

# The Trust Report

Washington State Developmental Disabilities Endowment Trust Fund

Spring 2004

## WHAT'S THE TRUST REPORT?

It's so important to stay informed about your investments with the Washington State Developmental Disabilities Endowment Trust Fund. That's why we've created this newsletter, *The Trust Report*, and will be mailing it to you quarterly. It will include valuable information about new developments, status reports and tips for maximizing your investments. We hope to also feature innovative ideas from our trust holders about their participation in this program. If you have suggestions for this newsletter, email Ed Holen at [edh@cted.wa.gov](mailto:edh@cted.wa.gov).

## SAVE THE DATE: FIRST ANNUAL MEETING SEPTEMBER 23, 2004

Our first annual meeting of trust holders will be September 23, 2004 from 4 pm to 6 pm at the Best Western Hotel & Conference Center in Fife, Wash. We'll keep you posted about meeting details as the date approaches.



## A NEW NAME, BUT THE SAME GREAT FUND

Try saying "Washington State Developmental Disabilities Endowment Trust Fund" ten times fast. It's a mouthful for sure, even if it's not a tongue twister like Fuzzy Wuzzy Was a Bear.

We've evaluated our name and come up with something new that we think better communicates what the fund is all about. We also wanted something that would speak to the vision of the Governing Board and the hopes of our trust holders. What better way to harness our hopes than through *Life Opportunities*?

Drum roll, please. The trust fund's new name for marketing outreach and informational purposes is ***Developmental Disabilities Life Opportunities Trust***. Our legal name will remain the Washington State Developmental Disabilities Endowment Trust Fund and will appear on your legal documents.

We look forward to helping more people create new life opportunities by becoming members of the DD Life Opportunities Trust. Please pass along our new name to your friends and stay tuned for our new logo!

## Lifestyles

She'll be the first to admit it. Snohomish County Parent Coalition Coordinator Lori Flood was a procrastinator... at least that is when it came to signing up for a Washington State Developmental Disabilities Endowment Trust Fund account.

Lori knew about the trust options and the matching state funds for nearly two years before she finally completed the enrollment process this January for her 13-year-old son, Christopher, who has a developmental disability. Lori was even one of the parents actively advocating for the Legislature to appropriate the matching funds.

"I just felt so overwhelmed at the prospect of completing the paperwork, but once I got started it was so easy," said Lori. "The people at the Arc were very helpful in answering questions and walked us through everything step by step. We probably spent two or three hours on the whole process, and we're so glad we did it."

Lori says not only was the trust easy to do, but compared to other special needs trusts this was the most affordable option. Private attorneys were going to charge the Floods as much as \$3,000 to set up a trust. Instead, they invested \$600 in the set up fee and contributed the minimum \$25 initial monthly investment. Plus, the \$600 set up was matched by state funds.

"This was a real positive in a time when things are looking bleak," said Lori. She is concerned about current levels of state funding for DD programs. Employment funding for graduating high school students is a big concern. In eight years, when Christopher begins preparing for the workforce, interest from his trust fund can be used to pay for those services. That's a relief to Lori, just knowing there are options available for him.

Now the Floods can relax a little bit more knowing their investments will be available to help Christopher have a better quality of life in the future.

## 200 AND COUNTING!

As of March 10th, we are pleased to announce a total of 200 enrollments in the DD Life Opportunities Trust. 119 people have opened a Trust I account and 81 people have opened a Trust II account. Family members and guardians usually establish Trust I accounts on behalf of a person with a developmental disability. Individuals with a developmental disability themselves may set up Trust II accounts with funds from settlements, back SSI payments, inheritance and other sources. For more information about setting up a trust account or contributing more funds to your trust, call Patti Bell or Lisa Remingler at 1-888-754-8798.



## TRUST FUND HITS INNOVATION'S TOP 50 LIST

The Washington State Developmental Disabilities Endowment Trust Fund, now DD Life Opportunities Trust, was recognized as one of the 50 most creative, forward-thinking results-driven government programs, according to the Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government.

The trust is a semifinalist for the prestigious **Innovations in American Government Awards**, now in its 17<sup>th</sup> year of recognizing state, local and federal government programs. The 50 semifinalists were chosen from a pool of nearly 1,000 applicants. Five finalist winners will be selected and announced July 28, 2004.

### Moving Soon?

If you have moved or are planning to move, contact us to change your contact information. Call Patti Bell or Lisa Remingler at the Arc at 1-888-754-8798.

### Questions? Feedback?

We welcome your comments and feedback. Let us know how we can do better. Call or email Ed Holen at 1-800-634-4473 or edh@cted.wa.gov.

## NEW ADMINISTRATION, A FEW NEW FACES

In December 2003, the Developmental Disabilities Council assumed the overall administration of the Trust Fund from the Department of Community Trade and Economic Development.



The new trust fund administrator is Ed Holen. Many of you know him from the DD Council where he's been the Executive Director for more than 20 years. Also joining the trust fund team are Clare Billings as deputy administrator and Stephanie Benfield as logistics coordinator, also both employed with the DD Council. If you have questions about overall trust fund management or policy questions, Ed, Clare and Stephanie can be reached at 1-800-634-4473.



**Ed Holen**  
Trust Fund  
Administrator

### *What does this administration change mean for you?*

Enhancements, like this newsletter and other materials, are probably the most noticeable changes. We'll also be actively helping others in our community connect with the DD Life Opportunities Trust. We're still committed as ever to meeting trust holders' needs first. We're here to ensure that this valuable trust fund resource will be available and useful for families and people with developmental disabilities for years to come.



**Clare Billings**  
Deputy  
Administrator



**Stephanie Benfield**  
Logistics  
Coordinator

The Arc of Washington remains under contract to perform outreach, enrollment and disbursements for the trust fund. Patti Bell and Lisa Remingler still handle the same responsibilities they always have. If you'd like to participate in an upcoming presentation or if you have questions, call Patti or Lisa at 1-888-754-8798.