



# The Deep South

Volume 4, Issue 1 Summer 2010

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*Opinions contained herein do not necessarily represent those of the funding source, and no endorsement should be inferred.*

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Happy Third Anniversary!

The State of the Center Address

By Carol Calix



All of southern Louisiana is preparing for it. The fifth anniversary of the event that will forever be forged into our memories, the good, the bad, the ugly. The event called Hurricane Katrina in so many ways now defines time. We speak of everything being either pre-K or post-K (Katrina, not kindergarten). This center was birthed from the ruins of the big K. The contractors and grantors took a leap of faith when they agreed to fund this center. No one else applied when the proposal was written. Rent was through the roof and schools in all three parishes were barely running. But the need was greater than the risk, and here we are, three years later and we are looking for great things in the 2010-11 fiscal year.

We have lost significant funding this year due to the cuts in the state budget. We are having to adjust to less staff, less hours, but not less work. And there is fear of more cuts in 2011.

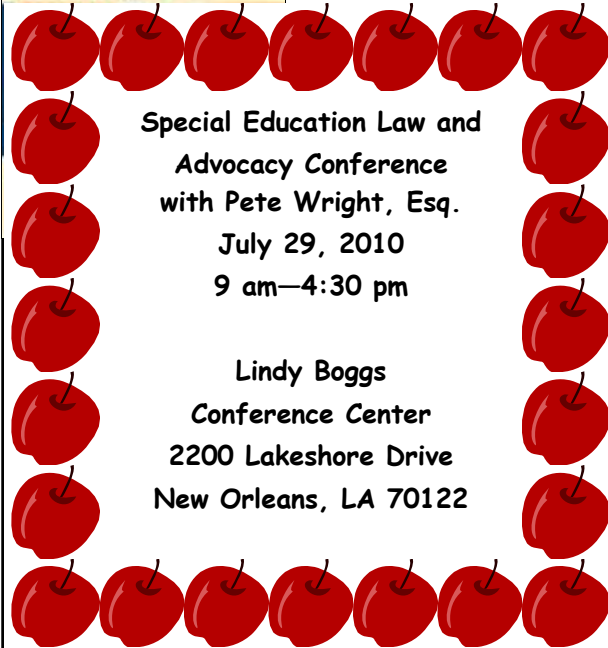
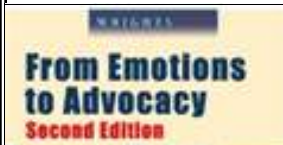
Okay, that's the bad news. Now the good news. We are still here; in keeping with our mission and vision, empowering families. Our Parent Spotlight on page 5 will give you a small glimpse of the work that we are so passionate about.

And even with the cuts we are still moving forward with our workshops and conferences. On July 29th we will host our very first Wrightslaw conference with Pete Wright, through funding provided by the Louisiana Department of Education and Louisiana Parent Training and Information Center. We are looking forward to seeing some of you at the conference.

Also with funding provided by the Louisiana Department of Education, we will host a parent conference during this fiscal year. More information to come in the next newsletter.

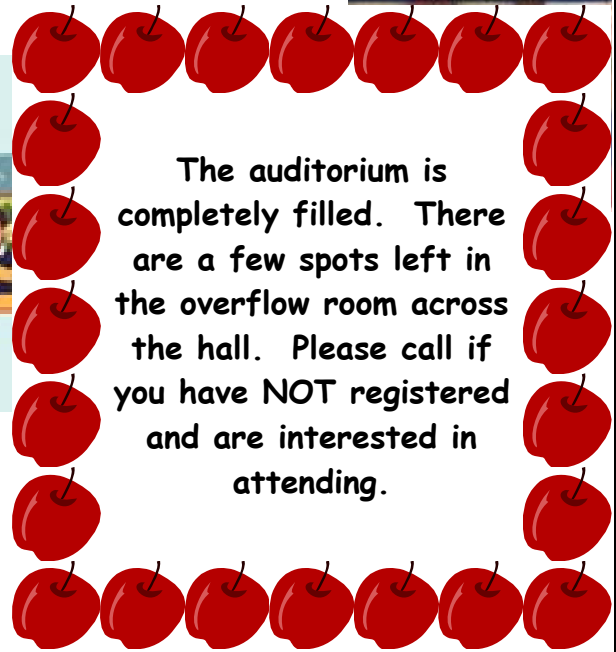
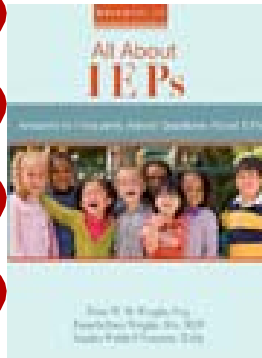
A highlight for this agency this fiscal year is that we have been awarded a capacity building grant from Urban Strategies. What does this mean? We will be given special instruction on things that are essential to a non-profit to be able to provide services within our mission and vision. Seven grants were awarded to agencies that provide services within the community and more specifically to central city and the Harmony Oaks (formerly C.J. Peete Public Housing) community.

