

AMERICORPS LOOKING FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES.

The mission of AmeriCorps is to strengthen communities by bringing together individuals from a variety of backgrounds in the common effort to improve America. The full and proactive inclusion of individuals with disabilities in AmeriCorps programs is a key component of the goals of AmeriCorps. By serving your community for one year, full time (1700 hours) or part-time (900 hours), you will receive a modest living allowance and an educational award that can be used to further a career goal or repay a student loan. At the same time you will be breaking down the barriers to inclusion of persons with disabilities in the community by molding your ability as you serve your community. For more information on how you can make a difference through national service call Paul Martell at (850) 921-5172 voice /tty.

ALLIANCE BOARD SETS NEW MEETING DAY

Starting this month (February 2001) the Mayor's Alliance Board will meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 1:30p.m. This is a change from the 2nd Wednesday of the month, which was the regular meeting day. Chairman Norman Mallory felt that the change in day would facilitate a larger turnout to the meetings. The meeting will now be held prior to the accessibility meeting at the same location, the Sandy Freedman Tennis Center on Davis Island. For more information regarding joining the board of the Mayor's Alliance please contact Chairman Mallory at 988-4985 or Herb Gold at 254-1111. Please remember everyone is welcome at the Board meetings.

EX-STUDENTS WHO ARE DISABLED FILE SUIT AGAINST USF

Two former students of USF who are disabled have filed suit in federal court against the university accusing the school of discriminating against students who are disabled. The ex-students claim that they were denied equal access to classes and other supplemental services due to their disabilities. The school has not commented on the charges.

FREE PRESCRIPTION DRUGS AVAILABLE FOR SOME PEOPLE

Yes, free prescription drugs are available for some people, if you qualify. The easiest way to find out if you qualify is via computer at the website <http://www.Rxhope.com>. If you don't have a computer the process is a little longer. In order to find out whether your medicines qualify you must first get a list of participating drug makers by writing to: 2000-2001 Patient Assistance Directory, Public Affairs Division, PhRMA, Suite 900, 1100 15th St. NW, Washington, DC 20005. When you receive your directory, check your medicines for the name of the maker and call or write to find out if your medication qualifies. If your medicine does qualify ask for an application, which your doctor must fill in and mail. By following this method you may qualify for free prescription drugs.

NEW WEB SITE OFFERS JOBS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES.

AbilityForum.com has started a new web site and online job center for persons with disabilities. The web site was established under a grant from the U.S. Department of Education and the Florida AbleTrust. The job center provides an arena to post and search resumes and job openings for persons with disabilities. The web site also includes a resource center and social support area and is designed to meet accessibility standards. To reach the site on the internet go to <http://www.abilityforum.com>. For more information regarding the site call Dawn Golden at 813-835-5970.

**MAYOR'S ALLIANCE BOARD
MEETS 3RD WEDNESDAY
OF THE MONTH**

**(NEW DAY)
SANDY FREEDMAN
TENNIS CLUB
DAVIS ISLAND
EVERYBODY WELCOME.**

**FREE EYE EXAM
AND PRESCRIPTION EYEGLASSES.**

The city of Tampa is accepting applications for its vision program, which offers free eye exams and a pair of prescription glasses to qualified residents. Applications are available at the Office of Human Rights/Community Services, 102 E. Seventh Avenue between 8am and 5pm Mondays and Thursdays only. For more information call 274-5835.

IGNORANCE OF ADA NO LONGER AN EXCUSE.

After this month ignorance of the law will be eliminated as an excuse for noncompliance with the American with Disabilities Act in the state of Florida. The secretary of state's office will be sending out notices of compliance to corporate applications and holders of occupation license in the state. The notice will outline the responsibilities of businesses under the public accommodation section of the law. Once again Florida is moving ahead to make sure that compliance with the law takes place.

