



The CONNECTION

“Serving Special Families”

www.heartsfrc.org

DECEMBER 2007

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H.E.A.R.T.S. BOARD

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- Past President
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- TREASURER
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Agnes Lopez
Tammera Stoner
Sandy Fyre



FALL 2007

The 7th Annual Fall Festival hosted by H.E.A.R.T.S. Connection Family Resource Center was held on September 8, 2007 at Shriner's Noble Park. H.E.A.R.T.S. Connection paired up with the United Way Day of Caring and had wonderful volunteers from Cub Scout Pack 724. The theme for the event this year was "Arrgghh A Pirates Life..." Families came dressed as pirates. The carnival like atmosphere has become a tradition for the special families residing in Kern County. An emphasis is placed on including all children regardless of ability and features games that can be altered to ensure the success of all participants. This year the children made pirate necklaces as a memento of the event. The Fall Festival is a safe place for the whole family to enjoy family time, network with other families, and learn about resources in our community that serve special needs families.

Our collaborative partners were in charge of the game booths and included: Darlyn's Darlings, Kern Autism Network, Department of Human Services, Kern Assistive Technology Center, CHADD and the Arthritis Association of Kern County Adaptive Aquatics Center.

We appreciate all of their enthusiasm, information, assistance and support in making this event a memorable experience for all of our families.

Nick Stobaugh provided us with music and entertainment, while Bo-Bo the Millennium Clown did face painting, balloon art and a fantastic magic show. The food was provided by the Pantry.

We had a pirate parade and contest. Our winners were:

- | | |
|------------------|------------------------------------|
| ages 0-5 | Esmerelda Hidalgo
J.J. Quiroz |
| ages 6-12 | Tiffany Amos
Diego Cruz |
| ages 12 and over | Orlando Paulino
Nathanial James |

H.E.A.R.T.S. Connection would like to thank all of our financial and product donors: First 5 of Kern County, The Active 20/30 Club, Albertson's Grocery Store-Coffee & Olive Drive, Kern Autism Network, Pepsi, Grocery Store Outlet-Southwest, Nick Stobaugh-Sound Choice, Gary & Cindy Chapman, Sandy Weeks-Kirk, Maddie Dircks, Natalie Mallouk and Barbara Penalzo.

Cont. from. pg. 1

A special thank you to our volunteers: Cub Scout Pack 724 and friends/family of H.E.A.R.T.S. Connection. Last but not least, the H.E.A.R.T.S. Connection Board and Staff who devoted their time, energy, product donations and door prizes. Every year each of our contributors make this a special event for our families and create many, many, smiles and memories for the families we serve.



Local Resources

Search & Serve

Every call results in a personal contact. The Search and Serve office will screen each contact and make a referral to the most appropriate source of evaluation and services for the child. Requests for screening and referrals are made to appropriate schools, agencies and other resources that will assist the child and receive an assessment and recommendations. The referral could be directed to a speech pathologist, the local school district, the Kern County Superintendent of Schools Office or other educational and community resources.

Kern High School District

Tel:(661) 827-3288

Kern County Superintendent of Schools Office

Tel: (661) 636-4817

Bakersfield City School District

Tel: (661) 631-5863

Sierra Sands Unified School District–SELPA

Please call (760) 375-3923

Kern Regional Center

Serves developmental delayed individuals in Kern, Inyo & Mono Counties.

Tel. (661) 327-8531 X220 or (800) 479-9899

H.E.A.R.T.S. Connection Family Resource Center

Parent to parent support, Mentor Program, Parent Trainings, IEP Clinics, Sibling/Activities, Resource Libraries & Family Social Events.

Meetings are held monthly throughout Kern County for family members and friends. Meetings provide information on organizations, services and opportunities to meet other families to share joys, challenges and information. For more information, please call (661) 328-9055 (800) 210-7633

Other Locations:

Delano (661) 721-0846

Lake Isabella (760) 379-5775

Ridgecrest (760) 375-7332

Tehachapi (661) 823-1972

Caring Corner

Pediatric Day Care for medically fragile children.
(661) 847-7342

Darlyn's Darling

Daycare and respite services for individuals with medical needs from birth to 21 years of age.
(661) 631-2273

Head Start, Kern County

The program address the child's areas of development in a preschool setting. (800) 701-7060

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Henrietta Weill Memorial Child Guidance Clinic

The Henrietta Weill Memorial Child Guidance Clinic provides the services and resources necessary to prevent and treat emotional and behavioral problems for Kern County children and their families. For more information or to make an initial appointment, please call the Child Guidance Clinic at the Bakersfield office at (661) 322-1021 or Delano office (661) 725-1042.

