

The Coalition

Family Resource Center for Disabilities & Special Needs (FRC)
Parent Training & Resource Center (PTRC)
Dec 2010

“Supportive Schools Are Safe Schools” Conference a Great Success

The FRC/PTRC held its 13th Conference on Disabilities and Special Needs on Saturday, September 25th at The Citadel. The conference kicked off with a co-presentation by Carol Harding, parent, and Jason Allen, teacher from the Charleston County Charter School of Math and Science. Carol shared with the audience her daughter’s experience with bullying and Jason talked about how the school responded by initiating the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program. Following this moving talk, the audience learned what it means to use the Olweus Program through a presentation by Catherine F. Moffett, Ed.D., Director, Bully-Free Virginia at The Center for School-Community Collaboration, Virginia Commonwealth University, School of Education.

In addition to Dr. Moffett, Dr. Susan Thomas, Director of Berkeley County’s Programs for Students with Disabilities, and Amanda Prince, Principal at College Park Middle School (BCSD), talked about what it means to be a Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (PBIS) school. Dr. Thomas discussed the procedures Berkeley County has adopted to implement PBIS in all of the schools in the district.

Dr. Conway Saylor, shared her grant initiative “Bold Responses: Addressing Bullying and Ostracism in Youth with Disabilities.” Dr. Saylor, a professor of Psychology at The Citadel, has been working with Charleston County schools to collect data on the incidence of bullying. The intent is to create a school and community based approach to preventing bullying that has a focus on inclusive service projects.

Gayle Munn, and her band members, Mark Munn and Gene “Base Man” Haselden, entertained everyone before lunch with their concert “Special Ed Rocks” which was a performance of

special education inspired music parodies. Immediately following a catered lunch, Advocacy of the Year awards were presented to:

Brooke Hartig - Advocate of the Year

Brooke, who leads “A Place for Me” support & information group for families was honored for her organization of a “town hall meeting” to address the concerns regarding cuts to services for individuals with disabilities & their families

Jenny DiNicola - Teacher of the Year

Jenny, Strategies Specialist at Wando High School (& former Resource teacher & Burke HS) was honored for her holistic approach to teaching & advocacy which directly improved a students life

Keith Wright - Self-Advocate of the Year

Congratulations to these deserving individuals!

Charleston County Bullying Hotline

Charleston County School District has established a bullying hotline for parents to use if they are concerned that their child (or another child) may have been bullied at school. If you have alerted the school and the issue was not resolved parents are encouraged to call the hotline so that the district will have a record of the complaint and can verify that the school is acting appropriately to resolve the problem. **The number is 877-250-2790.**

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Workshops, Conferences, and Events

Come to the Share Fair!!

Family Connection of South Carolina in cooperation with **Healing Farm Ministries** will hold a "Share Fair" for families of children with special needs on Saturday, January 15, 2011 from 8:45-2:00 PM at East Cooper Baptist Church, 361 Egypt Road in Mt. Pleasant. **The cost is \$10:00 per family** and includes lunch and snacks throughout the day. There will be something of interest for everyone in the family during this one day conference and resource fair.

Parents and caregivers may attend a variety of workshops and children will be entertained according to age group by share fair volunteers.

Children Ages 3-8 will participate in activities such as music, arts and crafts, a puppet show, outdoor play, and an afternoon movie.

Children Ages 9-17 will also have arts and crafts, music, an afternoon movie, and basketball.

Babies and toddlers up to age two will have their own activities with experienced caregivers in the nursery.

Adults with special needs ages 18 and up will have a 2 to 1 Buddy system with art, sports, music, and other age appropriate activities.

Siblings ages 6-10 will have their own program - Kids Connection- a special interactive program (led by a trained psychologist) where children can participate in art, music and other activities while sharing feelings about having a special needs sibling.

Workshop Topics Include:

TEFRA Medicaid 101: Enrollment process, appeals and paperwork

IEP: Maximizing your role, impact and the outcome.

Transitions: Life, work, and education in the post-secondary world after school is behind you

Advocacy 101: Getting results as a parent and your child's best advocate

Relaxation: Practical steps with limited time

Fathers: Advice from and for Dads

Heart of the Caregiver: See yourself, your situation and the person you care for through God's love.

Care Notebook: Keeping your records safe and organized

Wills and Trusts: Overview of guardianship issues and setting up a special needs will and trust presented by an experienced attorney.