# Attention Parents, Teachers, School Administrators!



Special Education Law and  
Advocacy Conference  
with Pete Wright, Esq.  
July 29, 2010  
9 am—4:30 pm

Lindy Boggs  
Conference Center  
2200 Lakeshore Drive  
New Orleans, LA 70122



The auditorium is  
completely filled. There  
are a few spots left in  
the overflow room across  
the hall. Please call if  
you have NOT registered  
and are interested in  
attending.

Registration is free for Louisiana parents and for professionals employed by schools in Louisiana.

There is a \$75 fee for out of state registrants and professionals not directly affiliated with the school system.

Online registration is available at [www.fhfsela.org/signup](http://www.fhfsela.org/signup),  
or call 504-943-0343 or 1-877-243-7352

Lunch will be provided.

Registrants will also receive three books, which will be used at the conference:

Wrightslaw: Special Education Law, 2nd Edition,  
Wrightslaw: From Emotions to Advocacy, 2nd Edition and  
Wrightslaw: All About IEPs.

CEUs (continuing education units) will be available at the conference for a \$9 fee.

CLE (continuing legal education) will be available at the conference for a \$25 fee.

***Wrightslaw programs often fill up early - don't miss out!***

***Co-Sponsored by:***

***Families Helping Families of  
Jefferson***

***Louisiana Parent Training and  
Information Center***

***Families Helping Families of  
Southeast Louisiana***

# Planning for My Child's Future - What Happens When I am Gone?

**Am I prepared? Do I know what is needed to ensure that my child will be cared for in my absence?**

**Lack of preparation could cost my child their waiver and social security benefits.**

Will my brother live with me or on his own? Or will I have to put him in a home?



**Keynote speaker will be Steven Jankower**

**Come learn about:  
Continuing Tutorship  
Interdiction  
Special Needs Trusts  
Wills and Estates  
Inheritance**

Will I have what I need to help care for my sister when we grow up?



What if something happens to me unexpectedly? Who will become my child's guardian?



**August 5, 2010  
Strive Incorporated  
1139 Napoleon Avenue  
New Orleans, LA 70115**

**1:30 - 3:30 p.m.**

**Call 504-943-0343 or  
1-877-243-7352  
to register**

Have we done what we need to do to protect our child's inheritance?



How can I be assured that our wishes are carried out after we are gone?

Steven M. Jankower has spent years dealing with the complex legal issues faced by families with elderly, disabled, and special needs members.

As the father of a child with special needs, Steve has first hand knowledge of the challenges these individuals and their families face every day. He has the experience and confidence to help families effectively deal with these difficult legal problems.

# Upcoming Education Workshops



**The Get-Ready Workshop.** Henry Ford once said, "Before everything else, getting ready is the secret of success." Are you ready for the coming school year? Still frustrated with last year's challenges? Tired of trying to understand special education? Let us help! At this interactive workshop, you will learn:

- Creative ways to help new teachers and/or new school staff get to know your child;
- Recordkeeping tips and home-school communication strategies;
- How to schedule for success.

**You will leave with a binder you can use all year to keep your child's records organized!**

**Date:** Wednesday, August 25, 2010

**Time:** 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

**Location:** Grace Baptist Church  
3900 N. Rampart St., New Orleans

**Presenters:** Shanida Mathieu &  
Aisha Johnson

**To register, call:** 504-888-9111

**IEP Boot Camp.** The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) outlines a process for IEP meetings. Although IEP services are individualized for each child, the IEP process **should** be routine and predictable so parents learn to participate. If your child qualifies for special education, you need Boot Camp! Why? IEP Boot Camp is a place where everybody gets the same basic instruction and information. You will learn to:

- be a part of developing your child's education program;
- know what services to ask for;
- ask confidently for services your child needs.