Kern Autism Network (KAN)

A parent group that meets regularly and sponsors a local conference each year that brings well known experts in the field to Bakersfield. Please call Ramona (661) 588-4235

Kern Assistive Technology Center (KATC)

The Center provides access to state of the art equipment and information regarding assistive devices, and evaluations, training with equipment and consultation regarding acquiring devices for differently able individuals in the community. (661) 852-3399

Kern County Special Olympics

The Special Olympics is a grass-roots movement that provides year-round sports training and athletic competition to children and adults with disabilities. (661) 322-7598

Epilepsy Society of Kern County

This program include school and public presentations, employment services, advocacy, car seats and support groups. The Society offers comprehensive educational services like journal articles and videos. Doug or Carlos (661) 634-9810

Arthritis Association of Kern County

Adaptive Aquatics Center

The Arthritis Association Adaptive Aquatics Center operates a year-round indoor pool with an average temperature of 92°. The pool is fully accessible by wheelchair and specially equipped with a ramp, handrails, and lift. Classes offered Monday-Friday from 7:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. and Saturday.

(661) 322-9411

Greater Bakersfield Council of the Blind

A local chapter of California Council of the Blind. They are established to advocate for the rights of, and services to, people in and around the Bakersfield area who are blind or visually impaired.

(661) 322-5234

B-GLAD

Since 1984, B-GLAD provides programs and services and functions as the only local coordinating agency addressing the broad social service needs of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community in Kern County. (661) 327-5652

Mastering Abilities Riding Equines (M.A.R.E.)

M.A.R.E. is a therapeutic horse riding center that provides equine assisted programs to children and adults with physical and mental disabilities.

(661) 589-1877

Society For Disabled Children

Provides speech therapy, summer camp for orthopedically handicapped and hearing impaired children, transportation aide, loan of orthopedic equipment and social activities for physically handicapped youth. (661) 322-5595

Kern County Department of Mental Health

The mission of Kern County Mental Health System of Care is to provide the most effective, culturally appropriate, highest quality combination of treatment and support to persons with mental illness, serious emotional disturbance, and/or addiction. For more information, please call (800) 991-5272.

Kern County Department of Human Services

A service related organization providing aid and services to the children and adults of Kern County including financial and medical aid, food and employment assistance and child welfare services including foster placement, adoption and family reunification. (661) 631-6600

Kern County Department of Public Health

The agency provides an array of services for people of all ages, including emergency medical services, infectious disease control, immunizations, public health labs, drug and alcohol abuse prevention/intervention/treatment, tobacco education, child health screenings/treatment, dental services, home health services, family planning, perinatal services, special services for seniors, AIDS testing/ counseling/education and vital statistics.

(661) 868-0502

California Children Services (CCS)

CCS is a statewide program that treats children with certain physical limitations and chronic health conditions or diseases. CCS can authorize and pay for specific medical services and equipment provided by CCS-approved specialist. (661) 868-0531

Bunko Tournament/Fundraiser

Our second annual Bunko Tournament was held on September 22, 2007. We had about 65 players. Everyone enjoyed a great dinner of tri-tip, beans, salad, and a roll from the Pantry. We had some super raffle items donated. The prizes were terrific this year. Everyone goes home with a gift. The board and staff at H.E.A.R.T.S. Connection would like to thank everyone who attended, donated items and volunteered on that night. We are looking forward to next year's tournament. It will be held on September 27, 2008. The tentative location is the Norris Veteran's hall. Mark your calendar now; you don't want to miss this spectacular event.

We would like to thank the following people and/or businesses that made this event possible.

