

# News & Views

August 2010

Volume 5, Issue 1

## Coming Up

Now-September 18 — Dairy Queen Cake Sale fund-raiser.

September 17— MalcolM Eaton Enterprises closed for staff training.

October 15-16 — MEE operating Cub Foods Brat Stand.

November 25-26 — MEE closed for Thanksgiving. Unfortunately, due to budget restraints, we will not be hosting our Thanksgiving dinner this year.

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## State budget worsens

### Cuts lead to reductions in service across Illinois

As expected, the state of Illinois' new budget that was passed in July brought further devastation to already struggling service providers for those with developmental disabilities.

The Division of Developmental Disabilities, part of the Illinois Department of Human Services (DHS), suffered \$94 million in cuts. This was by far the largest part of the \$312 million shaved from DHS.

The \$94 million comes exclusively from community-based programs, the type MALCOLM EATON offers. Statewide, this affects up to 15,000 children and adults with developmental disabilities — many of whom could be losing services.

In addition, about 800 direct-care staff could find themselves without jobs because of the cuts, according to the Arc of Illinois.

At MALCOLM EATON, direct DHS funding is projected to be down 7.67 percent from a year ago in the wake of the new budget. This comes on the heels of an 11.6 percent rate reduction earlier this year.

"We in the developmental disabilities service community are tired of repeatedly bearing the brunt of state funding shortfalls," said Sue Swanson, MALCOLM EATON executive director. "The situation that was absurd has now become catastrophic. Organizations such as ours are closing across the state, and

it's easy to see why — people simply cannot continue to operate when we are receiving less money to begin with and we are forced to wait longer to receive it."

Illinois' backlog on payments to providers has been well documented. Currently, the state owes MEE \$1.9 million for vocational training and bathroom tissue that have already been provided.

Some invoices are as old as August 2009 while the majority date to March 2010. Under additional rules announced for the state's new fiscal year, providers can expect to see wait times for some payments increase even further. "That's

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# Making the best of a bad...

## Community support helps sustain organization

*Thank you.*

This month's column centers on the gratitude we have felt in the past few months as our supporters and the community at large have rallied around all of us at MALCOLM EATON Enterprises.

Since the last newsletter — when we detailed financial difficulties the organization is facing because the state owes MEE \$1.9 million — we have been overwhelmed by an outpouring of support.

Some people have joined us in expressing their outrage at the situation while others have donated their time or treasure to our cause. Our largest fund-raisers, the Pork Chop Dinner & Car Show and Golf 'N Games, have continued to be successful in spite of the economic downturn we all feel.

We have even been offered new fund-raising oppor-



*My Perspective*  
**Sue Swanson**

tunities, and people have responded. Another such tasty event is detailed in a flier in this newsletter. Please help if you can.

Others have stepped forward to offer their skills to us, assisting with computers and landscaping and building maintenance.

The wonderful aspects of people continue to shine through, and we will never forget some of the kind words and deeds our supporters and volunteers have accomplished in our name over the past few months.

If I were to name names, the list would fill this newsletter. Please know that we appreciate

all that you have done to help us succeed or stay on track over the past few months.

While this support warms our hearts, unfortunately, it cannot erase cold reality. The state of Illinois still owes MALCOLM EATON Enterprises \$1.9 million. I was outraged by this fact three months ago, and I'm still outraged today.

Our governor and the Illinois General Assembly have created a disaster for all of us in the social service community, and no end is in sight. As the Page 1 story describes, we face a future filled with budget cuts all because this administration lacks a commitment to people with developmental disabilities.

Please help us by contacting our legislators and the governor's office to let them know that you support funding for people with disabilities and the prompt payment of those who are providing services to these individuals.

*Sue Swanson is executive director of MALCOLM EATON Enterprises.*

### Contact Our Officials

#### Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn

Office of the Governor  
207 State House  
Springfield, Illinois 62706  
217-782-0244  
[www.illinois.gov/gov](http://www.illinois.gov/gov)

#### State Sen. Tim Bivins

629 North Galena  
Dixon, Illinois 61021  
815-284-0045

#### State Rep. Jim Sacia

50 West Douglas Street  
Stewart Centre, Suite 1001  
Freeport, Illinois 61032  
815-232-0774  
[jimsacia@aeroinc.net](mailto:jimsacia@aeroinc.net)

*Both Sen. Bivins and Rep. Sacia have advocated for payment of MALCOLM EATON'S outstanding bills. Please thank them for their assistance and encourage their support for funding for people with disabilities.*

*Thank you!*

# 'Around the World in 44 Days'

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## Global studies, field trips highlight summer camp

A summer filled with learning about other lands, field trips and physical activities just ended for the 13 individuals enrolled in Xtreme Xpeditions Summer Camp.

