



ASK



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Answers for families of kids with special needs

December E-Newsletter

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Wishing You Christmas Happiness to Warm Your Heart and Home with Special Joy

By Joe Brubaker – Executive Director, ASK

Looking back on another year that has come and gone, I would like to share the positive impact ASK has made across the state of Indiana. This year, we have provided services to more than 3,600 families and professionals. We have helped educate and empower parents to help their child with special needs in 315 cities/towns and 89 counties throughout the state. Nearly 50 IU Pediatric Residents completed service learning projects with us during 2015 (see one of their reflections below). Our new website had more than 125,000 visits during the year and our Resource Directory received nearly 20,000 visits.



You may think that this all sounds like a lot of work coming from a small organization, and you are right; our staff work tirelessly to help families navigate the various systems they encounter while raising their own child with special needs. Yet, still more Indiana families need our services. Indiana has approximately 270,000 children with special needs.

ASK helps families of children with special needs regardless of the particular disability. We help families find hope. We help them understand they are not alone and, though this journey may not be an easy one, we are there to help ease the burden and find the most appropriate resources. Each ASK staff, who focuses on client services, is a parent of a child with special needs. We have traveled the road of raising a child with special needs and we understand the unique stress parents go through. With your help, we can reach more families and give them the support and tools to live better lives.

As this year comes to its end, we invite you to support the important work we do for Indiana families. A small contribution can help ASK surround a family that just received a diagnosis with the services and resources they need. It takes \$155 for an ASK parent liaison to work with a family for a year. Your gift of \$5, \$10, \$15 or \$20 will help us help them.

Thank you for your generosity. Your support fuels our passion for the work we do! Have a Merry Christmas and wonderful holiday season from the board, staff and volunteers of About Special Kids!

From our *Special Kids* to Yours – Have a Very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year



A Reflection from a Service Learning Pediatric Resident

By Appolinia Elyse Frey Stephenson



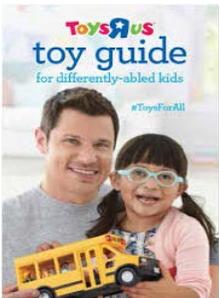
I learned so much working with ASK! I feel like the parent interactions (the calls, appointment, and interview) really highlighted the importance of ASK and the huge impact that it can have for families who need additional support. The mom I talked to during the family interview could not stop saying how much ASK meant to her family, and that she just wished she could tell everyone earlier to save them headache and heartache while trying to find support for their children with special needs. I will take this back to my continuity clinic by referring people to ASK and providing them with the contact number (or submitting a referral through the ASK site for a liaison to reach out to them) when families need extra support.

In addition, just knowing about the database and the resources available from ASK will be a HUGE benefit in my continuity clinic and future career. Doing the online training modules regarding Article 7 were very helpful in understanding exactly what the process is and exactly what the schools are supposed to be providing families when it comes to educational and therapy services. I think each of the activities I did touched on the services that are provided by schools (whether it was in the form of IEP meetings, transition, evaluations or just the fact that patients were receiving therapies through school). This will be invaluable in my continuity clinic, as I now understand how to help someone who isn't getting all of the services they need or is not happy with their child's IEP.

I would highly recommend other residents to do the ASK month. Not only is it incredibly educational and eye opening (as above), but it is also so well organized and easy to do the things that help you learn.



Trending at ASK



Christmas Ideas for your family



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