



Look at all the Hard Work Done this Summer!

The Mobile Area Community Support Council completed several jobs this summer. Between June 7th and July 16th, they were able to build 7 wheelchair ramps, painted a house, and straightened out yards of two other homes. They were also able to recycle another ramp. How was all this possible? Thanks to the supervision of Susan Polizzi and many volunteers, including the youth of M-Fuge, a Christian summer camp program that comes to Mobile. These outstanding young people donated over 1760 volunteer hours to helping our area families. In addition, \$3,062 in materials were donated to these projects. Many area organizations partner with the Mobile Council in these home modifications.



Volunteers from M-Fuge, who worked hard this summer helping Individual & Family Support.

Volunteers come from all over the area to help each summer, including local churches and universities. Help is needed throughout the year. If you or anyone you know is interested in volunteering, please contact Susan Polizzi at 251-209-0453.

September Spotlight

In this issue - Get to know Trustee Alvin D. Garvin



Checking In on a Recent Team Meeting of the Board of Trustees



On June 25th, the Board of Trustees held a "Team Meeting". The meeting was an all day training session with professional consultant Allison Black-Cornelius. Allison's work includes a professional speaking and training tour that numbers over 100 public appearances each year to private nonprofits, leadership groups, faith-based organizations, students, physicians, law enforcement, counselors, legal professionals, government groups, and business groups nationwide. She trains non-profit, faith-based, and government groups on board development and private/public economic development initiatives. The cost of Allison's help was largely covered by a grant Family Support received from the Junior League of Mobile, an investment that is aimed at growing Family Support's organizational capacity and increasing the ability of the group to better help individuals and families in the area.

In attendance for the Team Meeting were Alvin Garvin, Renee Littlepage, Neal Schafer, Lynn Krueger, and Jerry Oveson. The main agenda of the meeting was to better equip Family Support so they could carry out the mission of enhancing the lives of Alabamians with disabilities. Issues of Board expansion, meaningful committee structure, leadership development, policies and procedures, marketing and fundraising were all issues explored during these interactive sessions. Everyone in attendance felt much was learned and planning could now be undertaken to implement new activities designed to expand our ability to help individuals and families in the area.

Alabama Association of Nonprofits

Family Support is a member of the Alabama Association of Nonprofits (AAN) and recently attended a local forum where the new president/CEO, John Stone, and the director of member services, Russell Johnson, addressed nonprofits in the Mobile Area. The AAN used to be known as the Non-profit Resource Center of Alabama and is now reinventing itself. The AAN's leadership team discussions included new training opportunities and expanded member benefits, as well as taking input from local nonprofit organizations.

Family Voices of Alabama

Family Voices of Alabama partners with professionals and families to advocate for healthcare services that are family-centered, community based, comprehensive, coordinated, and culturally competent. Recently they unveiled a new website, **familyvoicesal.org**. This website is designed for families of children with special health care needs, as well as for professionals caring for them. The website contains a great deal of information regarding health care in Alabama, including links to other sources of information, special tip sheets, and training materials. They also provide one-on-one personal assistance by a family resource representative.



Get to Know Trustee Alvin D. Garvin

Alvin D. Garvin currently serves on the Board of Trustees of Family Support and the Regional Council which oversees the Individual & Family Support program in Southern Alabama. He is a graduate of the University of South Alabama with a major in Marketing. Alvin has also worked as a technology specialist providing information and referrals to parents of children with disabilities and adults with disabilities. For over 30 years Mr. Garvin has served on many committees and workgroups whose focus was on disability issues.