



# Family Resource Network

## Helping Families Meet the Challenge

Volume 15, Issue 3, Fall 2007

### 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Early Start Symposium

Friday, October 26, 2007 will be an exciting day in our area as it is the date of the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Early Start Symposium. This year's event will take place at the newly renovated Stockton Golf & Country Club. The event will take place in the main ballroom with its panoramic waterfront views. The theme of the event is *Together is Better: Parents and Professionals in Early Start*

Family Resource Network is proud to be a member of the Region 9 Infant Services Committee which is sponsoring the Symposium, and we are especially excited to bring the Symposium's speaker, Dr. Victor J. Bernstein to our area. Dr. Bernstein is a nationally known expert on Early Intervention and is especially known for his expertise in establishing helping relationships between parents and professionals. In addition to his many years as a professional, Dr. Bernstein is the parent of an adult son with developmental disabilities, so Dr. Bernstein speaks with the voice of both a parent and a professional.

Full scholarships are available to parents whose children are receiving Early Start services in Amador, Calaveras, San Joaquin, Stanislaus and Tuolumne Counties. Respite hours are available for parents to attend this event. Early Start parents should contact their child's Service Coordinator immediately for registration and respite information.

There are a limited number of full scholarships available to parents of children ages 3 to 5 who are receiving special education services in our 5 county region. Contact FRN for details.

The registration fee for professionals is \$60. For professionals or parents outside of FRN's 5-county service area, the fee is \$75. Registration forms are available on FRN's website, [www.frcn.org](http://www.frcn.org), click on the calendar; or by contacting FRN at 209-472-3674.

### Dr. Bernstein offers FREE Saturday workshop

Dr. Victor Bernstein, the speaker at this year's Early Start Symposium is extending his stay in our region to offer a FREE workshop to parents of children with special needs. The event will take place Saturday morning, October 27<sup>th</sup> at San Joaquin County Office of Education. Dr. Bernstein's topic is "Appreciating, enjoying, and celebrating with our children: The key to building positive parent-professional relationships"

Dr. Bernstein, a parent of an adult son with special needs, states that "our children have much to offer, much to teach us, and most importantly, much to delight in. We need to move beyond the emotions related to loss. Children and parents can help show the way. Together parents and professionals can harness the positive energy from enjoying and loving our children, so children can feel good about themselves, feel secure, and delight in their successes rather than be defined by their limitations or failures."

The workshop is sponsored by RISC-9 and San Joaquin SELPA. Registration forms will soon be available from FRN or by calling Sharon at San Joaquin County SELPA at 209-468-4908

Come spend a few hours with Dr. Bernstein. You'll be glad you did.



FRN and the Stockton Thunder are collaborating on an exciting event.

See page 7 for details!!

Family Resource Network Newsletter  
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Email: FRNfamilies@aol.com website: [www.frcn.org](http://www.frcn.org)

Congrats to the WINNERS of  
FRN's latest drawing:  
Stephanie Blackman  
Keri Gustafson  
Sally Pezzi



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

**Saturday, September 15, 2007**  
**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 September 10th.**  
Call 472-3674 or 800-847-3030 to request a registration packet.

## Down Syndrome News

Central California Down Syndrome Foundation (CCDSF) group meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at CTWC, 1601 Coffee Road in Modesto. The annual **Buddy Walk** will take place on **September 29<sup>th</sup>** at **Calvary Temple Worship Center, 1601 Coffee Rd., Modesto from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.** Call Maria at 845-8028, or Kathleen at 577-3103 for more information.

The **Brighter Side of Down Syndrome of San Joaquin County** meets at 6 p.m. on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at Walton Early Intervention Center, 4131 N. Crown Ave., Stockton. Dessert is provided. This group is open to any parent of persons (birth to adult) with Down syndrome. The group's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual **Buddy Walk** will take place at **10 a.m. on October 6<sup>th</sup>** at **Victory Park**. For more information contact Jean at 933-7315 x 7740.



