

## Board of Directors

**Willie Martin**  
Board Chairman

**Bobbie Bedney**  
Board Vice Chair

**Polly Boudreaux**  
Secretary

**Lang Le**  
Treasurer

## Board Members

**Kathy Hume**

**Laura Iveson**

**Dr. Eartha Johnson**

**Kelly Levasseur**

**Claudia Smith**

**Dr. Sarintha Stricklin**

**Yolanda White**

## FHF of SELA Team

**Carol Calix**  
Executive Director

**Donnica Conway-  
Strawder**  
Family Facilitator

**Danielle Marshall**  
Family Advocate

**Beth Anne Merida**  
LaCAN Leader

**Karen Scallan**  
Health Information  
Specialist

**Anne Templet**  
Family Facilitator

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

## Moving Forward in 2008 by Carol Calix

Our office officially opened its doors on October 30, 2007. With a staff of five, we have been working hard to connect families to the supports and services that are needed when dealing with disability issues. We are so grateful to everyone that has helped to make this center possible. Beginning with our funders we wish to thank the Developmental Disabilities Council, the Louisiana Department of Education, Metropolitan Human Services District, Early Childhood Supports and Services, the Office of Mental Health, Louisiana Parent Training and Information Center (formerly Project PROMPT), the Louisiana State Improvement Grant and Louisiana Citizens for Action Now.

We know that much of what has been accomplished would not have happened without Mary Jacob, Executive Director of Families Helping Families of Greater New Orleans, and her Board of Directors, who have been generous with financial assistance and with furniture and supplies.

We have many plans for the future. Our first conference is scheduled for March 7th (page 14-15) and we will be planning a family forum to be held in the spring. Disability Rights Day is scheduled for April 23rd (page 10). And as we look ahead to our second year of operation we hope to be able to keep our finger on the pulse of what our families need. Something that may soon be available to us is funding to sponsor activities for adults with developmental disabilities! Stay tuned!

## Winter 2008

### Inside this issue:

Meet the Staff of FHF of SELA	2
Assistance for Parents to Attend Conferences	2
Positions Available	3
A Changing Paradigm	4
Total Community Action Tax Assistance	6
Inclusion Isn't New	7
For Parents	7
For School Officials	7
Louisiana G.U.M.B.O.	7
Thanksgiving and Christmas 2007	9
2007 Donations	9
Disability Rights Day	10
Spring Cleaning at FHF of SELA	11
4th Annual Walk for Autism Awareness	11
Operation Housecall	12
F2FHIC	13
Families Displaced by 2005 Hurricanes	13
Empowered Parents, Educated Children	14
Registration Form for Empowered Parents,	15
Join LaCAN, LaTEACH, LaDisability Talk	16

*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.*

## Meet the Staff of FHF of SELA

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



Carol Calix - I grew up in inner city New Orleans. After my daughter was born I moved to St. Bernard Parish in the hopes that she would not get lost in the school system. We lived in St. Bernard until Katrina destroyed our home, spent almost nine months in Tennessee and we are now almost finished rebuilding. Alicia is now 32 years old and she has multiple disabilities. My husband, Julio, and I feel so blessed to have her in our lives. I am who I am because of who she is. She truly is the wind beneath my wings. I started at Families Helping Families of Greater New Orleans in September of 1992 as the Information and Referral Specialist and was there until

the new office opened in 2007, where I am now the Executive Director. I am the "old lady" of the group and have said for many years that we needed to start training younger moms to step into our shoes. In this new position that is exactly what I am able to do and when the time comes that I am ready to "retire" there will be new, younger advocates ready to take the reigns.



Donnica Conway-Strawder - I am a Family Facilitator and the parent of a 9-year-old with autism. I assist individuals and families of individuals with disabilities who receive special education services in the school system. I also provide information about resources that are available to you in the community. If you are new to the special education process or "seasoned" as some of us are, I'll be more than happy to assist in facilitating your child's IEP with the school. I also do a variety of workshops throughout the year and if there's a particular topic you would like to address please let me know and I'll try to accommodate.

