

Local Support Groups

Asperger Syndrome Support Group (G'ville)
Robbin Anderson 352/846-3700

Suwannee Area Parent Support Group
Janet Tice 904/294-3321

Family Network on Disabilities (G'ville)
Melinda Morrisson 352/380-2604

Hernando County Parent Support Group
Sharon Mechler 352/797-7022 x217

Autism Society of Marion County
Pat Hawk 352/591-3120

Citrus County Parent Support Group
Viki Reich 352/637-9710

Our Boat Support Group (Bradford Co.)
Liz Gibson 352/468-2861

Autism Support Group of Hillsborough Co.
Robyn Tolliver 813/920-0459

Putnam County Autism & Related Disabilities Support Group
Kelly Murphy 904/312-0429

DO YOU HAVE A LOCAL SUPPORT GROUP YOU'D LIKE US TO ADD TO THIS LIST?

Comments or questions should be sent to:

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PO Box 100234
Gainesville FL 32610-0234
352/846-3455 or 800/754-5891
352/846-0941 (fax)
e-mail: cpolefko@mbi.ufl.edu
<http://www.card.ufl.edu>

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Please call or e-mail Carole to let us know.

CARD

UF/Gainesville

E-Mail Addresses

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Sibshop Success

We are happy to say that our first Sibshop, held on Saturday March 31, was a great success. Sibshops, a concept created by Donald Meyer, are half-day events designed to create a welcoming atmosphere that allows siblings to talk about what's great and what's not-so-great about having a sibling with special needs. Most of all, Sibshops are a place to have fun!

We began our day with activities that allowed the participants and adult facilitators to get to know one another. We learned about each other's favorite things and played a "unique" kind of charades. We got to know each other even better with a guessing game designed to test our question-asking skills. Our water relay was a big hit, but perhaps the most fun was our group juggling session. None of us could juggle on our own, but as a team, we were unstoppable! For lunch, we went crazy with Super Nachos. It turns out our pants are some dicers, slicers, the business. Our cupcake dessert was a transition into activities, getting to know a little about our siblings' likes and dislikes, strengths and needs.



Our afternoon discussion activities gave us an opportunity to be both silly and serious while talking about our siblings with disabilities. The participants, ages eight to fourteen, shared their experiences and helped each other come up with solutions to problems that only they can understand. We talked about dealing with friends who don't always understand about disabilities and parents who don't always understand about siblings' needs. The group came up with lots of ways to help their siblings, and even more ways to have fun with them. In the end, we got to reflect on the afternoon, sharing our favorite Sibshop moment.



We hope that this will be the first of many Sibshops to come. Special thanks to Caroline Raye, Jennifer Nye, and Robbin Anderson, who gave their time to be adult facilitators. Very special thanks to Margie and Ed Garlin, without whose generous donations our Sibshop would have never come into being.

If you would like more information about upcoming Sibshops for children of any age, or you would like to learn more about them, please contact Danielle Liso at 352-392-4171.



UF/Gainesville

Presentations

Future Trainings are being planned.

Upcoming topics include:
Social Security Disability Benefits
&
First Words

Look for training calendars
in the mail or check out
our on-line calendar at our website:
www.card.ufl.edu

Camp Care

The Diocese of St. Augustine with the help of the Autism Society of Florida will once again be holding a week-long camp (July 22-26) for children with autism and related disabilities. The camp is held in Clay County on the St. John's River. Activities include swimming, boating, fishing, dances, a reptile show, a petting zoo, and much more. Each camper will have a one-on-one buddy. The cost for the camp is \$150.00. **APPLICATIONS ARE DUE MAY 1, 2001** and can be obtained by contacting:

Patrick Kennedy
Director of Ministry for Persons with Developmental
Disabilities for the Diocese of St. Augustine
134 E. Church Street
Jacksonville FL 32202
904/356-0810
904/356-7302 (fax)

Workshops, Conferences, & Special Events

Events listed in this section are offered by agencies outside of CARD. CARD does not endorse any of them and information is provided as a service to our constituents and to these organizations.

2nd Annual Gulf Gallop 5K Run

When: April 21, 2001
Where: Cedar Key, FL
Contact: Karen Arnold

This event is held to promote disability awareness and proceeds will benefit the Family Network on Disabilities of North Central Florida.

6th Annual Golf Classic & Dinner/Auction

When: Saturday, May 5, 2001
Where: Glen Lakes Country Club
Contact: www.golf-autism.com

This event is held by the Autism Society of America and the Autism Society of Florida.

FSU CARD 2001 Summer Institute "Empirically Supported Intervention Strategies for Preschool Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders"

When: June 18-22, 2001
Where: Tallahassee, FL
Contact: <http://autism.fsu.edu>
mdunaway@cpd.fsu.edu
850/644-7576

The Family C.A.F.E. (3rd Annual) A Statewide Conference on Families and Disabilities

When: May 18-20, 2001
Where: Kissimmee, FL
Contact: www.familycafe.net
or call FDLRS for a registration
form at 800/533-0326 or
352/591-4300

Please note that
we have a new and
easier to remember
website address.
It is loaded with
current news about
autism, presentation
dates, links to other
autism sites, and
other great
resources!

www.card.ufl.edu

UPDATE on the 6th Annual Autism Awareness Benefit Race & Auction



The 6th Annual Autism Awareness Benefit Race and Auction was held on March 5, 2000 at the Gatorback Race Track in Gainesville. The race attracted participants from around the world. It was a great success and money raised from this event will be used to help promote autism awareness, send parents to autism related conferences, and fund sibshops. Please contact Ed or Margie Garlin at Great Southern Racing Productions, Inc. (904/462-9623) if you'd like information about next year's race.

THANKS ED AND MARGIE FOR YOUR HARD WORK AND DEDICATION!