



# Family Resource Network

Helping Families Meet the Challenge

Volume 15, Issue 2, Spring/Summer 2007

## Healing Hearts Society

### *Helping Families At Their Most Difficult Time*

*A wife who loses a husband is called a widow. A husband who loses a wife is called a widower. A child who loses his parents is called an orphan. But...there is no word for a parent who loses a child, that's how awful the loss is.* — Winston Churchill

Family Resource Network (FRN) has received numerous requests for assistance with burial expenses from families following the death of their child with special needs. FRN found that few programs exist to assist families at this most difficult time. To address this need, Family Resource Network, a 501c3 nonprofit, has formed the Healing Hearts Society. Your donation to the Healing Hearts Society will provide financial assistance to families at their most difficult time. All donations are tax deductible. At this time the Society will award grants of up to \$250.

It is anticipated that requests for funds will exceed Healing Hearts Society donations. A committee will review all applications and allocate grants based on available funds. All requests for funds must be referred to FRN by local agencies. Any agency wishing to receive an application form and funding criteria should contact FRN at 209-473-3674.

**Your generous donation to the Healing Hearts Society will help families begin the healing process.**

### Donation to Healing Hearts Society

Donation :  \$10  \$25  \$50  \$100  \$250  \$500  \$1,000  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please send me information on the Emergency Benefactor Program.

One time donation or  Annual donation – a reminder notice will be sent next January.

**Checks should be made payable to FRN-Healing Hearts Society and mailed to FRN.**

**Donor information:**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City/State/Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Daytime phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

Family Resource Network Newsletter  
Spring/Summer 2007  
Printing 6,700 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 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. Families outside of that region may subscribe to the newsletter for a small fee. 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 239 Fax: 209-472-3673  
Stockton, CA 95207  
Email: FRNfamilies@aol.com website: [www.frcn.org](http://www.frcn.org)

**Congrats to the WINNERS of  
FRN's latest drawing:  
Vebeda Ali  
Claudia Avila  
Brandy Bricker**



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

**Saturday, May 5, 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 April 27th. Call 472-3674 or 800-847-3030 and request a registration packet.

## Down Syndrome News

**Central California Down Syndrome Foundation (CCDSF)** Spanish-language group meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Community Center, 2413 3<sup>rd</sup> Street in Hughson. The annual **Buddy Walk** is scheduled for September 29<sup>th</sup>. Call Maria at 845-8028 for information.

**The Brighter Side of Down Syndrome of San Joaquin County** meets at 6 p.m. on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday 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.

On Friday, May 25<sup>th</sup> the group is sponsoring an exciting event for parents or educators of children with Down Syndrome or any other developmental disability. "A Better and Easier Way to Help Our Children Learn How to Read" will be presented by Denise MacDonald and Karen Evershed. For more information contact Marcella at 463-0608 or Jean at 933-7315 x 7740.

## Want to Be "In the Know" ???

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 this mailing list, email your name and email address to [FRNfamilies@aol.com](mailto:FRNfamilies@aol.com).

## CHOICES 2007 20 Years of CHOICES

The CHOICES Institute celebrates its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary with its annual conference on **Friday, April 20<sup>th</sup>**, at San Joaquin County Office of Education in Stockton. The keynote speakers are **Jerry and Mary Newport** who will tell the story of their life together. This story has been made into a book and now a movie called ***Mozart and the Whale – An Asperger's Love Story***.

The conference will also have sessions on Patient Safety and Medications and the Life Quality Assessment program. The day will end with an opportunity for attendees to meet with local legislators. This is a great time to let the lawmakers hear your concerns. The registration fee is \$20 for VMRC consumers and family members and \$30 for professionals and all others. For registration information contact CHOICES at 948-8011.



### More Training Opportunities

**April 5 - Special Education Rights Workshop •**  
Presenters: Area VI Board and Family Resource Network • Library – McFall Room, **Manteca**, 6 p.m., FREE, reservation are required, for reservations call 800-847-3030.

**May 3 - Special Education Rights Workshop •**  
Presenters: Area VI Board and Family Resource Network • SCDD, Area VI Board Office, Adult Day Care Center, 101 E. Hospital Road, **Sonora**, 6 p.m., FREE, reservation are required, for reservations call 800-847-3030.