### Do You Need Financial Assistance to Attend a Training or Conference



In October of 2007 we were able to assist four families in attending the 2007 Autism Conference in Lake Charles, Louisiana. The Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council and Metropolitan Human Services District provides Families Helping Families of Southeast Louisiana with funds to help offset the cost of attending conferences and training for individuals with disabilities or their family members that live in Orleans, Plaquemines, and St. Bernard Parishes.



To request financial assistance to attend a conference or training, please contact Carol Calix at 504-943-0343 or e-mail [ccalix@fhfsele.org](mailto:ccalix@fhfsele.org). FUNDS ARE LIMITED SO PLAN EARLY!

# Meet the Staff of FHF of SELA



Danielle Marshall - As a Family Advocate I plan on making sure that the People of the community get the most accurate information that is helpful and useful, through funding provided by Metropolitan Human Services District. I have a child that was born prematurely, 1lb. 11.5 oz., and I was told she was only going to be here 14 days, but she is now nine years old! We had some obstacles we had to overcome but through prayer and keeping the faith, my special angel is still here standing strong. I also have two other beautiful children. Working for Families Helping Families, I must say, not only do we talk the talk, we also walk the walk.



Anne Templet - I have resided in Belle Chasse for the last thirty two years, and I am the proud parent of three daughters and a son who has Autism. I have been employed for the last four years as a Louisiana State Improvement Grant (LaSIG) Family Facilitator in Plaquemines Parish. My role in that position is to assist and support schools with family involvement initiatives, provide support to family members to participate at School Improvement Team meetings, and to host parent leadership training opportunities. Remember that we are here for you.

## Positions Available

The following positions are available at FHF of SELA

- Secretary/Receptionist (20 hours per week)
- Bookkeeper with Quick Books experience (10 hours per week)
- Transition Specialist (24 hours per week)
- Health Information Specialist (10 hours per week)
- Early Childhood Supports and Services Family Facilitator (15 hours)
- Education Facilitator (15 hours)



For more information about these positions, please go to <http://www.fhfsela.org/gpage5.html>

# A Changing Paradigm: Promoting Membership and Inclusion at the Recovery School District

By Lisa Altman

As a special education teacher in the New Orleans Public Schools pre-Katrina, I was constantly looking for ways that my students with autism could be members of the general education classroom and school community. We planned inclusive fieldtrips, participated in graduations, and worked with general education teachers to co-plan and teach lessons. I taught a Direct Instruction reading class, which included one of my students with autism with 20 of his general education peers. Over time, inclusion at our elementary school became very natural and students and teachers alike were accustomed to seeing students with autism in their classrooms and in the school community. We had, in many ways, bridged the gap between our self-contained class of 4 students and true student membership in the general education classroom and school campus.

Upon returning to New Orleans this summer, I was excited to work at the Recovery School District, where students with disabilities were considered general education students before all else and where district initiatives were focused on making special education a service and not a place. This model had always been a dream of mine and I jumped at the opportunity to support this initiative at the district level. Last year was not easy. Much as I experienced as a teacher, many were not accustomed to seeing students with disabilities, especially students with significant disabilities, in the general

education classroom. There were many questions about how students would be serviced, who would service them, and how instruction would be appropriately differentiated to reflect the needs of all learners. As students and staff moved out of the comfort of self-contained classrooms and categorical placements, many were unsure of how to support students and how to make them true members of the school community. Although this was a difficult time for many families and students with disabilities, it brought to the forefront a critical issue: If school is a microcosm of society, doesn't it make sense to begin including students with disabilities in the general population at a young age? There is no self-contained adulthood and people with disabilities are playing an increasingly active role in our schools and our communities.

