

# Families CAN



## Parent Education Project

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## Summertime



With the end of the school year near, we hope that you and your family are ready for summer, because if you are not; summer is ready for you!

In this summer issue, we have put together some of the most educational, informational, supporting and fun events for children and their families to participate in.

We hope that you will use this issue as a resource and guide while you endure the heat, and savor the lazy days of summertime. Have a safe and wonderful summer!



## Families CAN Support Group

The Families CAN Support Group provides information to Houston parents by educating families, professionals, and the community about the abilities of children with special needs.

Meetings are held the first Monday of the month from 10:00am to 12:00noon at Christ the King Evangelical Lutheran Church, 2353 Rice Blvd. Children are welcome at the meetings. We greatly



appreciate the hospitality of Christ the King in opening their doors to us and our families.

**Upcoming Meetings**  
June 1, 2009 - Parent Sharing

## Families CAN welcomes a New Family Partner!

Families CAN would like to welcome Jacqueline L. Cruse, our new Family Partner. Jacqueline is Co-President and Webmaster of the Greater Houston Chapter-Autism Society of America, and a member of Intellectual Developmental Disabilities-Planning Advisory Council (IDD-PAC) through MHMRA.

Jacqueline shares that she is really excited about becoming a Family Partner because she can work with families of special needs children to help them discover new things in the community and help them to create bigger and brighter paths for their children. And speaking of children, she could not light up more than when speaking about her own two children, Jalen, 10 years-old and Isaac, 8 years-old, both on the autism spectrum.

We are very happy to have her on board with us.

Welcome Jacqueline!

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### Quote for the Quarter

*Summer afternoon-Summer afternoon...the two most beautiful words in the English language*

-Henry James  
(1843-1916)

July 6, 2009 - Parent Sharing  
August 3, 2009 - Getting Ready for School

## Transition Workgroup

The Transition Workgroup is another Families CAN parent group that meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every odd month at 6:30 p.m. Our next meeting will be held on July 16th. The speaker to be announced.

Location: Shriners' Hospital; 6977 Main St. (just past intersection of Main & Holcombe). **Hospital parking: free.** Pizza and drinks are provided by Maxim Pediatric Services. Note: If you do not get a chance to RSVP, come anyway; we may still have enough pizza!

For more information contact: Elaine Hime : 713-743-0608, or Teresa Guzman and Phyllis Gutierrez: 713-743-5592.

To be added to the Transition Workgroup e-mail list if you are not receiving our email notices and you are not part of the Families CAN Program, please email Elaine: [ehime@mail.uh.edu](mailto:ehime@mail.uh.edu).

### Emergency preparedness

**June 1<sup>st</sup> – November 30<sup>th</sup>** is the Official Hurricane Season. Here are some Quick Tips for you and your family. Have a Family Plan, Prepare an Emergency Kit, Prepare your home, Prepare your vehicle, and Call 211 to register your child with special needs. Check out the website for Texas Department of State Health Services for Children with Special Health Care Needs for additional information.

[http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/preparedness/e-prep\\_public.shtm](http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/preparedness/e-prep_public.shtm)

## Programs & Activities

### Nameless Sound

Nameless Sound explores music making for the special needs community. In an encouraging and structured environment, participants will engage in musical exercises that emphasize listening, coordinating, peer support, self-expression, self-empowerment, and non-verbal communication. Instruments provided. Participants are encouraged to bring their own instruments, too.

Special Needs Classes: Creative Music for Basic Skills Community, Wednesdays, 6-7 pm, Creative Music for High Functioning Community, Wednesdays, 4-5 pm., For more information or to register, call 713-928-5653 or email [dave.dove@namelessound.org](mailto:dave.dove@namelessound.org)

Summer program begins June 17<sup>th</sup> and ends July 29<sup>th</sup>. All classes are FREE!

MECA is located at 1900 Kane St., Houston TX 77007

### 2009 Self-Determination Conference

*Houston*

Held at United Way of the Gulf Coast

Employment Symposium:  
September 17, 2009

For more information go to [www.selfdetermined.org](http://www.selfdetermined.org) or call 1-800-572-7159 or email [charris@imagineenterprises.com](mailto:charris@imagineenterprises.com)



## From camping to sailing!



**Heart of Sailing** teaches sailing to special needs children as a form of recreational therapy. The charity was founded in 2004 by George Saidah, a successful software entrepreneur who was motivated by his personal experience with a loved one with a cognitive disorder. A sailor for more than 35 years, Saidah dreamed of combining his love of the ocean with service to the community. Since retiring in 2005, Saidah devotes his time to developing Heart of Sailing to

create a fun, educational and therapeutic opportunity for children with developmental disabilities.

For more information, please contact, Captain Dave McCabe at (281) 488-1780, Cell, (281) 507-1867, or email Dave at [davemccabe@heartofsailing.org](mailto:davemccabe@heartofsailing.org)



### JOY Summer Camp

10570 Westpark Dr., Houston  
77042

July 27-July31 at First Methodist  
Houston.

