



# Family Resource Network

## Helping Families Meet the Challenge

Volume 24, Issue 3, Summer 2016 Edition

### Time to Say Goodbye

*A message from FRN's Executive  
Director, Ann Cirimele*

Dear Friends,

My 20 years at Family Resource Network have flown by. The years have brought changes both personally and professionally and the latest change is that I will be retiring from FRN at the end of July. My time at FRN has been extremely fulfilling. I am so grateful to the thousands of families who have shared their lives and their stories with me. Your strength, courage and most importantly, your love for your children, have been a constant source of inspiration to me.

I am excited for Family Resource Network as it enters a new chapter. FRN's Board of Directors is committed to continuing the FRN services that have supported families for so many years. The Board also knows that it need to ensure that FRN keeps up with the times and the search for a new executive director has centered on selecting the best candidate who could build on FRN's current strengths. The September newsletter will contain a message to you from FRN's new Executive Director.

As I leave FRN I encourage every parent to remember that you are your child's advocate. You are an expert in your child. Bring that expertise with you as you work collaboratively with the professionals who serve your child.

Thank you for your support of FRN and for allowing me to be a part of your journey. I will carry you with me in my heart.

### A Message from Family Resource Network's Board of Directors

After 20 year at Family Resource Network, 18 of them as Executive Director, Ann Cirimele is retiring from Family Resource Network on July 29<sup>th</sup>. Ann has asked that rather than having a retirement party anyone who wishes to celebrate her retirement is encouraged to make a donation to Family Resource Network's Healing Hearts Society. This FRN project provides funds to families to assist with funeral/burial costs upon the death of their child with special needs. To date the FRN's Healing Hearts Society has provided funding to 89 families. Your donation in honor of Ann's retirement would help ensure that the Healing Hearts Society continues to support parents at the most difficult time of their lives. Your tax deductible donation can be made online at [www.frcn.org](http://www.frcn.org) and click on the donate button. If you would like to donate by check please make the check out to Family Resource Network with the notation Healing Hearts Society in the memo line. Donations may be sent to Family Resource Network, 5250 Claremont Ave., Suite 148, Stockton, CA 95207.

Your support of FRN's Healing Hearts Society is greatly appreciated!



Family Resource Network Newsletter  
 Summer 2016 edition  
 Printing 6,300 copies

EDITOR: Ann Cirimele

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 Email: [FRNfamilies@aol.com](mailto:FRNfamilies@aol.com) website: [www.frcn.org](http://www.frcn.org)

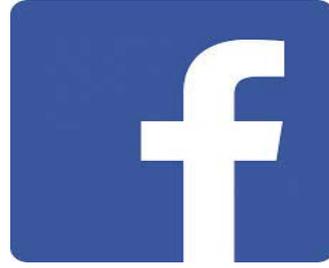


**Sibshop** is the recreational support group  
 for **non-disabled siblings of children  
 with special needs,**  
 ages 7 through 13.

Meet other siblings who have the same kinds of issues. There are games, crafts, discussion activities, food and lots of fun! There is no cost to attend.

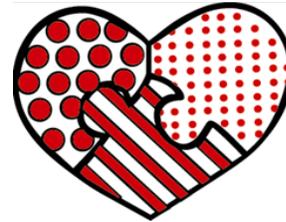
**As of publication date we are working on a Sibshop to take place in August or September. Call FRN for details.**

**Registration is required and must be submitted at least one week prior to event. Call 472-3674 or 800-847-3030 to request a registration packet.**



## Family Resource Network has a Facebook page!

You'll find FRN listed as Family Resource Network – Stockton. You'll know it's FRN when you see the heart logo. FRN will post information on upcoming events and topics of interest. We hope you'll like us.



## FRN Parent Scholarships Available

Family Resource Network has received an unrestricted grant of \$2,500 from the Stuart Foundation. FRN is using the funds to assist parents of special needs children within FRN's 5 county service area with registration fees to attend non-FRN conferences or workshops on topics related to children with special needs and their families.

This is a reimbursement scholarship which means that FRN reimburses the parent after the parent has attended the event. Parents wishing to access these scholarship funds should contact FRN **prior** to attending the event. FRN reserves the right to limit the number of scholarships for any specific event. Restrictions apply. For more information contact FRN staff.

## Tikes and Tunes...Times 2!

Due to popular demand FRN will now offer its **Tikes and Tunes** music play group twice a month. Tikes and Tunes is for children ages birth to 36 months who are served through the Early Start program. Parents learn how they can use music to enhance their child's development. Both groups are led by Karen Sanchez, MBA MT-BC, Music Therapist. We'd love to have you join us, but space is limited so **be sure to register!** Registration forms are on FRN's website or you can email or call FRN to register. Tikes and Tunes meets at FRN's office, Sherwood Executive Center, 5250 Claremont Ave., Suite 148, Stockton.



### Tikes and Tunes

*A Musical Play Group for Infants and Toddlers in Early Start*

**When:** The **first and third Tuesdays** of the month from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

No Musical Talent Required.