Although, the road was not smooth and some resistance to change has been met along the way, the changing paradigm endured. There is confusion to clear up, regarding the meaning of full inclusion and its successful implementation in a school community. RSD is currently building a vision that has determined that it is better to work to implement inclusive practices (not one size fits all) - that is, a firm belief that all students are members of their school community.. Students with disabilities will learn more when with their peers in mixed level groups, but they will also



receive the individualized program and support they need to be valued and successful members of their school communities. Students with disabilities would not return to categorical classrooms with teacher: student ratios that, in many cases, did not reflect true student support need. Students would receive the level of support needed based on individual need, rather than on label. Students would have access to their general education peers, and general education activities such as Read 180, Direct Instruction, and EPIC computer programs. They would have the opportunity to make friendships with typical peers, engage in school-wide activities, and learn with the same resources that are afforded to students without disabilities. There would be a move away from "our kids" and "your kids," and on to the education of every child being the responsibility of everyone at the school. The expectations of teachers would change: We would have to collaborate, co-plan, differentiate, use assistive technology, engage hands-on learning, modify and accommodate assessment, and understand that communication and learning does not look the same for every student. It would be necessary to transform classrooms and schools into universal places for learning. Isn't that where we are all headed anyway? Can we afford to wait until everyone feels ready? There is no time like now to change the paradigm and expectations in our schools.

This year, we continue to work towards the goal of all students with disabilities realizing true membership in general education classrooms and in the school community. This year, 75-80% of students with disabilities participate in the general education classroom for over 80% of the instructional day. The stated goal of the Louisiana Department

of Education is to have 75% of students with disabilities included in general education for over 80% of the instructional day by 2014. New Orleans Public Schools, RSD, and the charter schools are collaborating to provide inclusive settings for young children with disabilities. Pre-school (3 & 4 year olds) and Kindergarten children are included in general education classrooms with the support of an Early Interventionist and paraprofessionals. This would not have been possible without the support of our whole community: school and community agencies, and parents who have high expectations for their children and for their schools.

In many places, where last year many believed that it couldn't be done, there are many signs of change. Teachers are designing classrooms in collaboration with all instructional partners to make them universal places for learning. Visual and environmental supports and differentiated instructional methods are beginning to emerge in places where a *one size fits all* model was once the rule. Principals increasingly understand what they need to expect from their teachers and from their students in order make true inclusion successful. In one classroom, a student who is blind learns alongside her typical peers throughout the whole school day through the support of a teacher with certification in visual impairments who is teaching her Braille, a general education teacher who has high expectations for all of her students, and the peer support of her best friend. I witnessed this one day as the two second graders walked up the stairs hand in hand, counting stairs together along the way. "She's my best  
(continued on page 6)

(continued from page 5)

friend," said one. "We do everything together."

Instructional modifications and accommodations have become a part of the educational program. General and special education teachers are learning best practices alongside one another, rather than in isolation. Let there be no mistake, there is much more to be done. However, many minds working together are always better than one.

All of this progress has been very exciting and gives us confidence that although there have been many struggles in the past and many yet to come, all students in this state are now addressing the same curriculum and that means that every student requires access to equal learning opportunities and resources. It is our hope that our whole community will embrace inclusive practices and come to expect this changing paradigm for all children and students. Another lesson being learned is that the students without disabilities learn as much about real life as do the students with disabilities who are benefiting from being in richer, more diverse learning environments.

As educators, we hold high expectations for our colleagues. The expectation is that we will all be constant learners and never feel satisfied until all of our students are successful, active learners in all of our schools, given the support that each child needs. We call upon our communities and our families to expect and require the same of their schools. At this time of rebuilding, what better time than to take this opportunity to build an inclusive school community that will prepare all students to participate in post-secondary opportunities, rich community and social engagement, and the world of work.



Total Community Action, Inc., is offering its annual free tax preparation and filing service. TCA will be processing basic returns (1040A, 1040EZ and state returns) for low-income individuals and families at nine sites in New Orleans.