**Children of Light**  
*Support Group for Families  
of Children with Special Needs*

This group meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of every month from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Calvary Temple Worship Center, Room 113, 1601 Coffee Road, **Modesto**. Free childcare is available. For more information contact Kathleen at 577-3103.



## Tis The Season...

**Or it will be before we know it. FRN's Annual Holiday Open House will take place on Saturday, December 8<sup>th</sup> from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at FRN's office, 5250 Claremont Ave., Stockton. This FREE event will have food, fun and Santa will be stopping by. Call or email FRN to let us know how many people will be in your party.**



## Training Opportunities

**Sept. 13 – Writing An Effective IEP for Your Child with Special Needs** • Presenters: Area VI Board and Family Resource Network • Library – McFall Room, Manteca, 6 p.m., FREE, reservations are required, for reservations call 800-847-3030.

**Sept. 18 - Building Bridges – Transitioning Your Child from the Early Start Program** • Presenter: Ann Cirimele, Family Resource Network • FRN Office in Stockton, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., free for parents, \$15 fee for professionals, for reservations call 800-847-3030.

**Sept. 21 – Disaster Preparedness for Individuals with Disabilities and Their Families** • Keynote: Ana-Marie Jones • San Joaquin County Office of Education, Stockton, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., \$10 for consumers and family members, \$15 for professionals, reservations are required, for reservations call CHOICES Institute 209-948-8011.

**Oct. 2 – Writing An Effective IEP for Your Child with Special Needs** • Presenters: Area VI Board and Family Resource Network • CalWorks and Human Services Agency, San Andreas, 6 p.m., FREE, reservations are required, for reservations call 800-847-3030.

**Oct. 9 – Parental Rights and Advocacy in Special Education** • Presenter: Ann Cirimele, Family Resource Network • FRN Office in Stockton, 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., scholarships for parents, \$35 for professionals, for reservations call 800-847-3030.

**Nov. 15– Writing An Effective IEP for Your Child with Special Needs** • Presenters: Area VI Board and Family Resource Network • Administration Center, Jackson, 6 p.m., FREE, reservations are required, for reservations call 800-847-3030.



San Joaquin Adult Services Open House will be held Thursday, October 25<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. This is a great opportunity for VMRC consumers and their parents to visit programs providing adult services in San Joaquin County. More info is available on the calendar at Area 6 Board's website, [www.areaboard6.ca.gov](http://www.areaboard6.ca.gov)



## A Taste of the Gold Country: Convention for Mothers of Multiples

*November 9-11, Jackson Rancheria,  
Jackson, CA*

Mothers of multiples of all ages are invited to attend this event for a change to network, get inspired and have fun! A sharsop for mothers of multiples with special needs is planned for Nov. 10. For info call Jenny Upchurch at 209-274-6517 or [jjam.upchurch@yahoo.com](mailto:jjam.upchurch@yahoo.com)

## Financial and Estate Planning Workshop

FRN is working with Merrill-Lynch to once again offer its Financial and Estate Planning workshop. Contact FRN or check out our website to get information as it becomes available.

Check FRN's website, [www.frcn.org](http://www.frcn.org) for updated information on trainings and events. Registration forms for FRN events are on the website.

## New FRN Library Resources

### BOOKS

- Building Blocks – Foundation for Learning for Your Blind & Visually Impaired Children
- Lanterman Developmental Disabilities Services Act and Related Laws

*FRN thanks Marian Spenser for the donation of the following:*

- Behavior Intervention for Young Children with Autism
- Children with Autism ( A Parent's Guide)
- The Explosive Child
- Inclusive Programming for Elementary Students with Autism
- Inclusive Programming for Middle School Students with Autism/Asperger's
- Pervasive Developmental Disorder – Diagnosis, Options and Answers
- Your Baby & Child – Birth to 5

*FRN thanks Emily Donnan for the donation of the following:*

- The Autism Book – Answers to Your Most Pressing Questions
- A Cup of Comfort for Parents of Children with Autism
- Could It Be Autism? A Parent's Guide to First Signs and Next Steps
- Helping Your Child with Autism Spectrum Disorder – A workbook