Workshops will be from 9:15-10:15, 10:30-11:30, and 12:45-1:45. Parents will be able to choose one of 4 workshops in each session.

To register or for more information contact Meagan at 843-556-5010 or Katherine at 971-9300.

Or register online at www.healingfarm.org and click on the Share Fair Logo.

SAVE THESE DATES!!



Family Connection Annual Conference

February 4 and 5

Gateway Baptist Church, Irmo SC.

Contact Family Connection at 1-800-578-8750 or Meagan at 556-5010 for more information and registration.

Disability Advocacy Day

March 2, 2011

Statehouse, Columbia

With more budget cuts still looming it is more important than ever to visit your legislators in Columbia. If you can't go, consider sending a photo of your child and a story about the services your child is receiving (or has lost) and how those services impact your life and the life of your child to info@familyconnectionscc.org or call Meagan Labriola at 556-5010.



PRO-Parents To Host

“The ADHD Basics from A - Z”

Glenforest School - 1041 Harbor Drive
West Columbia SC
February 11, 2011

This one day conference is presented by Chris Zeigler Dendy MS, a graduate of the University of Georgia and Florida State University. Ms. Dendy is the parent of two grown sons with ADHD, has authored two books on ADHD and has co-authored a book with her son Alex. “A Birds Eye View” is a reference book for children and teens about life with ADD and ADHD.

Ms. Dendy will focus on practical and effective intervention strategies for addressing the impact Attention Deficit /Hyperactivity Disorder and executive function deficits have on school and learning. Many of these strategies will be beneficial for students with other types of disabilities.

By the end of the day, participants will familiarize themselves with the key components of executive function and be able to identify common learning problems students with ADD/ADHD often experience. Participants will discuss challenging behaviors, disorganization, oppositional behavior and other school performance problems.

The conference begins at 8:30 with registration and will end at 3:30. Lunch will be on your own.

The cost of the conference is \$20.00 for individuals and \$30.00 for couples. Limited scholarships are available for parents and foster parents.

For more information or to register contact PRO-Parents at 1-800-759-4776.

The South Carolina School for the Deaf and Blind has an Outreach Center in the Low-country. The **Colson Center** is located at 1064 Gardner Road, Ste 216, Fairfield Office Park off of Sam Rittenberg Blvd. in West Ashley. Contact the Colson Center at 852-4160 for more information about services and programs held here for families with children who are deaf and/or blind.

Parents Leading the Way

Conference for Parents

February 25-26, 2011
Embassy Suites Columbia

Parents Anonymous, in partnership with Pro-Parents, SC PTA, Charleston County Schools, the Children’s Trust of SC and the SC School Improvement Council, will sponsor the 2011 Parents Leading the Way conference. The conference fees are \$75.00 for parents, \$100 for professionals and *all participants must be pre-registered by February 11.*

For more information and registration details contact Parents Anonymous of SC or check their website at www.paofsc.org or call 1-800-326-8621.



www.loving2learn.com

**Free Kids
Educational Website**

Loving2Learn was established in 2005 to inspire and foster a child’s love of learning. ALL children have grand gifts and great potential that should be nurtured, inspired and advanced! Loving2Learn is considered a pioneer and prominent leader in developing interactive, educational books, videos, and games delivered on the Loving2Learn website. On the website you will find pages & pages of great activities, information and resources. Each developmental area is specifically designed so ALL children can be successful. Every age, area, and subject is highly interactive and includes all learning styles: tactile, kinesthetic, auditory and visual. A child can go over and over the areas or skills until they have mastered them. Children move through the activities at their own pace, repeating as many times as necessary to gain mastery. This is accomplished with praise, guidance, excitement, and fun! Parents and children KNOW they have mastered the skills presented as they do the Check-Up sheets together. Children bask in their achievements and parents are elated with their child’s excitement to learn.



A Sad Goodbye & Fond Farewell

Shelli Davis, Therapeutic Recreation Coordinator for the City of Charleston has moved back to her home state of Pennsylvania. We can not thank her enough for all she has done for the past six years to establish many, many, therapeutic recreation opportunities for individuals with disabilities of all ages throughout the Lowcountry. In the interim until a new coordinator is appointed, Jennifer Molizon will be managing all of the great activities Shelli established. You can reach her at MOLIZONJ@charleston-sc.gov.