The free tax service is available to any Louisiana resident earning \$38,000 or less. TCA Tax Center provides tax services in partnership with the City of New Orleans-Office of Economic Development, Louisiana Department of Social Services, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, TCA Federal Credit Union and the Internal Revenue Service. Itemization MAY be available but you must ask if it is available when you call to make an appointment. Locations for tax preparation are:

**TCA, Inc**  
1420 So Jeff Davis Parkway  
872-0330

**Central City Neighborhood Center**  
2020 Jackson Blvd.  
524-3484

Berean Head Start Center  
1629 Simon Bolivar  
524-1281

**Diana Head Start Center**  
2144 Pace Blvd  
366-4626

Founders Head Start Center  
4128 Franklin Ave  
945-4128

**St. Bernard Neighborhood Center**  
3233 1/2 St. Bernard Ave  
945-0011

James Singleton Head Start Center  
14441 Curran Place  
240-3301

**Algiers Fischer Center**  
1111 Newton  
366-6321

KL&M Company of N.O.  
616 Baronne St Suite 103  
587-9705

# Inclusion Isn't New

"There is more to education than what we get in books."

Roger Cook

Recently James Clark, the editor of *Southern Standard*, a newspaper that is published in McMinnville, Tennessee, did an article about one of his writers. His name is Roger Cook. Cook has written articles for the *Southern Standard* for over 50 years. His column, appropriately titled "What's Cooking", appears in the Lifestyle section of the paper. Roger (who by the way, just happens to be Carol Calix's uncle) graduated from Central High School in 1960. He has cerebral palsy and uses a wheelchair. Below are some excerpts of the article:

Roger Cook still remembers the request he received from Rayford Davis over 50 years ago. As editor of the *Southern Standard* in the late 1950s, Davis asked Cook to write a column for the newspaper. "Thinking it was just a one-time thing, I wrote a little something and gave it to him," recalled Cook, who was a 10th grader at the time. "When he published it, he said if everything goes as planned, I would be doing articles for the school page. That was something I had not planned. I never



Roger Cook of McMinnville, Tennessee

had any idea that 50 years later I would still be writing articles. That is something nobody could have envisioned.

He frequently uses his column to talk about ways people can adjust to their disabilities and live a fulfilling life.

While Cook does have limitations, he says he is pleased to be a productive member of society. He says that's the biggest obstacle he's overcome.

"The doctor who delivered me told my dad I would never be able to do anything for myself," said Cook. "I live by myself and I've done this column 50 years. I think that's something. Hardly a week goes by that someone does not give words of encouragement and I enjoy that."

For his education, Cook spent his

first nine grades being taught by home-bound teachers. He received instruction for three hours a week...Cook says he appreciated his home schooling but also yearned to be among other students.

"There is more to education than what we get in books," he said. "Learning to get along with one another is an important part of education. I do not believe any student can learn the key to team friendship unless he or she is exposed to other students."

When Gribble Memorial (school) opened on Spring Street to cater to disabled children, Cook says it was a dream come true. Cook said he took a test to be admitted into the school and did extremely well - so well the principal of Central High School contacted him and it was arranged for him to become a student there.

Cook spent his sophomore, junior and senior years at Central and even went on his senior trip to Washington D.C.

## For Parents

The Cowen Institute for Public Education Initiatives at Tulane University is conducting a survey and would like to hear from parents that have children in special education services in Orleans Parish. They produce an annual report (<http://education.tulane.edu/stateofnola.pdf>). To participate in the survey on line go to <http://www.fhfsela.org/gpage7.html>

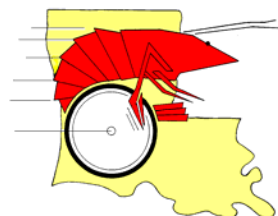
## For School Officials

Tipitina's Foundation and The Rhythmic Arts Project would like to partner in bringing the TRAP program to classrooms in the New Orleans area. "We are very successful in Special Ed classes here in California, New York State, Tennessee and in several adult facilities all over the United States as well as Bulgaria, South Africa and Australia. Please have a look at the web site (<http://www.traponline.com/>), review the videos and literature and contact me at: 805 745 8280 office or, 805 680 4219 cell." Eddie Tuduri, Director, The Rhythmic Arts Project

## Louisiana G.U.M.B.O. Comes to N.O.

The 2008 Regional GUMBO (Games Uniting Mind and Body) will be held in New Orleans on Saturday, April 26th. Registration deadline is

March 11th. GUMBO is the only track and field competition specifically for students with physical or visual disabilities between the age of 5—18 or students 19—22 that are enrolled full-time in a public school special education program. For more information about who qualifies and how to register go to [www.gumbogames.com](http://www.gumbogames.com) or call 1-800-259-7200 or email Pam Carey at [care33452@aol.com](mailto:care33452@aol.com).