Crystal Figueroa
Valerie Geary
Bob Barton
Lenora Cleves-Home Town Buffet
Donna Moe-Merrill Lynch
Barry Rosenfeld
Tammera Stoner
Natalie Mallouk
Maddie Dircks
SandyWeeks-Kirk
Rhonda Smith
Darlyn's Darlings
Stinsons
Western Emporium Store
Massage by Shayla
Patti @ Split Ends
Ramona @ Split Ends
Action Sports
David Mensch-Have Music, Will Travel
ShowTime Inflatables
Board and Staff of H.E.A.R.T.S. Connection



H.E.A.R.T.S. Connection is a non-profit organization which is sustained by grants and donations. We appreciate donations of any amount. Check with your tax consultant regarding charitable contributions.

eScrip



Help H.E.A.R.T.S. Connection raise money. Sign up with eScrip. Local eScrip merchants will contribute up to 8% of the purchases you make to our group.

Here's how it works

Group name: H.E.A.R.T.S. Connection

Group ID: 3566241

1. Go to www.escrip.com
2. Click on "sign-up"
3. Register any one or all of your existing grocery loyalty, debit and credit cards for use in the program.
4. Participating merchants will make contributions to your chosen group, based on purchase made by you, just by using the cards you have registered.
5. Your purchases are tracked and available to you on-line, allowing you to see just how much you are contributing to our organization.

Participating Merchants:

Vons
Safeway
Macy's
Big 5
Circuit City
Baja Fresh
Barnes & Noble
Pep Boys Auto
Office Max
Carrows
Coco's

Check the Rewards Network on the eScrip website for hotels and Dining merchants. Many on-line purchases qualify for the eScrip program also.

DECEMBER 2007

H.E.A.R.T.S. Connection FRC
 3101 N. Sillect Ave., Suite 115
 Bakersfield, CA 93308
 (661) 328-9055 or (800) 210-7633

SUN.	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3 Richardson Center IDP Elva X259	4 Richardson Center IDP Elva X259 Dead line to RSVP for Holiday Party by 3:00 p.m.	5	6 Unique Perspectives David 326-0826	7	8 Holiday Party for English & Spanish Support Groups Bakersfield, 0-5 Autism, Arco Iris Down Syndrome & Delano Holiday Party Vivian X292 Elva X259 Ana X257 Isabel 721-0846
9	10 Rafer Johnson IDP Elva X259 Board Meeting Susan X304	11 Rafer Johnson IDP Elva X259 KC FEAT Dale Davies 833-6255 Dian X256 Epilepsy Support Group Larry (760) 376-1606 Rudy 663-7196	12	13 IEP Clinic Dian X254	14 Lake Isabella Support Group Holiday Party Andrea (760) 379-5775 Ridgecrest Support Group Holiday Party Pat (760) 375-7332	15
16	17 Epilepsy Society Tehachapi Meeting Greg 822-7511	18	19 Epilepsy Society Support Groups for Adults & Children Doug 634-9810	20 Tehachapi Support Group Holiday Party Isidra 823-1972	21	22
23	24 H.E.A.R.T.S. Connection Offices Closed Christmas Eve	25 H.E.A.R.T.S. Connection Offices closed Christmas	26 H.E.A.R.T.S. Connection Offices Closed	27 H.E.A.R.T.S. Connection Offices Closed	28 H.E.A.R.T.S. Connection Offices Closed	29
30	31 H.C. Offices Closed for the Holiday	H.E.A.R.T.S. Connection will be closed thru January 2, 2008 for the Holidays. We will reopen Wednesday, January 3, 2008 at 9:30 a.m.				

DETAILS FOR DECEMBER 2007

DECEMBER 3, 2007

Richardson Center IDP
Elva X259

DECEMBER 4, 2007

Richardson Center IDP
Elva X259

Dead Line for Holiday Party
Please RSVP

DECEMBER 6, 2007

☼Unique Perspectives
The support group for High School
Students with Asperger's Syndrome
Please call for location & time.
David 326-0826

DECEMBER 8, 2007

Holiday Party for Both English & Spanish
Support Groups Bakersfield, 0-5, Autism,
Down Syndrome, Arco Iris & Delano
**Must RSVP to make sure that they are
enough gifts for every child & person
with special needs and enough food for
everyone to have a good time. We request
that only immediate family attend this
party due to catering purposes.**
English Time: 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
Spanish Time: 3:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.
Location: Kern County Fire Fighters Hall
3615 Mt. Vernon, Bakersfield Ca., 93306
Elva X259, Vivian X292,
Ana X257, Isabel 721-0846

DECEMBER 10, 2007

Rafer Johnson IDP
Elva X259

DECEMBER 10, 2007 (Cont.)