**You will receive a copy of  
A Good IDEA for Louisiana:**

**A Guide for Parents and Students About  
Special Education Services.**

**Date:** Saturday, September 25, 2010

**Time:** 10:30a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

**Location:** Belle Chasse Library  
8442 Hwy. 23, Plaquemine

**Presenters:** Shanida Mathieu & Donnica Conway

**To register, call:** 504-888-9111



**Giving Back to the Community**—We are asking our families to consider the needs of others when attending any FHF function. Please bring a non-perishable food item with you. With so many people out of work due to the oil spill and general economic difficulties in our area, we are going to give the canned goods to local food banks to help other families.

**Don't have time to attend workshops? You can take advantage of online trainings offered by our sister agency, Families Helping Families of Jefferson. Because we are all working toward the same goal, we welcome families to attend events in either region. Find a list of their upcoming trainings at [www.http://fhfjefferson.org/calendar.php](http://fhfjefferson.org/calendar.php). If you have any questions about these trainings, call 504-888-9111.**



## Parent Spotlight

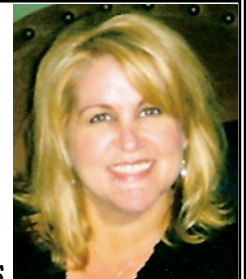
"Families Helping Families is just what it is", says Paula Dotson. She and her son Anson became a part of the "family" while residing in Baton Rouge after Hurricane Katrina. While in Baton Rouge, Anson began to stutter and fall to the side while sitting. She was told by doctors that Anson had possibly had a stroke due to Sickle Cell Disease. Not knowing what to do, Paula, a teacher at Early Head Start ARC of Baton Rouge, used one of their resources and contacted Families Helping Families of Greater Baton Rouge. Someone in that office worked to calm her down and gave her more resources to get additional help. Shortly after testing for a stroke, Paula, a single parent of three, moved back to New Orleans and contacted Families Helping Families of Southeast Louisiana and became a part of another family, seeking assistance from several FHF staff members. Paula was introduced to more resources, such as Metropolitan Human Services District and the SUN Center. The Dotsons have been through a lot, including being homeless, living in a car, with friends, relatives and in a shelter, as well as other emotional issues attending several schools. "This program has helped me get my child services that he deserves," Paula said. She has equipped herself with knowledge of the Individualized Education Plan, has participated in online trainings and has participated in the annual family forums. Paula enjoys giving others her testimony about her experiences with FHF, including when she calls or goes in crying and venting. But that is what families are for. She enjoys seeing her "family" around town, and sharing her own experiences with other parents, helping them seek out the services needed for their child as well.



## The End of Another Legislative Session

This year's Legislative Session, again, proved to be a tough one, not only in regard to budget issues and how it affected the individuals with disabilities in our community, but also in regard to the navigation and relaying of information due to the numerous delays. In the end, we celebrated some victories and, as usual, suffered some defeat as well. I would like to extend my thanks to the many LaCAN members who worked tirelessly to get the message out to our legislators about important issues that affect our family members, our families and in so many cases, the advocates themselves. We had a great turnout for our Statewide Rally at the Capital in April. Membership in the Region has grown which has resulted in greater participation overall in LaCAN Action Alerts and member visits to Legislators.

July begins the new fiscal year and so we start the process again. In the very near future, LaCAN will establish its directives for the coming year which will position us to go to our Legislators and let them know what is important to the families that we serve. In the fall Regional Round Tables will be held. I hope to continue to see our membership increase and I thank everyone who worked tirelessly this year to accomplish all we did. If you have any questions or comments, as always, please feel free to contact me at [deleryrice@cox.net](mailto:deleryrice@cox.net) or (504)722-8600.



## EarlySteps Transdisciplinary Program



The overall goal of this project is to develop and evaluate a program designed to support young children at risk for or diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder and their families.

Evidence-based intervention strategies from the fields of early intervention, early childhood education, communication sciences and disorders and applied behavior analysis, will be implemented in the family's natural environments using a coaching and teaming approach.

A team will be formed around the family to offer support through consulting and collaboration. Families will work directly with one provider instead of multiple providers at different times.

