

Issue: Oct. 2008

About Special Kids



Visit our website, www.aboutspecialkids.org.



Contact Us

About Special Kids (ASK)

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Welcome Aboard!!

ASK is please to announce the hiring of two new part time Parent Liaisons. Robin Gorton and Karyn Willmann started October 1st and will be working with families throughout Indiana.

Robin is a former school teacher who is the mother of three and wife to a pastor. Her recent experience includes working one on one with students increasing their cognitive skills. The desire to help other families with special needs children was what brought Robin to ASK.

Karyn has worked as a First Steps Service Coordinator and a Parent Mentor for The Center for Family Leadership. She is also a founding partner in the Parent



Parent Mentor Training

Our Parent Mentor Training is now available online for individuals interested in providing support to other families. A Family to Family (F2F) Parent Mentor is a trained volunteer parent of a child with special needs who is willing to give peer support to another parent whose child is currently in the First Steps system. Peer support would be encouragement and empathetic sharing, to help a family work through the feelings and concerns of raising a child with special needs.

F2F Parent Mentors will be utilized by the regional Parent Liaisons for the sole purpose of providing peer support to families, of children ages birth -3 (First Steps), in the particular cluster where the Parent Mentor and the family are located. We define peer support as encouragement, moral support and empathetic sharing between the trained Parent Mentor and the referred family. Our hope is to help families feel less isolated and more confident about themselves though the relationship that is established. This approach assumes that families who have experienced disability can better understand and relate to individuals trying to deal with their own family member's disability.

As a Parent Mentor, beyond your one-on-one conversations, you may refer families to other forms of peer support such as:

- Local Support Groups
- Play Groups
- Parent's Nights Out
- Special Needs Ministries

As leaders in your community, you likely have many opportunities to connect with families formally and informally through your family's daily life. As a Parent Mentor under F2F

group Hamilton South Eastern P.O.S.E.E. (Parents Organized for Special Education Excellence). She is the mother of three, one with special needs and twin girls.

We are very excited to welcome them to the ASK team.

Article 7 / IEP Training

ASK holds Article 7 / IEP trainings throughout Indiana. The next scheduled training is:

October 25, 2008
9:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Location:
Hobart Police South Station
Westfield Shopping Center
1915 Southlake Mall
Merrillville, IN 46410

Visit our website for more information and to register. Please also visit the website to view our training calendar for additional training dates and locations.

Looking for Resources?

About Special Kids' Online Resource Directory can help. This directory lists resources that are available for children with special needs and their families – from local to nationwide organizations. You can visit the directory 24-hours a day at www.aboutspecialkids.org and search by keyword, county, or by service category. There are listings for support groups, respite care, disability specific resources, recreation, camps, and much more. Visit the directory today!!

you will be asked to refer other parents from your community, who would benefit from information and support, to the Parent Liaison serving your cluster.

If you are interested in becoming a Parent Mentor, visit our website at www.aboutspecialkids.org and click on Parent Mentor to access the on-line training to begin the process of being considered as a Parent Mentor.

If you are a parent of a special needs child age birth - 3 and would like to be matched with a Parent Mentor, contact the F2F Parent Liaison in your First Steps cluster. Go to <http://www.f2f.org> and click on Services to find the contact information for your Parent Liaison.

Like to write, tell stories, or do research? Talk to us!

Do you have a creative side? Do you like to write and tell stories? Help us tell our story to the business community, foundations and everyday families!

Do you like to explore companies and people in your community? Find out how socially responsible businesses support good causes. Learn about companies that make medicine, toys, equipment, and other goods for families and find out about foundations and individuals who support organizations like ASK.

Our team welcomes your talent as we generate awareness and attract donations in support of ASK's vision for the future. We are gearing up to do lots of outreach to companies, foundations and families! Volunteer roles are flexible. Contact Rebecca at (317) 277-6450 or vermeulen_rebecca_a@lilly.com to learn how you can get involved.



Central Office Wins a 'Pink Breakfast'

One of our central office staff members won a contest for a breakfast for the office. B105.7, in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness, has a give-away every Tuesday through October for a Pink Breakfast. The staff enjoyed Pink Ribbon Bagels, pink yogurt, and pink juice.

Thank you B105.7

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