

# MORE BUDGET CUTS COMING

Sertoma Center and other agencies across the state who are serving our most fragile population are being targeted again for more funding decreases by the State of Tennessee. Governor Bredesen announced that the Division of Intellectual Disabilities Services intends to cut funding to community providers by almost \$60 million in the upcoming year. This significant cut in funding is expected to include day and residential service providers.

In the past 2 ½ years, Sertoma has seen our funding slashed by a quarter of million dollars. Due to the continuing decline in the state's revenue, the Governor has had to look for ways to balance our state's budget. One area he has chosen to target is the funding for community providers of services for those with intellectual disabilities. At the same time these cuts are being made, the waiting list for services continues to grow every day. Presently, there are over 6,000 Tennesseans with intellectual disabilities who receive no services. There are just a handful of individuals that will be lucky enough to receive funding for services next year.

Providers will have to make many tough decisions and some may be put out of business as a result of the state's actions. At Sertoma, we have always tried to be good stewards of the funds we are entrusted with...both from donors and from contracted services from the state. Your support is more important than ever to enable us to continue to offer quality support for the folks in our community who need us **(and you)** the most.



Yes, I would like to support Sertoma Center!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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Please find my gift enclosed in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Please make checks payable to Sertoma Center

Please charge my:  Visa  MasterCard  American Express

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

REQUIRED FOR ALL CREDIT CARD TRANSACTIONS

## SERTOMA CENTER'S MISSION

Sertoma Center is dedicated to serving adults with developmental disabilities through providing the highest quality of residential, vocational and community services that empower the persons served to lead richer, fuller lives.



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INCORPORATED

## RECREATION THERAPY COMES TO SERTOMA CENTER

We are extremely fortunate at Sertoma Center to have been able to begin a Recreation and Wellness Therapy program and to entice Sarah Owings, a Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist and a UT graduate with a master's degree from the Therapeutic Recreation Program, to come and spearhead our program here.

The individuals of Sertoma are so busy; it's amazing they can fit everything into a single day. Ms. Owings has taken over the monthly calendar and is filling it with activities to keep the individuals on the go. "This has been a great group to work with," states Owings. She goes on to say, "They are excited to try new things and that inspires me to keep coming up with new ideas." The new ideas include everything from the Blue Plate Special at the Knoxville Visitor's Center to Guys' and Ladies' Nights to athletic activities. The Blue Plate Special is a free concert series, and every Tuesday the individuals go listen to all types of music while enjoying lunch. This activity has become one of Thomas' favorites. He has been half a dozen times and still shows intense enthusiasm about each show. "The sound is always delightful and we have never heard the same band twice," Owings reports.

The Guys' and Ladies' Nights have taken place on the weekends when there is some down time in the individuals' schedule. The Guys' Night took place at the Glen Oaks abode. The grill was lit and the guys grubbed on burgers and beans. There were outdoor games played and the guys drank root beer, having a blast just being with the guys. The Ladies' Night at Groner was a slight bit more sophisticated. The gals ate pizza and had their nails done, all while watching the cinematic masterpiece, *High School Musical*.

Sertoma is also getting more involved with physical activities to encourage wellness of our service recipients. Twice a week, individuals walk to the Cansler YMCA to participate in the Silver Sneakers Exercise Program. It is a low impact class that is structured so any person can participate regardless of ability. Two other days a week have been designated for swimming. This is one activity that everyone seems to enjoy. "One of our individuals who swims with us is in a wheelchair when on dry land. When Nancy gets into the water, she has no need for a chair as she runs across the pool. She becomes a different person when she gets in the water. It is amazing. Nancy is all smiles and giggles while she floats on her back. Seeing that transformation is why I work at Sertoma and why this job means so much to me." says Owings.



### 2010 KENNY WITHERS SERTOMA CENTER GOLF CHALLENGE

The annual Kenny Withers Sertoma Center Golf Challenge is Friday, May 14, at The Landmark at Avalon. Get your team together for the four-person scramble with the shotgun start at 8:30 a.m. A team is \$600 for four players or \$150 per person. All levels of sponsorships are still available as well as flag sponsorships. Our chairman for the event is Jimmy Hyams from the Sports Animal. For more information or to register a team, contact joan@sertoma.com or (865) 524-5555 ext. 239. The Kenny Withers Sertoma Center Golf Challenge benefits the Sertoma Center's My Life Foundation.



### COACH DOOLEY TO SPEAK AT FRIENDSHIP DINNER

Friends of Sertoma Center will gather on Tuesday, June 8, 2010 for our annual Friendship Dinner. UT's new football coach, Coach Derek Dooley, will be our keynote speaker. This inspirational fundraiser is in its fourth year and is always a wonderful evening. In addition to a great speaker, you will meet some of Sertoma Center's individuals that we are so privileged to serve as well as staff and families and hear their stories of what Sertoma Center means to them.

Tickets for the Friendship Dinner are free but, of course, we hope that you will make a generous donation to help partner with us in our efforts to provide quality support for individuals with intellectual disabilities. Mark your calendar now for this event and contact friends to come with you on June 8th to the Foundry. For more information or to serve as a table host or sponsor for the event, contact Joan at joan@sertoma.com or call (865) 524-5555 ext. 239.