

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Healthbeat

N.C. groups win grants to better fight homelessness

Three N.C. groups won \$571,650 to provide training and technical assistance to community agencies fighting homelessness, Sen. John Edwards announced.

"This assistance represents an investment in the people who are building houses, counseling new homeowners, renewing neighborhoods and making a difference for North Carolina," Edwards said.

Training and Development Associates in Laurinburg won \$474,450 to train and advise local agencies and nonprofits that serve low- and moderate-income families. Training and Development Associates is a national nonprofit organization committed to helping housing professionals improve the creation and delivery of their products and services.

The N.C. Association of Community Development Corporations in Raleigh will receive \$67,200 to assist its 54 member corporations. Established in 1985, the association provides technical assistance, training, organizational development, resource identification, public policy education, and employee benefits to its members.

The Affordable Housing Group of North Carolina will receive \$30,000. In addition to training other agencies and nonprofits, the Charlotte-based Affordable Housing Group also builds its own homes, with a focus on small towns and rural communities. Since 1972, the group has created more than 3,000 affordable housing units.

The funds are from the Housing and Urban Development Department's Community Planning and Development Technical Assistance program. The program is dedicated to empowering people in communities across our nation to find local solutions to local problems.

Team captains needed for Relay for Life

The 2002 Forsyth County Relay for Life is scheduled to take place May 17 and 18 at the Dixie Classic Fairgrounds in Winston-Salem. The success of this fund-raiser, which benefits the American Cancer Society, comes from the hundreds of teams that participate.

A team captain meeting was held on April 2. Each team captain is asked to gather a team of 10 friends, family members or coworkers. Each team member is asked to raise at least \$100. All money raised by teams is used to support research, education, advocacy and patient services sponsored by the American Cancer Society.

Nearly \$350,000 was raised through the 2001 Relay for Life. That money supported research grants at Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center, volunteers who provided transportation and medical services to cancer patients in Forsyth County, and provided camp and academic scholarships for children and young adults diagnosed with cancer.

Relay for Life is a great experience for everyone who participates in it. The event opens with a ceremony celebrating cancer survivors. Those who have lost their lives to cancer are remembered during the luminary ceremony that lights up the fairgrounds after dark. Throughout the evening and into the next day, walkers and those who come to cheer them on enjoy a variety of entertainment, food and fellowship.

To learn more about Relay for Life, potential team captains, walkers and sponsors may contact Beth Day at (336) 392-2810.

Brenner Children's Hospital to hold open house for new tower

The public is invited to attend an open house for the new Brenner Children's Hospital on April 20 from 1 until 4 p.m. and April 21 from 2 until 5 p.m. A ribbon-cutting ceremony will take place at 1 p.m. on the first floor of the new Ardmore Tower West, kicking off the weekend's festivities.

Veteran CNN reporter Judy Woodruff will serve as guest speaker at the ribbon-cutting ceremony. Woodruff is CNN's prime anchor and political correspondent and anchors "Inside Politics with Judy Woodruff."

Parking is free on the campus of Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center.

Beginning the week of April 22, free parenting classes will be offered on a variety of health-related issues, including bedwetting, positive approaches to parenting, complementary medicine and TV violence.

For more information or to sign up for the parenting classes, call Health On-Call at 1-800-446-2255 or visit the Web site at www.brennerchildrens.org.

Hosts needed for 'Dining for Friends'

Dining for Friends, the annual springtime event that raises funds for Triad Health Project (THP) through more than 160 individual dinner parties across the area, will be held on May 4. THP, which provides services to people living with HIV/AIDS, is seeking party hosts for the event.

Dining for Friends, which started 13 years ago as a response to the emerging AIDS crisis, relies on members of the community to give dinner parties in their homes (or alternative locations they choose) and to invite their friends, who are asked to make contributions to the agency. After the individual parties, all hosts and their guests are invited to a Grand Dessert Finale - complete with dessert, dancing, and music - at the Greensboro Marriott Downtown.

Hosting is easy: THP supplies the invitations and printed host materials. In the past, parties have ranged from elegant gourmet dinners to casual backyard barbecues.

"Dining for Friends is a wonderful Triad tradition that brings a diverse group of people together to raise funds and awareness," said Jeff Prince, associate director of Triad Health Project and the event's coordinator.

According to Prince, host materials are ready and may be picked up in the agency's Greensboro or High Point offices. Dining for Friends is sponsored by Replacements Ltd. and the Greensboro Marriott Downtown. For more information about hosting, contact THP at 275-1654 in Greensboro or 884-4116 in High Point.

Triad Health Project, a United Way agency, is Guilford County's leading AIDS service organization, providing HIV/AIDS service, support, and education since 1986. The organization, with offices in both Greensboro and High Point, serves almost 600 people living with HIV/AIDS.

Polio eradication in sight, CDC says

Debilitating ailment has been nearly wiped out in U.S.

