10 Ideas

ANCOR’s 2010 Direct Support Recognition Week
Get Ready to Celebrate Your DSPs!

1. Yellow Flags and Petitions
   Fly yellow flags honoring DSPs on the grounds of city hall or your State Capital during the Week of September 12. Simultaneously, via the U.S. mail, send yellow flags to your member of Congress accompanied by signed petitions for passage of HR. 868.

2. Call on Congress
   Join with thousands of DSPs, self-advocates and family members as we “Call on Congress” on Tuesday, September 14. Members of Congress listen to their constituents, so take advantage of your position of power. Call and talk to them about the need for better wages for community residential DSPs. Flood the telephone lines and secure their support for the Direct Support Professional Fairness and Security Act, H.R. 868. Visit www.youneedtoknowme.org for more information about H.R. 868.

3. Mayoral Proclamation & Activities
   Get your city hall involved this week. Invite a politician to shadow a DSP, attend a recognition ceremony, etc.

4. Make Merry
   • Create a poster contest: Have residents create giant “thank you” posters for their DSPs
   • Pizza Parties; BBQs; recognition luncheons, brunches and dinners
   • Distribute Certificates of Appreciation
   • Create theme days and parties
   • Go bowling
   • Give a daily fun gift: Lifesavers, M&M pills for stress
   • Hall of Fame: decorate with stars with DSPs’ names

5. Fundraisers
   • Run, Walk and Roll: Collect pledges to fundraise
   • Lottery Tree Raffle: Sell $1 raffle tickets for a tree of Lottery Tickets

6. Advertise
   Make the most of all media: print, billboard, radio, TV

7. Media events
   • Invite a reporter to “Shadow Day” and your recognition ceremony
   • Send new releases
• Schedule interviews
• Pitch human interest stories
• Send op-eds
• Letters to the editor

8. Speaking Engagements & Local Activities
• Speak at civic organization meetings (Rotary, Kiwanis, Chamber of Commerce, Lions, etc.)
• Participate in local activities such as a wellness day with blood pressure and cholesterol checks

9. Gift your DSPs
   Give them homemade thank you cards, movie tickets, flowers and other expressions of gratitude. Enlist community businesses to offer coupons, gift certificates or merchandise to DSPs

10. Take Lots of Pictures & Participate in the NAC Virtual Rally
• Upload your event on the NAC YouTube channel
• Send photos of your events to ancor@ancor.org or post them to Flickr and send us the link
• Post notice of your events and stories about them on the NAC Facebook page
• Message your own Facebook friends and get them involved
• Blog and tweet about your DSP week events and activities

NOTE:
Template news releases, op-ed and articles will be posted in the Resource Library of ANCOR’s Connected Community under the National Advocacy Campaign PR Council. Logon to http:// ancor.connectedcommunity.org. Your email address is your login information. Create your password and you’re in!

To take a look at 2009 DSP Week photos and samples, visit http://www.youneedtoknowme.org/content/news/archives.html