



Family Resource Network

Helping Families Meet the Challenge

Volume 16, Issue 2, Spring/Summer 2008

The Road Less Traveled *The Journey of Emotions Experienced by Families Raising Children with Special Needs*



On the evening of Monday April 28th, Family Resource Network's Executive Director Ann Cirimele will present "The Road Less Traveled: The Journey of Emotions Experienced by Families Raising Children with Special Needs." Using stories, videos and personal experiences Ann will explore the journey of emotions that parents experience and how those emotions affect parents' relationships with family members and professionals. Writings from Dr. Ken Moses will be shared with participants.

Ann has presented this workshop throughout California and it has received excellent reviews from parents and professionals alike. The workshop will take place at San Joaquin County Office of Education, Education Service Center, 2707 Transworld Drive in Stockton. Registration begins at 6:15 p.m. with the workshop taking place from 6:30 to 8:30. The workshop is free for parents who reside in FRN's 5-county service area. There is a \$15 fee for professionals. The registration form is available by calling FRN at 209-472-3674 or 800-847-3030, or by visiting www.frcn.org and clicking on calendar.



14th Annual Early Start Symposium *"Embracing All Children"*

Save the Date!

The Region 9 Infant Services Committee proudly announces that the 14th Annual Early Start Symposium will take place on Friday, October 24, 2008 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Modesto. Dr. Deborah Chen will be the keynote speaker. Dr. Chen is a professor in the Special Education Department at California State University, Northridge. Her keynote presentation "Making the Most of Early Communication" will address different forms of communication that can be used by young children with special needs and their families. In addition to Dr. Chen's presentation, there will be breakout sessions presented by local experts. Session topics will include speech development, behavior, seizure disorders, visual impairment, medical advocacy, and cultural diversity.

Registration forms will be available in early September. Parent scholarships will be available for families whose children reside in FRN's 5 county service area and are receiving services through the Early Start program. Out of respect to all attendees, we ask that children not be brought to the Symposium. Respite may be available to families receiving Early Start Services within the region. Contact your child's Service Coordinator for more information.

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EDITOR: Ann Cirimele

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Family Resource Network Phone: 209-472-3674
5250 Claremont Ave., Suite 239 Fax: 209-472-3673
Stockton, CA 95207
Email: FRNfamilies@aol.com website: www.frcn.org

**Congrats to the WINNERS of
FRN's latest drawing:**

**Billy Jo Afoa
Megan Maier
Hallie Perez**



The recreational support group for
non-disabled siblings, ages 7 to 14:

**Saturday June 21, 2008
1 to 4 p.m.**

Valley Community Baptist Church, Tracy.

**Meet other siblings who have the same
kinds of issues. There are games, crafts,
discussion activities, food and lots of fun!
There is no cost to attend.**

**Registration is required and must be
submitted by June 13th. Call 472-3674 or
800-847-3030 to request a registration
packet.**

Down Syndrome News

Central California Down Syndrome

Foundation (CCDSF) group meets the 2nd
Friday of the month from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at
Calvary Temple Worship Center, 1601 Coffee
Road, in Modesto. Call Maria at 845-8028 for
more information.

**The Brighterside of Down Syndrome of
San Joaquin County** meets at 6 p.m. on the
2nd Tuesday of each month at Walton Early
Intervention Center, 4131 N. Crown Ave.,
Stockton. This group is open to any parent of
persons (birth to adult) with Down syndrome.
For more information contact Jean at 933-
7315 x 7740.



Children of Light

*Support Group for Families
of Children with Any Kind of Special Need*

This group meets the 2nd Friday of the month
from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Calvary Temple
Worship Center, 1601 Coffee Road, Room 110
in Modesto. Call Kathleen at (209) 577-3103
for more information.



Get All the Latest Info

FRN will email you up-to-the-minute
information on news items, events, activities,
trainings and other issues of interest to
families raising children with special needs.
FRN's newsletter is published only 3 times
per year so email is a great way to keep up
on important information. If you would like
to be added to FRN's email list, email the
following info to FRNfamilies@aol.com:

- Your name
- The county you reside in
- Please indicate if you are a parent of
a child with special needs or a
professional working with special
needs children

Training Opportunities

April 17 – Writing An Effective IEP for Your Child with Special Needs • Presenters: Area VI Board and Family Resource Network • SCDD, Area VI Board • Tuolumne County Office of Education, **Sonora**, 6 – 8:30 p.m. FREE, reservations are required, for reservations call 800-847-3030.