*FRN thanks Tamara Gardner for the donation of the following:*

- The Good Kid Book – How to Solve the 16 Most Common Behavior Problems

### DVDs

- IDEA Federal Regulations Training – What you need to know

### Videos

*FRN thanks Efrain & Alicia Rosas for the donation of the following:*

- Video with taping of:  
Larry King Live – Topic: Autism  
The Oprah Show – Topic: Autism

To find out about how to borrow resources from the library, call FRN at 472-3674 or 800-847-3030.

## FRN Receives Grant Funding for Transition Resources

FRN has received a \$5,000 grant from State Council on Developmental Disabilities, Area 6 Board to be used to create parent resources. The resources will be used by parents as they assist their adult children with developmental disabilities in finding adult services that best meet their needs.

Thank you SCDD, AB6!

## *Friends In Deed!*

### Congratulations to

- ♥ Kimberly Barnett
- ♥ Liliana Cortez
- ♥ Maria & Rosendo Cortez
- ♥ Annette Melo
- ♥ Nubia Saldana
- ♥ Cindy Simpson
- ♥ Sandy Taylor

who were honored with a Friend in Deed certificate for their exceptional caring and commitment toward children with special needs and their families.

If you would like to honor someone with a Friend in Deed certificate, contact FRN.



### Operation: Birthday Wishes

FRN thanks **Wadia Martinez** and the **Hitachi Community Action Committee** for sending FRN **over 100 signed birthday cards** for FRN's Operation: Birthday Wishes. The cards were mailed to people with developmental disabilities who live in group homes. Wadia and Hitachi's CAC had a birthday card signing party at work. What a great idea!



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

- Jeanette Cobos
- Catherine Coughlan
- Teresa Duff
- Beverly Klunk
- Patrick O'Connor
- Connie Ruiz
- Kathleen Sadao
- Teresa Segura
- Steve Soria
- Vicki & Matt Storment
- Tracy Sylvester

**FRN is grateful to the following for  
their donations through United Way:**

Ron Cook  
Thea Etheridge  
Susan Perondi  
Kathleen Werner



**FRN thanks its volunteers:**

*Suzanna Cotton  
Nehir Patel  
Marilyn Platt  
Hector Serrano*

*and*

*Special Thanks to  
Roger Valdez*

*who donated his service hours at the  
Asparagus Festival to FRN*



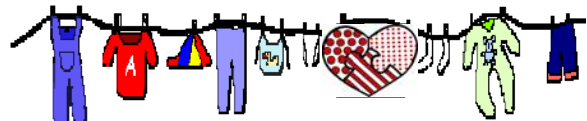
We make a living by what we get,  
but we make a life by what we give.  
*Winston Churchill*



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. In the first month of the HHS, two families received grants from the fund.

**Healing Hearts Society Members are:**

- Sue Allyn
- Eugene Bromme
- The Carl Family
- Donna Croce
- Maricela Fernandez Arellano
- Becky Halligan
- Donna Kane
- The Kassis Family
- Lilia Kung
- Lorraine Lane
- Andrew M. Langtry
- Marie Muzio
- Edward & Kathleen O'Connor
- Marie O'Sullivan
- Sangita and Rahul Patel
- Marilyn Platt
- Frank & Nancy Quacinella
- Michelle Rodriguez
- Law Office of Sabrina Schneweis-Coe
- Judy Sterling
- Diane M. Stewart
- Mapy Torres
- Peggy Traverso
- Don & Linda Vest
- Catherine Whitesides
- Richard F. Wong, M.D.



