



"The People Company"

Serving Persons with Special Needs Since 1998

# The Connector

*Choice ~ Respect ~ Participation ~ Presence*

July 2008

## In this Issue:

Skills- Incentive or Reward  
pg 1, 2

Dean's Blog  
pg 2

Award Recognition  
pg 2

Sandi's Resource Corner  
pg 3

Craft Corner  
pg 3



*From the Program Director's Desk ~*

### *Star Spangled Summer*

*This is one of the best times of year...a time that reminds me of swimming in the lake, barbecues and fireworks in the Adirondacks. What does this time of year make you think about?*

*Like fireworks at the*

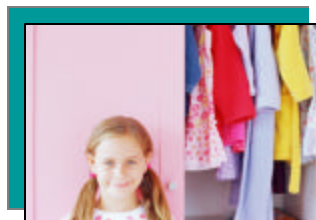
*Continued on Page 3*

## AmeriServe International, Inc.

### Skills - Incentive or Reward

June was a month filled with many accomplishments by the clients and employees at AmeriServe. Most notable, for me, was the time I spent in the adult and after school programs coordinating activities on social relationships, healthy eating, and building self-esteem. It was exciting to watch every individual participate and learn about some of the key elements of developing a worthwhile and healthy lifestyle. Also, I was extremely proud of the staff members who took each activity to the next level and began including the topics into the daily routine.

Another important event of June was a conversation I had with a parent about the difference between an incentive and a reward. An incentive is any factor that



provides a motive for a particular course of action. A simple example is I wash my clothes so that I have clean clothes to wear to work. A reward on the other hand is something given to you as a token of appreciation or acknowledgement for an accomplishment. The primary difference is that an incentive is earned naturally without approval from others by completing an action, and a reward is given in addition to the incentive.

I understand that rewards are at times

appropriate and are very good for reinforcing the new skills a person may be learning, but I would recommend that you focus on teaching incentives. Incentives will build self-esteem, confidence, and independence from reliance on outside approval or motivation. When you are teaching someone to clean their room, for example, you do not want them to become dependent on being rewarded with a new toy, special activity, or money. You want them to experience the incentives of enjoying a clean room, having a relaxing space, and

[Continued on Page 2](#)

## What We Do

<p><b>Home and Community Based Services (HCBS)</b></p> <p>Habilitation, Respite, Attendant Care, In-home Supports</p>	<p><b>Day Treatment</b></p> <p>Adult and Child Day Treatment, After School and Summer Programs</p>	<p><b>Residential Support</b></p> <p>Supported Community Living, Specialized Living Arrangements</p>	<p><b>Family Resource Coordination</b></p> <p>Children with Traumatic Brain Injury, Spinal Cord Injury, and other Special Health Care Needs</p>
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## Dean's Blog

**A**meriServe International Inc. developed a resource center in Wickenburg Arizona in October 2005 that could accommodate a teaching and learning environment for persons with developmental disabilities. We commonly call this center of learning the Planning Center.

The most widely used area of the center is the program known as "The Day Program". The program is a facility that incorporates areas of teaching where persons can transition into easily and begin to acquire or reestablish the desired interests and skills needed in their lives. There are many social or individualized areas of personal interest that can be utilized for growth. Some examples of growth are the need to feel self worth or the importance of participation. The program provides persons the opportunity to be recognized as a significant participant by creating their own path of interactive learning,

working to accomplish a feeling of self worth, and to become involved within their community.

One important area facilitated by the program is the creation and development of goals established by the individual, family, and his or her teaching team. These goals are developed SMART (specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, and tangible). This approach to goal acquisition is important to the point where persons with developmental disabilities acquire the accolade by mastering the goal. The program offers people direct line support and constant involvement creating a fun and exciting environment for teaching and learning. This process maintains a steady flow of knowledge from one teaching step to another until the student feels comfortable with their outcome.

Our team of Life Skills Instructor's and Person Centered Planners promote integrity and experience to facilitate the teaching needs for persons requiring growth by

building the necessary skills important to their social needs. AmeriServe's mission is "making personal growth a way of life" and we extend ourselves as proactive supporters to ensure valuable service is instilled for persons with developmental disabilities, and are made readily available and are always consistent.

For inquiries related to this article, please feel free to contact me at the Planning Center Monday through Friday, as I would be happy to answer any of your questions.

### ***Award Recognition:***

AmeriServe International Inc. would like to recognize Randy Coxwell for achieving a 100 percentile of goal acquisition for the month of May. Randy is very involved in his program and enjoys the rewards of his participation and effort.

### ***Congratulations Randy and a job well done!***

#### ***Dean Anast***

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## Skills - Incentive or Reward cont'd

feeling great about the result produced by their hard work and efforts.

Something I have learned about myself, because of that conversation, is that I do a good job of utilizing the natural incentives to help encourage people to work towards their goals. One thing I need to improve upon though is using and teaching the meaning of incentives, rather than rewards, to the people I support. In planning to

do a better job of this I have decided to make a list. The first column is the action that must be completed and the second column is the incentives earned for completing that action, which there may be more than one. The goal is to decrease the need to earn rewards for daily activities, and increase the incentives earned and realized for completing them. I encourage you to try the same.



## From the Program Director's Desk cont'd

fourth of July, things are really popping around here! The adult, summer and in-home programs are staying busy and cool during this wicked hot time of year. The teams in each program have worked really hard to ensure that our clients are busy, staying cool, and learning while having FUN! Thank you, thank you, thank you! Wahootie!!!!

In the office, team members are

working together to guarantee the best service available that focus on learning and having fun! We have added a new meeting room to our office setting and are looking to add a new service to our menu in the next month...

Are you curious? You will have to check out next month's newsletter

to find out.....

Happy 4th and Happy July 2008.  
Stay cool if you can.

**Michelle Shriver**

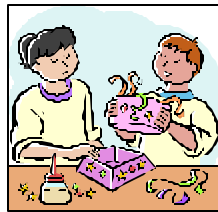


### Sandi's Resource Corner



Many families have attempted to take their loved one to a dentist only to be turned away as the dentist is not able to serve that person. So many parents/caretakers have asked, "Where can I take my child/adult to a dentist that accepts people with developmental disabilities"? Fortunately, there are many dentists out there. It is just knowing who they are.

Lists include Low Cost Dental Clinics in Maricopa County serving Children and Adults, Dentists who use IV Sedation, many individual Dental Offices and Periodontists who serve children and adults with developmental disabilities. I will be more than happy to send you this packet of lists so your loved one can be well cared for. You may email me at [sdean@ameriserveintl.com](mailto:sdean@ameriserveintl.com) to request a dental packet or call me at 623 584-3408.



### Craft Corner



#### The Colorful Cover Up Notebook

School is right around the corner starting on August 11th. This craft will get us ready for the anticipation of a new year, new friends and exciting times ahead.

#### CRAFT MATERIALS:

- Spiral-bound notebook
- Pipe cleaner
- Tacky glue
- Colored paper

1. Spruce up a plain spiral bound notebook with bold stripes by using tacky glue to stick pipe cleaners (the extra wide, fuzzy type work especially well) onto the cover.
2. Fold the pipe cleaner ends against the top and bottom edges of the inner cover, then conceal them with a glued-on sheet of colored paper.





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### Support Options

1. **In-home Support**—training to increase self-help, socialization, and adaptive skills within the home and community.
2. **Day Treatment**— 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.
4. **Family Resource Coordination**— for Children with Traumatic Brain Injury, Spinal Cord Injury, and other Special Health Care Needs.

**Call for more information today!**

**AmeriServe International, Inc. 623-584-3408**



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