April 22–Dyslexia Presentation • Presenter: Susan Barton, Claudia Landeen School, **Stockton**, 6 – 9 p.m., FREE, for info www.Sockton.EventBrite.com or call 209-468-4928.

May 3 – 7th Annual Autism Forum • Keynote Presenter: Temple Grandin, Ph.D. • SJCOE, **Stockton**, 8:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., registration fee, for info call 209-468-4928.

May 14 - Building Bridges – Transitioning Your Child from the Early Start Program • FRN Office in **Stockton**, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., free for parents, \$15 fee for professionals, for info call 800-847-3030.

Back by popular demand!!

Moving Forward Transitioning To Adult Services



In response to requests from families, FRN has added another offering of its new Moving Forward workshop to the Spring training schedule. The target audience is parents/caregivers of students age 16 to 21 who are receiving special education services. The goal is to help parents and student learn about transitioning to adult services. Students are welcome to attend with their parent or primary caregiver. This is a FREE workshop, but registration is required. Call FRN or get a copy of the registration form at www.frcn.org. Click on calendar.

Moving Forward workshop:

Wednesday, April 23, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., San Joaquin County Office of Education, Education Service Center, 2707 Transworld Drive, Stockton.

Check FRN's website, www.frcn.org and click on "calendar" for updated information on trainings and events. Registration forms for FRN events are on the website.

Financial and Estate Planning Workshop Coming to Modesto

Frank Quacinella, First Vice President and National Spokesperson for Families with Special Needs Planning Network for Merrill Lynch, and Mark Drobney, Attorney at Law, will once again be the presenters for FRN's Financial and Estate Planning workshops. Frank and Mark are offering a presentation covering basic topics on the evening of **May 22nd** at the Stanislaus County Office of Education building in Modesto. Topics include:

- ◆ Understanding the importance of financial planning,
- ◆ Preparing for when you're not there to help.
- ◆ Protecting government benefits through proper estate planning.
- ◆ Special Needs Trusts – the basics of how they work and when they are appropriate.
- ◆ Conservatorship – What is it? Situations under which it should be considered and when it should be avoided.
- ◆ Personal estate planning

There is no cost to attend this workshop, but reservations are requested. Call FRN or go to www.frcn.org and click on calendar for registration information.

Extended School Year Information from Protection and Advocacy, Inc.

Special education and related services shall be provided on an extended year basis for students with disabilities whose unique needs require services in excess of the regular academic year. The IEP team makes the determination of whether a child needs such a program and should consider as factors whether the child's disabilities are likely to continue indefinitely or for a prolonged period, or if interruption of her educational programming may cause regression and, coupled with limited recoupment capacity, render it impossible or unlikely that she will attain the level of self-sufficiency and independence that would otherwise be expected in view of her disabling condition. The lack of clear evidence of such factors may not be used to deny extended year services if the IEP team determines the need for an extended year program and includes the services in an IEP. The special education and related services offered during the extended year must be comparable in standards, scope and quality to the program offered during the regular academic year. If the IEP team recommends extended year services, the recommendation should be written into the IEP. [34 C.F. R. Sec. 300.106; 5 C.C.R. Sec. 3043.]

New FRN Library Resources

Books

- Alex, The Fathering of a Preemie
- Epilepsy and Seizure Disorders: A Resource Guide for Parents
- Late Talking Children
- Recognizing and Managing Children with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome/Fetal Alcohol Effects
- When You Worry About the Child You Love (Emotional and Learning Problems in Children)

CDs

- The Educators' In-Service Program on Understanding Tourette Syndrome

DVDs

- I Have Tourette's, but Tourette's Doesn't Have Me

Videos

- Collaborating for Change – Inclusion Strategies for All Students
- Grandparents as Parents
- Just Friends
- Managing Seizures in Children
- Pass – Plan for Achieving Self-Support
- Supporting Infant/Toddler Social Emotional Development (videos available in English and Spanish)

Additionally, FRN has received numerous audio tapes on topics such as ADD, sensory integration and child development. Visit www.frcn.org and click on Library to see a complete listing of all of FRN's library resources and to find out how to borrow resources from the library. If you don't have access to the internet you can contact FRN at 209-472-3674 or 800-847-3030.



