



# Tuesday Morning Memo

Tuesday, December 22, 2009

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- **MOURNING THE LOSS OF TWO ADVOCATES**

Last week, The Arc-Wisconsin was informed of the passing of Martha DeGraw. Martha was a tireless advocate for people with developmental disabilities. She served in several positions, primarily in social work, for many years. Those who worked with her benefited from her vast experience and broad perspective. Martha truly cared about individuals. Many people will likely recall Martha as a resource at Southern Wisconsin Center, a stalwart in the Community Integration Initiative and an expert in developing training resources for people that serve individuals with developmental disabilities.

This passed weekend, Kim Peek – better known as “Rain Man” – passed away in Salt Lake City. Kim was the inspiration for the main character in “Rain Man”. Dustin Hoffman won an Oscar for his portrayal. While Kim is best known for being the inspiration for “Rain Man”, his biggest impact was as an advocate. He traveled nearly 3 million miles to educate countless numbers of people about what people with disabilities can do.

The Arc-Wisconsin mourns the passing of both Martha and Kim and expresses heartfelt sympathy to their families and friends.

- **GETTING READY FOR THE STORM**

...and not just the storm that the weather forecasters are predicting for Christmas eve and Christmas day. The U.S. Senate is poised to take a final vote on health care reform. As always, one of the best resources for news updates related to health care reform is The Arc-Wisconsin website at: [www.arc-wisconsin.org](http://www.arc-wisconsin.org). During these critical days of legislative activity on health care reform, the website will be updated daily.

- **TAKE ACTION ON THE “R” WORD**

S. 2781, a federal proposal that would remove the term “mental retardation” from most federal documents, has been referred to the United States Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions. To see a copy of the proposal, go to:

<http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c111:S.2781>:

Now is a good time for advocates to contact Wisconsin’s two Senators, Herb Kohl and Russ Feingold, to urge them to support S. 2781 and remove from federal documents terms that are offensive to many people with disabilities and those that care for them.

Senator Herb Kohl  
330 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington DC 20510  
(202) 224-5653  
<http://kohl.senate.gov/>

Senator Russ Feingold  
506 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington DC 20510  
(202) 224-5323  
<http://feingold.senate.gov/>

- **UPCOMING TRAININGS**

There have been a couple of recent additions to the upcoming training opportunities list on The Arc-Wisconsin website.

AAIDD, AUCD, The Arc of the U.S., ANCOR and RRTC are hosting the Aging and End of Life Webinar Series. For more information, go to: <http://www.arc-wisconsin.org/resources/aaiddwebinarsspring2010.pdf>.

UW-Waisman Center Outreach is offering a workshop on Personality Disorders on February 16, 2010, in Madison. For more information on this opportunity, go to: <http://www.arc-wisconsin.org/resources/personalitydisorders.pdf>

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!**