

Issue: July 2008

About Special Kids



Visit our website, www.aboutspecialkids.org.



Contact Us

About Special Kids (ASK)

Central Office
7275 Shadeland Avenue
Suite 1
Indianapolis, IN 46250
317.257.8683
1.800.964.4746 (toll-free)
familynetw@aboutspecialkids.org



ASK Staff Member Awarded

Heather Sosenheimer, Parent Liaison covering Allen County for About Special Kids, has been selected to receive the EP Maxwell J. Schleifer Distinguished Service Award. This award is presented by Exceptional Parent (EP) Magazine and their sponsors to recognize and celebrate an individual or company for their contributions to the special needs community.

Welcome Aboard!!

About Special Kids is proud to announce the hiring of a new Office Coordinator. Stephanie Ford joined our staff in June. Her duties with ASK include vendor management, payroll and attendance management among other responsibilities. Prior to coming to ASK Stephanie worked for the YMCA for 4 years after her family moved to Indianapolis from Pennsylvania.

Showcasing Families !

ASK is currently seeking stories from the families we serve. Personal family challenges and

Exceptional Parent (EP) Magazine and their sponsors started Disabilities Awareness Night (DAN) with baseball teams throughout the country. Disability Awareness Night began in 2002 with the New York Yankees and the Boston Red Sox with the goal of increasing the public's awareness of the 54.6 million Americans living with special needs as well as their accomplishments. Since 2002 the program has grown to encompass 40 Major and Minor League Baseball events nationwide as well as events with NASCAR and the National Basketball Association (NBA). At every DAN event, it is EP's pleasure, along with their national sponsor MassMutual and other regional sponsors, to recognize an individual or company for their contributions to the special needs community as they award the EP Maxwell J. Schleifer Distinguished Service Award. The recipients are traditionally a part of the local community and make a positive impact on a daily basis. Heather is this year's recipient! ASK is proud of heathers' contributions to her community.

Heather will be presented the award at a Wizard's game on July 11th.

success stories are a great way to help other families understand that they are not alone in dealing with issues. It is a great way to share a part of your family with other ASK families.

If you would like to share your story please email sorayavan@gmail.com or call 866-544-4475 to set up an interview time. You and your family will be featured in our upcoming family showcase section of the newsletter.

Your time and attention to this request is greatly appreciated.

2008 Support Group Directory

The updated 2008 Support Group Directory is now available. This directory lists over 150 support groups throughout the state of Indiana. If you would like to purchase a copy, please send \$5.00 to: About Special Kids, 7275 Shadeland Ave., Indianapolis, IN 46250, Attn: Information Specialist.



National Self Advocates Conference

People with disabilities and their families have a unique opportunity to attend the largest gathering of self-advocates in the nation.

When: September 4-7, 2008
Where: Indianapolis Marriott Downtown

The conference will be here sooner than you think, and deadlines are quickly

Congratulations Heather !!

2008 Family 2 Family Summer Training Series

Family 2 Family is offering a series of FREE summer trainings available to parents around the state. Topics include:

- **Turning 3 – Ready, Set, Transition!**
- **Medicaid Waiver, what is it, who gets it, when do we apply?**
- **Locating and Navigating Resources!**
- **What IS My Child Saying?**
- **Introduction to Special Education for Families of Children Birth to Three.**

Each of the training sessions will be presented LIVE in two clusters, then be available via the Internet one one evening. They are two hour sessions.

For dates and locations and to register, go to either www.inf2f.org or www.aboutspecialkids.org.

Participants Wanted

A group of professionals and a student at Virginia are looking for participants for a survey. They would like your perspective on what you know and how you feel about research that might address the health or development of children, potentially your own child.

Please consider participating to help them understand the issues families face with regard to research participation. They appreciate your time and energy and understand if you prefer not to fill out this voluntary survey, which you can decide to discontinue at any time. Survey results will remain anonymous. The survey takes approximately 10-15 minutes to complete.

As you know, there are hundreds of research studies going on at any given time; some of their results could be important for families such as yours. Many families might be willing to consider participation in research studies if they knew more about them. The goals of the project are to:

1. promote awareness among health service providers, educators, and families of the importance of family consideration of participation in research projects, and
2. encourage families to learn more about participating in such projects.

If you are interested in participating please email Alicia Carlson directly at research.survey.request@gmail.com.

Please specify your name and whether you would prefer:

approaching. For more information or to register online, go to www.sabe2008.org.

For more information on upcoming conferences and information fairs, visit our website at www.aboutspecialkids.org.

- an electronic copy sent via email (and include your email address)
- a paper copy mailed to you with a return stamped envelope (and include your mailing address)

Again, they are looking for participants who are the parents of children with Autism, genetic conditions, and/or neurodevelopmental disabilities like Cerebral Palsy and intellectual disabilities. If you have any questions, you can contact Julie Quillin, project coordinator, at 804-559-8150.

They are also conducting a similar survey for clinicians. If you are a practitioner working with the above individuals and would like to participate, please contact us as indicated above and specify that you would like to fill out the clinician survey.

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