The coaching approach provides necessary parent support to improve their child's skills and abilities rather than working directly with the child (Rush, 2000).

Teaming allows for joint planning and consistent feedback and reflection for all members participating on the team.

### Early Intervention

The National Research Council (2001) says that early intervention programs for kids with autism should:

- Be started as soon as possible and evaluated often;
- Provide at least 25 hours of intervention per week;
- Be based on research;
- Be specific to the child's needs and include families; and
- Include frequent opportunities to teach skills.

### Thoughts from Families on this approach:

*"Because of this service and my provider, we are finally getting to know our child in ways we never thought possible."*

*"The best part of this service model is the extreme pleasure in seeing all that your child is capable of doing and knowing that we are receiving the direct training to give our child these opportunities."*

*"It provides parents training to help their child reach goals and better function in everyday life."*

### The EarlySteps Transdisciplinary Program: What can you expect?

- A family-centered approach to intervention
- Collaborative effort to embed family-guided goals into daily routines and activities
- Teaming and collaboration through weekly meetings and daily interactions with family
- Training and support in activity-based interventions that will allow you to focus on teaching your child the skills most important to you
- Direct support and assistance provided in your home up to 4 hours each week through a primary provider

If your child has failed one or more of the autism screeners, you live in Regions 1, 9 and 10 and are interested in being a part of this project, please contact **JoAnn Clarey, M.Ed.** for more information at (504) 495-5644 or [jclare@lsuhsc.edu](mailto:jclare@lsuhsc.edu).

## The Best Kept Secret in Town



Social Service Counselor Claire Brown, Parent Liaisons Thuy Nguyen and Sue Roesky, and Social Worker Clementine Griffin

## Children's Special Health Services

Ever heard of it? Many have not. If you are a parent of a child with special health care needs, then this is for you.

Located inside Children's Hospital, Children's Special Health Services (CSHS) is a program of the State of Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals Office of Public Health.

This program is for children with special needs, defined as 1) a child with a health problem that affects how the child grows, moves and acts, **AND** 2) a child who needs more health services than most other children.

CSHS offers doctors and other health care workers who provide services for children with special needs. Other services include care coordination, hospital care, tests, therapy, medicine, nutrition, equipment such as wheelchairs and braces, parent and family support, help finding home care services, help working with schools and community groups and offices, and help with the transition to adult life and care.

Who can get help from CSHS? A child can get help from CSHS if she or she lives in Louisiana, is less than 21 years of age, has a health problem that CSHS covers, and has Medicaid **OR** meets CSHS income rules.

To get help from CSHS, a parent can apply at a local parish health unit or call 504-896-1340. Parent liaisons Thuy Nguyen and Sue Roesky, staff members of Families Helping Families of Jefferson and located in the CSHS office, will gladly answer all of your questions.

## Get Involved!

The Metropolitan Human Services District (MHSD) Regional Advisory Council (RAC) meets in New Orleans every other month to discuss concerns of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. The meetings are open to the public and offer everyone the opportunity to bring concerns to the table.

The MHSD RAC meetings are held on the second Friday of every month.

Volunteers of America  
4152 Canal Street  
New Orleans, LA 70119

From 10 am to noon

Below is the schedule for the MHSD RAC meetings for 2010-2011.

Feel free to call Carol Calix at 943-0343 or 1-877-243-7352

if you have any questions about these upcoming meetings.

August 13, 2010	February 11, 2011	August 12, 2011
October 8, 2010	April 8, 2011	October 14, 2011
December 10, 2010	June 10, 2011	December 9, 2011

### Affected by the Oil Spill?

**BP has established an Online Claim Form as well as a Claims Line for oil spill-related claims.**

**Online Claim forms** are available in three languages: English, Spanish, Vietnamese

The toll-free number for the claims line is **1-800-440-0858**. The line is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Additionally, BP has established several claims offices along the Gulf Coast. The office hours are from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. each day.

#### **Federal disaster assistance information:**

Individuals and businesses looking for information on how to obtain Federal assistance for dealing with the impacts of the current oil spill should visit [www.DisasterAssistance.gov](http://www.DisasterAssistance.gov). Before applying for Federal assistance, individuals should first make a claim with the responsible parties. The website includes information on the types of Federal assistance that individuals and businesses can apply for such as nutrition programs, business disaster loans, temporary assistance for needy families and unemployment insurance.