**May 15 - 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.

**May 23 – 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.

## 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Autism Collaborative Forum

**Saturday, April 28, 2007  
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

*San Joaquin County Office of Education  
Education Service Center  
2707 Transworld Drive, Stockton*

### **Autism – A Personal Perspective**

Keynote Speakers:

**Emily Iland, B.A.**

*Author and parent of a son with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD)*

**Tom Iland**

*Sharing his perspective as a person with ASD*

**Steve Lohrer, Ph.D.**

*California Autistic Spectrum Disorders Guidelines for Effective Interventions, Project Director*

**Panel: Adults with ASD**

*A Personal Life Perspective*

Registration fee:

\$50.00 for residents of Region 6: San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Amador, Calaveras and Tuolumne Counties and \$75 for those outside of Region 6. For registration information contact 468-9283.



### Autism Support Groups

The **Lodi** Autism Group, which meets at 7 p.m. on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month at Nichols School. The group will not meet in June, July and August. For information call Sylvia at 334-3025.

The **Modesto** FEAT subgroup meets the last Wednesday of each month at 9:30 a.m. at the Borders Book Store on Sisk Road. For info contact Suzanne at 545-2644.

Parents Helping Autistic Children Thrive and Succeed (PHACTS) meets in **Jamestown** at 7 p.m. at Stillwater Yoga on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month. For information contact Jennifer at 532-4304.

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

- Alex – The Fathering of a Premie
- Married with Special Needs Children – A Couple's Guide to Keeping Connected
- Mozart and the Whale - An Asperger's Love Story

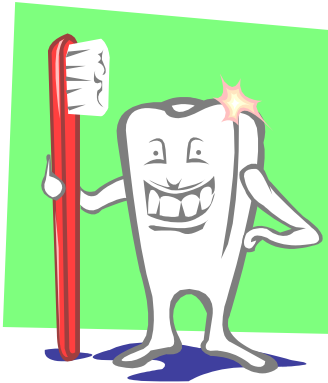
### CDs

- Healing the Grieving Heart (regarding the loss of a loved one)

### DVDs

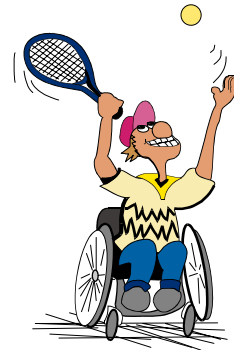
- Adoption Decision – The Birthmothers Tell Their Stories
- Mozart and the Whale – An Asperger's Love Story

FRN is happy to mail library resources to families and professionals within its 5 county service area. To find out more about how to borrow resources from the library, call FRN at 472-3674 or 800-847-3030.



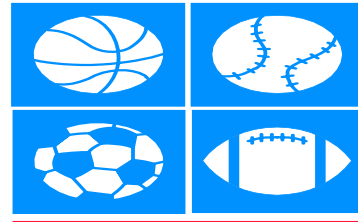
### Ready for a Happy Visit?

Some dentists offer a Happy Visit to children who are going to the dentist for their first time. At this Happy Visit the child gets to sit in the dental chair and look at the various dental objects in a stress-free environment. No exams are taken at this time. Contact your dentist to see if this option is available for your child.



### Tennis Anyone?

Manteca's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Wheelchair Tennis Tournament (USTA Sanctioned) will take place April 21 and 22 at the Manteca Regional Tennis Center. For more information contact Greg Claramo at 915-5411.



### More Recreational News

The Recreational Sports Club of San Joaquin offers many recreational opportunities for teens and adults with special needs. Upcoming events include sporting events and social activities such as dances. For more information visit the RSC's website at [www.rcsofsanjoaquin.org](http://www.rcsofsanjoaquin.org) or call them at 403-8878.

Special Olympics in San Joaquin County is reorganizing and looking for people interested in volunteering their time. To find out about upcoming Special Olympic events or to learn about volunteer opportunities, contact Mark McLaughlin at 652-2086 or [MarkMcLaughlin@ci.stockton.ca.us](mailto:MarkMcLaughlin@ci.stockton.ca.us).