**ABILITIES OF FLORIDA NOW DOING
BENEFITS PLANNING ASSISTANCE**

Abilities of Florida has been selected by the Social Security Administration to work on a Benefits Planning Assistance and Outreach program. Abilities will work with Social Security Disability Insurance and Supplemental Security Income beneficiaries with disabilities to make decisions regarding returning to work. For more information regarding this program contact Rob Sumner at 727-538-7370, ext. 244 or visit <http://www.abilitiesofflroida.com>.

**GET INVOLVED!
JOIN
THE ALLIANCE BOARD.
For more information call
254-1111.**

**DATES TO
REMEMBER**

2ND. MON. OF THE MONTH, 7pm, THE MAYOR'S HOUR, live cable telecast on CH-15 Time-Warner in Tampa and Hillsborough County and CH-17 on Adelphia cable. Your chance to ask Mayor Greco a question or express your concern, live in the studio or by phone. To call in a question to the Mayor call 274-8328. To be part of the studio audience call Mindy Snyder at 274-7033. Program repeats on Sundays pm, Mondays at 7pm and Fridays at 3pm. **1ST. MON. EVERY MONTH, 3pm, EMPLOYMENT & JOB FAIR COMMITTEE MEETING**, Hilton Hotel Reservation Center, 7920 Woodland Center Blvd. for more information call Cindy Stephens at 984-6840 or KathyMcGlone at 243-7522. **3RD WED. EVERY MONTH, 2:00pm, ACCESSIBILITY COMMITTEE MEETING**, Sandy Freedman Tennis Complex 59 Columbus Drive, Davis Island. **3RD TUES. EVERY MONTH, pm, FLORIDA COUNCIL FOR THE BLIND, GREATER TAMPA CHAPTER**. USF Westside Conference tn. Section B. **3RD TUES. EVERY MONTH, 6:30pm, Tampa Self Help for Hard of Hearing People (SHHH) Group**, Jefferson High School. **1ST THUR. EVERY MONTH, THERAPEUTIC FOCUS GROUP**, All Peoples

Life Center, call 744-5978 for more information. **4TH WED. EVERY MONTH, 2pm, COUNTY ALLIANCE MEETING**, Tampa Lighthouse for The Blind, 1106 W. Platt St. For more information call Elizabeth Mueller at 273-3611 or Debra Guest at 871-7878. **3RD TUES. EVERY 3rd MONTH, 2pm, HARTLINE'S PARATRANSIT ADVISORY COUNCIL**, Hartline Offices, 4305 East 21st Avenue. For more information contact Vasti Amaro at HARTLINE 623-5835, ext.1171.

SUPPORT GROUPS

Hillsborough County Information Line 272-5900; **Self-Reliance Cross Disability Support Group**, 975-6560; **VA Spinal Cord** 972-2000 ext 6388 Heather Mahoney; **Brain and Head Injury Support**, 908-1375 Bob Barrett; **Multiple Sclerosis Self Help Group**, 287-2939 or 800-922-0170; **Statewide Advocacy Network on Disabilities, Inc. (STAND)** offering education and resource services to persons with disabilities. 258-5700 Patricia Miller **Florida Alliance for Assistive Services and Technology (FAAST)** learn about assistive technology 251-7591; **Amputees Together**, 870-3323; **Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA)**, 935-6540 Ben Ritter; **All People's Life Center** 6105 East Sligh Avenue (east of 56th St.) fully accessible recreation center. Call Al Orr at 903-2248 for more information.

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Chairperson: Norman Mallory, 988-4985. **Treasurer: Connie Hayden-McPeak**, 276-5555. **Secretary: Kelly Hickman**, 974-8927. **Past Chairperson: Chuck Porter**, 276-2029 ext 7659. **Advocacy and Accessibility Co-chairpersons: Norman Mallory**, 988-4985. **Bob Ellis**, 974-2002. **Employment Committee Chairperson: Cindy Stephens** 984-6840, **Awareness Committee Chairperson: Chuck Porter** 276-2029 ext 7659. **Mayor's Representative: Herb Gold**, 254-1111

THE ALLIANCE THANKS
UNITEDHEALTHCARE
FOR
THE PRINTING
OF THIS
NEWSLETTER.



For Persons with Disabilities
City Hall 8N
Tampa Fl 33601