#### **Claims Offices Located in Region One**

*New Orleans, La.*  
4375 Michoud Blvd.  
New Orleans, LA 70129

Pointe a la Hatch  
1553 Hwy 15  
(Council District #1 Office)  
Pointe-A-LA-Hatch, LA 70040

Venice - Opened 5/8/10  
41093 Hwy La 23  
Boothville, LA 70038

Gretna/Belle Chasse  
2766 Belle Chasse Hwy  
Belle Chasse, LA 70037

Saint Bernard - Opened 5/7/10  
1345 Bayou Rd  
Saint Bernard LA 70085

## Partners in Policymaking

6 Training sessions that could change your life!

FOR ADULTS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AND/OR PARENTS OF YOUNG CHILDREN WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

### 2010 Partners in Policymaking Class



The Council is excited to announce the graduates of the 2010 Partners in Policymaking program. The Partners Graduates participated in a graduation ceremony on June 19<sup>th</sup> in Baton Rouge. Pictured above from L to R, top row: *Olga Watts, Gina Sternfels, Dessie Miley, Betsy Swenson, Tina Haines Brown, Stephanie Guidry, Derek White (DDC Program Manager)*; second row: *Sherri Houin, Hope Andras, Yvonne Beaudion, Rebecca Ellis, Nicole Macalusa*; third row: *Kathy Allen, Penny Curran, Brenda Cosse, Anne Galiano*; fourth row: *Robbie Gray (DDC Program Monitor), Michelle Nader, Anne Susman Kuperman, Roslyn Hymel, Jimmie Smith, Rachel Rush, Patricia Kisamore, Fonda Laney*; front row: *Liz Gary (Partners Coordinator), Perry Evans, and Joseph Waddell*.

The Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council is now accepting applications for the 2011 Partners Class. For more information and to submit an application, please visit [www.laddc.org](http://www.laddc.org) or call 1-800-450-8108. The deadline to apply is September 30, 2010.

### Building The Next Generation of Leaders

Partners in Policymaking is a national leadership training program for people with developmental disabilities and parents of young children with developmental disabilities. It provides the most current knowledge about disability issues and develops the competencies necessary for effective advocacy to influence public policy at all levels of government.

### Productive Partnerships

The goal of Partners in Policymaking is to achieve productive partnerships between people needing and using ser-

vices and those who make public policy and laws. It is designed to provide knowledge and skills building so that participants may work to obtain state of the art services for themselves and others.

Partners in Policymaking also educates participants about current issues and best practices and familiarizes them with policymaking and the legislative processes at the local, state and federal levels. Individual sessions are devoted to specific topics presented by nationally known experts in their fields.

If you are interested in participating please complete an application. Go to [www.laddc.org](http://www.laddc.org) and click on Partners in Policymaking in the right hand column. For questions please contact Robbie Gray at 225-342-6804 or 800-450-8108.

The **deadline** for applying is **September 30, 2010**.



### From the desk of Donnica Conway

Partners in Policymaking, a program funded by the Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council, is recruiting for its next class for the 2010-2011 year. What does this mean for you as a person with a disability or a parent of a child with a developmental disability? It means you are given the tools to become better advocates across all levels of government. From local to federal agencies, whatever your cause and concerns are, the Partners in Policymaking class will give you the knowledge you need for systems change.

You already have a commitment to yourself or loved one, why not join others in their effort? You will get the opportunity to meet others from across the state with the same or similar concerns. You will laugh, cry and, most importantly, become empowered to create a better quality of life for you or your loved one.

Our monthly weekend retreat began as strangers flying solo on our own path with no clear direction and ended with a band of brothers who are now board members, La-CAN Members, FHF Staff and other advocates for systems change such as healthcare reform, inclusive recreation and meaningful job opportunities for adults with developmental disabilities.

I knew I wanted to make a difference. Partners in Policymaking showed me how.

Donnica Conway  
Partners in Policymaking  
Class of 2009



### From the desk of Liz Gary

Partners in Policymaking is a life changing experience that you will not regret being a part of. In 2008, I decided it was time to see what the fuss was all about. So, I applied for Partners. I was accepted and soon realized what was meant by "life changing experience". After only 3 months in the class, I was looking for ways to be able to continue on for another 6 months. I did not want it to end. My opportunity to continue on was made a reality when the coordinator decided to resign. I immediately applied and hoped that I would be the next coordinator. I have been able to continue my journey in Partners. Only, this time I spend it empowering, educating and supporting future Partners graduates. Will you be in the next graduating class? I hope so. See you soon!



