

# DAYBREAK



## DIGEST

Summer 2011



### *Legislative Update*

At the time this article was written, the 82nd Texas Legislature continues to deliberate in a Special Session called by the Governor. While there are still important decisions to be made related to redistricting and education, most of the issues that impact services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Texas have been settled for the time being.

Entering the session, the State was facing a \$27 billion budget shortfall for the two year period which begins in September. Home and Community Based Services and Intermediate Care Facilities were in danger of being eliminated based on the original budget bill passed by the House of Representatives which would have reduced HCS and ICF/MR funding by over 30%.

Thanks to the efforts of many people in the Daybreak family in addition to the work of numerous experts working on our behalf in Austin, we were able to communicate the major consequences that the proposed rate cuts would have had on services. Over a thousand letters written by Daybreak consumers, family members, vendors, and employees were delivered to the Capitol in March and countless visits were made to representatives and senators throughout the session. Many other companies organized similar letter writing campaigns and visits. Legislators remarked over and over that they had never seen such an outpouring of concern as they did this session. **Your letters, phone calls, and visits made a big difference. Daybreak sincerely appreciates your help.**

While there will still be significant rate cuts, the HCS and ICF/MR programs avoided the devastating reductions that were originally proposed. There are still details yet to be finalized, but we have a good idea of the rate cuts Daybreak and other HCS and ICF/MR providers will have to deal with starting in September, 2011.

All HCS rates will be reduced by 1%

In addition to the 1% decrease, Supported Home Living rates will be reduced by about 26% in the HCS program

There will also be an additional 1.72% rate decrease for Foster Care

Potential elimination of requisition fees for certain services

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There were a couple of other key decisions impacting services during the session. The Texas Home Living program will be expanded in the next two years by 2,000 consumers. Early measures to eliminate one or two State Supported Living Centers did not pass so there will be no closures for the foreseeable future. The average revenue per SSLC resident will likely increase by about 10%.

The net result of the rate decreases listed above will be about a 2% reduction in total revenue for HCS and ICF/MR companies. This will obviously create significant challenges for all providers and it will be critical that we continue to maximize efficiencies and manage our limited resources very carefully. Unfortunately, Medicaid programs in Texas are not immune to the impact of the global downturn in the economy.

Again, we greatly appreciate your willingness to voice your concerns over the damaging cuts proposed during this very trying legislative session. Please know that while there will be challenges, we are very confident in Daybreak's ability to adapt and continue to provide quality services in order to Make Life Better.



## DAYBREAK RECIPE CORNER



*If* you've never had pumpkin bread, you are in for a real treat. It has a wonderfully sweet and moist texture. And it is so easy to make to keep or give as gifts!

### PUMPKIN BREAD

Mix together the next nine ingredients in the following order:

- 1 cup Applesauce
- 3 cup Pumpkin
- 1 cup Oil
- 1 tsp Salt
- 4 level tsp Baking Soda
- 2 level tsp Pumpkin Spice
- 2 tsp. Cinnamon
- 4 cups Sugar
- 5 cups Flour

*Preheat oven to 350 degrees.*

*Coat pans with cooking spray. Pour mixture (not to the top) evenly between all pans.*

*Bake for 45 min. to an hour at 350 and stick a toothpick in the center to see if they are done. If it comes out clean, than its done. Take them out and frost or lightly butter if you wish. Its delicious just the way it is.*

*This recipe makes 9 small loaves or 4 big loaves and they can be made in advance and frozen if you like.*

Submitted by Lori Furtick,  
Benefits Coordinator

*If you have a story, a photo, a recipe, a handy hint, please send it to me! I'd love to hear from all my families and Daybreak team members.*



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Daybreak Lubbock has a great little farm going on. They've got rabbits, chickens, ducks and a garden. Everybody pitches in and has a great time.

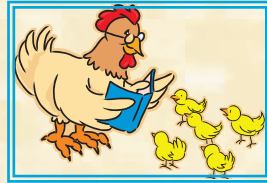
Many individuals are even on the payroll and love working with our maintenance team. If you prefer other activities, they have arts and crafts, karaoke, cooking classes, music activities and a big outdoor swing.

There will be eggs, tomatoes, cucumbers, okra, squash, jalapenos to eat and maybe sell. Sounds like a lot of fun to me. This is an outstanding day hab with a wonderful future yet to come.

