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[www.aboutspecialkids.org](http://www.aboutspecialkids.org)



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### *ASK E-Newsletter / September 2010*



#### **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](mailto:familynetw@aboutspecialkids.org)

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#### **2010 ASK Trainings**

##### **Roadmap to Special Education: Laws and Process**

Sept. 22nd - Greenwood  
Sept. 22nd - Ft. Wayne  
Sept. 27th - Greensburg

Additional trainings are added to  
our calendar as they are

Dear ASK Partners and Friends:

Since taking the position as Executive Director of this great organization nearly 6 years ago, ASK has experienced organizational growth, challenge and excitement. While I have been honored to serve the families of our state and to work with all of you, the time has come for me to move on to new challenges in my career. My last day as Executive Director will be Oct. 1st. I assure you that my most important goal during this time of transition is to maintain the quality of services that we provide to families in all areas of our work. I can confidently say that the work that we do with families has a significant impact on individual children as well as the systems that address their needs on a daily basis. I have no doubt that these high quality services will continue during this transition and well into the future. I look forward to watching this organization flourish in new and exciting ways under new leadership. Below you will find a statement from Cheryl Crisp, ASK's dedicated board president, on behalf of ASK's Board of Directors.

*"We appreciate the growth and enhancements at ASK (formerly IPIN) that have occurred since Rebecca began as Executive Director in 2004. We now look towards the future to new possibilities and opportunities. I assure you that ASK is a stable organization with a dedicated statewide staff and board of directors. We will be working closely with all of our constituents to assure a smooth transition and to select a qualified candidate to lead this organization."* Cheryl

scheduled. To register for a training, visit our website at [www.aboutspecialkids.org](http://www.aboutspecialkids.org)

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### **Special Thanks to the Sponsors of Our 2010 Golf Tournament**



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### **Finding Strength and Support at College**

College can be challenging for many students. Individuals with special needs can face additional challenges when living away from home for the first time.

Support can be found through the school, staff, and peers. Read an inspirational story of two students who supported one another and created a life-long friendship:

Crisp, Board President

I have appreciated the opportunity to serve families in our state and to do it with such a committed group of staff members and external partners. This experience has left an impression on me that will not be forgotten.

If you would like to reach me after October 1st, I encourage you to do so at [rebkirb@gmail.com](mailto:rebkirb@gmail.com) or 317-250-5022. Until then, let's all keep up the important work that we do together!

Rebecca Kirby

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### **United Way Campaign**

Support ASK through your employer's United Way Campaign! It is nearing the time of year when most employers who participate in the United Way's annual campaign, ask their employees to designate funds to various nonprofit organizations.

Please remember ASK when you or your spouse (or other friends and family!) are making their designations. To apply your donations to About Special Kids, please scroll to the bottom of your employer's donation page and select Find An Agency. Please do a search for About Special Kids and select us for your contributions.

For organizations outside of the central Indiana area, your process may vary slightly from this. Please ask your United Way campaign leader how you can designate your funds to us.

Thank you for your contributions!

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### **How Can We Help?**

About Special Kids (ASK) is a statewide organization that works with families of children with special needs and professionals to provide information and resources. Many of you have received help from ASK, but do you know all the services that we provide?

**Parent Liaisons:** We have a wonderful staff of parent liaisons who work directly with families and professionals. Each of our parent liaisons has a child with special needs and is trained in all areas related to special needs. Your parent liaison will work with you to answer questions and provide information.

**Statewide Trainings:** ASK holds trainings throughout the state. A description and calendar of upcoming trainings are listed on the

[Read the Story](#)

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## **Sibshops**

### **Fun activities for the brothers and sisters of children with special needs.**

Sibshops offer games, discussion, crafts and lunch in a fast-paced, recreational setting giving children the opportunity to:

- Meeting other brothers and sisters of children with special needs
- Form new friendships
- Talk about life with their brother or sister with others who understand
- Learn about how others handle difficult situations
- See how much they have to offer to others
- Have fun!

Visit our website Newsbox for upcoming Sibshops in your area.

website. Current trainings being held are:

- Roadmap to Special Education: Laws and Process
- Public Health Insurance: What You Don't Know Can Cost You
- What Every Parent Wants You To Know
- My Child Has Special Needs: Now What?

**Online Trainings:** We have the following online trainings available through our website (available in English and Spanish):

- Article 7 Module: Transition
- Article 7 Module: Discipline Procedures
- Article 7 Module: Non-Public Schools
- Article 7 Module: Procedural Safeguards

**ASK Website:** Our website has information about ASK, a listing of upcoming events being held throughout the state, ASK publications, an online resource directory, and online trainings.

**Online Resource Directory:** Find resources 24-hours a day on our online resource directory.

**Parent Mentors:** ASK matches parents with trained parent mentors who can provide additional emotional support.

**Information Packets:** ASK has 23 information packets that are available to send to families and professionals. This list includes: Autism, Mental Health, Health Care Financing, Future Planning, and Emergency Preparedness.

**About Special Kids | 800-964-4746**

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Indianapolis, IN 46250

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