



STARLIGHT NEWS is a newsletter started by the writer/editor Tim Thompson.

STARLIGHT NEWS is news stories about people with all levels of disabilities and agencies that help the disabled community. There are people who may not know about helping people with disabilities or they don't understand. Starlight's mission is to help people understand and help out.

STARLIGHT NEWS would like to invite people in the disabled community and the general public to read the newsletter. The first one is free if you would like to subscribe our fees are \$1 a month or \$10 a year. If you are a business and you're holding an event or you just want to place an ad our fees are \$5 for small and \$10 for big ads. Comments and suggestions are always welcome please e-mail Tim at [icewolf260@gmail.com](mailto:icewolf260@gmail.com)

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STARLIGHT NEWS will start out with these 3 things;

1. A poem
2. News on the disabled community
3. Ads

Viggy Valentine

You may not "carrot" all for me

The way I care for you.

You may "turnip" your nose

When I plead with you  
But if your "heart" should "beet" with mine  
Forever "lettuce" hope  
There is no reason in the world  
Why we two "cantaloupe."  
By Unknown Author

#### THE ARC TEACHING HOTEL

By Tim Thompson

The ARC of Indiana announced on December 22nd a ribbon cutting ceremony to open Courtyard Muncie at Horizon Convention Center. The first of its kind teaching hotel developed by ARC Innovations, a for-profit subsidiary of the ARC of Indiana. That took place on Tuesday, December 22nd at 601 South High Street Muncie, Indiana.

Kim Dodson, executive director of the ARC of Indiana and ARC Innovations, said, "since 1956, The ARC of Indiana has been changing the world for hoosiers with intellectual and other developmental disabilities (I/dd) and their families. We have led the way in accessing public education, closing institutions and fighting for the Americans with Disabilities Act. Now, with the opening of Courtyard

Muncie at Horizon Convention Center on December 22nd, and the Erskine Green Training Institute on January 11th, we start a new chapter. This will significantly change employment opportunities and postsecondary education options for people with disabilities."

Housed within the Courtyard Muncie, is the Erskine Green Training Institute that will provide vocational training for employment in the hospitality, foodservice and health care fields. The positions that they will be training in are tray passing and hospital kitchen positions; environmental which includes housekeeping and patient transport. After receiving training, skills will be applied through internships at the hotel, Thr3e Wise Men restaurant housed at the hotel, and IU Health Ball Memorial Hospital.

People with Disabilities can also own or manage a business in the hotel like a gift shop or any kind of business that would work well for a hotel or they can start a small convenience store in downtown Muncie.

“This project is only possible because so many people have come together to achieve this dream. We are making history today that will forever change the lives of people with disabilities,” Dodson said.

This is a first of its kind in the nation. It will not only provide post secondary education opportunities for people with disabilities, it will also provide employment opportunities for people with disabilities and will offer a chance for them to own a business in the hotel.

“As we looked at hotel brands, Courtyard by Marriott was our first choice. Not only does this brand bring so much to the venture, their training program is exceptional and their participation in our training institute will be tremendous. Together with all of our key partners, we have built this truly unique training institute and teaching hotel.” Dodson said. The Erskine Green Training Institute is a project of the ARC of Indiana Foundation. The Courtyard Muncie at Horizon Convention Center is owned by ARC Innovations.

#### AIRLINES WORKING WITH DISABILITIES,

By Tim Thompson

The Federal airline regulators are now taking steps to improve service for passengers with disabilities. U.S Department of Transportation said it was looking for ways to ensure that fliers with disabilities have better in-flight entertainment and to use bathrooms on single-aisle airplanes.

The department, in a Dec.7<sup>th</sup> posting in the Federal Register about service for people with disabilities, noted “the industry trend toward greater use of single-aisle aircraft that are not equipped with accessible bathrooms on mid-length and longer flights.”

“The disability community has expressed distress that single-aisle aircraft’s are increasingly used by airlines for longer flights but lack accessible lavatories,” the department said in the register.

Now disability advocates are working with the U.S Department of Transportation to ensure that fliers with disabilities have the best in-flight entertainment and that the lavatories are accessible.

The Transportation Department said it is considering “a negotiated rulemaking” concerning bathrooms and other accommodations.

Specifically, the negotiated rulemaking, among other things, could explore things like improving accessibility of bathrooms on new single-aisle aircraft. Ensure that passengers with disabilities have access to the same in-flight entertainment as other fliers, and also Develop a consistent definition for service animals.

The Transportation department has hired Richard Parker from the University of Connecticut’s law school to determine if they need to set up an advisory committee. The department could decide to set it up or initially proceed with rulemaking on its own.

The airplane manufacture Boeing said they would be glad to participate in the analysis and rulemaking by the Federal Department. The Association of Flight Attendants-CWA has also said they would like to participate in the meetings.

One of the airlines has been find \$2 million over accessibility complaints that were made on the airline back in 2014.

#### NEW CHURCH FOR THE DEAF

By Tim Thompson

Pastor Dean Francini, started a new Baptist church in Colorado Springs for the Deaf. The name of the church is Solid Rock Deaf Baptist church (SRDBC). Located at 1301 S 8<sup>th</sup> ST suite 116.

Pastor Dean, was sent from Sword Deaf Baptist Church in Andersonville TN. They began SRDBC on 20<sup>th</sup> December, 2015. All of the services are in ASL. They also have a voice interpreter for all services if any people who can hear show up.

Pastor Francini, Grew up with Deaf parents and is also a retired Marine. Services are Sunday school 10 am, service 11 am, evening 6pm, and Thursday Service 7pm.

Everyone is welcome. Website is [www.solidrockdeafbaptistchurch.com](http://www.solidrockdeafbaptistchurch.com)

ABOVE AND BEYOND PART 2

By Tim Thompson

STARLIGHT NEWS would like to recognize Sareet, for her years in the field. She had started in the disability field as a case manager. After that she became a Host Home Provider and a mentor for a local agency. Sareet, has had her share of trouble with individuals in services but she has usually solved the issue by giving each individual a consequence. If you have a behavior in her group or at her house she will not hesitate to call the police.

Most of the time the individuals don't even get a chance to have a behavior all she has to do is give you this intimidating stare the person usually calms down fast and will apologize for their actions after she give, them "the look." This is a great tactic she uses to insure that everyone has a great day and gets along.

Sareet, may put on this tough girl act but she has a heart of gold. She will not only help people in the disability community but also in the public.

Everyone who knows Sareet sees her good side and sometimes her bad side. Everyone will tell you how good of a person she is and how she has helped them out. Sareet, has also been known to give out great advice some people have told her that she is better then a therapist.Sareet, is also real estate agent and will be happy to help you find a home.

If you are a mentor or a staff in the disability field learn by Sareets, example find a tactic that works for you and use it. You may be the next person who go's above and beyond.



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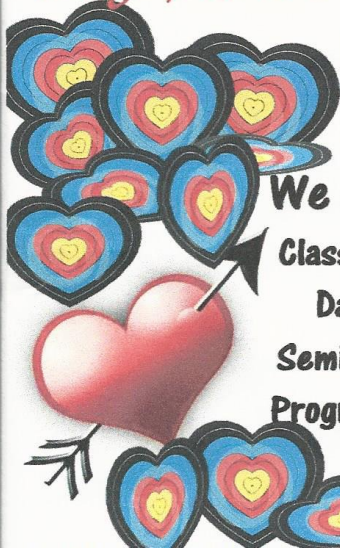
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