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

# The Deep South

Volume 2, Issue 1

Summer 2008

## Happy Anniversary to FHF of SELA

by Carol Calix

It has been a very exciting and challenging first year!

I think the biggest challenge that we have faced is that so many of our families are still in recovery mode. Even staff members have only just recently been able to return to their homes. There are so many needs and not enough resources to meet those needs. It is very disheartening when we have to tell a family that there is no help for the kind of assistance they seek.

This past year has been filled with meeting with many new agencies and partnering with them to help to enhance the lives of the individual with a disability. We have contracts with Metropolitan Human Services District, the Louisiana Department of Education, the Developmental Disabilities Council, Early Childhood Supports and Services, Family to Family Health Information

Center, Louisiana State Improvement Grant and the Office of Mental Health. We also have a staff member that works with and for the Louisiana Parent Training & Information Center (LAPTIC).

We work collaboratively with all of the school systems in the region and we are proud of the work we have been able to do in the area of inclusion in our public schools.

In December of 2007 we had a really great Open House which was very well attended.

In March we had our education conference at the Lindy Boggs Center in New Orleans, also with good attendance and an opportunity to have speakers from each of the parish school systems with the keynote speaker being Cindy Arceneaux, director of LAPTIC.

In April we took two buses and a van to Baton Rouge for the Disability

Rights Day. This was the best attendance we have ever had from this area for this annual event (See pictures on pages 4).

In June we had a wonderful family forum. This year it was a picnic and the zoo. (See pictures on pages 5) We had about 150 people to attend even though it rained cats and dogs. It was the best! We enjoyed music and snowballs and lots of food, fun and prizes. The Hornets bookmobile came by and gave books to all of the children attending and then Hugo the Hornet really got the party swinging!

We also gave out materials to help families prepare for hurricane season. How we hate to even think about the possibility of needing it. We will be holding community meetings in the next three months to discuss ways to prepare (see page 2) for any kind of emergency situation.

## Reaching Out to the Community

By Carol Calix

As this center goes into its second year we have had an opportunity to see what some of the other Families Helping Families offices are doing around the state. Most of these centers have been open for 16 years and have a rich history of activities for individuals with a disability. Two programs specifically that we will be looking to be a part of in the coming year are: People First of Louisiana and the

Next Chapter Book Club. Our goal is to help enhance the lives of adults with disabilities.

We also have some new ideas that we hope to be able to present soon, such as a facilitator to work solely on issues around Autism.

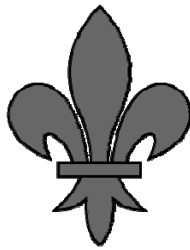
We are looking forward to a new year that will bring more exciting opportunities to the families we are here to serve.

**Check our website from time to time to see if we have any announcements about new programs. Also, please be sure to check out our upcoming workshops! If you would like for us to contact you by email about any upcoming events or would like to receive the newsletter by email, contact us at [info@fhfsela.org](mailto:info@fhfsela.org) and in the subject line type: Add me to your email list.**

## It's Hurricane Season again!

**Preparing for an emergency is vital to families who are also dealing with a disability. Do you have a plan? If not, we will show you how to develop one.**

# Emergency preparedness



Orleans Parish	Plaquemines Parish	St. Bernard Parish
<b>July 29 5 pm - 7 pm</b>	<b>August 14 3 - 5 p.m.</b>	<b>September 11 5 - 7 p.m.</b>
<b>4118 Franklin Avenue New Orleans, LA 70122</b>	<b>Belle Chasse Methodist Church 8375 Hwy 23 Belle Chasse, LA 70037</b>	<b>Chalmette church of Christ 200 DeLaRonde Chalmette, LA 70043</b>

**Please call 504-943-0343 to register**

The presenter will be Danielle Marshall. It will include information on preparing for a Hurricane, and Take n Go Emergency Books. Door prizes will be drawn.

## Transition and Health Go Hand-In-Hand



Health needs and health management can jeopardize goals for learning, working, and living safely. It's important that young people with disabilities and special health needs know how to transition into independent living successfully. Parents AND high school students are encouraged to attend.

**Thursday, July 24, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.**

**Belle Chasse United Methodist Church  
8375 Hwy 23  
Belle Chasse, LA 70037**

Guest Speaker: Ellen Waller, Education  
Consultant of Children's Hospital.

Please call 943-0343 to register



## Driving with a Disability

Is driving a desire of yours?  
Are you aware of available  
resources?

Having a disability does NOT always  
mean you cannot drive a vehicle.

Whether you are going to high school, to  
work or to a doctor's appointment, being  
able to drive yourself gives you the inde-  
pendence that you long for.

This workshop will help answer your  
question and address your concerns.

**Thursday, July 31, 6 - 8 p.m.**

**4118 Franklin Ave.  
New Orleans, La**

Guest Speaker: Judy Otto, LOTR CDRS

Please call 943-0343 to register



## Integrating Assistive Technology into the Classroom

This training will provide  
parents and professionals  
with information on adapting their class-  
rooms to provide access for ALL learning  
styles and abilities. We will go through  
several classroom lessons and demon-  
strate how to adapt certain activities. Mov-  
ies will be provided for kids!!!!

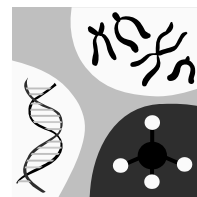
Guest Speaker: Renee Spratt, Region 1  
A.T. Coordinator

**Thursday, August 21 2:00-2:00 p.m.**  
**8342 Highway 23 (Behind Belle Chasse  
High School)**  
**Belle Chasse, LA 70037**

Please call 943-0343 to register

## Autism and Genetics: What Every Parent of a Child With Autism Should Know

This interactive workshop will dis-  
cuss the latest data on genetic  
causes of autism, including the  
recently discovered genes, as  
well as syndromes that include  
autistic features as some of their  
clinical manifestations. New excellent genetic  
tests which help us find causes of autism in  
more and more children will be discussed as  
well as an introduction about genes, DNA and  
chromosomes.



