

Recent Accomplishments

During FY 2000 - 2001, the UF CARD/Gainesville has:

- * Hired three new professionals to serve our constituents
- * Created a new computerized database tracking system for our lending library for constituents
- * Provided individualized mentoring to six teachers serving students with autism
- * Created and disseminated a new training videotape on "Making and Using Visual Supports"
- * Increased the skills of CARD staff by participating in training opportunities throughout the year
- * Provided monthly educational opportunities for families and professionals at the UF campus site
- * Provided 24 evening information sessions for families at locations in Citrus, Putnam, Marion, Suwannee, Columbia, and Hernando Counties
- * Mailed out customer satisfaction surveys to families and teachers to provide an indication of our constituents' response to Center services
- * Provided 1,808 individual assistance direct contacts to our constituents
- * Provided 92 Training workshops to professionals and family members
- * Provided 30 Public Education presentations to community members
- * Provided Technical Assistance to professionals in schools, hospitals, universities, and adult service agencies

CARD

UF/Gainesville

E-Mail Addresses

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Go to www.card.ufl.edu
for information about:

- *current news about autism and related disabilities
- *support groups
- *trainings and more!

The Post CARD

A Publication of the Center for Autism and Related Disabilities Fall 2001



A SEASON OF CHANGE AT CARD/UF GAINESVILLE

**WE MOVE FROM 804A NW 16TH AVE.
TO 806A NW 16TH AVE.
IN GAINESVILLE . . .**

On August 28, CARD will move from its current suite of offices in the 804 building at the Pecan Park office development to a suite of offices in the new 806 building just next door. After only two years, we've outgrown the offices we occupy now, and the new space will allow us to hold some of our trainings right in our office space. We look forward to seeing you there!

...SAY GOODBYE TO EMILY SAVARESE & DANIELLE LISO

This summer we have reluctantly said farewell to two members of the CARD staff. Emily Savarese, who started working at CARD in 1996 and who was CARD's Assistant Director, has left to move to Iowa with her husband Ralph and their son DJ. Danielle Liso, a Support Specialist on the CARD staff for the past year, is returning to Maryland, where she will be teaching middle school and pursuing a Ph.D. at The Johns Hopkins University. We will miss them both and we offer them our best wishes for their continuing success.

...AND The Post CARD GOES ON-LINE

In order to bring our constituents, our providers, and all the other friends and associates on our mailing list news of our activities as quickly and economically as possible, we're putting *The Post CARD* on-line at the CARD website. We're asking all readers of *The Post CARD* who have internet access to agree to receive our publications and mailings electronically. Look inside this issue for a letter with more details, and please send us back the enclosed card in the business reply envelope as soon as you can. Getting our news to you electronically will ensure that you get it as soon as possible, and will help us to husband our resources for the other services we provide.

CONSTITUENT HIGHLIGHT

Caity Bryant



Facts about Caity

- * Current age: 7
- * Diagnosed with autism at age 3
- * Attends school in Citrus County
- * Fully included in a 2nd grade classroom
- * Participates in a Brownie Troop
- * Receives occupational therapy, speech therapy and sensory integration at the All Children's Sertoma Center of Citrus County
- * Featured in this summer's All Children's Hospital Telethon
- * Mother, Marianne, is a CARD UF/Gainesville Constituency Board Member
- * Youngest of 4 children
- * Favorite activities: roller skating, playing with Barbie dolls, camping, swimming at the beach, playing soccer, going to school, and playing with her sister Cara and her friends
- * Favorite food: pizza
- * Favorite TV show: *The Powerpuff Girls*

Recent Additions to the CARD UF/Gainesville Library:

Asperger Syndrome and Sensory Issues: Practical Solutions for Making Sense of the World
by Brenda Myles et al.

How Rude!: The Teenagers' Guide to Good Manners, Proper Behavior and Not Grossing People Out
by Alex Packer

Asperger's Huh?
by Rosina Schnurr

Taming the Recess Jungle
by Carol Gray

Comic Strip Conversations
by Carol Gray

Creating a "Win-Win IEP" for Students with Autism
by Beth Fouse

BENEFITS UPDATE

"The Ticket to Work" By Art Wallen

The *Ticket to Work* program is the most important part of new legislation signed into law by then President Clinton under the *Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act* of 1999. The goal of this federal program is to increase the choices Social Security beneficiaries with disabilities have for obtaining employment, vocational rehabilitation, and other support services from public and private providers. Under the Program, the Social Security Administration (SSA; see SSA.gov web site) will provide disability beneficiaries with a TICKET (or voucher) that can be used to obtain services they need to support their work from an Employment Network (EN) of their choice.

An Employment Network is any agency, state or private, that takes responsibility for the coordination or the actual delivery of employment related services. An EN can be a single entity, a consortium, or an association of organizations collaborating to combine resources to serve Ticket-holders.

If you want more information about the *Ticket to Work* program contact Ms. Barbara Butz at The Capstone Group at 850-421-6605 to register, or register on-line at allaboard@askcapstone.com.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

The 9th Annual CARD Conference will be held in Orlando, FL on January 11-13, 2002. Brochures will be mailed out in late September.

CARD/UF GAINESVILLE RECEIVES \$20,000 DONATION!

On April 16, 2001, CARD Executive Director Dr. Ralph Maurer accepted on CARD's behalf a donation of \$20,000 from The Children's Charities to Combat Mental Illness and the Ragosin Charitable Foundation. All of us at CARD want to extend our thanks for this generous gift!

Jared Piotrkowski, who directs the Charities along with his brother Joshua, presented Dr. Maurer with the donation. Jared is a sophomore at UF, where he is preparing to pursue a medical degree. While attending high school at the University School at Nova University, he volunteered at the Bauduin School. The brothers raised money for the Charities over the course of two years by organizing walkathons and car washes, and by persuading Jared's senior class to donate half of its fund to the Charities.

CARD hopes to use this gift to develop a program to support the parents and families of its constituents.

FOCUS ON THE CLASSROOM

Congratulations to....

Tracy Alford from Talbot Elementary and **Rae Conroy** from Idylwild Elementary, who received 2000-2001 Alachua County ESE Teacher of the Year awards *and to...*

Kathy Robinson from J.J. Finley Elementary in Alachua County, who received a Career Service Employee of the Year award.

STAFF HIGHLIGHT

Robbin Anderson



Robbin, a Support Specialist at CARD since 1999, grew up in Colorado. There, as a child at school, she struggled with a reading difficulty that only years later would be diagnosed as dyslexia. This early frustrating experience with dyslexia, Robbin believes, gives her an intuitive insight into the ways CARD's constituents think and experience the world.

The path from her childhood experiences to working at CARD, however, was not a direct one. Robbin has worked as a travel agent and as a photo researcher, and had her sights set on computer science when she began college. Realizing that she was more interested in life sciences, though, she began to train to teach middle school science. While taking the necessary education courses, she became fascinated by the study of learning disabilities, and graduated from the University of Central Florida with a concentration in specific learning disabilities.

Before coming to CARD, Robbin worked at Colonial High School in Orlando, where she taught physically impaired students, was department chair of the largest exceptional student education staff in Orange County, established the first inclusion co-taught classrooms in Orange County, and secured job placements at the Orlando International Airport for her students.

Robbin's special areas of interest are Asperger's Syndrome, transition, inclusion, employment and computers.

When asked how she sees her work as a Support Specialist at CARD, Robbin explains that she tries to "focus on quality of life issues for her constituents—no matter what their age—so that they can have more balanced lives."