# Lubbock Day Hab NEW outdoor fun



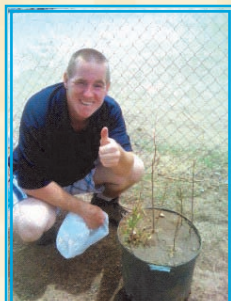
Robert Durrett



Chicks are too cute!



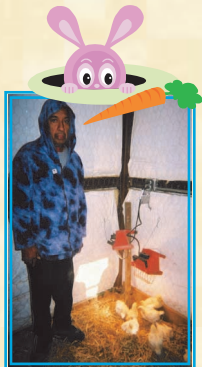
Danny Essary



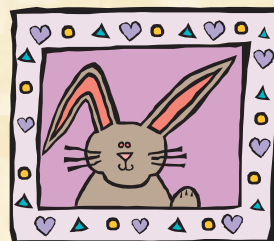
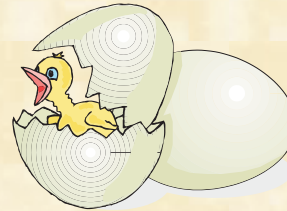
Steven Cate and his tree called "Thunderstorm."



Misty Jewell



David Salazar



Submitted by Cindy Davis, Lubbock Area Director



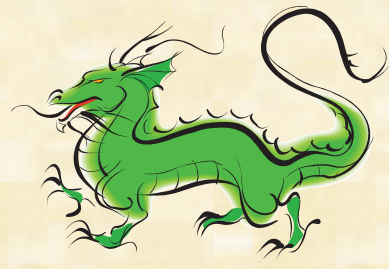
**BRYAN** College Station day hab visited a medieval castle with living quarters, chapel, torture chamber, five corner turrets and a large courtyard . Although “Newman’s Castle” was built in 1998, it has authentic architecture with an educational and fun tour. The tour included a fabulous lunch made at Newman’s Bakery. The castle is in Bellville, Texas and is open to the public.



Evander Amos & Ametra Davis ready to enter the castle.



Elizabeth Hassell, Melba Craig, Davis Mack & Cheryl Branch on the tour.



Daybreak team members: Becky Cornejo, Ametra Davis, Robert Lewis, Pat Brisco, Deborah Wasik



All Hail the Queen of the Realm—Melba Craig!



Jimmy Roberts & Linda Sue Richardson enjoying a tournament.



Melba Craig & Cheryl Branch Warriors of the Kingdom



Submitted by Jeff Wise, Bryan Area Director



Mary Gilbert is so sweet & cute too!

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Daybreak San Angelo Rays Team Members: Michael Alejandro, Linda Bowen, Eryn Bruce, Stephanie Brunson, Tim Clardy,

Joseph Valdez, Billy Youngblood, Melissa Cline and a Special Thanks to Carla & Steve Anzar, Kirk Coats and Lann James.—Congratulations! We are so proud of you!

William Davis, Ray Dickerson, Gwen Dirk, Gary Esters, Jean Ann Franks, Pauline Gabus, Karen Halfmann, Selena Harwell, Frankie Johnson, William Johnson,

Daybreak San Angelo participated in State level Special Olympics in Arlington on May 26-29. Many of our participants came away with several medals and ribbons. We would like to congratulate everyone for a job well done as well as the coaches and volunteers who helped get everyone prepared. A special thanks goes out to Academy Sports and Outdoors, Adobe Signs and T-Shirts and Angela Crouch for all of their donations. A special thanks goes out to Kirk Coats, Carla & Steve Anzar, Lann James and the San Angelo Daybreak office for all their help and support!

# Daybreak Rays

## GOLD MEDAL WINNERS

Debbie Kates—25 meter walk  
Joseph Valdez—softball throw  
Willie Davis—softball throw  
Wakiya Toohey—50 meter dash

## BRONZE MEDAL WINNERS

Pauline Gabus—100 meter walk  
Logan—50 meter dash  
Selena Harwell—50 meter dash  
Joe Martinez—running long jump  
Gwen Dirk—softball throw  
Mike Alejandro—50 meter walk



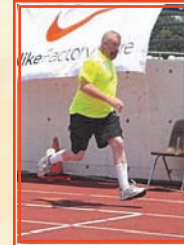
Wakiya Toohey sprints to the finish line.

