



## Family Resource Network

Helping Families Meet the Challenge

Volume 22, Issue 3, Summer 2014 Edition

### Conservatorship for Your Adult Child with Special Needs

Sponsored by Family Resource Network,  
Drobny Law Offices and San Joaquin SELPA

**Thursday, June 26, 2014**

**6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.**

**San Joaquin County Office of Education  
Wentworth Education Center-  
Chartville 1 Meeting Room  
2707 Transworld Drive, Stockton, CA**

Nobody has any authority to make any financial, medical or educational decisions for any individual over the age of eighteen (18) absent a valid Power of Attorney (if the individual has capacity to sign one) or a Court order of Conservatorship, irrespective of that individual's lack of ability to make those decisions. This workshop will provide parents and caregivers information on Conservatorship and alternatives to Conservatorship.

Topics will include:

- Steps involved in filing a Conservatorship
- Conservatorship of the Person and/or Estate- which is needed?
- General vs. Limited Conservatorship
- Time involved in filing a Conservatorship
- Cost associated with filing a Conservatorship
- Working with the Regional Center to minimize any unnecessary delays

Our workshop presenter, **Mark S. Drobny**, Certified Specialist, Estate Planning, Trust and Probate Law, The State Board of Legal Specialization, has extensive experience working with families raising children with special needs.

Registration is required and the registration form is on [www.frcn.org](http://www.frcn.org) and click on calendar.

### Calling all families of children ages birth to 36 months!

FRN is happy to announce its newest  
information series:

#### “Learn How to Make”

**Project:** Make your own  
musical instruments

**When:** 10 to 10:30 a.m.  
Friday, June 27, 2014



**Project:** Make your own  
picture book for your child

**When:** 10 to 10:30 a.m.,  
Tuesday, July 15, 2014



**Both Sessions:** Family Resource  
Network, Sherwood Executive Center,  
5250 Claremont Ave., Suite 148,  
Stockton, CA, 95207

Family Resource Network staff will show you examples of how to make these fun projects for your child. You are welcome to bring your child with you to FRN. This is a great opportunity to meet other families of young children. **Registration is REQUIRED.** Registration forms are available at [www.frcn.org](http://www.frcn.org) and click on calendar or call FRN staff.

Family Resource Network Newsletter  
 Summer 2014 edition  
 Printing 5,550 copies

EDITOR: Ann Cirimele

Production costs for Family Resource Network Newsletter are underwritten by grants from California's Early Start Program – Department of Developmental Services, Parents Helping Parents Prevention Resource and Referral Services funding and private donations. *FRN Newsletter* is distributed at no cost to families raising children with special needs in Amador, Calaveras, San Joaquin, Stanislaus and Tuolumne Counties. The newsletter is posted on FRN's website. Scholarships identified in this publication are available only to families in FRN's service area. Scholarships may be limited to the specifications of the granting agency. Family Resource Network, Inc., is a parent directed 501 ©(3) non-profit corporation committed to providing information and support to families raising children with special needs in Amador, Calaveras, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, and Tuolumne Counties. Items printed in the *FRN Newsletter* are for information purposes only and may not necessarily reflect the opinion or endorsement by Family Resource Network or its underwriters. Direct questions or comments to:

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](http://www.frcn.org)



The recreational support group for  
**non-disabled siblings,**  
 ages 7 through 13.

Saturday, June 21, 2014  
 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
 Stockton Covenant Church,  
 1720 Oxford Way, Stockton, 95204

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 one week prior to event. Call 472-3674 or 800-847-3030 to request a registration packet.**

## FRN Parent Scholarships Available

Family Resource Network has received an unrestricted grant of \$2,500 from the Stuart Foundation. Being guided by the Foundation's goal of promoting education, FRN has decided to use the funds to provide scholarships to assist parents of special needs children 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. Here are the rules:

1. Scholarships are available to parents (or primary caregivers) raising a child from age birth to 22 years who has a special need.
2. The family must reside in Amador, Calaveras, San Joaquin, Stanislaus or Tuolumne counties.
3. The amount of the scholarship may not exceed \$100.
4. The scholarship is solely for the cost of registration ( i.e. not travel or lodging costs).
5. The event must take place in California.
6. Parent must agree to become a Parent Partner and be available to talk or email with other parents about information learned at the event.
7. Parent must agree to provide FRN with any handouts/materials from the event so that FRN can make copies for its files. FRN will return the originals to the parent.