## Help Us Help Others



You will see within this newsletter several requests for non-perishable food items. So many families are still reeling from the hurricanes of 2005 and now the BP oil spill is adding to that misery. We are asking that, if possible, when attending one of our workshops or conferences that you bring a non-perishable food item. Every little bit helps another family that is doing without. You are not required, we are simply asking that you help us to help others. Our workshops and conferences are listed on pages 2–4 and page 11. We hope to see you soon!

Dear Friends:

I am writing to you to introduce you to an extremely important, national problem. People with developmental disabilities are waiting, sometimes decades, for services that are vital to their health, well-being, and community inclusion. They need your help. Please watch this video and pass it along to everyone you know: <http://www.youtube.com/noewait1>



Sincerely,

The community of individuals with developmental disabilities that either have services but cannot move to another state since services are not portable or are on a waiting list (over 100,000 nationally).

You can get involved! Go to [www.noewait.net](http://www.noewait.net) to join their Yahoo listserve. This affects every person in the United States with a developmental disability. **TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

## Coming in October!

Our own Aisha Johnson, Transition Specialist, recently had the honor of being shadowed for a day by Essence Magazine. They wanted to do a story about women five years after Katrina, about their faith, endurance and resiliency. Part of the segment was videotaped in our office. The program will be aired nationally in October on TVONE. More information will be forthcoming in our next newsletter.

Aisha also had the opportunity to attend the Essence Festival as an honored guest and met with TV Evangelist TD Jakes.



Essence Magazine at FHF of SELA. From left: Carlos Bilde, cameraman; Chris Murphey, producer; Ava DuVernay, director; Aisha Johnson; and Danny Vecchione, cinematographer.



## Attention St. Bernard Parish Residents

Through a generous donation of St. Bernard's Christmas Tour of Homes, FHF of SELA is planning a Meet and Greet, an opportunity for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families to get to know us personally and learn about who we are and what we do. You will have the opportunity to meet agencies that provide services in

St. Bernard Parish and also to get to know each other.

This event will be held on Saturday, October 9, 2010 from 10 am - 2 pm in the Chalmette High School cafeteria. The day will include food, fun activities, prizes, book giveaway, and much, much more. This event is for the entire family! We still have plenty of time to prepare but would like to get a head count of individuals interested in attending. Please contact Fay at 504-943-0343.

Agencies/companies that provide services in St. Bernard are encouraged to contact Fay at 504-943-0343 to reserve a table. This event will be indoors.

All donations welcome.

## Tell Us What You're Doing

Do you host a support group? Plan trainings? Have information to share? Please contact Carol Calix at 504-943-0343 if you have information that would be helpful to the residents living in Orleans, Plaquemines or St. Bernard Parish. We will be glad to post your events in our newsletter provided it compliments the work that this agency does. Or send an email to [ccalix@fhfsela.org](mailto:ccalix@fhfsela.org). No personal ads for products please.





## People First of Louisiana:

- Is a self advocacy group run by people with disabilities, for people with disabilities.
- Where people learn to speak up for themselves about decisions they make.
- Members can connect with others in their community, across the nation and around the world.

Members learn about their rights and responsibilities as citizens of the United States of America.

**People First**  
meets every third Tuesday of  
the month at 4:30 pm.

Meetings are generally held at  
1010 Common Street, Suite 550,  
New Orleans, LA 70112  
(Park in garage behind building to  
have parking validated)

### Mission Statement:

People First of Louisiana supports people with disabilities to empower themselves in becoming effective decision makers, to gain more independence, and enjoy life as equal citizens of the United States of America.

### Vision:

People with disabilities build personal visions that are reached through respect, equality and many different experiences that lead to choices and life decisions.

People with disabilities support one another to control their own lives, understand and speak up for their rights and live up to their responsibilities.

