

COMMUNITY SERVICE NEWS

by Chris Cronk

PRO BONO CLINIC

Another month and another big 'Thank You' to those MTPA members that volunteer for the monthly Pro Bono Clinic. Volunteers for October were **Hope Fishback, Andrea Patton, Kim Jay, Monica Thompson, Cheryl Wilyard and Kathie Cravens.**

MTPA did not receive the 2003 Association Pro Bono Award given by the National Federation of Paralegal Associations for nothing. Every month 4-5 (and this month, 6!!) MTPA members give up a precious Saturday morning to help those who under normal circumstances could not afford legal assistance, get legal assistance at the Pro Bono Clinic. The plaque MTPA received for the Pro Bono Award states "For exhibiting outstanding dedication and service in the area of Pro bono Service to the Public" and that's exactly what our MTPA volunteers do!!!! Thank you all!!!

The Clinic date for November is the 15th. I have not been informed yet about December's clinic date, as it will likely be moved. If you are interested in assisting at a Saturday morning clinic, or learning how to do intake for the Pro Bono clinic – or would like additional information about the clinics and/ or other ways MTPA is assisting the NBA's Pro Bono Division please e-mail or call me, Chris Cronk at ccronk@wallerlaw.com or (615) 850-8761.

CASA NEWS

CASA ADVOCATES -

If you are a new CASA or you know of an MTPA member who is a new CASA and has recently completed the training program or is still in training, please let me know. Also, any CASAs that have had a particularly interesting case and would like to share the story with MTPA, please let me know.

CASA is always in need of volunteers to train as advocates. If you are interested in learning more about becoming an advocate and the training programs the various County CASAs offer, please let me know and I will have the CASA organization for the appropriate county send you an information packet.

UCP HOLIDAY ELDERLY FOOD BASKET COLLECTION

MTPA is planning to participate in the United Cerebral Palsy 'Food For Elder Citizens with Disabilities' campaign this year. We will be soliciting specific food donations from MTPA members according to a list provided by UCP. Ten holiday food boxes will be assembled during our November 6th MTPA luncheon from food donations brought in by MTPA members. Check the website for more UCP food basket info and what you can contribute or call me for more information. Also, please plan to attend the November luncheon to be a part of this service activity!

United Cerebral Palsy's (UCP) mission is *'to advance the independence, productivity, and full citizenship of people with disabilities and to provide support to family members.'*

UCP serves individuals with all types of disabilities and their expertise is to provide in-service to individuals with physical disabilities which affect mobility. They also serve as a clearing house for information about the condition known as cerebral palsy. Cerebral Palsy is the second largest lifetime disability in the U.S. Mental retardation is the largest lifetime disability. The term 'Cerebral Palsy' is used to describe a group of chronic conditions affecting body movement and muscle coordination and is caused by damage to one or more specific areas of the brain, usually occurring during fetal development, before, during, or shortly after birth; or during infancy.

Currently 40% of the individuals UCP serves have cerebral palsy and 60% have disabilities other than cerebral palsy, which include spina bifida, M.S., ALS, amputations, strokes and heart attack related disabilities among others.

There are many volunteer opportunities at UCP. If you are interested in learning more about them, visit the UCP website at www.ucpnashville.org.

Community IMPACT! Nashville - Volunteer Opportunity

Community IMPACT! Nashville (www.impactnashville.org), is a neighborhood-based youth and community investment non-profit organization that is empowering young people ages 15 to 24 to take control of their individual futures and the futures of their neighborhoods.

They work with youth in and through various Nashville area schools made up of predominantly low income families to try and improve community perceptions of young people and young people's perceptions of their communities as well as train youth leaders to work in their communities to further demonstrate the power and impact of youth involvement to improve community conditions.

Community IMPACT! Nashville is seeking volunteers to help with tax return preparation for low income families within various Nashville neighborhoods they serve. Volunteers are needed to prepare tax returns (IRS training provided), assist with screening, tax preparation day reception, childcare, and other tasks.

There is certainly something for everyone and no prior tax experience is necessary. You may volunteer for one session or multiple sessions which will take place at different locations on varying dates starting in January.

If you are interested in learning more about this Community Service opportunity, please e-mail your name, e-mail address, telephone number and the days of the week and times of day which will work best with your schedule to Chris Cronk at ccronk@wallerlaw.com.

You will be notified of upcoming information relating to training and this service. No minimum hours of participation is required, you may help at one session or at as many as you want which will vary by date, time and location during the upcoming tax season (January – April 2004).

*******RESOLVE TO GET INVOLVED IN 2003*******

*If you have any ideas or suggestions for MTPA participation
in community related activities, please let me know!!
MTPA Members are the BEST!!*