Friends In Deed!

Congratulations to

♥ **Doreen Bestolarides** ♥

and

♥ **Curt R. & Gerry Pindler Foundation** ♥

who were honored with Friend in Deed certificates for their exceptional caring and commitment toward children with special needs and their families. See page 7 of this newsletter if you would like to honor someone with a Friend in Deed certificate.



Thank You to all the following sponsors of FRN's Mothers Retreat:

- Baskin Robbins Ice Cream, March Ln.
- Elaine Begley Photography for Special Needs Kids
- Beverly's Crafts & Fabric, Stockton
- Jessica Bossana
- Carrie Bowlds, Princess House
- Canepa's Car Wash, Stockton
- Sue Chinchio
- Costco Wholesale, Stockton
- Kristi Davidson, Mary Kay Cosmetics
- Department of Developmental Services
- Frank & Lisa Drake
- Kathleen DuBose
- Aubrey Dyer, Mary Kay Cosmetics
- Family Christian Store, Stockton
- Genova Bakery, Stockton
- Great Clips, Manteca
- Lizzy Harrison, Tupperware
- Jackson Rancheria Casino & Hotel
- Sheri Jones, Dooziegems
- Beverly Klunk
- Olivia Lugo
- Joan O'Connor
- Parents Helping Parents
- PEDS
- Port of Stockton Nursery
- San Joaquin County Office of Education
- Subway, Stockton
- Starbucks, Stockton
- The Creamery, Stockton
- Irene Valdez, BeutiControl
- Valley Mountain Regional Center



FRN extends its thanks to the following for their generous donations:

- Bank of the West Employee Giving Program
- Beverly Klunk
- Jeanne Knudsen
- Jennifer Lambson
- Kathy Nakaishi
- PEDS *in memory of Junichi Takahashi*
- Mariela Ramos
- Mary Ann Taylor
- Jerry & Agnes Whitefoot

Thank you United Way Donors!!

- Ron Cook
- Thea Etheridge
- Susan Perondi
- Kathleen Werner

FRN extends special thanks to the Curt R. & Gerry Pindler Foundation for its generous donation. The Foundation's continued support of FRN is truly appreciated.



FRN thanks these great student volunteers:

*Carissa Balcao
Jessica Bossana
Nehir Patel
Sam Sopath*

Mothers Day Quote:

A woman is like a tea bag – you never know how strong she is until she gets in hot water.

Eleanor Roosevelt



Many, many thanks go to those who so generously donated to **FRN's Healing Hearts Society**. Funds from these donations are given to families to assist with burial expenses upon the death of their child with special needs. Since its creation in June, the Healing Hearts Society has provided funding to seven families.

Healing Hearts Society Members include:

- Sue Allyn
- Lilia Amezcua
- David and Nancy Bristow-Ferrill
- Lorraine Lane
- Lodi Funeral Home
- Charles R. McCormick, M.D.
- Catharine Moore
in loving memory of Stephanie McNett
- Marie O'Sullivan
- Joe Rishwain
- Michelle Rodriguez
- Law Office of Sabrina Schneweis-Coe
- Angelo & Maria Stagnaro
- Judy Sterling
- Peggy Traverso
- Richard F. Wong, M.D.



Family Resource Network thanks the Stockton Thunder and Lightning Foundation and all the people who pledged funds for the "Light the Lamp" goal drive for the 2008 ECHL All-Star game. The two All-Star teams scored a total of 18 goals and FRN received a check in the amount of \$2,350!

Thank you hockey fans!!



Autism News

Stockton/Lodi Autism Support Group

This group for parents of children with ASD meets at 7 p.m. on the last Thursday of the month at Julia Morgan School in Stockton. For information call Sylvia at 334-3025.