We wish Shelli the best and look forward to enjoying more activities with Jennifer. If you would like to contact Shelli, her new email address: shellidavis@gmail.com. We'd like to share Shelli's email message to all the friends she leaves behind:

"Colleagues and friends,

I'm writing this letter with both sadness and excitement, as I have decided to leave my position with the City of Charleston and my home in the Lowcountry to begin a new chapter in my life in my hometown of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

After six years working with my special needs athletes and incredible volunteers, which has touched and changed my life forever in the best possible way, I want to be sure to tell each of you how much you truly mean to me, both personally and professionally. I've learned a lot about what is truly most important in life, and grown tremendously through each of my experiences.

I never thought I would compete on a roller derby team, work with athletes who earned medals at Special Olympics National Games, share gold medal victories with my unified sports teams, complete two half-marathons, appear on live TV with my athletes, buy a motorcycle, learn to golf, and jump out of an airplane - non of which would have been nearly as exciting as sharing all of these experiences with you, my friends.

Beyond the fun times, what has touched me the deepest were the moments when I've felt like a proud parent. Watching an athlete passionately compete in their sport, seeing them smile because of their accomplishments, both socially or as a

proud champion, seeing a family glow when their own athlete is recognized in front of the entire community by Mayor Joseph P. Riley at a City Council meeting, or when an athlete simply draws me a picture to say thank you.

My athletes are the reason I loved my job, and the reason I worked so hard to advance therapeutic recreation opportunities. The time I've spent volunteering on SCRPA and Special Olympics committees, partnering with other special needs organizations, and working to bring formal recognition and awards to these programs was all in an effort to assure the continuation of these important opportunities; and I know they will continue to flourish because of the support of everyone reading this note.

It's because each of you believed in me, my programs, and my athletes, that I wholeheartedly thank you.

Your friend,
Shelli Davis"

National Youth Leadership Network



The National Youth Leadership Network (NYLN) is a youth-led organization. They work to build power among people with disabilities between the ages of 15- 28 years old. Their goal is want to support young people in their role as the next generation of leadership in the Disability Rights Movement.

The NYLN:

- Promotes youth leadership development.
- Values inclusion, interdependent support systems, and disability pride.
- Works to create access to the resources youth need to be leaders.

Visit the NYLN website to see if you - or your family member is interested in the Youth Power that is the National Youth Leadership Network. Membership is free. Simply go to their website and sign on: <http://www.nyln.org>



The Latest News & Notes

The Down Syndrome Association of the Lowcountry is looking for members to serve on their board of directors. Currently there are only 10 Board members with six vacant positions. DSL is looking for ten people to fill vacant and soon-to-be-vacant positions on their Board for 2011-2012. DSL sponsors many wonderful social and fundraising events and offers support to parents throughout the year. Anyone interested should contact Kevin Carpenter at 843-209-5931 or email at dsalowcountry@gmail.com

More Buddies Needed!

The College of Charleston Best Buddies program has many students interested in doing activities with individuals with disabilities who have still not been paired with a Buddy. For more information email bestbuddiescofc@gmail.com

New PTRC Satellite Center

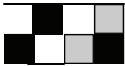
The FRC has two new Satellite Centers, one at Goose Creek Primary in Berkeley County and the other at Northwoods Middle School (formerly Alice Birney) in North Charleston. Both centers have books available for loan. The contact person at Northwoods is the media specialist, Jessica Reinking 764-2214. Please contact Valerie Kroesen at 843-899-8890 to get access to the resources at the Goose Creek Primary Site.

The University of Missouri's Alternative Spring Break Program

is a campus organization that sends groups of 12 college students to volunteer with local non-profit organizations throughout the US during spring break. This spring Elizabeth Augustine will be bringing a group to Charleston from March 26-April 2 to volunteer with individuals with disabilities. The group is still looking for another 2 days to fill and would like to hear from any non-profits in the area who would be interested in having help for a day this spring. For more information contact Jennifer Molizon at Charleston Therapeutic Recreation at 769-8284 or email Elizabeth at: epazb3@mail.mizzou.edu.