*Don't forget to register!*

**And Don't Forget** that FRN has **Toy Lending Libraries** for children in the Early Start program at FRN in **Stockton**, Valley Mountain Regional Center in **Modesto** and Tuolumne County Office of Education in **Sonora**. Each library has different hours of operation. For info on the library near you contact:

**Stockton:** 209-472-3674

**Modesto:** 209-557-2144

**Sonora:** 209-536-2040



**And coming to Amador soon!!!**



## FRN Library Resources

FRN has almost two thousand library resources for parents and professionals to borrow. There are books, videos, dvds, cds, and audio tapes.

**Newest addition:** a booklet entitled Safety Tips for Children with Special Needs.

Visit [www.frcn.org](http://www.frcn.org) and click on Library to see a complete listing of all of FRN's library resources and to find out how to borrow resources from the library. If you don't have access to the internet you can contact FRN at 209-472-3674 or 800-847-3030.

You don't need to come in to FRN's office in order to use the library. We are happy to mail resources to you. We just ask that you be responsible for returning the items to FRN. You can mail them to FRN, swing by the office or drop them off with the building receptionist. You may check out up to two resources for a period of 3 weeks.

## Family Resource Network



## FRN Board Member Openings

Passionate about issues facing parents raising children with special needs? Looking for a way to give back to the community?

FRN is accepting applications for Board members. For more information contact FRN staff at 209-472-3674 or [FRNfamilies@aol.com](mailto:FRNfamilies@aol.com).

Check FRN's website, [www.frcn.org](http://www.frcn.org) and click on "calendar" for updated information on trainings and events. Registration forms for FRN events are on the website.

## Save the Date

### Info on upcoming event:

Family Resource Network is working on a variety of workshops in the coming months. Registration is required for many of the events and registration forms will be posted on FRN's website, [www.frcn.org](http://www.frcn.org) and click on Calendar or you can contact FRN staff at 209-472-3674 or 800-847-3030.

- **June 23, 2016: Conservatorship for Your Adult Child with Special Needs** presented by Mark Drobny, Attorney at Law, offered in collaboration with San Joaquin County Office of Education.

## Related Resource

Disability Rights CA has a fact sheet entitled: **Limited Conservatorships & Alternatives**. It contains important information for anyone who is interested in learning more about what conservatorship is and isn't, and possible alternatives. This fact sheet is DRC Publication #5578.01 and is posted online at <http://www.disabilityrightsca.org/pubs/557801.pdf>

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### Congrats to the WINNERS of FRN's latest drawing:

- ♥ Edith Burness
  - ♥ Anne Diamond Tualla
- 



For updated information on the law change regarding required immunizations for enrollment in California schools go to CA Department of Education's Immunization and Health Care Check-Ups page:

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/he/hn/cefimmunization.asp>



## Save the Date Monday, October 3, 2016

The Brighterside of Down Syndrome  
presents its 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference

*Best Practices in the Education of  
Children with Down Syndrome*

### Speakers:

Patti McVay, a Partner in Down Syndrome Unites – Championing All Disabilities and has served as the Director of Education at the Linda Crnic Institute for Down Syndrome in Colorado, which focuses on significantly improving the quality of life for individuals with Down syndrome. She has worked as a Special Education Director in California, was recognized as a Partner in the Special Education Research Organization in Hokkaido, Japan and in 2011 and received the Global Down Syndrome Foundation Award of Excellence in Education.

Laurie Pacht, a Partner in Down Syndrome Unites – Championing All Disabilities, has a strong background in child centered training, in class technical training and school team coaching. She has expertise in emergency preparedness and assists school districts prepare for and respond to crisis situations for students with developmental disabilities.

For more information contact Wanda Farinelli-Mikita 209-915-6612 or [deltaflower@sbcglobal.net](mailto:deltaflower@sbcglobal.net).



Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless. Mother Theresa



**FRN has received donations from:**

- ♥ Liz Fisher
- ♥ PEDS
- ♥ Veronica Romero
- ♥ Efrain Rosas
- ♥ *And* Anonymous Donors



Donations to the Healing Hearts Society have been made by:

- ♥ Sue Allyn
- ♥ Graham Ultch Charitable Trust
- ♥ Walton Booster Club

The following have made donations to the Healing Hearts Society in honor of Ann Cirimele:

- ♥ Early Intervention Staff at Walton Special Center

**Thank You Student Volunteer**  
Arjeli Balingit



**10 Tips for Voters with Disabilities from the US Election Assistance Commission**

[http://www.eac.gov/assets/1/Documents/508%5B1%5D\\_14Disabilities.pdf](http://www.eac.gov/assets/1/Documents/508%5B1%5D_14Disabilities.pdf)

**ADA Checklist for Polling Places from the US Dept. of Justice**

<http://www.ada.gov/votingchecklist.htm>

<http://www.disabilityrightsca.org/pubs/PublicationsVoting.htm>



**Carlos Vieira Foundation**

This program provides cash grants for necessities for children (birth to age 18) who have a diagnosis of autism and reside in various counties including Tuolumne, Stanislaus and San Joaquin. The maximum award per year is \$500. The parent must claim the child as a dependent on the parent's taxes. If you would like more information about the Carlos Vieira Foundation please contact them toll free at (855) 513- 4389 or email [info@carlosvieirafoundation.org](mailto:info@carlosvieirafoundation.org).



