

The Trust Report

Developmental Disabilities Life Opportunities Trust

Summer 2004

DD LIFE OPPORTUNITIES TRUST CONTINUES TO GROW

We are pleased to announce 83 new enrollments between January 1 and June 30, 2004. That brings our total to 251 enrollments in the DD Life Opportunities Trust. Of those, 144 are Trust I accounts and 107 are Trust II accounts. 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 SSA payments, inheritance and other sources. For help setting up a trust account or contributing more funds to your trust, call Patti Bell at 1.888.754.8798.

FIRST ANNUAL MEETING AROUND THE CORNER

Our first annual meeting of trust holders will be September 23, 2004 from 4 pm to 6 pm at the La Quinta Inn and Suites at 32124 25th Avenue South in Federal Way, Wash. This is a great opportunity to meet members of the governing board and trust fund staff. A representative from the State Investment Board will provide an update on account earnings and answer questions about the fund's investments. Also, come learn more about our plans for the DD Life Opportunities Trust in the near future. Please contact Stephanie Benfield at 800.634.4473 or stephb@cted.wa.gov with questions.



REFER A FRIEND

Do you know someone who is not enrolled in the DD Life Opportunities Trust, but should be? Help them take advantage of this outstanding investment opportunity by sharing with them why you enrolled in the trust. Also, explain how enrolling in the trust will help:

- Shelter and preserve assets that would otherwise disqualify someone from government benefits.
- Save for important services that may not be provided by government programs, such as work training, assistive technology or respite care.
- Take advantage of state matching funds.

People who refer a friend before September 1 will be publicly thanked at the Trust Holders' Annual Meeting in September, as well as recognized in the next issue of The Trust Report. Call Patti at 1.888.754.8798 with the name and phone number or email of the person you wish to refer. She will share additional information with your friend about how to enroll and answer any questions.

Lifestyles:

Sellars Buy Into Trust

Bill and Kathy Sellars were already thinking about 36-year-old daughter Kari's future when the endowment trust fund was first suggested in the Legislature. Retired and in their 70s, the couple wanted Kari's financial future to be secure.

"We were looking at a private way to establish something similar as many senior families were," said Kathy.

Bill continued, "We even had some draft wills written, but it wasn't clear who would be the trust manager. We just couldn't find the perfect trust for us."

So when the State created the Developmental Disabilities Endowment Trust Fund, it fit the bill for the Sellars. It was smooth sailing from there. They already knew how the trust worked by attending public meetings and reviewing the draft legislation. They even provided feedback on the bill.

The Sellars promptly finished their will, completed the trust fund paperwork and paid the \$600 enrollment fee to become the 6th family to enroll. Now they make annual payments up to the maximum amount the state will match, which is \$3,100. The state then adds \$775 each year to Kari's fund.

Kathy, who says she's conservative about money, is glad the State Investment Board is involved. "I feel the State is reliable and secure. I'm more comfortable with the state investing our money than a financial advisor trying to help me make decisions about investments."

Bill and Kathy are pleased to have found the perfect fit. And while Kari has not set up a self-settled trust, she's quite the investor. She puts money into her 401(k) program at Puget Consumer Co-Op, where she's worked for 13 years.

Kari's investments give Bill and Kathy piece of mind and help Kari get closer to her dreams of owning her own condo and traveling more in the future.

THE GOVERNING BOARD TEAM

The Governing Board for the DD Life Opportunities Trust is responsible for establishing the overall governing policies of the trust fund and overseeing the staff implementation of trust fund activities.

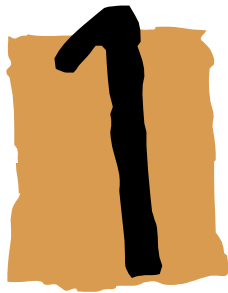
The seven-member board is required to have at least three members with business, corporate, financial or public policy experience; and at least three members who have sons or daughters with a developmental disability.

GOVERNING BOARD SEEKS ONE MORE

Currently, the Governing Board has five members and needs to fill one vacancy. The Governing Board meets quarterly and is responsible for establishing the overall governing policies of the Trust Fund and oversees the staff implementation of Trust Fund activities.

People interested in applying must have experience with business, finance, investments and/or public policy.

If you or someone you know meets these qualifications and is interested in serving on this dynamic Board, please contact Ed Holen at 800.634.4473 for an application and more information.



The deadline for recommending someone for the Board or applying is September 1, 2004. Applications will be reviewed and two to three candidates will be recommended to the Governor's Office for appointment later this fall.

Moving Soon?

If you have moved or are planning to move, contact us to change your contact information. Call Patti Bell 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.

JANET ADAMS ELECTED TO CHAIR GOVERNING BOARD

Governor Locke recently affirmed the selection of Janet Adams as the new Chair of the DD Life Opportunities Trust Governing Board. She assumed the new role at the June 2004 Governing Board meeting. Previously, George Walker was the Chair of the Governing Board. He is now a member of the Board.



Janet Adams

Janet has served as a member of the Governing Board since its inception, but her involvement did not begin with the board. She was one of the most active advocates working with Senator McDonald and Senator Wojahn to assure the passage of the legislation and the initial \$5 million dollars that established the DD Life Opportunities Trust.

As the Governing Board Chair, Janet is responsible for convening and leading Governing Board meetings, providing clarification and direction when implementing board policy, representing the Board at all public meetings, and acting as the liaison to other state agencies. Janet lives in the Olympia area and has an adult daughter with a developmental disability.

In addition to Janet, five other members currently serve on the Governing Board.

- George Walker has a son with a developmental disability and is a retired CEO of the northwest region of U.S. West Communication. (Previous Governing Board Chair)
- Margaret Lee Thompson has a son with a developmental disability and coordinates the King County Parent Coalition.
- John Ederer is an attorney and active in civic activities in the Seattle/King County area.
- Phillip Ruggels is Vice Chair of the Board and a financial planner from Spokane.
- Ron Meltzer has a son with a developmental disability and is an attorney.

Come meet these Governing Board members and Chair Janet Adams at the Annual Trust Holders' Meeting September 23.