

Doug Galke

Doug Galke came to the High Country area in 1982 to be the director of the then Developmental Evaluation Center (DEC). The DEC provided interdisciplinary services to infants and children up to 21 with developmental disabilities, developmental delays or at risk for developmental delays.

The DEC became the lead agency of the Infant toddler program in 2005 and was renamed the Children's Developmental Services Agency of the Blue Ridge (CDSA). The CDSA works in 7 counties in the High Country area with children 0-3 years old. Currently the CDSA is working with 229 children in the 7 counties. Mr. Galke will continue to be the director until March 2009, when he is retiring.

While in this role, Mr. Galke has always strived to improve the quality of services to children and families. He has served on numerous committees at the state level representing the interests of the High Country including the NC Developmental Evaluation Center Directors Association, and the Leo M. Croghan Memorial Foundation. He is also a Physical Therapist by trade and has been involved with professional activities such as the American and NC Physical Therapy Association.

There is a partnership between the CDSA and a state grant based at J. Iverson Riddle Developmental Center called the Assistive Technology Resource Center (ATRC). Mr. Galke was instrumental in supporting the early stages of developing this resource at the state level. This partnership enables the CDSA to have an Assistive Technology Loan library to be able to loan equipment to families and providers to improve the abilities of children with disabilities. Much of this equipment would not be cost feasible for families to purchase and is only needed for a brief time. Having items available for loan aided over 154 people with disabilities last year.

Locally Mr. Galke has been a member of advisory boards for the State Employees Credit Union and the ASU Institute for Health and Human Services. He Co-Founded the Parent to Parent of the High Country in 1989 and the Blue Ridge Asset Building Coalition for individuals and families in 2005. He assisted in organizing the initial advisory board and interviewing staff for the Parent to Parent program.

Mr. Galke has presented in numerous local, regional and state meetings and workshops. He has presented on a variety of topics including development, professionals working together with parents, and services just to name a few. He has presented to parent groups, child care providers, professional organizations, and at conferences.

While Doug is not directly involved in every child related organization in the High Country area, he instills the value of CDSA involvement in the community, in the staff and ensures that someone represents the CDSA in as many organizations as possible. He also has made time to participate in events such as the child fest and kidstock.

There are other things that Doug Galke has been involved with in the 25+ years of service in the High Country but researching his prior activities has been difficult because of his personal humility and lack of self promotion.

As the information for this nomination was collected the additional supporters were all contacted. All of them were complementary of his involvement in the capacity that they know Mr. Galke. Descriptors such as helpful problem solver, good communicator, helpful, resourceful, and good at making sense of complicated situations were used in their responses.