

# News from the Gate October~~~November 2013

The Gate–Gateway to Independence is a social center for adults with disabilities living in Blount County. Beginning in August, 2013, participants meet at two locations: Sycamore Tree United Methodist Church, 1830 Clydesdale Street, Maryville, and Ft. Craig, 520 S. Washington Street Maryville.



## Upcoming Social Events for Participants and Families

Sunday, November 24 5:30 pm  
Thanksgiving Banquet at Sycamore Tree

Thursday, December 5 6:30–8:30 pm  
Civitan Dance at Maryville First United Methodist Church  
This is an annual event presented each year by the Civitans of Maryville  
804 Montvale Station Road, Maryville

Friday, January 17 2014 6:00–8:00 pm  
Movie Dance by Hannah Rials and Friends



**Getting ready to dance in 2012!**

## Our 2013 Holiday Sales Project

Each year, the Gate has a Holiday Sales Project. This helps us to raise money for our programs and increases our visibility in the community. Several churches invite us to their Alternative Gift Fairs, where we have a table showing our products. We have attended events at New Providence Presbyterian Church and Maryville First United Methodist Church. On Sunday, November 24, we will be at Highland Presbyterian Church, located at 721 E. Lamar Alexander Parkway, close to the Ft. Craig building. This is their Alternative Christmas Market from 11:30–2:30. A light lunch will be served.

We also have a display at The Gate at Sycamore Tree. This year, 2013, we are selling soy candles, chocolate pretzel sticks, and ornaments made by the Gate family of staff, volunteers, and participants. The candles are selling well, and we are taking orders from Gate families. This helps us with having the exact scent our customers prefer. The chocolate pretzels come in two sizes: a pack of five for \$7.00 and a bulk container of twenty pretzels for \$21.00. Each pretzel is wrapped individually. These make great “stocking stuffers” by themselves or could be placed in a basket or coffee mug for a more elaborate present. The ornaments are perfect for decorations and small gifts. We also have a popular reindeer style gift card holder.

### *Working on ornaments and packing pretzels for Alternative Gift Markets*



*A Gate participant helps at a sales table*

**A Special Visit from a Macaw!**

The **Hyacinth Macaw** is a parrot native to central and eastern South America.

According to Wikipedia.org, it is the “largest parrot by length in the world.”

Visit <http://tinyurl.com/klvqx4u> for an interesting Belle story.

A Gate participant, Emily, met Princess Bluebell the macaw. Her family suggested we invite Belle and her owner, Chris Connone, to visit with us at The Gate. Belle arrived in her cage, but she was not shy about leaving the cage to mingle with participants and guests.

*Emily tells the group about meeting Belle in Maryville*



*Belle at the Gate*



## Our Maryville College Volunteers

Each semester, Maryville College students come to The Gate to volunteer. They interact with the participants by playing games and preparing for Special Olympics events such as Past and Shoot (team skills) basketball and Track and Field, among other activities. They help with communication duties, such as organizing family e-mail addresses, as well.

These students have chosen to volunteer at The Gate for a variety of reasons including fulfilling a course requirement, completing community service requirements or because they have a special or personal interest in working with Gate population.

### *Various Maryville College students interact with participants*



### *Other Maryville College Volunteers for Fall, 2013*



# The Gate 2013 Halloween Party at Ft. Craig



## Maryville City Firefighters Visit Ft. Craig

On Thursday, October 24, representatives from the Maryville City Fire Department visited at our newer location, Ft. Craig. The purpose of this visit was to discuss safe and efficient building exit routes for Gate participants in case of an emergency. After walking through the building together with the firefighters, participants and staff learned that the front of the building, if it is not blocked, is the safest way to leave in an emergency. There are also alternate exits from the cafeteria, the gymnasium, and the rooms on the right side of the hall. Each year, October is Fire Prevention Month.

### *Participants talk to firefighters about equipment and safety*



The Gate  
"Gateway to Independence"  
Visit our website

<http://www.gatewaytoindependence.org/>