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. For more information contact FRN staff.

## TBODS Buddy Walk

The Brighter Side of Down Syndrome (TBODS) will be hosting its 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Buddy Walk on October 4<sup>th</sup> at Micke Grove 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)



**The Sound of Music!!**

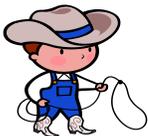
FRN offers two musical play groups for young children with special needs and their parents. **Tikes and Tunes** is for children ages birth to 36 months who are served through Early Start or Prevention Resource and Referral Services (PRRS). **Preschool Posse** is for preschool age children who are receiving special education services through an IEP. Parents will 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. Both groups meet 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 or PRRS*

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

**Preschool Posse**  
*A Musical Play Group for preschoolers receiving special education services*



**WHEN:** Preschool Posse meets the third Thursday of the month from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.



No Musical Talent Required.

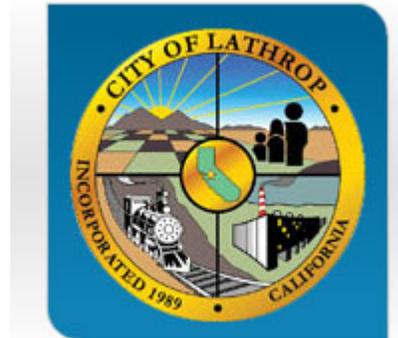


**Don't forget to register!**



**Want to be In The Know?**

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



On April 21, 2014, the City of Lathrop presented Family Resource Network's Executive Director with a proclamation declaring April Autism Awareness Month in the City of Lathrop. The proclamation has numerous declarations including, "Whereas, it is important that we, as a community, support families and individuals as they respond to the challenges of autism and support initiatives related to autism research, training, information and availability of services."

Family Resource Network is honored to be the recipient of the proclamation and thanks the City of Lathrop for its continued support of individuals with special needs, including people who are affected by autism. The proclamation is on display in FRN's office.

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.

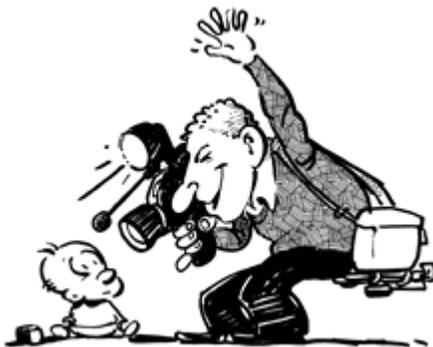
**Congrats to the WINNER  
of FRN's latest drawing:**

**Norma Garcia**



### Remember those Early Start days?

This year marks the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this region's Early Start Symposium. The Early Start Symposium Planning Committee is putting together a slide show of Early Start pictures from years past. We would love to include pictures of children who benefited from Early Start services. If you would like to share a picture of your child from the Early Start days (ages birth to 36 months) please email the picture along with your child's name and the year the picture was taken to [FRNfamilies@aol.com](mailto:FRNfamilies@aol.com) no later than September 15<sup>th</sup>. Feel free to send a current picture as well. We'd love to share a comment or two about how Early Start benefited you, your child and your family. We will include as many pictures and comments as we can.



### FRN Toy Lending Library

FRN has 3 sites for its Toy Lending Library. We are grateful to Valley Mountain Regional Center and Tuolumne County Office of Education for partnering with us on this project. The toys are available to families whose children, ages birth to 36 months, are served either through the Early Start program or Prevention Resource and Referral Service (PRRS). There is no cost to use the library.

**Stockton: Hours of Operation:** Tuesdays through Fridays, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Location:**

Family Resource Network, Sherwood Executive Center, 5250 Claremont Ave., Suite 148, Stockton, CA 95207

**Contact info:**

800-847-3030; 209-472-3674 or  
[FRNfamilies@aol.com](mailto:FRNfamilies@aol.com)

**Modesto: Hours of Operation:** Monday, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Wednesday, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

**Location:**

Valley Mountain Regional Center, 1820 Blue Gum Ave., Modesto, CA 95358

**Contact info:**

Linda Cardiel at 209-557-2144

**Sonora: Hours of Operation:** Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

**Location:**

Tuolumne County Superintendent of Schools  
175 S. Fairview Lane, Sonora, CA 95370  
Room 210

**Contact info:**

209-536-2040



To view FRN's entire library list or to check out a library resource, visit [www.frcn.org](http://www.frcn.org) and click on Library. For more information call FRN at 800-847-3030 or email FRN at [FRNfamilies@aol.com](mailto:FRNfamilies@aol.com).