### Future Meeting Dates

**July 20, 2010**

**August 17, 2010**

**September 21, 2010**

**October 19, 2010**

**November 16, 2010**

**December 21, 2010**

**Want to attend but can't afford the transportation?**  
**Call us at 504-943-0343 for information about**  
**transportation stipends.**



**MIND Alliance Project in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)**

(Funded by the National Science Foundation)

Department of Rehabilitation and Disability Studies, Southern University, Baton Rouge, LA

**FALL ENRICHMENT INSTITUTE IN SCIENCE**

**Science for All: A Road to Success – A Legacy for the Future**

Purpose: To enhance participation of STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)

**DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION – August 30, 2010**

National Science Foundation Scholarships for UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS with disabilities in LOUISIANA

1. Earn “A” or “B” in a REQUIRED undergraduate class by December, 2010 at a College/University in Louisiana in:

- |               |                    |                                    |
|---------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|
| * Physics     | * Engineering      | * Anthropology                     |
| * Chemistry   | * Computer Science | * Astronomy                        |
| * Mathematics | * Psychology       | * Information Technology           |
| * Biology     | * Geology          | * Environmental and Earth Sciences |

2. Participate in the following activities sponsored by the MIND Alliance Project:

- Disability Awareness Day (3 hours for 1 day) – Yet to be scheduled
- Career Assessment and Career Exploration: Individualized (4 hours for 1 day) – Yet to be scheduled
- Career Day: Portfolio Building, Tutoring, and Resume Writing Training – (4 hours for 1 day) – Yet to be scheduled
- Science Grant Writing Workshop – (3 hours for 1 day) – Yet to be scheduled
- Field Trip to NASA Johnson Space Center, Houston – (6 hours for 1 day) – Yet to be scheduled

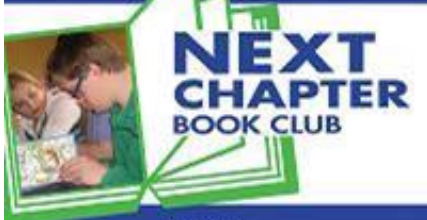
**STIPEND OF \$400 UPON COMPLETION OF THE ABOVE ACTIVITIES IN DECEMBER, 2010**

Please contact: Dr. Alo Dutta, Principal Investigator at 225-771-0047 (Phone), [alodutta1992@aol.com](mailto:alodutta1992@aol.com) (E-mail) OR

Dr. Madan Kundu, Project Director at 225-771-2819 (Phone), [kundusubr@aol.com](mailto:kundusubr@aol.com) (E-mail), 225-771-2293 (Fax)

**For Adults With Disabilities**

**Next Chapter Book Clubs forming now for the summer!**



A Model  
Community Literacy Program  
for People with  
Intellectual Disabilities

Tom Fish & Paula Rabidouc  
with Jillie Ober & Vicki L. W. Graft

If someone in your family is 18 or over and would like to be a part of a book club, contact us at 504-943-0343 and talk to Fay. Clubs are being formed at multiple locations. They meet once a week for an hour to read a book. It doesn't matter how well they read, there will be someone to either help them read or read for them. The book clubs are held at book-stores, corner cafés, coffee shops, any place where people can gather and enjoy each other's company for an hour. If



you are interested, call Fay and she will set up a group in your area.

## ATTENTION: Seniors, Students, School Groups, and Organizations



Volunteers are needed to provide additional support with making 'bird feeder sticks' for the new Parakeet Pointe Exhibit at the Aquarium. The new Exhibit will be opening in the near future. This is an excellent opportunity for you to support a local non profit and your community to generate additional operational revenues.

Volunteers can earn community service hours, service learning, and volunteers hours. The work hours for this project are between 9AM and 3PM Monday - Friday. For more information about this community service project and other volunteer opportunities at Arc, please contact Jane Wilson at 897-0134.

## LOUISIANA YOUTH ENHANCED SERVICES (LA-Y.E.S.) ACTIVITIES

### July

9: 10:00 am-12:00 pm- LA-Y.E.S. Consortium meeting

15: 12:30-2:00 pm-LA-Y.E.S./St. Bernard parish council meeting at American Red Cross Building, 909 E. Judge Perez Dr., Chalmette, LA 70043

15: 5:30-7 pm- LA-Y.E.S. Family Support Group meeting at LA-YES conference room, 3801 Canal St., Suite 301, New Orleans, LA 70119

27: 12:30-2:00 pm- LA-Y.E.S./Orleans parish council meeting at the Marine Bldg, 3108 Tulane Ave., New Orleans, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

