

Issue: March 2008

About Special Kids



Visit our website, www.aboutspecialkids.org.



A Special

Thank You to:



Contact Us

About Special Kids (ASK)

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Weyerhaeuser Company Foundation

ASK would like to thank Weyerhaeuser Company Foundation for its recent generous donation of \$2000 that has been used to purchase a color laser printer. The printer will be used to enhance marketing materials for the organization so that we are able to reach more families across the state.

Weyerhaeuser transforms trees into useful everyday products. They believe that trees and human ingenuity are equally precious, sustainable resources, and they are committed to growing both. We thank Weyerhaeuser for their generous support of the families that we serve!

Brothers and Sisters of People with Disabilities: Too Important to Ignore !!

On April 25th and 26th Riley Hospital for Children, Easter Seals Crossroads, About Special Kids and Damar Services will sponsor workshops conducted by Don Meyer, Director of the Sibling support Project and creator of the Sibshop model.

You will learn:

- p What to do about the concerns often experienced by brothers and sisters: peer issues, resentment, loss, and concerns about the future (just to name a few!)
- p How to increase the unique opportunities often experienced by siblings, including

We Need Your Help

Do you enjoy great times relaxing with family and friends? Do you find yourself being the event planner in your family or your workplace? ASK has an opportunity for you! ASK is seeking members for its special event planning committee. The plan is to hold a family focused event in this summer and we need your help! If you have event planning, marketing or great leadership skills, or if you have great connections in the community, we need you! Please email Rebecca@aboutspecialkids.org to join this volunteer committee.

compassion, advocacy, insight, and tolerance

- p Strategies to decrease siblings' concerns and increase their opportunities
- p How to help your agency or organization provide "sibling-friendly" services
- p **How to plan and run Sibshops**, the award-winning, kid-friendly mix of peer support and recreation

This event is for two audiences:

First Audience: Those who wish to become Sibshop facilitators. These individuals will attend *both* days. Registration is limited to 25 trainees. Cost: \$50.00

Second Audience: Parents, adult sibs, grandparents, service providers and others who wish to learn more about brothers' and sisters' unique concerns and opportunities. These individuals will attend on Friday, April 25th only. Registration is limited to 75 participants. Cost: \$35.00

For more information contact:
Christina Rogers at 317-278-7621
or 1-888-356-2022.

Dates: April 25 & 26, 9am - 3pm

Location:
IU Cancer Center
Cancer Research Institute
1044 W. Walnut Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202

HANDS in Autism 2008 Summer Training Program

Application materials for the HANDS in Autism 2008 Summer Training Program are now available. This training is for professionals and students who are currently enrolled in Master's or Doctoral programs at Butler, IUPUI or the University of Indianapolis.

The week-long program focuses on providing hands-on experience and coaching in a training classroom environment. While the program includes traditional instructional methods such as lectures and

New Regional Parent Liaisons

As of October 1, 2007, About Special Kids was subcontracted by the Early Childhood Center, Institute on Disability and Community, to provide the parent to parent portion of the Family 2 Family grant. Since ASK has done this type of work for 20 years, we are very excited to be able to expand our parent to parent reach throughout the state.

The Family2Family grant has placed Regional Parent Liaisons in each of the First Steps clusters throughout the state starting in January 2008. These Parent Liaisons are parents of children with special needs that have been served through the First Steps System, and have been trained to support and educate families that are raising children with special needs. They are partnering with the local SPOE and the LPCC, to reach out to families currently in First Steps, to provide peer support, to identify areas of need and strategies for meeting needs through community and state resources. They are working with individual families to enhance natural support systems. The Parent Liaisons have been part of the many systems and programs that serve children with special needs and therefore can be the extra support needed sometimes, in navigating these systems.

Cluster A	Melissa Maj
Cluster B	Lorrie Dunkelberger
Cluster C	Heather Sosenheimer
Cluster D	Autumn Hillman
Cluster E	Alicia Wessendorf
Cluster F	Amy Walker
Cluster G	Holly Paauwe
Cluster H	Open
Cluster I-W	Dara O'Neil
Cluster I-E	Sonya Hedge
Cluster J	Michele Robb

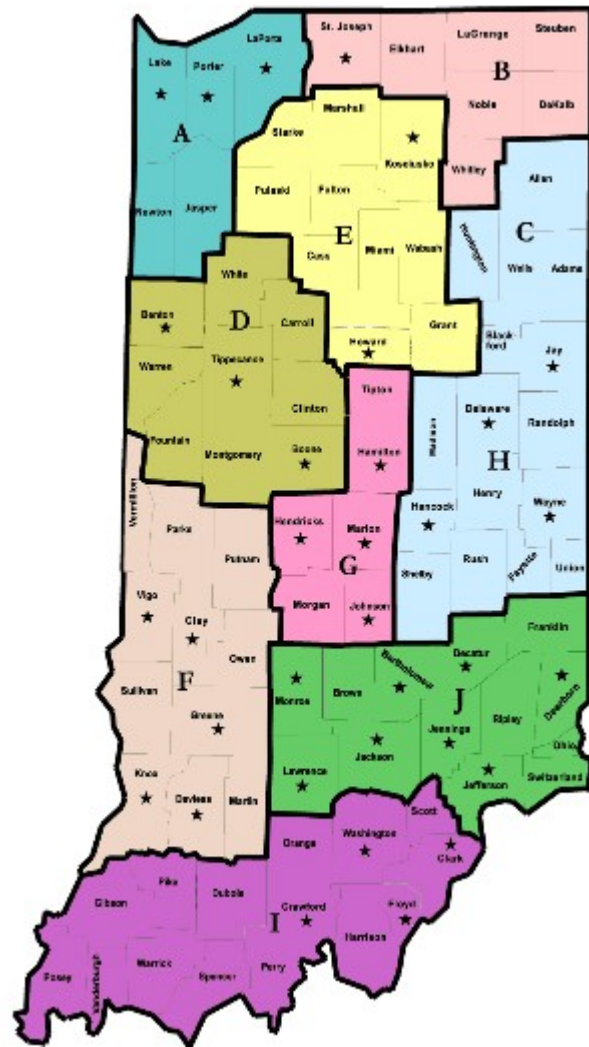
Look for Parent Mentor positions that will start later in 2008. These voluntary positions will be utilized by the regional Parent Liaison for the sole purpose of providing peer support to families in (the particular cluster) where the Parent Mentor and the family are located.

These Parent Liaisons can be reached at an email address of : firstname@aboutspecialkids.org or by calling 1-800-964-4746.

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discussion, the emphasis of training is the hands-on application of a variety of techniques and the process of implementing these techniques appropriately for each individual child, classroom, and intervention team.

Visit the website:
www.handsinautism.org/sitemap.html
for applications and more information



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