The PTRC Peer Parent Mentors - How They Can Help

For the last ten years, the PTRC has been providing **free** Peer Parent Mentor services to families in Berkeley, Dorchester, & Charleston Counties. Mentoring is the process by which an experienced person provides advice, support & encouragement to one with less experience. A Mentor with the PTRC can be a helpmate or advisor who teaches through guidance and example. Mentors help parents acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to become effective advocates. This includes accompanying them to IEP and other school related meetings. Our Mentors have received specialized training in order to help in this way. They are NOT trained as lawyers, social workers, service coordinators, physicians or mental health professionals. Mentors are compensated for their work with families and their time is valuable (the need is great and funds are limited). Their help is not meant to be open-ended or indefinite. A successful experience with Mentoring should result in a parent with increased knowledge and improved skills. In other words, a PTRC Peer Parent Mentor's responsibility is to help a parent learn to do it – not to do it for them. Mentors explain rights and responsibilities under state & Federal law and provide information through direct support and organized resources. We hope you have benefited from the help of a PTRC Mentor or that you will contact us if help is needed (843-266-1318).



A GOOD SUPPORT SYSTEM CAN MAKE THINGS BRIGHTER - CHECK OUT THESE GROUPS:

Trident Head Injury Support Group: meets the 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:30, at the HASCI Center, St. Andrews Shopping Center, Savannah Hwy, Charleston. Contact Robert Durland at 270-5001 or Lee Anne Bellamy at 852-5550 ext. 11.

HIPS (Head Injury Support Group for Survivors): meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month, from 1:00-2:30 PM at the HASCI Center, St. Andrews Shopping Center, Savannah Hwy, Charleston. Contact Lee Anne Bellamy at 852-5550 ext.11.

Down Syndrome Association of the Low Country: sponsors four Information Programs and four Social Events each year - in addition to Mothers Night Out and Mom's Lunches. For more information call 553-3725, check their website at www.dsalowcountry.org for a complete calendar of events or email Glenda Crain at crainclan@comcast.net.

Parent & Guardian Association of the Coastal Center: holds general meetings four times a year. The meetings are held on the 3rd Sunday in January, April, July, & October, for more info call Barbara West at 821-5809.

Rett's Syndrome Support: for families needing a contact person to access support services for girls with Rett's Syndrome contact Nancy Banov at 556-4632

Autism Support Groups: 1st Monday of each month at Vickery's in Mt. Pleasant at 6:30 PM. Contact Laurie Priester at 884-3062 for information. In the Summerville area a group meets from 6:30-8 PM at the Summerville YMCA (900 Cross Creek Drive off Trolley Rd.) Childcare is provided. For more information on dates please contact Kima at 821-9337.

The Palmetto Autism Spectrum Support Group has regrouped and is now being led by Claire Smith. At this time there is no specific meeting day each month although the group does meet once per month at 6:15 in West Ashley. Generally a speaker is scheduled at each meeting. For more information regarding dates and meeting locations, contact Claire at : smith2103@knowlegy.net.

The Tri County Support Group for Children & Teens (and their parents) with Diabetes now meets the second Monday of every other month (call to confirm meeting cycle) from 6:30-8:00 PM at HealthFinders. Contact Melanie Robinson at 792-3561 or 1-800-305-4173 for more information.

Trident Spinal Cord Injury Peer Support Group: This group is open to any person with a spinal cord injury or other mobility difficulties. The meetings provide a forum for the members to discuss problems and receive immediate feedback. Some members use the meetings to brainstorm with peers possible solutions to ongoing problems. In addition, the group provides members with social opportunities to develop a social network. Meetings are held on the second Tuesday evening of every other month (6:00-7:30 PM). Next meeting dates are: Sept. 9; Nov. 11; & Dec 9 (Holiday party). All meetings are held at the HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital – 9181 Medcom Street, North Charleston, SC 29406 (Located off Hwy. 78, across from Charleston Southern University).

Turner Syndrome Society Support Group: The Palmetto Chapter of the Turner Syndrome Society of the United States is back! To learn more, please contact Robin Butler at (843) 252-9622 or e-mail: auntrobin74@yahoo.com. You may also contact Cheryl Dashnaw at (843) 327-6769 or e-mail at: minibotl@sc.rr.com for more information.



Support Groups Continued

Grief Support Group for Children - Bereavement group for children ages 8-12 (1 group) and 13-15 (2nd group) sponsored by Heartland Hospice, 1064 Gardner Rd, Suite 204, West Ashley, Charleston. For more information contact Heartland Hospice at 766-7646.