Board Meeting
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Susan X304

DECEMBER 11, 2007

Rafer Johnson IDP
Elva X259

☼KC FEAT
(Families for Effective Autism Treatment)
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Dale Davies 833-6255
Dian X256

☼Epilepsy Support Group
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Location: 2900 Eye St.
Larry (760) 376-1606
Rudy 663-7196

DECEMBER 13, 2007

IEP Clinic
Must call to reserve time and have attended
an IEP training in the past 12 months.
Appointments available 9:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Dian X256

DECEMBER 14, 2007

Lake Isabella Support Group
Holiday Party & Potluck
Time: 6:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.
Location: H.E.A.R.T.S. Connection
Kern River Valley Youth Center
3640 Golden Spur Ave., Lake Isabella
Andrea (760) 379-5775

**** Unless otherwise noted location is:
3101 N. Sillect Ave., Ste. 115**

DECEMBER 14, 2007 (Cont.)

Ridgecrest Autism Support Group
Holiday Party
Please RSVP
Call for location & time
Pat (760) 375-7332

DECEMBER 17, 2007

☼Epilepsy Society Tehachapi Meeting
Time: 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.
Location: West Park Activity Center
410 West D Street, Tehachapi
Greg Sjostorm 822-7511
www.epilepsysocietykc.org

DECEMBER 19, 2007

☼Epilepsy Society Support Group
Time: 3:30 p.m. for Children
Time: 6:30 p.m. for Adults
Location: 5100 California Ave., Ste. 105
Doug 634-9810
www.epilepsysocietykc.org

DECEMBER 20, 2007

Tehachapi Support Group
Holiday Party
Time: 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Location: H.E.A.R.T.S. Connection
20031 W. Valley Blvd., Tehachapi
Isidra 823-1972

DECEMBER 24, 2007 -JANUARY 2, 2008

H.E.A.R.T.S. Connection Offices
will be closed for the holidays, H.E.A.R.T.S.
Connection will open Wednesday
Jan 3, 2008 at 9:30 a.m.

☼These are not H.E.A.R.T.S. Connection
programs. Provided for your information
only.



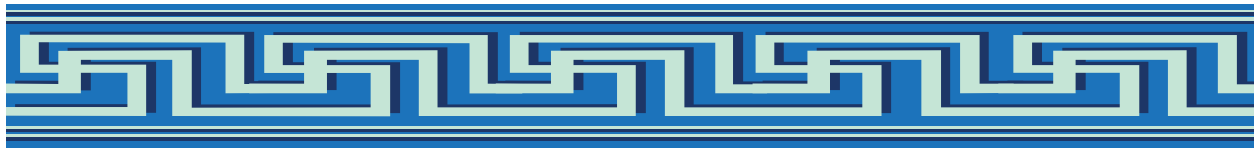
H.E.A.R.T.S. Connection
(Bakersfield Area)

Holiday Party

Families MUST Reserve their place by
December 4, 2007 3:00 p.m.

Call 661-328-9055

Vivian x292, Elva x259,
Ana x257, Isabel 721-0846



H.E.A.R.T.S. Connection
Invites you to attend a
Special Needs Trust Educational Workshop

On
Tuesday, February 5, 2008
6:30 p.m. to 7:45 p.m.
Kern Regional Center Conference Room
3121 N. Sillect Ave., Suite 304
(the new Kern Regional Center Conference Room is
located across the street from Kern Regional Center
and is about 100 yards north of H.E.A.R.T.S. Connection)

Light refreshments will be served

This complimentary Educational Workshop will provide you with the following valuable information that benefits people of all financial levels:

Why you and your child may need a **Special Needs Trust**

How to create a **Special Needs Trust**

An explanation of the difference between a standard and a **Special Needs Trust**

What are the best methods to provide for your child's future financial security, recreational activities and medical care without placing unrealistic burdens on other family members

How to make certain your child remains eligible for state and federal aid

Funding techniques for your **Special Needs Trust**, no matter what your financial level

Guest Presenters:

Richard McBurnie
Attorney-at-law

A past president of the Kern County Bar Association
(Richard has worked tirelessly on behalf of charitable causes in our community)

Barry Rosenfeld
Chartered Life Underwriter, Chartered Financial Consultant &
Chartered Lifetime Assistance Planner
(Barry and his wife Pat have a son with special needs, and are
keenly aware of the challenges parents face)

Please call 328-9055 ext 304 by February 4 to reserve your seat



Recognizing Outstanding Recipients

The Golden Empire Special Education Partnership Conference was held in October at Cal-State Bakersfield. The conference committee and its affiliated agencies gave out awards to outstanding people in the community. Below we have highlighted three outstanding award winners that work closely with H.E.A.R.T.S. Connection.