A camp for children with special needs and their siblings! Contact Tanya Sterling at 713-458-4702 or email at

[tanyasterling@fmhouston.com](mailto:tanyasterling@fmhouston.com) or  
Melanie Hagar at  
[mhagar@fmhouston.com](mailto:mhagar@fmhouston.com)

### Super Place Camp!

A summer camp for children with special needs. Children with special needs four years old through high school that would benefit from or enjoy participating in Summer Camp. Each day will be filled with fun activities and learning opportunities. The focus will be on expanding relationships with others and with God while having fun in a safe, loving, Christian environment. Registration period March 27<sup>th</sup> – July 21<sup>st</sup>. Camp dates are August 3<sup>rd</sup> through August 7<sup>th</sup>, from 9 – 12:30 pm. (TBA), Contact Gail Casson @ 713-354-4482

**Camp For All** is a unique camping and retreat facility that works in partnership with special needs groups to enrich the lives of people with chronic illnesses and disabilities. For more information please call the number below or visit their website. **Campsite:** 6301 Rehburg Rd., Burton, Texas 77835, PH: 979-289.3752, [campsite@campforall.org](mailto:campsite@campforall.org), **Administrative Offices,** 10500 N.W. Freeway, Ste. 200, Houston, TX 77092, PH: 713-

686-5666,  
[houstonoffice@campforall.org](mailto:houstonoffice@campforall.org)

### Dionysus Theatre Presents

“The Pirates Of Penzance”

June 6<sup>th</sup> through June 28<sup>th</sup>

Thursdays & Saturday evenings

Sunday matinees

Week nights 7:30 p.m.

Sundays 3:00 p.m.

Where: Joe Frank Theatre

Jewish Community Center

5601 S. Braeswood

**SIRE-Therapeutic Riding Programs.** The mission of SIRE is to improve the quality of life for people with disabilities through therapeutic horseback riding and related activities. Three locations around the city.

**HOCKLEY**, 24161 Spring Drive, Hockley, TX 77447, phone: (281) 356-7588, fax: (281) 356-

9462.....**SPRING**, 4610 Sloangate, Spring, TX 77373, phone: (281) 353-6160, fax: (281) 355-1231.....**FORT**

**BEND**, Sienna Stables, 8255 Camp Sienna Trail, Missouri City, TX 77459, phone: (281) 778-0202, fax: (281) 356-9462

**Partners Resource Network, Team Project** The mission of Partners Resource Network is to empower parents of children and youth with disabilities in their roles as parents, decision makers, and advocates for their children and to promote partnerships among parents and professionals. The FREE class will be offered on the following day from 9:30-11:30 at : 3311 Richmond Suite 334, Houston, TX 77098

**June 18<sup>th</sup>** - Developing Great Advocacy Skills - Please call 713-524-2147 to register for classes.

### The Autism Simmons Simplex Study

Baylor College of Medicine is conducting an Autism study called the Simon Simplex Collection project. The Simons Simplex Collection is a collection of genetic and clinical information from families who have just one child affected with an autism spectrum disorder (ASD), and who also have one or more children who are developing normally. The child with an ASD needs to be between the ages of 4 and 18. At least one sibling needs to be 4 or older. Both biological parents must be willing and able to participate, and all participating family members will be asked to provide a blood sample. All parking at the Texas Medical Center that is associated with study visits will be validated (free), and families receive a total of \$50 in gift cards at the completion of their study. There are several stages to participation: 1) Brief screening interview by phone (10-15 minutes). 2) Family questionnaire packet (request a 2-week turnaround postage and a self-addressed envelope for the return of study materials is provided). 3) Medical history interview by phone (2-3 hours). 4) In-person visit that includes parent interviews and psychological assessment of the child with an ASD and a blood draw for all participating family members--all participating family members should be available to come to this visit (assessments typically last from 8:30am until 12 or 12:30pm. Then there is a lunch break, following which the blood draws and brief medical evaluation are done. Families are typically finished by 3pm.) Families who are considered a good match for our study will receive this diagnostic assessment and a full report from our psychologist's (within 3-5 weeks of appointment) at no cost. For more information please call, (832)824-3390

\*Editor in Chief – Kim Dixon

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\*Parent Volunteers

### The River Performing and Visual Arts Fine Arts Summer Camp Information:

#### Staff Directory-Families CAN

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Session 1: **June 15-19** *Aloha Week*

Session 2: **June 22- 26** *Around The World Week*

Session 3: **July 13-17** *Circus Week*

Session 4: **July 20-24** *Dr. Seuss Week*

Session 5: **July 27-31** *All Aboard for Broadway- a collaboration with Theatre Under The Stars*

Session 6: **August 3-7** *Mariachi Week- a collaboration with Houston Grand Opera, HGO co.*

To register on line go to [www.theriver.org](http://www.theriver.org)

Call for more information at (713) 520-1220. Some scholarships are available but call early.

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