

# Family Resource Network

## Helping Families Meet the Challenge

Volume 24, Issue 4, Fall 2016 Edition

# HELLO

### ...from Lisa Culley, Family Resource Network's new Executive Director

About 18 years ago, shortly after my son was diagnosed with a special need, one of the very first phone calls I received was from FRN. I was offered information, resources and support from another parent of a child with special needs, one who understood my fears, frustrations and hopes. That first contact with FRN, and so many others after that, helped shape me into the parent I am today, and offered me so much support and guidance. Even though I did not have constant contact with FRN over the years, just knowing if I ever had an issue or needed assistance or information, my friends at FRN were always there waiting to help my family. I'm sure many of you can share similar stories of the impact FRN, and the FRN staff has had in your lives and your journey.

I joined the Family Resource Network staff as Program Coordinator about four years ago. Working with FRN has been incredibly rewarding, as I have met many families and given back just a little of the support which was given to me. I am deeply humbled to now lead FRN as Executive Director. FRN has had great leadership and has a tremendous legacy to uphold. I look forward to continuing programs and working to bring families the latest information and support available.

Feel free to call or stop by the office to say "hi". I look forward to meeting you and your families at upcoming events, trainings or in the office, as we journey together as parents and families.

*May we greet each other with a smile,  
hug and speak kind words.  
-Lailah Gifty Akita*



## 22nd Annual Early Start Symposium

**Tuesday, November 1, 2016**  
San Joaquin County Office of Education,  
Stockton, CA

**Presenter: Cari Ebert, MS, CCC-SLP**  
***"Wired Kids: How Technology Impacts  
Early Child Development"***

This seminar examines the evidence to guide parents, therapists, educators and other early childhood professionals as we live and work in the "digital age." Just because technology is available at our fingertips, doesn't necessarily mean we should be using it with very young children. Infants, toddlers and preschool age children with special needs do not learn the same way as older children and adults learn. It's not just a matter of being pro-technology or anti-technology, but rather considering what is appropriate for the developing brain and body. During this seminar, attendees will gain powerful evidence-based information regarding best practices for technology use in therapy and in the early childhood classroom.

Early registration is encouraged. Registration materials are posted on FRN's website. Go to Calendar and click on the Early Start Symposium link. Scholarships are available to parents of children receiving Early Start services who live in Amador, Calaveras, San Joaquin, Stanislaus and Tuolumne Counties. There are a limited number of scholarships available for parents of preschool age children who live within the 5 county region. Registration fee for local attendees is \$35; \$50 for out of area. For more information contact Family Resource Network 209-472-3674, 800- 847-3030, or by visiting [www.frcn.org](http://www.frcn.org)

Family Resource Network Newsletter  
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EDITOR: Lisa Culley

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Family Resource Network Phone: 209-472-3674  
 5250 Claremont Ave., Suite 148 Fax: 209-472-3673  
 Stockton, CA 95207  
 Email: FRNfamilies@aol.com website: www.frcn.org



**Sibshop** is the recreational support group for **non-disabled siblings of children with special needs,** ages 7 through 13.

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.

**Saturday, September 24, 2016**  
**11 a.m. to 2 p.m.**  
**Stockton Covenant Church,**  
**1720 Oxford Way, Stockton, 95204**

Registration is required and must be submitted at least one week prior to event. Call 472-3674 or 800-847-3030 to request a registration packet.



## Job Opportunity at FRN

FRN is accepting applications for the position of **Program Coordinator**. This is a part-time position and work hours are 25-30 per week. There is occasional night or Saturday work.

The Program Coordinator performs a variety of coordination, outreach, clerical, administrative and family support duties and related activities. The Program Coordinator works at FRN's Stockton office, but performs duties throughout FRN's 5-county catchment area.