David Mensch

David Mensch is not only an outstanding role model for people with developmental disabilities he works as an advocate for other people with disabilities through his job at Kern Assistive Technology Center and as a Board member of the Independent Living Center of Kern County. David has also served on the In Home Supported Services Board for Kern County and on a city board that assists people with disabilities gain access to facilities. He and his wife own their own home and they have a son in elementary school. David has not allowed the Cerebral Palsy he was born with to keep him from achieving his goals.

Sandy Weeks-Kirk

Sandy demonstrates leadership abilities daily in her current position as a teacher in the Infant Development Program. She eagerly provides new teacher trainings and continual support to both staff and parents. Sandy is an individual with tremendous energy and enthusiasm. She is a hard worker, reflecting exceptional skills in evaluating student abilities and development. Well versed in the Early Start Program, special education issues and procedures, Sandy is highly regarded by her colleagues and the families she serves. Sandy Weeks-Kirk has a great sense of humor and is always positive about her work.

Tracy Brown

Tracy and Greg Brown are the proud parents of Jacob, Andrew and Michael. Tracy started the BuddyWalk in Bakersfield five years ago with only the help of her family. She was going to school and student teaching during those years. Tracy's inspiration for putting on this event is her son Jacob, who has Down Syndrome. The event has grown every year. The event was held at Golden Valley High School in October this year. Tracy is currently teaching First Grade at Palla Elementary School. Tracy is a member of the Family & Friends of Children with Down Syndrome Support Group. Congratulations to Tracy on receiving the Community Award.

Welcome our New Staff

Danielle Pilkington

My name is Danielle Pilkington and I hold the new position of Resource Development Coordinator at H.E.A.R.T.S. Connection. I started working at H.E.A.R.T.S. Connection in August, and I have been busy with events and activities ever since. I absolutely love it!

I first learned of H.E.A.R.T.S. Connection when I attended an IEP Training. I felt my stepson Dillon, who has ADHD, was not receiving the services he needed for him to learn to the best of his ability.

After attending that IEP Training, and learning how to advocate for my stepson, I knew that I wanted to be involved with this organization. I worked as a volunteer, board member, and Board President. When the position of Resource Development Coordinator opened up, I knew I needed to follow my passion and apply for the job.

Ana Gomez

My name is Ana Gomez and I am the new Resource Specialist at H.E.A.R.T.S. Connection. I got started with H.E.A.R.T.S. by volunteering with anything that was needed. After seeing what a positive impact, H.E.A.R.T.S. was having on families and the community, I decided to become a board member and when a position opened, I decided to apply for the job. Thankfully, I was hired and I could not be happier to come to work each day.

I conduct various support groups, which include the Down Syndrome group, Bakersfield support group, and the Autism support group. I also help organize different functions outside of H.E.A.R.T.S. that also benefit the community.

I have two beautiful children, Alexavier and Brianna. Xavier is 5 years old and was born with Down Syndrome. He is such a joy for me to have in my life. His hobbies are dancing, singing, and going fishing with his dad. The day he caught his first fish at Balch Park was like discovering a new planet for him. He cannot wait to catch his next. Brianna is 15 months old and is a wonderful blessing. Her hobbies include trying to boss her big brother around and getting in to everything. My husband Cory and I are very lucky to have both kids.



Adaptive Aquatics Center
1800 Westwind Drive, #500,
Bakersfield, CA 93301 **(661) 322-9411**


Therapeutic and recreational pool programs for infants, children, teens and adults with special needs.



- Indoor, heated pool at 92°.
- Showers with outlets.
- Lifeguard on duty.
- Kern Regional Center Vendor.