Please note the FRN workshops take place at a variety of sites throughout the 5 county service area. Registration forms for all these events are posted on the calendar tab at [www.frcn.org](http://www.frcn.org).

**July 13 - Building Bridges – Transitioning Your Child from the Early Start Program •**  
 Presenter: FRN, Sherwood Executive Center, 5250 Claremont Ave., Stockton, 9:15 to 11:30 a.m., FREE, registration required.

Early Start Transition Resource: FRN has a transition booklet entitled, **Building Bridges: Transitioning from Early Start into the Preschool Years.** The booklet is available in both English and Spanish. You may have already received a copy of the booklet from your child's Service Coordinator. If not, you are welcome to download it from FRN's website. Go to <http://www.frcn.org/early.asp> and scroll down to the bottom of the page.



### Want to be In The Know?

The email list is a great way to receive up-to-the minute information on topics of interest to parents of children with special needs. Send your email address to [FRNfamilies@aol.com](mailto:FRNfamilies@aol.com) to receive email updates. There is no fee to be on the email list and FRN does not share your email address with anyone, ever.

## New Publication Online

Disability Rights California has recently published a booklet entitled **Timely Access to Medical Care**. It is available on Publications tab on the DRC website. <http://www.disabilityrightsca.org/pubs/555601.pdf>



## EMERGENCY

### Are You Ready?

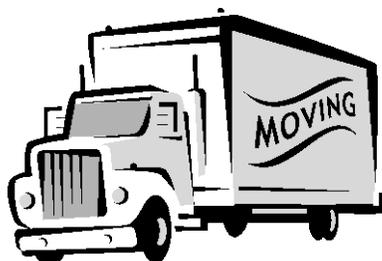
In the event of a local emergency you may have to evacuate at a moment's notice and take essentials with you. You may need to survive on your own after an emergency. This means having your own food, water and other supplies in sufficient quantity to last for at least 72 hours. San Joaquin County Public Health Services has information for families on emergency preparedness. There is information for parents, children, as well as info related to people with special needs. Check out the website for information and links to additional resources.

<http://www.sjcphs.org/emprep/PersonalFamily.aspx>



If you focus on what you left behind you'll never see what lies ahead

From Disney's *Ratatouille*



### Moving?

If your child is receiving special education services make sure that your copy of your child's IFSP or IEP is in a safe place and accessible to you when you reach your destination. It can sometimes take a school district some time to send the IFSP or IEP and other school records to the new school so having your copy available could help speed up the process.

If you are relocating within FRN's five county service area (Amador, Calaveras, San Joaquin, Stanislaus and Tuolumne) we want to continue to send you the FRN newsletter. Because the newsletter is mailed via bulk mail the Post Office does not forward it to your new location. So if you want to make sure that you receive all issues of the newsletter just give FRN a call or send an email or letter with your new address.

Best wishes to you in your new home!

### ***Attention San Joaquin County Residents!***

San Joaquin Council of Governments is surveying residents to determine the unmet transit needs throughout the county. This is a great opportunity to make the Council aware of the challenges faced by people with special needs and their families in trying to access public transportation.

Click on the link to access the 2016-2017 Unmet Transit Needs Survey:  
<http://www.sjcog.org/index.aspx?nid=182>



**SAVE THE DATE – Tuesday,  
November 1, 2016**

**San Joaquin County Office of  
Education, Stockton, CA**

### **22nd Annual Early Start Symposium**

Sponsored by Early Start Symposium  
Planning Committee Collaborative

**Presenter: Cari Ebert, MS, CCC-SLP**  
***"Wired Kids: How Technology Impacts  
Early Child Development"***

This seminar examines the evidence to guide parents, therapists, educators and other early childhood professionals as we live and work in the "digital age." Just because technology is available at our fingertips, doesn't necessarily mean we should be using it with very young children. Infants, toddlers and preschool age children with special needs do not learn the same way as older children and adults learn. It's not just a matter of being pro-technology or anti-technology, but rather considering what is appropriate for the developing brain and body. During this seminar, attendees will gain powerful evidence-based information regarding best practices for technology use in therapy and in the early childhood classroom. This course is essential for pediatric professionals serving the birth to five population.

Registration materials will be available in late summer. Scholarships will be available to parents of children receiving Early Start services who live in Amador, Calaveras, San Joaquin, Stanislaus and Tuolumne Counties. A limited number of scholarships are available for parents of preschool age children receiving special education services. Registration fee for local attendees is \$35; \$50 for out of area. For more information contact Family Resource Network 209-472-3674, 800-847-3030, [www.frcn.org](http://www.frcn.org)