. CARF standards serve as a qualified endorsement that our services conform to nationally and internationally recognized service standards and are focused on delivering the most favorable results.

The comments from the review team at the exit were very positive. They indicated that the company was very well organized to produce quality results. They noted that AmeriServe International is clearly driven by its' philosophy and that this philosophy is driven deep into the company from the leadership to the direct support workers. Our staff training and development were

considered exemplary. We were commended for targeting underserved and difficult to serve individuals.

We will not know the official outcome until the report is reviewed by the Accreditation Committee at the CARF national offices. We expect positive results in about 6-8 weeks.

We wish to thank all of our partners in this effort, our employees, the staff and professionals at the State Resource Centers, the people we serve and their families and advocates. We willingly share credit with those who have worked with us to develop "the People Company".

### Behaviors, Choices and Role Models cont.

community as well. This is the AmeriServe International way and truly what makes us "The People Company."



### Making a Difference



AmeriServe International, Inc. carefully selects all personnel to ensure that they possess beliefs, experiences, skills, and knowledge that will assist persons with special needs in exercising a quality of life of their choice. If you or someone you know is interested in doing the right things, in the right way, for the right reasons, at the right times, we are looking for the right people.

Please call **712-322-0272** to find out how you can make a difference.



**Season's Greetings from our Staff to you,  
and wishing you and your family  
a safe and happy holidays!**





## AmeriServe International, Inc.

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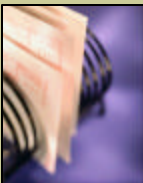
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Training provided by the  
American Institute of Management Inc.