

# Cincinnati Recreation Commission

## "COUNT ME IN" Puppetry Program

On November 1, 2005, The Cincinnati Recreation Commission Foundation was awarded a grant in the amount of \$7,000 from the CVS/pharmacy Charitable Trust for the purchase of a puppetry kit designed by The Pacer Center in Minneapolis, Minnesota! The COUNT ME IN Puppetry Program is a disability awareness project which teaches inclusion and disability awareness through puppet shows.

We began featuring the puppets at our recreation centers in the summer of 2006. The kit contains 8, 3-foot-tall puppets who portray youngsters from diverse backgrounds with a variety of disabilities. This program seeks to foster positive attitudes and promotes easier integration between children with disabilities and children without disabilities in schools and communities. We are very excited about the impact that this program will have on promoting inclusion and disability awareness in our communities!



*This program is ideal for grades K-4, but can be adapted for other age groups. This show typically lasts 1 hour, featuring 4 different disabilities and the opportunity to ask the puppets and an adult with a spinal cord injury questions about their disabilities. There is a fee of \$.50 per child.*

***If you are interested in learning how to get the COUNT ME IN Puppetry Program at your school or organization, please contact Karen at (513)352-4056 or [karen.schissler@cincinnati-oh.gov](mailto:karen.schissler@cincinnati-oh.gov)!***

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