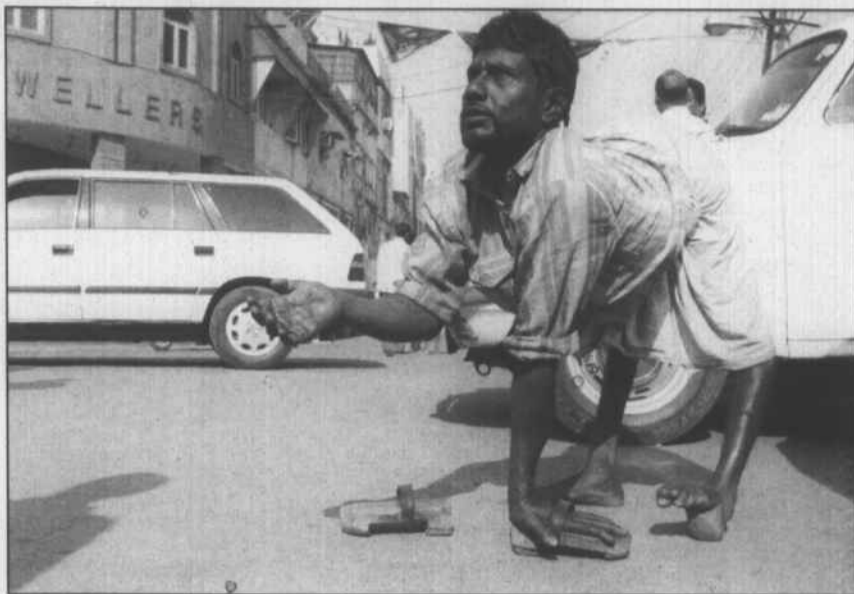
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ATLANTA - Fewer than 600 cases of polio were reported worldwide last year, and global eradication of the disease is in sight, U.S. health officials said Thursday.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said 537 cases were reported in 2001, with 473 confirmed in laboratories. In 2000, 2,971 cases were reported, and 719 were confirmed in labs.

Polio is now endemic in just 10 countries, and only three - India, Pakistan and Nigeria - are considered major reservoirs. Nations across the world have sought to eliminate the disease by intensifying vaccination campaigns.

Polio usually strikes children under 5. It can cripple the spinal cord and brain, causing paralysis and sometimes death. It is transmitted through food or water contaminated by



A man in India afflicted with polio begs for change on the street.

KRT Photo

the fecal matter of an infected person.

The Americas were declared polio-free in 1994.

The CDC and the World Health Organization are working on a plan for how to keep polio from returning after it is

eradicated. Those plans will include a global strategy for safely scaling back vaccination efforts.

Learning Independence



Photo by Paul Collins

Students show God's eye they made. Sitting, from left to right - Dave, Rebecca, Shawneta, Sheila; standing, from left to right - Linda, Jane, Karen, David, Danny, Tim.

Class teaches students with developmental disabilities survival skills

BY PAUL COLLINS
THE CHRONICLE

Karen, an African-American, is proud that she and two other women with developmental disabilities are living independently in their own home. The three are among about a dozen students taking a life skills class for adults with developmental disabilities that is offered at Trinity United Methodist Church.

(According to the New York State Office of Mental

Retardation and Developmental Disabilities Web site, developmental disabilities are a variety of conditions that become apparent during childhood and cause mental or physical limitation. These conditions include autism, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, mental retardation, and other neurological impairments. People with developmental disabilities may not learn as quickly as others or express themselves clearly. Some people may have limited

ability to take care of their physical needs or may have limited mobility. Many have more than one disability.)

The life skills class, one of several in Forsyth County, is offered through a collaboration between Forsyth Technical Community College and Group Homes of Forsyth County.

Instructor Marguerite Abdallah teaches students a wide variety of life skills, including nutrition (such as

See Class on C4

St. Jude shares info on research with people of color

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

MEMPHIS, Tenn. - St. Jude Children's Research Hospital last week announced its Multicultural Outreach Initiative, a program designed to share information with minority communities about the groundbreaking research conducted by St. Jude scientists to treat and cure children who suffer from catastrophic diseases. Some of these diseases disproportionately impact people of color.

This initiative is designed to encourage diverse groups to partner with the institution to create greater success in finding treatments and, ultimately, cures.

"Nearly 40 percent of our patients are African American or Hispanic," said Richard Shadyac, national executive director of ALSAC, the fundraising arm of St. Jude. "We want all communities to know of our historic commitment to their children. When Danny Thomas founded the hospital in 1962, he envisioned a place children could come for comfort, aid and cures, regardless of their ethnic or economic backgrounds. He made sure that the

See St. Jude on C4

Study: One in five N.C. women sexually assaulted at some point



A survey conducted by the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill found sexual abuse of women is common.

UNC NEWS SERVICES

CHAPEL HILL - A random telephone survey of N.C. women showed that one in five had been sexually assaulted sometime in her past, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill researchers said.

As a group, women who had been attacked tended to suffer more health problems later in life, problems that might be linked, at least in part, to the earlier abuse, the scientists said. Their study is the first to show a connection between such assaults and poorer health in a random sample of women across the state.

A report on the findings appears in the March issue of the Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health. Authors are Suzanne Clotter, a former graduate student now with the U.S. Centers for Dis-

ease Control and Prevention; Dr. Sandra L. Martin, associate professor of maternal and child health at the UNC School of Public Health; and Dr. Charles Poole, associate professor of epidemiology.

"Sexual assault is traumatic when it occurs, but it also may have long-lasting negative effects on physical health," Martin said. "Much of the research linking specific health problems to sexual assault victimization has used samples from special populations, but we wanted to look at victimization in the general population."

The goal of the UNC research then was to estimate the prevalence of sexual assault in a representative sample of N.C. women, she said. The three also wanted to examine sexual assault in relation to specific health risk

See Study on C4