MALCOLM EATON Enterprises operates the summer day camp in partnership with Freeport School District 145. Youth ages 12 to 21 with disabilities gathered for nine weeks this summer at Freeport High School to engage in a variety of activities.

Campers followed a theme of "Around the World in 44 Days" and focused on Canada, the United States, Germany, France, Japan, Italy, Mexico and Switzerland by learning about the customs, foods and geography of each nation.

Internationally-g geared activities included making pizzas, learning



Children's Services Staff Member Gena Gray and camper Coty read about the United States during an Xtreme Xpeditions Summer Camp session.

the macarena dance, designing origami creations and building German puzzles. A play at the end of the year summarized all the experiences and told about each country.

Staff consider the session successful, and so do parents. Bonnie Rae Letton, whose daughter Wai-Yee participated, said,

"I felt confident when I dropped off Wai-Yee each morning that she was in a safe environment with people who interacted with her in a respectful, caring manner. They provided a variety of activities, not just 'busyness' but involvement at her ability level with breaks and downtime. It takes a lot off my mind to have Wai-Yee attend this program."

## State, continued from Page 1

insulting," Swanson said.

From a funding standpoint, the only bright spot is that MALCOLM EATON chose to convert two of its programs to Medicaid funding. The state is administering

this funding. Programs that were not converted, were not funded under the new budget. Thirty percent of organizations statewide find themselves in this situation. Many are closing or struggling to

stay open.

"We are so glad we converted. At least we can continue to provide services to the individuals we assist daily. When we will be paid for these services is another matter" Swanson said.

## Chicken Little Drop Winners

Grand Prize (\$1,000): Anna Belle Nimmo

First Prize (deck party from Fieldstone Inn): Chuck Shaw

Second Prize (\$400 Cub Foods gift card from Cub Foods and Freeport Eagle Ladies Auxiliary No. 679): Dean Buckwalter

Third Prize (Cubs tickets from Freeport Industrial Roofing): Jack Homan

Fourth Prize (spa package from Studio 218 Salon & Spa): Liz Winkelmann

Fifth Prize (hotel package from Swift Hospitality Group): Mike Leininger

Sixth Prize (golf foursome from Freeport Country Club): Les Mack Chevrolet

Seventh Prize (\$100 Wal-Mart gift card): Nicky Arn

Eighth Prize (\$50 Shopko gift card): Loescher Heating & Air Conditioning

Ninth Prize (\$20 cash): Bret Richardson

*Thank you to everyone who bought raffle tickets!  
Congratulations to the winners!*



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WWW.MALCOLM EATON.ORG  
WWW.SPIRITPAPER.COM

**MEE, Dairy Queen teaming up for fund-raiser**

Looking for a sweet way to help MALCOLM EATON Enterprises? We have it.

MALCOLM EATON is selling Dairy Queen cakes. These delicious delicacies are available via this special offer through September 18.

To buy a cake, all you have to do is complete the order coupon found on the enclosed flier and return it to MALCOLM EATON Enterprises along with your payment. Cakes cost \$20 each, which is up to a \$3.49 savings per cake. Dairy Queen

is generously donating \$10 from every cake purchase to MALCOLM EATON.

MALCOLM EATON will then send you a coupon good for an 8-inch round blizzard or regular cake at the Freeport Dairy Queen. To redeem the cake coupon, people can bring it to or call the Dairy Queen. Cake coupons expire in one year, giving people plenty of time to use them for a special occasion or every day. The flier gives more details.

Please know that you must order cakes directly through MALCOLM EATON; Dairy Queen is not accepting orders through this fund-raiser — they are fulfilling them.

Proceeds benefit Xtreme Xpeditions Summer Camp, which is operated by MALCOLM EATON in partnership with Freeport School District 145.

For more information, contact Julie Hilliger at MALCOLM EATON, (815) 235-7181.

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