Tracy Area Support

The group is open to parents/caregivers raising children who have been diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder or similar condition. The group is in the process of finding a new location. For information contact Karen Bonacci at 832-2593.

Autism Speaks

The 1st Annual Walk Now for Autism fundraiser benefiting Autism Speaks will take place on Saturday, October 18th at Modesto Junior College West campus. For more information, or for vendor or sponsorship opportunities contact Michelle Rodriguez at michellerod5@hotmail.com or 209-614-6364.

CSUS Research Project

A graduate student at California State University, Stanislaus is conducting a research project aimed at determining if social stories help teenagers diagnosed with autism, Asperger's or PDD/NOS. If you live in Stanislaus County and have a teenager with one of those diagnoses and would like to find out more about participating in this project, please contact Crystal Alstot at calstot@gmail.com or 209-658-5089.



Summer Camps

FRN is compiling information on summer camps and other recreational activities in our 5-county service area. For more information contact FRN at 209-472-3674 or 800-847-3030.

Recreational Opportunities

You can contact your local:

- Boys and Girls Clubs
- Parks and Recreation Departments
- Public Libraries
- YMCAs

San Joaquin Info:

- Boy Scouts/Cub Scouts – for boys with special needs who are at least 6 years old. Call Chet at 982-0234.
- Dance & Cheer Stars - for children of all abilities, www.danceandcheerstars.com or call 456-7376.
- Gymstars Gymnastics – for children of all abilities, www.gymstars.com or call 957-1919
- Recreational Sports Club of San Joaquin – Athletic and leisure activities for the special needs community are offered throughout the year. Visit their website at www.rscofsanjoaquin.org or call 403-8878.
- Special Children's Sports Club - for children ages 5 – 18 with special needs. Baseball: April – June; Soccer: August – October; Bowling: November – February; Basketball: January – March. Contact Teresa at 951-7617.
- Special Kids Bowling – open to all ages, register in late October. Contact Marilyn at plattmd@comcast.net or 956-3621.

Stanislaus County Info:

- Gymstars Gymnastics – for children of all abilities, www.gymstars.com or call 957-1919
- The Society for the Handicapped offers events throughout the year. Visit their website at www.societyforhandicapped.org or call 524-3536

Calaveras County Info:

- Calaveras Kids – Visit www.calaveraskids.com for a calendar of events.
- CAST for Kids Fishing Fun Fair - a free special fishing event for disabled and disadvantaged children 5 – 16 years old. Pre-registration is required. Contact Ranger Leanne Bryan at 209-536-9094 x 217.



FRN's Friend in Deed Certificate

**A Perfect Gift for ...
Teachers,
Instructional Aides,
Doctors,
Service Coordinators,
Grandparents,
Babysitters, or
Other special people in your child's life.**



“Please send a Friend in Deed Certificate to my sister. The love she has provided to me and my son cannot be measured...”

Do you know someone who deserves special recognition?

We all know someone who has been the cornerstone of our child's success. Or that special someone we turn to in a crisis who has always been able to guide us. Please consider awarding that special someone whose actions are always beyond the call of duty with a certificate recognizing them as a FRIEND IN DEED. Submit the form below to FRN and we will make sure that those friends whose acts of kindness and compassion have made a difference in the life of a child and their family are formally recognized. Their names will be printed in FRN's next newsletter.

Please send a certificate to the person listed below.

- I have enclosed \$5.00 per certificate to cover the cost of preparing and mailing each certificate.
- Additional Award Requests Enclosed. (List other names on another sheet of paper.)

MAKE CERTIFICATE OUT TO: (please print)

First Name Last Name

Agency/Affiliation (if applicable): _____

Mailing Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

PLEASE MAKE AWARD ON BEHALF OF MYSELF/MY CHILD:

First Name Last Name

Mailing Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____

**FRN will mail the certificate directly to the person being honored, unless instructed otherwise.
QUESTIONS? CALL 209-472-3674 or 800-847-3030.**

Mail this form and payment to: Family Resource Network, 5250 Claremont Ave, Suite 239, Stockton, CA 95207