Sickle Cell Sisters (for teenage girls with sickle cell disease)

Sickle Cell Sisters is a therapeutic support group for teenage girls between the ages of 13 and 18. The group meets every other month at MUSC Children's Hospital and focuses on psychosocial aspects of living with sickle cell disease. For more information about this group contact Jessica Hoffman or Megan Kalscheur at 843-792-1968

Can-Teen (for teenagers with cancer) Can-Teen is a support group for adolescents with cancer. Can-teen provides opportunities for teens to meet their peers, have fun, offer resources and promote well-being and leadership. Can-Teen was created to bring teenagers with cancer together so they can share experiences, help those that are newly diagnosed and to build friendships. This group meets the 3rd Wed of each month. Please call for meeting time and/or more information, call Michelle Vandermaas at (843)792-1380 or Christine Campbell at (843) 792-4152 or visit the Can-Teen Web site at www.can-teen.net.

The National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI) of the Charleston area offers support group meetings for individuals who suffer from a brain disorder and for family members and caregivers of those who have severe and persistent mental illness. The meetings are 6-7:15 p.m. the second Monday of every month at First Christian Church, 1293 Orange Grove Road, West Ashley and at Sunrise Christian Church 102 Myers Road, Summerville. Another location meets on the fourth Monday of each month at Seacoast Church, 717 Longpoint Road Mt. Pleasant, nursery room 7. The support group sessions often are followed by an educational program. For more information Call Ron Rzepkowski 571-1832 or visit www.namicharlestonarea.org.

Faith and Light Community is a spiritual organization for persons with mental disabilities, their families and caregivers. Faith and Light is centered in the Catholic tradition but is open to people of all faiths. Its purpose is to recognize the unique gifts of the mentally disabled and to provide them a place of prayer, sharing, support and celebration. The group meets at St. Theresa's Catholic Church, 11001 Dorchester Road, Summerville, SC 29485. For more information, please contact Msgr. Edward Lofton at 875-5002

Morning Coffee Break is held from 9:30am to 10:30am on the first and third Tuesday of each month starting in September. Atlanta Bread Company in Summerville, North Main Street. Call Nicole at 808-391-9984 with questions.

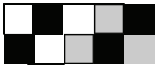
Parent Support Group meets every second and fourth Tuesday of each month from 10:30-11:30 AM at the Subway Restaurant, 3915 Byrnes Dr. #A, St. Stephen, SC 29479. Call Sophia at 843-351-2449 with questions.

Support Group for Spanish Speaking Families is held on the 4th Thursday of every month at 6pm at the MUSC Northwoods Clinic. Call Saritta Vann for questions or directions at 843-534-7471.

THE FOLLOWING GROUPS NO LONGER MEET

The Coastal Autism Division Support Group; Heart to Heart; The Circle of Friends Community Choir; Tourette's Syndrome Support Group; Low Country Polio Survivors Network; The Parent/Family Support Group led by Dr. Jennifer Gans; disAbility Resource Center adult support group and the support group for adults age 18 and up at Trident Health Finders.

Please call 266-1318 to report changes to this list



Did You Know ?

IDEA is responsible for funding the FRC's Parent Training and Resource Center (PTRC) along with 103 other parent centers across the US and territories (including PRO-Parents of South Carolina). Congress set aside funds in Part D of IDEA to assure that families had access to training and information. Funds are allocated through state and national grant competitions. Since first funded in 1999, the PTRC has provided direct Peer Parent Mentor services to over 1,500 families. Staff & consultants have accompanied parents to more than 2,900 school-based meetings. Many others have benefited from our training workshops and annual conference. *Please refer to the article on Page 5 to learn more.*

IDEA 35th Anniversary

On November 29, 1975, President Gerald Ford signed into law Public Law 94-142, then known as the Education for All Handicapped Children Act and what we now know as the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This landmark legislation guaranteed access to a free, appropriate, public education (FAPE) in the least restrictive environment to every child with a disability. Subsequent amendments, as reflected in the *IDEA*, have led to an increased emphasis on access to the general education curriculum, the provision of services for young children from birth to five, transition planning and accountability for the achievement of students with disabilities. IDEA has paved the way for improved educational outcomes for millions of individuals with disabilities. Visit two special websites that have been set-up to honor this important anniversary. To learn more about the history of IDEA and what it has meant to families visit: www.idea35.org and <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osers/idea35/index.html>



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