The Program Coordinator must have knowledge and awareness of the special needs population and related family issues. Additionally, this person must be familiar with business practices, and must have computer skills. The person must have strong communication skills, both oral and written, and must be able to work independently. Additionally, the ability to speak and write Spanish is preferred, but not a necessity.

This position is a wonderful way for a family member of a special needs child to share the information they have learned over the years, and to learn so much more.

Please submit resumes to Family Resource Network, 5250 Claremont Ave., Suite 148, Stockton, CA 95207.

Any questions, Call FRN at 209-472-3674

## Tikes and Tunes...Times 2!

Due to popular demand FRN will now offer its **Tikes and Tunes** music play group twice a month. Tikes and Tunes is for children ages birth to 36 months who are served through the Early Start program. Parents learn how they can use music to enhance their child's development. Both groups are led by Karen Sanchez, MBA MT-BC, Music Therapist. We'd love to have you join us, but space is limited so **be sure to register!** Registration forms are on FRN's website or you can email or call FRN to register. Tikes and Tunes meets at FRN's office, Sherwood Executive Center, 5250 Claremont Ave., Suite 148, Stockton.



### Tikes and Tunes

*A Musical Play Group for Infants and Toddlers in Early Start*

**When:** The **first and third Tuesdays** of the month from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

No Musical Talent Required.



**Don't forget to register!**

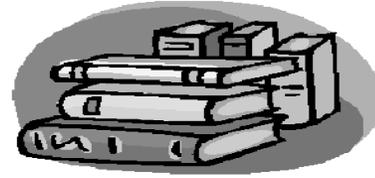
**And Don't Forget** that FRN has **Toy Lending Libraries** for children in the Early Start program at FRN in **Stockton**, Valley Mountain Regional Center in **Modesto**, Tuolumne County Office of Education in **Sonora**, **and now in Jackson at Argonaut High School**. Each library has different hours of operation. For info on the library near you contact:

**Stockton: 209-472-3674**

**Modesto: 209-557-2144**

**Sonora: 209-536-2040**

**Jackson: 209-403-5955**



## FRN Library Resources

FRN has almost two thousand library resources for parents and professionals to borrow. There are books, videos, dvds, cds, and audio tapes.

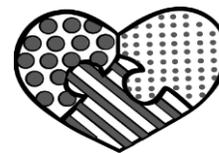
### Newest additions:

The Loving Push: How parents and professionals can help spectrum kids become successful adults, by Temple Grandin & Debra Moore

Population: One: Autism, Adversity and the Will to Succeed, by Tyler McNamer

Same but Different: Teen Life on the Autism Express, by Holly Robinson Peete, Ryan Elizabeth Peete and RJ Peete

You don't need to come in to FRN's office in order to use the library. We are happy to mail resources to you. We just ask that you be responsible for returning the items to FRN. You can mail them to FRN, swing by the office or drop them off with the building receptionist. You may check out up to two resources for a period of 3 weeks.



## Family Resource Network Board Member Openings

Passionate about issues facing parents raising children with special needs? Looking for a way to give back to the community?

FRN is accepting applications for Board members. For more information contact FRN staff at 209-472-3674 or FRNfamilies@aol.com.

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



## The Brighterside of Down Syndrome presents its 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference

Monday, October 3, 2016

San Joaquin County Office of Education  
2707 Transworld Dr., Stockton, CA

### *Best Practices in the Education of Children with Down Syndrome*

#### *Speakers:*

Patti McVay, a Partner in Down Syndrome Unites – Championing All Disabilities and has served as the Director of Education at the Linda Crnic Institute for Down Syndrome in Colorado, which focuses on significantly improving the quality of life for individuals with Down syndrome. She has worked as a Special Education Director in California, was recognized as a Partner in the Special Education Research Organization in Hokkaido, Japan and in 2011 and received the Global Down Syndrome Foundation Award of Excellence in Education.

Laurie Pachi, a Partner in Down Syndrome Unites – Championing All Disabilities, has a strong background in child centered training, in class technical training and school team coaching. She has expertise in emergency preparedness and assists school districts prepare for and respond to crisis situations for students with developmental disabilities.