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

- *Skye Jones*
- *Arlene Paratore*
- *Perri Snyder*
- *Dolores Tolentino*
- *Peggy Traverso*
- *Irene Valdez*
- *Ferdinand Zambo*

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

- Paul Antiqua
- Thea Etheridge
- Susan Perondi
- Kathleen Werner



**FRN thanks its volunteers:**

*Janelle Greenlee*

*Kyla Luis*

*Nihir Patel*

*Hector Serrano*

Many thanks to **Angels Food Market** in **Angels Camp** for donating the snacks for the Sibshop that was conducted recently in Calaveras County.



**Many thanks to the following for their donations and support of FRN's 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Mothers Retreat**

- ♥ Art Rossetti Enterprises, Escalon
- ♥ Bagel Express Deli, Stockton
- ♥ Emily Bauch, Signature HomeStyles
- ♥ Elaine Begley, Special Moments Photography, Stockton
- ♥ Big Boy Market, Escalon
- ♥ Boat Country, Escalon
- ♥ Central Valley Transport
- ♥ Joe Cirimele
- ♥ Costco Wholesale, Stockton
- ♥ Department of Developmental Services
- ♥ Kathleen Dubose
- ♥ Escalon Floral
- ♥ Flowers for Haley, Escalon
- ♥ Great Clips, Manteca
- ♥ Heck Of A Deal, Escalon
- ♥ Les Schwab Tires, Escalon
- ♥ Olivia Lugo
- ♥ Monarch Business Solutions
- ♥ Peggy Naraghi
- ♥ Don Okura
- ♥ P&L Garden Center, Escalon
- ♥ Parents Helping Parents, Santa Clara
- ♥ Pat Machado Trucking
- ♥ PODESTO'S
- ♥ Professional Evaluation & Developmental Services (PEDS)
- ♥ Ripon Manufacturing Co., Inc.
- ♥ Rose Mart Florist
- ♥ San Joaquin County Office of Education
- ♥ Sherwood Mall, Stockton
- ♥ Irene Valdez, Beauti Control, Stockton

- ♥ Valley Mountain Regional Center
- ♥ Susie Wong



## *Little Bits*

### Preemie Clothes Closet

Family Resource Network has "gently used" preemie infant clothes available to families of premature infants.

The Preemie Clothes Closet is open Tuesday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at FRN's office, 5250 Claremont Avenue, Suite 239, Stockton.

FRN gladly accepts all donations of gently used preemie-sized clothing. **We are currently in need of boys' preemie clothes.** For more information contact FRN.

FRN thanks **Easter Seals** for its generous donation to *Little Bits*.

#### Medication Management At School

If your child has a chronic illness or may need to take medication during the school day for an occasional acute illness, here are four questions to help you learn about your school's medication management policies:

1. Is there a locked cabinet where children's medications are stored?
2. What staff members administer medications?
3. What training have these individuals received – both in medication administration and in monitoring medication effects?
4. How are medication errors tracked? What procedures are in place for revising procedures or staff training when something seems warranted?

For more information visit the Parent Resource Center at [www.healthinschools.org/parents](http://www.healthinschools.org/parents)

#### Assistance Grants for Medical Services

The United Healthcare Children's Foundation is offering support to meet the needs of children nationwide with assistance grants for medical services not fully covered by health insurance.

Parents and caretakers across the country will be eligible to apply for grants of up to \$5,000.00 for health-care services that will help improve their children's health and quality of life. Examples of the types of medical services covered by the foundation grants include speech therapy, physical therapy, and psychotherapy sessions, medical equipment such as wheelchair, braces hearing aids and eyeglasses, and orthodontic and dental treatments.

"The United Healthcare Children's Foundation has already helped more than 375 families and provided nearly \$1 million in financial assistance said Foundation President Matt Peterson. "We are excited about the expansion of the program and look forward to the opportunity to help many more children have access to healthcare services that will enhance their health and quality of life".

To be eligible for the grants, children must be 16 years old or younger. Families must meet economic guidelines, live in the U.S. and be covered by a commercial health insurance plan. For more information visit [www.uhccf.org](http://www.uhccf.org).



# 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.**

- Please accept my donation of \$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**