## **Training Opportunities**

We strive to offer workshops and trainings that will help empower families. If interested in attending any of these workshops **please register** by calling  
**504-943-0343 or 1-877-243-7352.**

### **Trainings in Belle Chasse**

#### **FHF of SELA - Who We Are-What We Do**

If you are the parent of a child with a disability or have a disability yourself come and learn of the services we offer.

DATE: **February 19, 2008**

TIME: **6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.**

PLACE **8342 Highway 23 (behind Belle Chasse High School)**

**Belle Chasse, LA 70037**

PRESENTER: **Danielle Marshall**

#### **Understanding Your Child's Disability**

Your child has a disability. What does this mean to you, to the school, and how to make it work for your child

DATE: **March 10, 2008**

TIME: **6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.**

PLACE **8342 Highway 23 (behind Belle Chasse High School)**

**Belle Chasse, LA 70037**

PRESENTER: **Danielle Marshall; Donnica Conway**

**SEE PAGES 14-15 FOR  
INFORMATION ABOUT  
OUR UPCOMING  
CONFERENCE**

### **Trainings in New Orleans**

#### **Metropolitan Human Services District**

This workshop is designed to inform families of the services being offered by MHSD for individuals with developmental disabilities.

DATE: **February 25, 2008**

TIME: **10:00 -12:00 P.M.**

PLACE: **1452 N. Broad St.**

**New Orleans, LA 70119**

PRESENTER: **Rose Andrews,  
Interim Director**

**SEE INSERT FOR  
TRAININGS ON LEAP/GEE**

### **Trainings in Chalmette**

#### **Understanding the IEP Process**

What does IEP mean? What role do I play in this process. What are my rights and responsibilities as a parent?

DATE: **February 18, 2008**

TIME: **6:00 - 8:00 P.M.**

PLACE: **American Red Cross**

**913 E. Judge Perez Drive**

**Chalmette, LA 70043**

PRESENTER: **Donnica Conway**



# Thanksgiving and Christmas 2007 in New Orleans

We want to officially thank the agencies that helped our families during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.

For Thanksgiving, through our affiliation with Metropolitan Human Services District, the New Hope Baptist Church provided baskets for 14 of our families.



From left to right, Mary Jacobs, Jasmine Johnson and Dawn Jefferson

Students at Cabrini High School adopted 10 of our families at Christmas, providing gifts for all of the children in each family.

Also, the New Orleans Children's Defense Fund provided toys and other items for 20 of our families.

Many thanks from the staff at FHF of SELA.

## 2007 Donations



Pierre Naquin edges the grass

Those of us that live in the parishes of Orleans, Plaquemines and St. Bernard Parishes have learned many lessons from Hurricane Katrina but the one thing that stands out most is the generosity of others. Having a Families Helping Families office in this region was a dream for many years. Seeing it come to fruition was only

possible by the help given to us.

We have had multiple work days and have been blessed with many volunteers, including FHF of GNO staff and their family members, FHF of SELA staff and board members and their family members, LaCAN team leader Dee Ducote, students from Brother Martin High School, Xerox Corporation



Shawn Stricklin pressure washes front of our building



Sarintha Stricklin presents a check for \$500 to board chair Willie Martin from the Dimitry Vidacovich—Post 193 American Legion Ladies Auxiliary

staff, Kiwanis Club of Lakeside members Sam Watson, our ramp builder, Mike Szush and Mike Danner.

As a non-profit, donations are tax-deductible. We have also received monetary donations from FHF of GNO, Xerox Corporation and Dimitry Vidacovich — Post 193 American Legion Ladies Auxiliary.