Registration forms are available from the TBODS website [www.tbods.com](http://www.tbods.com)

For more information contact Wanda Farinelli-Mikita 209-915-6612 or [deltaflower@sbcglobal.net](mailto:deltaflower@sbcglobal.net).



## Let's Get Walking!!!

### **Community Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired**

invites you to a walk on Stockton's historic Miracle Mile to celebrate **White Cane Safety/Blind Americans Equality Day** and the achievement of people who are blind or visually impaired. The event takes place **Wednesday, October 12<sup>th</sup>** at noon at Caldwell Park, 3021 Pacific Ave., Stockton. For more information contact Jennifer Boylan at 209-466-3836, extension 206.

### **Walk Now for Autism Speaks**

will take place **Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup>** at Modesto Junior College. There will be a resource fair with child-friendly activities.

Visit FRN's information & activity table.

For more information go to

[www.walknowforautismspeaks.org/centralvalley](http://www.walknowforautismspeaks.org/centralvalley)

### **The Brighter Side of Down Syndrome (TBODS)**

will be hosting its 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Buddy Walk on **October 22nd** at Micke Grove Park-Delta Shelter in Lodi. This one-mile walk promotes understanding and acceptance of people with Down syndrome. For more information about TBODS or the Buddy Walk go to [www.tbods.com](http://www.tbods.com) or contact TBODS at 209-598-3441 or [tbodsofsjc@yahoo.com](mailto:tbodsofsjc@yahoo.com)



Donations to the Healing Hearts Society have been made by:

♥ Sue Allyn

The following have made donations to the Healing Hearts Society in honor of Ann Cirimele's Retirement from FRN:

- ♥ The Arvie Family
- ♥ Silvia Ayala
- ♥ Dawn Bauleke
- ♥ Mary Caruso
- ♥ The Chinchio Family
- ♥ Lisa Culley
- ♥ Kimberley Douglass
- ♥ Nikki Gillespie
- ♥ Tommy & Dena Hernandez
- ♥ Daima Hoornaert
- ♥ Wendy Lee & Roger Phillips
- ♥ Nina Machado
- ♥ Leihua Mc Miller
- ♥ Nicki Moss
- ♥ Judy & Pat Murray
- ♥ Sharlyne Nomellini
- ♥ Colleen Okura
- ♥ Melisa Oldeen
- ♥ Sangita Patel
- ♥ Person Centered Services
- ♥ Dan & Marilyn Platt
- ♥ Frank Quacinella
- ♥ Mary Sheehan
- ♥ Tricia Simmons
- ♥ Gwenda Simms
- ♥ Margaret St. George
- ♥ Tom Whitesides

*Thank you for your support!*



## Thank You!

FRN has received donations from:

Stewart & Sandra Antle  
Kathy Hardin  
PEDS  
Carol Utt



### Are You Kidding? We're already talking about the holidays?

Yes, it's really early, but FRN won't have another newsletter out for several months so it's time to let you know about the annual Holiday Open House. It will be **Saturday, December 10th** from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at FRN's office, Sherwood Executive Center, Stockton. We'll have lots of food and fun. This is a free event. Just call or email and let us know how many will be in your party.



### *Save the Date!*

We hope moms can join us on **Saturday, February 4, 2017** for the **19th Annual Mothers Retreat**. Registration information will be available in December.



Please note the FRN workshops take place at a variety of sites throughout the 5 county service area. Registration forms for all these events are posted on the calendar tab at [www.frcn.org](http://www.frcn.org).

**Sept. 29-Writing An Effective IEP for Your Child with Special Needs •**

Presenters: SCDD, NVH Office and Family Resource Network • **Valley CAPS**, 1180 N. Union Rd, Manteca, 6 – 8:30 p.m. FREE, reservations are required.