FRN thanks the following for their donations to the Little Bits Preemie Clothes Closet:

- **Jeane Engdahl**
- **Maria Flores**
- **Renee Holland**
- **Kelly Mraz**

# AUTISM NEWS



## Save the Date!!

Saturday, May 3, 2008

### 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Autism Collaborative Forum Stockton Waterfront Sheridan

**Speaker:  
Dr. Temple Grandin**

Family Resource Network is proud to be a member of the Autism Collaborative Forum that is bringing Dr. Temple Grandin to our area. Dr. Grandin is world renown for her ability to share her insights as a person with autism. The Forum promises to be an illuminating day for parents and professionals alike. Mark your calendar now so you'll be able to join us for this exciting event!

## Autism Support Groups

The Lodi Autism Group for parents of children with ASD meets at 7 p.m. on the 2nd Thursday of the month at Nichols School. For information call Sylvia at 334-3025.

For information on the meeting location and times of the Modesto FEAT group, contact Suzanne at 545-2644.

### Interesting Thought...

I read and walked for miles at night along the beach, writing bad verse and searching endlessly for someone wonderful who would step out of the darkness and change my life. It never crossed my mind that person could be me.

*Anna Quindlen, writer*

## Gone to Work

Gone to work is an organized structured employment support network meeting for VMRC high functioning autistic and Asperger's consumers 16 years of age to adults. Gone to Work members meet twice a month to practice job seeking skills, interviewing skills, social skills on the job, safety recognition, job advancement and retention skills, share experiences and network with others on the spectrum. Gone to Work members also participate in a monthly employment - leisure related community activity to practice social skills.

Come learn and network with others. Registration can be obtained on line at [www.gonetowork.org](http://www.gonetowork.org) or by calling 209.745.0246.

All meetings will be held at University of the Pacific, Knowles Hall, Room 212. Tuesday night meetings are 6:00 to 8:00 pm Saturday meetings are 10:00 am – 2:00 pm unless there is a special activity. Always check the website or call the STEPS office.

Upcoming activities:

Job Search and Resumes  
September 4<sup>th</sup>, September 15<sup>th</sup>

Interview Skills  
October 2<sup>nd</sup>, October 20

Law Enforcement  
November 6<sup>th</sup>, November 17

Handling Stress at Work  
December 4 and 15



### VMRC News

News items in this column will be of interest to families whose children are served by Valley Mountain Regional Center.

### BIZ WORKS

Ever considered having your own business? Check out this new grant opportunity...

Biz Works focuses on developing the process for beginning a micro business. The project takes VMRC consumers through the steps in determining if this is a positive option, (talking to potential customers about the product or service, analyzing the competition, consider start-up approaches, estimating start-up costs and anticipated sales) defining the business, determine impact on their day, impact on Social Security benefits, support needed, writing a business plan, advertisement, banking, transportation, on-site coaching and consultation.

This is an exiting new option that San Joaquin County has been exploring throughout the past year. Many Regional Centers throughout California are expanding their services to include micro business enterprises.

Contact your VMRC case manager or STEPS 209.745.0246 for additional information.



### FRN Training Grant

FRN has received grant funding from Valley Mountain Regional Center to assist with costs associated with offering training opportunities for families of VMRC consumers. The purpose of the workshops is to help parents increase their knowledge base and strengthen their advocacy skills. Knowledge is power. Thank you VMRC!

### Calling All Sports Fans!!



### Hockey All-Stars Score Big by Aiding Families of Children with Special Needs

The Stockton Thunder minor league hockey team is hosting the 2008 ECHL All-Star Skills Event and Hockey Game on January 22 and 23<sup>rd</sup> in Stockton. The Thunder has chosen Family Resource Network to be one of three nonprofit organizations serving the special needs population that will receive proceeds from some of the ticket sales. Details are still being worked out, and FRN will be sending out information as it becomes available. Visit the Thunder's website at [www.stocktonthunder.com](http://www.stocktonthunder.com) to learn more about the Stockton Thunder hockey team and the upcoming All-Star events.

FRN extends its thanks to the Stockton Thunder and the ECHL for their support of individuals with special needs and their families.



### 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 your name and email address to [FRNfamilies@aol.com](mailto:FRNfamilies@aol.com).