### August

13: 10:00 am-12:00 pm- LA-Y.E.S. Consortium meeting

19: 12:30-2:00 pm-LA-Y.E.S./St. Bernard parish council meeting

19: 5:30-7 pm- LA-Y.E.S. Family Support Group meeting

24: 12:30-2:00 pm- LA-Y.E.S./Orleans parish council meeting

### September

10: 10-12:00 pm- LA-Y.E.S. Consortium meeting

16: 12:30-2:00 pm-LA-Y.E.S./St. Bernard parish council meeting

16: 5:30-7 pm- LA-Y.E.S. Family Support Group meeting

28: 12:30-2:00 pm- LA-Y.E.S./Orleans parish council meeting



*For more specific information and locations of meetings, contact:*

*La'Keidra H. Mitchell*

*Consortium Developer*

*LA-Y.E.S.*

*3801 Canal St. Suite 301*

*New Orleans, LA 70119*

*Office: 504-483-7256*

*Fax: 504-483-7248*



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Because we are a non-profit agency, all donations are tax-deductable and we welcome any and all, big or small. Thank you to the **following individuals that made a donation in the last three months: All board members; individual special donations from board members Polly Campbell and Sarintha Stricklin; Beth Anne Merida, Claudia Smith, Elaine Price and Linda Parson.**

As a non-profit doing business in Louisiana, board meetings are open to the public. Our meetings are scheduled quarterly, on the second Thursday of the month at 6 pm. Board meetings are scheduled for **September 9 and December 9, 2010, March 10, and June 9, 2011.** As FHF of SELA seeks LANO certification, work groups will be formed, which are also public meetings. Meetings will be posted on the FHF website. If you are interested in serving in any capacity, please contact Carol at 943-0343.



*The Mission of Families Helping Families of Southeast Louisiana is to enable and empower families of individuals with disabilities through an effective coordinated network of resources, support, and services.*

*The Vision of Families Helping Families of Southeast Louisiana is to ensure all individuals with disabilities have the opportunity to attend school, live, work and recreate in their community with typical peers.*



You can also help FHF of SELA earn money by using the Facebook Causes toolbar that is available. Visit Facebook, go to causes, and add the toolbar to your browser. Be sure to list Families Helping Families of Southeast Louisiana as your cause.



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

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 • *FHF of SELA receives partial funding from the Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council, Metropolitan Human Services District, Louisiana State Department of Education, Family to Family Health Information Center, Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals and Urban Strategies.*  
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**LaCAN**  
LOUISIANA CITIZENS FOR ACTION NOW

**Still Waiting for Waiver Services?  
Join LaCAN NOW!**

LaCAN (Louisiana Citizens for Action Now) is a statewide grassroots network of individuals and families who have worked together since 1988 advocating for a system that supports individuals to live in their own homes rather than having to move to a facility to receive needed services.

See page six of this newsletter for more information about LaCAN and how YOU can become a member of this group.

**MAKE A DIFFERENCE!  
JOIN LACAN!**

**LaTEACH**  
Louisiana Together Educating ALL Children

Louisiana Together Educating All Children (LaTEACH) is a grass root network of individuals that believe all children should have the opportunity to be educated with their typical peers in a typical classroom.

LaTEACH has made great strides this year but they still need **YOU** to help make a difference in improving education for our children with disabilities.

If you are interested in learning more about LaTEACH or joining LaTEACH, see page 3 of this newsletter and call Christy Cormier, Statewide Coordinator Louisiana Together Educating ALL Children  
2927 Hodges St  
Lake Charles, LA 70601  
337-436-2578 FAX  
1-800-894-6558

**LaDisability Talk**

**What is LaDisability Talk?** An e-mail talk list from Louisiana Parent Training and Information Center/ Families Helping Families of Jefferson to help families of people with disabilities and their advocates in Louisiana share information, resources, and support.

**What's a talk list?** It is a way for e-mail users to be in a group with others who have similar interests.

**Who should join?** Parents of children with disabilities, self-advocates, and advocates for people with disabilities in Louisiana.

**How do I join?** Just send an e-mail to: [fhfprompter@yahoo.com](mailto:fhfprompter@yahoo.com) or [LaDisabilityTalk-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:LaDisabilityTalk-subscribe@yahoogroups.com).

**FREE—FREE—FREE**