



# *Parish of Ascension*

OFFICE OF THE PARISH PRESIDENT

TOMMY MARTINEZ  
Parish President

## **Parish President Proclaims March as National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month in Ascension Parish**

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GONZALES – Ascension Parish President Tommy Martinez proclaimed March, 2013 as “National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month in Ascension Parish.”

President Martinez made the proclamation during the Feb. 18 parish council meeting and presented the document to Cheryl Rice, supported employment coordinator with Community Opportunities the ARC of East Ascension.

Rice announced several upcoming events the ARC of East Ascension would be holding during March.

“March is our signature month with National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month and we try our best to make sure our community is aware of what we do and that our community is aware of what services we offer and how to make contact for those services,” Rice said.

Rice said along with their yearly event “March Awareness Family Fun Day 2013” to be held on March 23, the ARC of East Ascension has also added two other events during March.

On March 1, the “National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month” kick-off event will be held at 1212 Purpera Road, Gonzales at the ARC of East Ascension’s Center Based Respite grounds from 11:30 a.m. till 1:30 p.m.

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Rice said a hot air balloon will lift off at that location to signify the start of the month's festivities.

On March 21 the ARC of East Ascension will hold their 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Community Job/Education Fair from 9 a.m. till noon at the Gonzales Civic Center, 219 S. Irma Blvd. in Gonzales. Rice said the fair will be free to the public and will include education and business vendors.

"We're hoping to have 35 to 40 organizations and businesses participating this year," Rice said.

The March events will culminate with "March Awareness Family Fun Day 2013" on March 23 at the Knights of Columbus Hall at 230 S. Irma Blvd. Gonzales, Rice said. The event will be from 10 a.m. till 3 p.m. and include food, games, music, entertainment, awareness and fun.

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Ascension Parish President Tommy Martinez (left) proclaimed March, 2013 as “National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month in Ascension Parish.” President Martinez is shown presenting the proclamation to Cheryl Rice, supported employment coordinator with Community Opportunities the ARC of East Ascension.

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