



March 2016 ~ E-Newsletter

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I Love March Madness

Andrew VanGordon, Development & Marketing Manager



As a lifelong Hoosier, I grew up a college basketball fan, so March is truly one of my favorite times of the year. I love filling out the NCAA Brackets and competing against family and friends with a friendly wager. It is great to have four Indiana universities competing in the madness this year I won't tell you who I favor – I just wish them all well.

ASK recently participated in its own mini version of March Madness during [Brackets for Good](#) – although we did not advance past the first round we raised needed funds to serve ASK families. Thanks to all that scored for ASK.

March also gets me excited about warmer weather and outdoor activities. Getting the yard cleaned up, watching my daughter's soccer matches, playing golf and going with Ean on his bike rides in the neighborhood.

I would like to invite you to participate in some outdoor activities that ASK has to offer! You can bring your pet and family and stroll the canal with us as we go [Walking for Dreams](#) on May 22nd – start your own team or just join About Special Kids' team. Ask family, friends, co-workers and neighbors to support you with a donation of \$10, \$20 or more. Collect your pledge money when you ask for the pledge. Share the word and help us raise some funds.

I am passionate about golf and play as much as possible. My son loves to come with me and play too. Last summer he came with me nearly every time. This summer he will be recovering from another surgery so he won't be able to as much as he would like. It won't stop him from making it to our [8th annual golf outing](#) (we are pleased to have Anthem as our Title Sponsor). Please join us on May 27th – it is always a great time on a great course. Come and join Ean and me as we hit the links. Share this with any company that you think may want to put in a team.



Time to Plan for Summer

Spring officially begins Sunday, March 20 – before you get too excited – you need to start setting up summer camp for your kiddo. Attending a camp can have a long lasting positive effect on your child. Coming home with more resilience, new friends and experiences to remember for a lifetime.

There are camps throughout the state that accommodate children with special needs. The camps fill very quickly so click on the link to find a camp in your area that your child can attend.

<http://www.iidc.indiana.edu/pages/summer-camps-and-programs>

Are You on the waiting list for Family Supports Waiver?

To better serve consumers on the Family Supports Waiver waiting lists, DDRS has developed the BDDS Waitlist Web Portal. To access the portal visit: www.in.gov/fssa/ddrs/4328.htm.

You should periodically check the portal to verify that your information is correct. If you do not have access to the Internet, contact your local BDDS office by calling 800-545-7763.

Always keep paperwork in a safe place, including a copy of your original application and application date.

DO YOU HAVE A QUESTION ABOUT YOUR CHILD WITH SPECIAL NEEDS ?

FAMILIES, PLEASE JOIN US FOR A FREE

ASK & Learn Session

About • Special • Kids
Answers for families of kids with special needs

Location:

ASK Office

7172 Graham Rd ~ Suite 100

Indianapolis, IN 46250

For Dates and Registration Information:

- Call 317.257.8683
- Visit www.aboutspecialkids.org

UPCOMING DATES:

- Friday, 3-18-16, 11 am—1 pm
- Thursday, 3-24-16, 1 — 3 pm
- Friday, 4-1-16, 10 am — 12 pm
- Wednesday, 4-13-16, 2—4 pm
- Thursday, 4-28-16, 10 am — 12 pm

Registration is required

Childcare is not available

Upcoming Workshops

It's Not WHAT You Say . . . It's HOW You Say It: Effective Communication

Communication is a key factor when working with individuals and organizations. This training is geared to help you build positive working relationships with schools, medical professionals, and groups or committees through improved communication skills. Topics such as partnerships, negotiation, and listening will be addressed.

Ft. Wayne

Mad Anthony's Children's Hope House

7922 W Jefferson Blvd.

March 23 ~ 6:00 - 8:00 pm

Family Member: \$10 / Professionals: \$10

My Child Has Special Needs: Now What?

Finding out that your child has special needs can be overwhelming. Some common reactions can be "What do I do now? Where do I start?" This training provides families with a brief overview of how to find support for your child and family, find information and services, find ways to pay for services, and will help you start thinking about the future. This training is geared to help parents map out the next steps for their child and family. This is for family members of children with special needs.