Presenter: Dmitriy M. Niyazov, M.D.  
Section Head - Medical Genetics  
Ochsner Health System

**Saturday, August 23 1:00-3:00 p.m.**  
**The Creative Learning Center**  
**2432 Gen. Ogden St.**  
**New Orleans, LA 70118**

Please call 943-0343 to register





# Disability Rights Rally 2008







## 2008 Picnic

Sponsored by  
Metropolitan Human  
Services District





**FREE! DOOR PRIZES!**  
*Parents Bring Your Child(ren)  
 with a Disability To*



## **Create & Take**

**A Newsletter, Brag Book, or Portfolio  
 to Introduce Your Child to Next Year's School Staff**

Help teachers know they are going **love** your child **before** the first day of school. We'll give you the tools to create something wonderful to make, take & share.

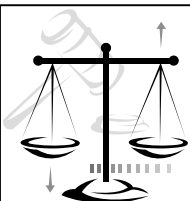
**Saturday, July 26  
 1-3 p.m.**

**4118 Franklin Ave  
 N.O.LA 70122**



Seating is limited. Please call 943-0343 to register

Promoting the appropriate education of children with disabilities.



### **DUE PROCESS HEARINGS: When to Request One and How to Prepare**

If you have a child currently receiving Special Education Services in the public school system then this workshop is for you!

**GUEST SPEAKER:**  
 Melissa Losch, Managing Attorney  
 with the Advocacy Center

**Thursday, September 25, 6-8 p.m.  
 Chalmette Church of Christ  
 200 De La Ronde  
 Chalmette, LA 70043**

Please call 943-0343 to register

### **Second Saturday Basic Rights Workshop**



**Two Opportunities to  
 Attend This Great Training!**  
 The 3 R's of Advocacy:  
 Rights, Responsibilities, &  
 Recordkeeping.

Obtain knowledge on the "basics" you need to know to become a full participant in your child's educational planning.

**August 9, 12 noon - 2 p.m.  
 September 13, 2 - 4 p.m.**

**4118 Franklin Avenue  
 New Orleans, LA 70122**

Please call 943-0343 to register

We just celebrated our first anniversary! Even though we are still young we have been able to grow our lending library. Below is a list of our newest books and videos (VHS and DVD) that are available to you. We encourage you to come and check us out and check out material that you are interested in. A complete list of our library can be found on our website at [www.fhfsela.org](http://www.fhfsela.org).



- **"Assessing Individuals With Disabilities in Educational, Employment, and Counseling Settings"** Ruth B. Ekstrom; Paperback
- **"Becoming An "A" Student"** DVD
- **"Chicken Soup for the Soul: Children with Special Needs: Stories of Love and Understanding for Those Who Care for Children with Disabilities"** Jack Canfield; Paperback
- **"Developing Self-advocacy: A Practical Guide And Workbook for Preparing the High School Learning Disabled Student for Post-secondary Success"** Robert A. Valenti; Paperback
- **"Enhancing Self-Esteem: A Self-esteem Training Package For Individuals With Disabilities (Resource Materials)"** Nick Hagiliassis; Paperback
- **"It's So Much Work to Be Your Friend: Helping the Child with Learning Disabilities Find Social Success"** Richard Lavoie; Paperback
- **"Learning Disabilities: A to Z: A Parent's Complete Guide to Learning Disabilities from Preschool to Adulthood"** Corinne Smith; Paperback
- **"Learning Outside The Lines: Two Ivy League Students With Learning Disabilities And ADHD Give You The Tools"** Jonathan Mooney; Paperback
- **"Preparing for Life: The Complete Guide for Transitioning to Adulthood for Those with Autism and Asperger's Syndrome"** Jed Baker; Paperback
- **"Self-Advocacy Skills for Students With Learning Disabilities: Making It Happen in College and Beyond"** Henry B., Ph.D. Reiff; Paperback
- **"Survival Guide for College Students with ADHD or LD"** Kathleen G. Nadeau; Paperback
- **"Transition from School to Post-School Life for Individuals With Disabilities: Assessment from an Educational and School Psychological Perspective"** Edward M. Levinson; Hardcover
- **"Transition Planning For Students With Disabilities: What Educators and Service Providers Can Do"** Jeffrey P., Ph.D. Bakken; Paperback
- **"What Every Teacher Should Know About The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act as Amended in 2004 (2nd Edition)"** H. Rutherford Turnbull; Paperback





## Families Helping Families of Southeast Louisiana

4118 Franklin Avenue  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70122

504-943-0343  
1-877-243-7352  
504-940-3242 (Fax)

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

*This newsletter is printed in part through a grant from the  
Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council and Metropolitan Human Services District..*

### Louisiana Citizens for Action Now

*Advocating for Louisiana Citizens with Developmental Disabilities*

#### 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. Specifically, they have advocated for implementation of Louisiana's Community and Family Support System Plan.

Regional LaCAN teams include individuals with disabilities and parents. For additional information or to join LaCAN please contact us at 504-330-3775.

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 promotes appropriate, inclusive education for all students. We work to make parents, educators, the general public, and state leadership informed and supportive of research based and effective practices used appropriately for each student."

If you are interested in learning more about LaTEACH or joining LaTEACH, please call Families Helping Families of Southeast Louisiana at 504-330-3775.



### LaDisability Talk A Statewide Talk List

**What is LaDisability Talk?** An e-mail talk list from Project Prompt/Families Helping Families of GNO 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).

**Does it cost anything?** No, it's completely free!