## SILVER MEDAL WINNERS

Stephanie Brunson—100 meter walk  
Joe Martinez—4x100 unified relay  
Tim Clardy—4x100 unified relay  
Ray Dickerson—100 meter dash

## RIBBONS

Wayne Logan—softball throw  
Wayne Logan—100 meter walk  
Gwen Dirk—100 meter walk  
Joe Martinez—100 meter dash  
Selena Harwell—softball throw  
Frankie Johnson—100 meter dash  
Wayne Logan—4x100 relay  
Gary Esters—4x100 relay  
Wakiya Toohey—4x100 relay  
Ray Dickerson—4x100 relay  
Stephanie Brunson—softball throw  
Melissa Cline—softball throw



Wayne Logan winning the bronze medal in the 50 meter dash



## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE DAYBREAK SAN ANGELO RAYS!



The Daybreak Rays team and Coaches



Gwen Dirk, Jean Franks, Terrie Taylor and Melissa Cline.  
Way to go Girls!

Submitted by Carla Anzar,  
San Angelo Area Director

Debbie Kates, Konni Lewis, Wayne Logan, Joe Martinez, Lori Pitts, Danita Rodriguez, Terrie Taylor, Wakiya Toohey

# Dallas Picnic

Daybreak Dallas had a Consumer Appreciation Spring BBQ Party at the Skyline Ranch in Lancaster with the theme of "It's Springtime in Texas." Tug of wars, hula hooping, balloon toss and great food made for a super picnic. And here are just a few of the photos.



Candice Johnson



Brady McNeese, Byron Greggs, Louis Franklin, John Fondren, Pam Rodgers and Billy Tillison

## Tug of War



Alquinto Hines, Corri and Torri Montgomery, Eric Curl, Bill Forbes



Leslie Sommers, Sandy Curl (Eric Curl's mom), Deana Anthony, Dwayne Reagor

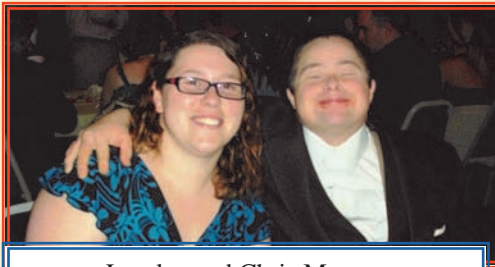


Submitted by  
Jaime Grider,  
Dallas Area  
Director

# Bryan's Best Buddies



Mark Mitchell, Tina Thompson and Cheryl Branch



Lorelee and Chris Massey



Veronica Castro



**B**est Buddies Prom is a popular annual event sponsored by Texas A&M and is open to all developmentally disabled individuals who would like to attend. Such a special event celebrating friendships and good times. It's a prom for singles or couples—everyone is welcome to come for the good times.



Kelli Noey and Jeffery Cook



Left to right: Sharon Winslow, Cheryl Branch, Melba Craig, Samantha Ray, Kelli Noey



Mary Gilbert heats up the dance floor



Joe Lee Colebank



**Back row:** David Washington, Tina Thompson, Rebecca Cornejo, Jeff Wise, Rebecca Pivonka, Jeffery Cook, Kelli Noey  
**Front row:** Chris Massey, Cheryl Branch, Elizabeth Hassell, Belinda Lee, Linda Sue Richardson, Joe Lee Colebank



John Smith and Elizabeth Hassell have a sweet slow dance

**Submitted by Jeff Wise,  
Bryan Area Director**

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## DAYBREAK STAR



# Billy Youngblood



**F**or two years, Billy Youngblood has been calling the Daybreak office stating that when he gets referred to the community that he wanted to come to live at a Daybreak group home. When he did get referred, he visited several homes and chose Daybreak.

Billy enjoys his home, participates in all of the Daybreak activities and is an easy going, happy person with many friends. He joined the Special Olympics and did very well. He received a **GOLD MEDAL** in the 25 meter walk at the 2011 Special Olympics meet.

As Billy says—"Life is good."

Submitted by Carla  
Anzar, San Angelo  
Area Director

### Legislative Update



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