Bloomington

St. Mark's United Methodist Church

100 N State Road 46 Bypass

March 18 ~ 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Family Member: \$0 / Professionals: \$25

New Albany

Rauch Industries

2525 Charlestown Road

March 29 ~ 6:00 - 8:00 pm

Family Member: \$0 / Professionals: \$25

Roadmap to Special Education: Laws and Process

This all-day workshop provides information about special education laws and regulations for Indiana children age 3-21. In addition, this it will provide information on how to prepare for a case conference and write an IEP. This is a great learning opportunity for family members and professionals who advocate for children with a disability or serious chronic illness.

Indianapolis

Speedway United Methodist Church

5065 W 16th Street

March 18 ~ 8:30 am – 4:00 pm

FREE - Sponsored by Hoover Family Foundation

A Life with Stress, Balance and a Plan

Parents of children with special needs live with added emotional, medical, social and financial challenges. These circumstances can often lead to feelings of loneliness, depression, marital and family problems and health issues. This training will focus on identifying types of stressors, identify coping mechanisms and providing ways to incorporate them into everyday life, and the importance of good communication. This is for family members of children with special needs.

Bloomington

St. Mark's United Methodist Church

100 N State Road 46 Bypass

March 18 ~ 1:00 – 3:00 pm

Family Member: \$10 / Professionals: \$25

Indianapolis

Speedway United Methodist Church

5065 W 16th Street

April 8 ~ 12:30 – 2:30 pm

FREE - Sponsored by Hoover Family Foundation

Merrillville

Hobart Police South Station

Westfield Shopping Center

1915 Southlake Mall

April 13 ~ 5:00 – 7:00 pm

Family Member: \$10 / Professionals: \$25

Trending at ASK

Public comment period for Indiana's modified Statewide Transition Plan

The Indiana Family and Social Services Administration is seeking public input on the modified Statewide Transition Plan (STP). The plan will be open for public comment for 30 days, March 7 - April 6, 2016, and is available on the [Home and Community-Based Services \(HCBS\) Final Rule webpage](#). This comment period will allow all HCBS members, providers and stakeholders an opportunity to provide input to the plan.

Comments may be submitted in the following ways:

Email: HCBSrulecomments@fssa.in.gov

Written comments should be sent to:

State of Indiana

FSSA/OMPP

Attn: HCBS Final Rule - Kelly Flynn, Manger, State Plan and Waivers

402 W. Washington St., Rm. W374 MS - 07

Indianapolis, IN 46204-2739

All comments will be tracked and summarized. The summary of comments, in addition to a summary of modifications, made in response to the public comments will be added to the modified STP. In cases where the state's determination differs from public comment, the additional evidence and rationale the state used to confirm the determination will be added to the plan. The modified STP will be submitted to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services by April 30, 2016. Once it is submitted, the updated plan will be posted on the [HCBS Final Rule webpage](#). Paper copies available upon request.

To find who your legislator is <http://iga.in.gov/legislative/find-legislators/>

Effortless No-Cost Ways to Give to ASK

About Special Kids and all other non-profits have to ask for money frequently. We know that you cannot write a check every time you are asked. So we thought we would explore ways to capitalize on finding ways you can help by simply doing what you do all the time anyway. We put together ways that you can contribute regularly without it costing you anything.

If you shop at [Kroger](#) and use their reward card – Kroger will contribute 2% of your purchase. All you have to do is, select ASK by going here <https://www.kroger.com/account/enrollCommunityRewardsNow>



If you shop online, you can use [AmazonSmile](#) and they will donate .5% of eligible purchases to ASK. All of the products, prices and services are the same as Amazon. Go to <https://smile.amazon.com/> to enroll.

Do you like to look up things on the internet? If you use [GoodSearch](#) you can raise 1¢ per search – it doesn't seem like a lot – but it truly adds up – if 1,000 people did four searches a week using GoodSearch, more than \$2,000 would come in to help us help families of children with special needs. To sign up just go to <http://www.goodsearch.com/nonprofit/about-special-kids.aspx>

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