FRN has received donations from:

- Sue Allyn
- Emily Bauch
- Karen Bonacci
- Lisa Drake
- Drobny Law Offices
- Thea Etheridge
- Friends of Walton Booster Club
- Bertha Gonzalez
- Graham-Ulth Memorial Trust
- Rita Gutierrez
- Tuyet Nhung Lam
- PEDS
- Kimberly Rollins
- Marcela Vazquez
- And Anonymous Donors

**Thank You  
Super Volunteers!**

Jester Ramos  
Emma Robertson



### Job Opportunity at FRN

Family Resource Network has an opening for a Bilingual Office Assistant. The person must read and write English and Spanish fluently. The person must be knowledgeable about IEP issues and have basic office experience such as knowing how to read and respond to emails and use word processing. The person would work 12 – 16 hours per week in FRN's office in Stockton. The job pays \$12 per hour. If you are interested in learning more about this position, please send an email to [FRNfamilies@aol.com](mailto:FRNfamilies@aol.com) requesting the job description.

Family Resource Network 209-472-3674

# 20th Anniversary!



**SAVE THE DATE**

**Wednesday, October 22, 2014**  
San Joaquin County Office of  
Education, Stockton, CA

Registration at 8 a.m. Event concludes at 3 p.m.

## 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Early Start Symposium Meeting the Needs of Our Children in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

*Sponsored by the Early Start Symposium Planning Committee*

**Keynote Speaker – Lori Fischer, M.A.**, Early Interventionist, Pajaro Valley USD, SEEDS Consultant

**Topic: Using Assistive Technology to Encourage Social Interaction: From High Tech to Everyday Items, and Everything In Between**

Lori Fischer is an Early Intervention teacher for Pajaro Valley Unified School District (Monterey County) and a consultant for SEEDS (Supporting Early Education Delivery Systems). She has conducted workshops throughout the State identifying ways that parents and professionals can use assistive technology to enhance social skills for young children with special needs. She will identify high end technology options as well as how to use everyday items commonly found in households. In addition to the keynote, there will be breakout sessions on topics including language development, assistive technology, visual impairment, mobility/medically fragile and behavior/sensory integration.

Registration materials will be available in late summer. Scholarships will be available to parents of children receiving Early Start or Prevention Resource and Referral Services (PRRS) services who live in Amador, Calaveras, San Joaquin, Stanislaus and Tuolumne Counties. Limited number of scholarships available for parents of preschool age children. Registration fee for local attendees is \$35; \$50 for out of area.

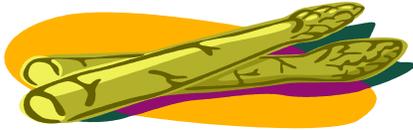
For more information contact Family Resource Network 209-472-3674, 800-847-3030, [www.frcn.org](http://www.frcn.org)

800-847-3030

[www.frcn.org](http://www.frcn.org)

## Early Start Workshop

**June 25- 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.



## Thank You Asparagus Festival Volunteers!!

Darrian Brown  
 Joshua Cagle  
 Isabel Cisco  
 Brian Connolly  
 Evelyn Crampton  
 Elvin Estrada  
 Victoria Estrada  
 Ann Gulick  
 Anita Hernandez  
 JR Herreria  
 Dorthy Montes  
 Rosie Munoz  
 Carol Pearson  
 Linda Peete  
 Jerry Perez  
 Stacy Randle  
 Gail Rieger  
 Ester Roberts  
 Joseph Rontel  
 Catherine Vasquez  
 Serena Vasquez  
 Connie Weiman  
 Kathy Werner  
 Susie Wong

## Congratulations Lisa!

Lisa Culley, FRN's Program Coordinator, was honored by Stockton Unified School District for her volunteer efforts on behalf of students and families at Walton Special Center.



## A message from CaPROMISE



We are pleased to announce a new opportunity for transition age students and their families! This exciting new program is called **California Promoting the Readiness of Minors in Supplemental Security Income**. (CaPROMISE).

