



# MANN-U-SCRIPT



## ► The Face of HMEA

**Jan Bolton** has been employed by HMEA for 12 years (actually, she was here for a previous period of time as well in the early 90s). She has held several positions while at HMEA, including Staff Training Director, and is currently the Director of Professional Development for Children's Services. Jan has a long background in human services, and has held clinical positions, as well as, training positions. She has an extensive knowledge of teaching and learning styles, and behavior management.

Jan's main focus is to ensure that staff in Children's Services have the knowledge and skills that they need to provide quality services to the children served. In addition to that, however, she has expanded her teaching to school personnel and to parents of children on the Autism Spectrum. Several local school departments have contracted services for teachers 'professional days'. Jan offers training to teachers about topics such as information about kids with disabilities, applied behavior analysis, and social skills in the classroom; her trainings vary from a couple of hours to a full day. Some schools are now asking for a series of professional days. Recently, Jan has added a six-week discussion group for parents served through the Autism Resource Center.

This past year, Jan became certified as a Board Certified Behavior Analyst, and began teaching at Becker College. She is also a practicum coordinator for interns from Becker who are fulfilling their internship requirements at HMEA. The Children's Services division has hosted two ABA conferences, and Jan was instrumental in planning those conferences; they were very positively received by participants. She, along with other HMEA staff, have also presented at other conferences. She has co-authored a paper that will be published in July in the Journal of Autism and other Developmental Disabilities.

Jan is a single Mom to Brian and Emily. Brian is a senior in high school and is getting ready for college, so they're traveling around to look at schools. Emily is a competitive high school athlete, and there are many practices and games to attend. Jan is also very involved in her church, and has taught classes in the past. Currently, her role is as chair of the committee that assists in helping include children with disabilities into church activities. This is one busy woman!

When asked why she enjoys working at HMEA, Jan says "I believe in our mission and values. The flexibility that I've been given here has allowed me to achieve a work/life balance and I've been lucky enough to have several different roles at the agency, so I never get bored!" ◀