

## ***More Local Unit Highlights***

### **The Arc of Aurora**

We have been focusing a significant amount of energy on offering trainings to members and the community-at-large. Topics have included: current legislative actions; psychotropic medications; the new guardianship law; fetal alcohol prevention.

Additionally, we wrote and completed a manual on the possible implications of the human genome project and advocacy. We are just awaiting publication through Mountain States Genetic Network.

### **The Arc in Jefferson County**

We are proud to announce that 3 self-advocates are recipients of the prestigious Minoru Yasui Community Volunteer Award in honor of their volunteer work.

Rene Puype, Remi Puype, and Gwen Puype are members of *Clowns 4-Hire* but they spend most of their time spreading joy and happiness by entertaining for non-profit groups. Their clown act includes magic skits, puppets and balloon sculpturing for hospitals, senior centers, air shows and many other events. They perform weekly at Children's Hospital.

The trio of clowns with mild developmental disabilities say that their goal is "to make people happy". Gwen adds that laughter is the best medicine and makes her forget her own problems. Remi, her husband, chimes in that "you can make people of all ages happy!" Rene, Remi's twin brother, is quick to add that he enjoys his "clowning all of the time."

Rene, Remi and Gwen represent volunteerism at its best, choosing not to dwell on their own challenges but rather to use the capabilities they have developed to enrich and improve the lives of others.

They received their award on April 26th at the Denver Marriott Southeast and intend to present their \$2,000 cash award to our Arc!

## **The Arc of the United States National Awards**

*\* Do you know someone whose contributions have had a nationwide impact ?*

*\* Are you proud of a Person who is an achieving, included member of society?*

*\*Would you like to recognize your Arc Chapter for providing an exemplary or unique program?*

*\*Do you know a Chapter that conducts an effective prevention activity designed to reduce the incidence of mental retardation or promote wellness?*

*\*Is there a community organization that provides the BEST year-round, challenging and inclusive recreation/leisure-time program?*

**All of these are the categories for The Arc's 2001 National Awards Program. Your nomination must be received no later than June 1st. To submit a nomination, call your Local Unit or another Local Unit.**

**Remember, your nomination could be a National Winner!**