Chateau d' Bakersfield
Day Program for Adults with Special Needs
Independent Living Skills Training
Continuing Education
Health Maintenance
Therapeutic Activities

1011 17th St. Bakersfield, CA 93301
(661) 322-4085



1712 19th Street
Bakersfield, CA 93301
Office (661) 861-6040
Fax (661) 861-6018

Full Circle Support
In Home Respite Care/Family and Educational Advocacy

Debbie McDermott
Owner/CFO

Lisa M. Batty
Owner/CEO

Volunteers Needed

If you are interested in becoming a Foster Grandparent volunteer, working with children who have a developmental disability, please contact:

Melissa Searson, Program Manager
(661) 852-3217
Kern Regional Center


As a volunteer, you will receive:

- ♥ Non-taxable stipend of approximately \$200 per month
- ♥ 40 hours of paid training
- ♥ Paid vacation, sick leave and personal holidays
- ♥ Paid physical exam yearly
- ♥ Transportation allotment
- ♥ Meal allotment
- ♥ Monthly in-service training


The stipend that you receive **does not** affect any of your benefits. As a volunteer, you would work 15-30 hours per week with a child with a developmental disability in a classroom setting.

To qualify, you must be 60 or older and meet income criteria.

Barry Rosenfeld, CLU, ChFC, ChLAP



Special Needs Planning
Business & Estate Planning



Life, Disability & Long Term Care Insurance

1401 19th Street, Suite 125 Office: (661) 327-3733
Bakersfield, CA 93301 (800) 726-9466
CA Lic. #0514701 Fax: (661) 327-3735
Email cbr@etcrier.net

DAYCARE AND
RESPIRE SERVICES



For Individuals with Special Needs

"A Home
Away From
Home"



Developmentally Disabled
Medically Fragile Children
Infancy through 21 years old
Nurse on Duty at All Times

631-CARE
(2273)

4801 Trustun Ave.

**Staff Members of
H.E.A.R.T.S. Connection**

Director
Susan Graham ext. 304
Resource Development
Coordinator
Danielle Pilkington
Family Resource Specialists
Vivian Arreola ext. 292
Elva Darrett ext. 259
Ana Gomez ext. 257
Dian Schneider ext. 256
Andrea Jahn (760) 379-5775
Isidra Hernandez 823-1972
Isabel Santana 721-0846
Pat Walters (760) 375-7332

Receptionist/Librarian
Vicki Slater ext. 282
Kids On The Block
Margaret Hunt ext. 229

Main Phone Number
(661) 328-9055
(800) 210-7633
(661) 328-9940 (fax)

**Newsletter
Committee**

Vivian Arreola Susan Graham
Elva Darrett Vicki Slater

**H.E.A.R.T.S. Support Groups
English Speaking**

Ana Gomez
•Bakersfield
•FFCDS
•Autism
Andrea Jahn
•Lake Isabella
Pat Walters
•Ridgecrest
Isidra
•Tehachapi
•Tehachapi IDP

**H.E.A.R.T.S. Support Groups
English & Spanish Speaking**

Vivian Arreola
•Autism (Spanish Only)
•Arco Iris
Elva Darrett
•0-5 English
•0-5 Spanish
•Rafer Johnson IDP
•Richardson Center IDP
Isabel Santana
•Delano
•Delano IDP

Other Support

Family & Friends of Children
with Down Syndrome
Amy Meadors 834-5979
Kern Autism Network
Ramona 588-4235
Prader Willi Syndrome
Wesley 831-7627
Spina Bifida
Society for Disabled Children
322-5595
Visually Impaired
George 588-2042
Adaptive Aquatics Center
Quita 322-9411
Juvenile Diabetes
Gretchen Daughtery 636-1305
Epilepsy Society
Doug Valdez 634-9810
Ch.A.D.D.
Shelly Banks 872-4219
Sensory Processing Disorders
Jamie Oliver Riddick
205-7451
B-GLAD
TTY (661) 327-5652
V/TTY (661) 327-3781



SAVE THE DATE!

The 2008 Disneyland Resort Community Involvement Program

Families will be able to pick from the following weeks
and will select 1st, 2nd, and 3rd week choice:

January 7th thru 10th
January 13th thru 17th
January 20th thru 24th
January 27th thru 31st

February 3rd thru 7th
February 10th thru 14th
February 19th thru 21st
February 25th thru 28th

Applications will be available through
H.E.A.R.T.S. Connection in Mid-November 2007