Lodi Unified School District was awarded a five year grant to support Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients and their families. The program will be enrolling 14-16 year old students on SSI. There are many Social Security options that allow an individual to work that will not affect benefits and Medi-Cal coverage. Students and families will develop a plan based on student goals and benefit options. You will always make more money by working. CaPROMISE students will receive additional transition support and paid work experience. We have hired 6 new staff that will become certified benefit planners to help in this process. CaPROMISE in our area will serve students/families in San Joaquin County and Stanislaus County.

For more information please call the CaPROMISE office 209.331.8416 or email Liz Zastrow at [lzastrow@lodiUSD.net](mailto:lzastrow@lodiUSD.net)

### **Tips for Effective Advocacy Disability Rights CA, Publication #5032.01**

**Be Prepared.** Before a meeting, be prepared with a list of questions you may have. If you have supporting documentation, such as reports, assessments/evaluations, etc., that will assist you in your advocacy efforts, take them with you.

**Be Assertive.** You have the right to services and you have the right to advocate for them. There are advocacy organizations that can advise you and/or prepare you with trying to obtain these services.

**Ask Questions.** If you do not understand what is being said to you or what was given to you in writing, ask questions. You have the right to ask as many questions as you need to clearly understand what is happening.

**Share Information.** If you have information, reports, assessments or records that will help in obtaining the services you need, it is important that you share that information with the relevant people or agencies. It is also important to keep a record of who you gave information to and what you gave them.

**Be Willing to Listen.** If you have asked for a service or asked a question, listen to the other party's response and what they have to say. Make sure they answer your questions. Ask for the reason for their decision. If they are citing policies or procedures, ask for a copy.

**Keep Records.** It is important that you keep records about your case, preferably in chronological order (by date). If you speak to someone, get the name and title of the person that you spoke to and the organization they work for. Follow up with a letter or email about the conversation you had with them and what you spoke about. Ask for a response in writing; either in letter or email.

**Primary Language.** You have the right to receive information in your primary language. You have the right to request an interpreter in your primary language, including American Sign Language (ASL). If you have a disability you have the right to receive information in alternative format, i.e. large print, Braille, etc.

**Get Help.** If you do not feel comfortable going to a meeting alone, take someone with you. Take a friend, a family member or an advocate with you. You have the right to take someone with you, even if it's only for support. This person can help keep you focused. If you need presentation, there are organization, advocates, and attorneys that you can contact. Contact Disability Rights California for referrals.

**Review Information.** If you do not feel comfortable with what is being said or offered to you at the

meeting or if you do not feel comfortable signing a document, do NOT agree to anything at that time. You have the right to review the documentation in its entirety. You can ask for a copy of what you are being asked to sign. Take it home to review it and return it within a couple of days. If possible, find someone to review it with. Sign only what you agree to and document what you disagree with on the same document.

**Know Your Rights.** Generally, you have the right to receive a notice of action in writing. You also have the right to know why you are being denied a service or why services are being reduced or terminated. You have the right to challenge a decision. You should always ask what the process is for challenging their decision and ask for it in writing.

*Disability Rights California is a non-profit organization that advocates, educates, investigates and litigates to advance and protect the rights of Californians with disabilities. For more information go to [www.disabilityrightsca.org](http://www.disabilityrightsca.org)*

### **Medi-Cal Dental Benefits for Adults**

On April 29, CA Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) Received CMS approval of SPA 13-018, which restores certain optional adult dental benefits for members 21 years of age and older under the Medi-Cal program, effective May 1. The partial restoration of dental services includes examinations and x-rays, dental cleanings with fluoride treatments, silver and tooth-colored fillings, and root canals and crowns on front teeth. Complete dentures are also being restored. For a complete list of services being restored, please see [Provider Bulletin Volume 29, Number 14 \(August 2013\)](#). Dental providers will determine which medically necessary services will be provided, and the existing benefits for children will not change. When the elimination of the optional Medi-Cal dental benefit for adults began in July 2009, due to the state's severe budget issues, there were several exemptions that allowed some members to continue receiving services. They included members who were residents of nursing homes and skilled nursing facilities, pregnant women, and some others. This partial restoration of the benefit is not a component of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Most of the costs are for individuals who are already eligible for Medi-Cal. Any ACA funding would be used for services to those who qualify for Medi-Cal only because of the ACA's expanded eligibility. If a member needs help finding a dentist, please see the [Provider Referral Tool](#) on the Denti-Cal website or call Denti-Cal at 1-800-322-6384.