Save this Date and Plan to Attend

A Rally at the State Capitol  
in Baton Rouge

## Disability Rights Day

*The Right to Receive Services*

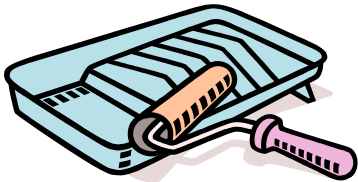
April 23rd      2 – 3:30 p.m.

Join other Individuals with Disabilities  
And Family Members

A Waiting List is  
**NOT**  
a Service!

For information about transportation  
to Baton Rouge and to sign up for a  
T-shirt, contact  
Families Helping Families  
of Southeast Louisiana  
504-943-0343 or 1-877-243-7352

## TIME TO ROLL UP YOUR SLEEVES FOR SOME SPRING CLEANING!



When: **March 27, 2007 9 am - 5 pm**  
Where: At our office, **4118 Franklin Ave, New Orleans, LA, 70122**



We are going to have volunteers from all over the nation at our office in the afternoon on Thursday, March 27. They are attorneys who are in town for the 2nd Annual Special Needs Planning Conference.

We will be painting the window frames on the front of the building, painting the ramp, cleaning out the garden, and general sprucing up to the front of the office. Plan on getting dirty!! Not interested in working outside? We have a "honey do" list of things that need to be done on the inside as well, such as hanging the rest of our pull-down shades, laying new stick-on tile, weatherproofing the windows, getting paint spots off the floor and we have some scraping and painting that needs to be done inside as well. Please call and let us know if you plan on coming. Lunch will be provided. Call 504-943-0343

### Greater New Orleans Autism Society Of America

**Invites you to join them for their 4th Annual Walk for Autism Awareness**



Saturday, April 12, 2008  
LaSalle Park  
next to Zephyr Stadium

6600 Airline Drive, Metairie, LA  
Registration Opens at 8 a.m.  
Walk Begins at 9:30 a.m.



Music—Food—Children's Activities  
Parade of Prizes Raffle—Silent Auction  
For more information, contact  
Lynn 504-388-4114  
or visit [www.autism-society.org/chapter168](http://www.autism-society.org/chapter168)  
Send in your pre-registration form today!!!



## Parents - Please Read

This is a **wonderful** opportunity to educate our pediatricians

**Operation House Call - Louisiana** is a joint effort of the Department of Health and Hospitals/Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities, Greater New Orleans Supports and Services Center, Expanded Resource Center, Medical Supports Division, Families Helping Families of SELA and GNO, LSU Pediatric Residency Program and Tulane/Ochsner Pediatric Residency Programs.

Operation House Call - Louisiana **exposes pediatric and family medicine residents to the daily routine of parents who have a child with a disability living at home.** This is a unique opportunity for parents to provide future physicians a glimpse of what life is like in your household and has been proven to be a very positive and empowering experience for the entire family. In an effort to educate professionals, the family has a chance to demonstrate not only the extraordinary challenges they face as a family caring for a child with a disability, but also the natural acceptance and dignity the family has in recognizing the child as a vital, important part of the family. Medical Residents are paired up with and visit with a family in their home for an average of 2 hours to experience first hand the joys and challenges of every day life.

It is our parent educators who have made this program successful by providing the doctors of tomorrow with a long lasting and enlightening experience to use in their future practices. It is only through the time, energy and knowledge of our Volunteer Families that the success of our program can continue.

If you are interested in becoming a Volunteer Parent in this empowering program, or if you have any questions, please contact: Angela Shockley, BS, RN, HCM, OCDD Expanded Resource Center, Medical Supports Division, Operation House Call Director at 504-364-6647.





Louisiana's Family to Family Health Information Center  
Now at Families Helping Families of  
Southeast Louisiana  
*Program Serves Children and Youth with  
Special Health Care Needs Ages 0-26*



*A new statewide program is now available to families of children with special health care needs of all types in Region 1—Orleans, Plaquemines and St. Bernard. Nicknamed the F2FHIC, health information center services are provided statewide to children and youth with special health care needs ages 0-26 and is now available through FHF of SELA.*

The program provides opportunities through regional trainings for families to learn about services that provide assistance for medical care and other services through it's "Who Can Help My Family" trainings. Parents and youth learn about programs that serve individuals with special health care needs in our state and how to connect to that assistance.