**October 12-Building Bridges – Transitioning Your Child from the Early Start Program •** Presenter: FRN, Sherwood Executive Center, 5250 Claremont Ave., **Stockton**, 9:15 to 11:30 a.m., FREE, registration required.

**October 20-Understanding the Basics of an IEP •** Presenters: SCDD, NVHO and Family Resource Network • Co-sponsored by Amador SELPA, First 5 Amador, The Resource Connection and Warmline FRC • **First 5 Office, 975 Broadway, Jackson**, 6 – 8:00 p.m. FREE, reservations are required. FREE Childcare available, call 209-257-1092.

**November 10-Writing An Effective IEP for Your Child with Special Needs**

• Presenters: SCDD, NVH Office and Family Resource Network • **United Cerebral Palsy Office, 959 E. Monte Vista Ave., Turlock**, 6 – 8:30 p.m. FREE, reservations are required. For reservations call 209-472-3674.

**Regional Center Fair Hearings: Improving Your Chance of Successful Outcomes**

**Speaker: Katie Hornberger, Director Office of Clients' Rights Advocacy, Disability Rights CA**

When: **September 21, 2016**

Time: 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Where: San Joaquin County Office of Education, 2707 Transworld Dr., Stockton

This presentation is intended for adults with disabilities or family members with a child or adult with a developmental disability. It will give an opportunity to learn about the Fair Hearing Process through the Regional Center, where to find further information, and the implications of SB 555 (Regional Center's duty to provide information and services in your native language) & SB 468 (Self-Determination Program).

No cost to attend, but RSVP's are required. Please call 209-473-6930 to register.

This workshop is co-hosted by State Council on Developmental Disabilities-North Valley Hills Office, Valley Mountain Regional Center, San Joaquin County Office of Education and Family Resource Network.



**Want to be In The Know?**

The email list is a great way to receive up-to-the minute information on topics of interest to parents of children with special needs. Send your email address to [FRNfamilies@aol.com](mailto:FRNfamilies@aol.com) to receive email updates. There is no fee to be on the email list and FRN does not share your email address with anyone, ever.



## Ability Resource Fair & Assistive Technology Expo

Presented by DRAIL  
(Disability Resource Agency for Independent Living)

October 14, 2016  
9 am-2 pm

Modesto Centre Plaza  
1000 L St.  
Modesto, CA

This FREE event will include demonstrations, mock interviews, resource booths, adaptive devices, micro-enterprise vendors, and much more. For more information, contact Sandra Graham at 209-477-6342.



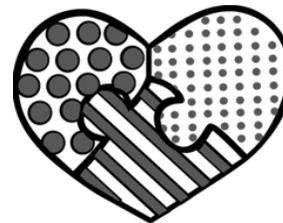
## September is Emergency Preparedness Month

Our last newsletter shared information on emergency planning. The website [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) has additional information on how you can prepare yourself and family in the event of an emergency. There are publications and downloads that can be used to make your own emergency plan, communication plan, supply lists, medical plans and evacuation & power outage planning.



## Family Resource Network has a Facebook page!

You'll find FRN listed as Family Resource Network – Stockton. You'll know it's FRN when you see the heart logo. FRN will post information on upcoming events and topics of interest. We hope you'll like us.



## FRN Parent Scholarships Available

Family Resource Network has received an unrestricted grant of \$2,500 from the Stuart Foundation. FRN is using the funds to assist parents of special needs children within FRN's 5 county service area with registration fees to attend non-FRN conferences or workshops on topics related to children with special needs and their families.

This is a reimbursement scholarship which means that FRN reimburses the parent after the parent has attended the event. Parents wishing to access these scholarship funds should contact FRN **prior** to attending the event. FRN reserves the right to limit the number of scholarships for any specific event. Restrictions apply. For more information contact FRN staff.



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  - ♥ 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Down Syndrome Conference
  - ♥ FRN workshops and information
- ...and MORE