Soon another training will be rolled out called "How Can I Help My Family?" which will offer parents and youth an opportunity to gain the skills needed to effectively advocate for better and more options in health care and health care financing in our state. Individuals who complete the training will be matched to various state agencies and other groups seeking family input on changes in our health care and health care financing systems. Real life stories are always effective and our state and agency representatives want to know how the decisions they make effect the families they serve. This will be an incredible opportunity to affect real change.

How does the program work? Each region has an Information Specialist that can assist families in navigating the health care financing maze or provide information on just about any health topic. The Information Specialist for FHF of SELA is Karen Scallan. Transitioning youth can also request a customized packet of health information by contacting Karen. She will provide a checklist for youth and families to complete and develop your packet of information based on your request. For more information call Karen at 504-943-0343.



### **Families Displaced by Hurricanes Katrina or Rita**

The Institute of Health and Aging at the University of California, San Francisco is conducting a study on the affect of Hurricanes Katrina or Rita. If you are between the ages of 40 and 80 and have been affected by the storms, they would like to conduct a series of three interviews over a period of 18 months. Each interview will take about 1-2 hours of your time and you will be compensated for your participation. For more information call **Taslim at 206-660-3578** or **Dr. Adams at 1-888-441-9580**.

# Empowered Parents, Educated Children

Registration form on  
next page

Registration form on  
next page

March 7, 2008

8:30 am - 3 pm

Lindy C. Boggs International Conference Center  
2000 Lakeshore Drive (University of New Orleans)  
New Orleans, LA 70148  
Room 256



Who Should Attend?  
Parents, Teachers, Administrators.



## Agenda

8:30 am Registration

9 am - 12 noon Keynote Speaker: Cindy Arceneaux,  
Director of Louisiana Parent Training and Information Center

Noon - 1 pm Lunch will be provided

1 - 2:30 pm Breakout sessions

Room 204 - Positive Behavior Supports - Presented by Dr. Monya Criddle, Positive Behavior Support Coordinator, Recovery School District in New Orleans

Room 205 - Response to Intervention - Early Intervention is the Key! Presented by Paula Delfley, Educational Strategist, Plaquemines Parish School System

Room 206 - Transition From High School to Adulthood - presented by Deborah Lord, and Cheramie Kerth, Special Education Director, St. Bernard Parish School System

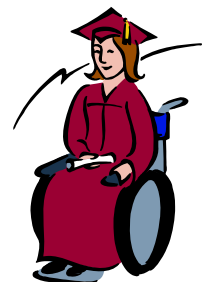
2:30—3 pm Wrap-up

Space is limited so it is important that you register as soon as possible.

Registration MUST be in no later than Friday, February 29, 2008

Please let us know if you need any special accommodation or diet.

Call 504-943-0343 or 1-877-243-7352



# Registration form for “Empowered Parents, Educated Children”

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I am attending this conference because:

\_\_\_\_\_ I am a parent of a child with a disability

\_\_\_\_\_ I am a student with a disability

\_\_\_\_\_ I am a school teacher

\_\_\_\_\_ I am a school administrator

\_\_\_\_\_ I am an advocate



Please indicate your 1st, 2nd and 3rd choice for the breakout session you would like to attend in the afternoon. Each breakout session is limited to 25 individuals and will be assigned in the order the registration is received.

\_\_\_\_\_ Positive Behavior Support

\_\_\_\_\_ Response to Intervention - Early Intervention is the Key!

\_\_\_\_\_ Transition From High School to Adulthood

Space is limited so it is important that you register as soon as possible. Registration MUST be in no later than Friday, February 29, 2008. Please let us know if you need any special accommodation or diet.

Please mail or fax to:

4118 Franklin Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70122

504-940-3242 (fax number)





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."

## 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@yahoo.com](mailto:LaDisabilityTalk-subscribe@yahoo.com).

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