



The CONNECTION

“Serving Special Families”

www.heartsfrc.org

DECEMBER 2009

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A Mother’s Story

James and Tammy Reynolds with sons, Matthew and Paul, at Cayucos Beach in July 2009.

It is almost impossible to pin-point exactly when the fear began that our son was developing differently than a “normal” child. Was it at five months, when he would scream if he heard a loud noise? Was it at 17 months, when we noticed he played with his toys differently? Could it have been the strange look our pediatric nurse gave us when, at two years, our son was still not speaking? It was only when we gave word to our fear that our lives were irrevocably changed...autism.

It’s funny how little moments of huge events stay in your memory. I remember getting our son Matthew tested right around his third birthday, the crazy “barter-with-God-to-make-it-all-go-away” feeling as your son is being assessed for a developmental disability, trying diligently to keep your eyes dry and your mind clear. But the memory stays with you, when the man sitting behind the desk says in a cold, cruel, clinical way, “Oh, yeah, he’s autistic.”

For my husband and me, it was a moment we feared and eventually embraced. During that surreal day of diagnosis, someone asked the crucial question that kept us from going over the edge of the abyss--“You have heard of H.E.A.R.T.S. Connection, right?” A brochure was thrust into our hands as we were ushered out the door. It was only later that night, when going through the mountain of paperwork, that we realized someone had thrown us a life preserver.

H.E.A.R.T.S. Connection is a local resource center that supports and educates families of special-needs children. They are also active in educating our community on special needs and acceptance. Help, Encourage, Advocate, Resources, Training, Support...the acronym for H.E.A.R.T.S. For my husband and me, it was a welcome tool to help us help our son. We began our relationship with H.E.A.R.T.S. a few months after our son was diagnosed. We went to our first Parent Support Night and I was anxious to see how other parents of children with autism handled their situation. Since Matthew’s diagnosis, I had learned that autism was one of the fastest-growing developmental disabilities and that one in 150 children are currently being diagnosed. You could imagine my surprise when I walked into the room and there were only a handful of people present for the meeting. I had thought with autism being such a “popular” disability, the room would be packed. My husband and I were greeted warmly and made to feel welcome, and our H.E.A.R.T.S. education began.

When you become a parent, it is hard to describe to someone who is not a parent how your life changes. So it is doubly hard to describe to anyone your lifestyle when your child is diagnosed with special needs. My husband James and I are blessed with not only Matthew, who is now five years old, but also with Paul, who just turned three. For us—and I can only ever speak for my family-

(cont. on p. 2)

(Cont. from p. 1)

we are almost always home. I do not know what other parents with special-needs children's lives are like; I can only imagine their daily struggles and triumphs. With autism, your babysitting offers tend to dry up quickly. Our son does not handle crowds and loud noises well; he cannot sit for long periods of time (but hey, show me a five-year-old who can!) and he has a hard time communicating verbally what his needs are. So we don't get to go as a family to the movies, or out to eat that often--even going to the park requires careful planning. The staff at H.E.A.R.T.S. understands this and gives us the tools to work around our needs.

When they contact us, it is to see how we are doing as a family. They remember our son and genuinely care about how we are doing. When we attend a family support group, we are cushioned in the bosom of compassion and gentle strength to help us over the inevitable hurdles we have to face. What I love about the staff is how innovative they are with parent suggestions. Our son has dietary restrictions that are pretty common with an autism diagnosis. So they will bring in a guest speaker to educate the parents on nutrition and how the body reacts to different nutrients. They encourage parents to connect socially and advocate for one another. The staff at H.E.A.R.T.S. works very hard to make our children feel included rather than excluded. They educate themselves on toys and other tools to stimulate our children. They attend conferences and encourage parents to learn as much as they can about their child's disability. They have the largest library in the state dedicated to empowering parents and caregivers to be better equipped to leap over the daily hurdles that their child's disability presents. These are miracle workers disguised as parent advocates. Whenever I leave a support meeting, I always feel better about the job I am doing for my children, and that makes this group of people invaluable to our community.

It has been two years since our relationship with H.E.A.R.T.S. Connection began, and we are a stronger family because of it. I look at my son Matthew and I am full of pride at the barriers he has overcome. He is such a beautiful boy, full of ideas and personality. He keeps his kindergarten teacher, Ms. Krystin, on her toes at Discovery Elementary. He is active in gymnastics. He is a super-fast runner and plays hockey and baseball. He is an amazing little boy. His little brother Paul thinks he is fearless and wants to be just like "Matty."

When our friends and family ask my husband and me what it is like to live with autism, we tell them that we are blessed. And we mean it. We have two smart, beau-

tiful little boys that we love more than anything. Sometimes I genuinely feel sad for parents who don't have a special-needs child. We appreciate all of the little moments that may get taken for granted with a neurotypical child. I wonder if every parent remembers the first time their child spoke and what the word was? For us it was October 14th, 2007. On a family walk, Matthew pointed to the sky and said "moon." Can every parent tell you when their child first said "I love you?" July 9, 2008. It still gives me chills thinking about it.

We have no illusions about our life. Autism does not go away for us. This is a lifestyle you cannot prepare for. We are by no means beaten or complacent. We continue to push our son to experience life. We still go to watch hockey games, to Dodger stadium to cheer on our favorite team, to the ocean, a favorite spot for our boys. We try to go to local restaurants and department stores, but it is very hard. If you hear a child screaming in the aisle, please be patient and understanding; we are trying to expose our children to being out in the community and good behavior. H.E.A.R.T.S. helps us in times like these, encouraging us to grow with our children, to try to experience life through their eyes. It is in partnership with H.E.A.R.T.S. that our family is doing so well. Every day is a new adventure, some of it great and some of it bad but always an adventure. H.E.A.R.T.S. is there, cheering us on, through all the obstacles that we as a family overcome.

by Tammy Reynolds



H.E.A.R.T.S. Connection would like to hear your family's story. We want to compile a collection of stories from the agency's first 20 years for an anniversary publication. Please send your story, along with photographs, to Anna Murillo at H.E.A.R.T.S. Connection, 3101 N. Sillect Ave. Suite 115, Bakersfield CA 93308, or by e-mail to anna_murillo@heartsfrc.org.

From the President

Hello, I am Cathy Elder, President of the H.E.A.R.T.S. Connection Board of Directors. I have lots of new ideas for H.E.A.R.T.S., but they cannot come about unless we are truly partners with the families we serve. I hope to increase our partnership with the Hispanic community and other communities as well.

Please write down my phone numbers and call me with any questions, concerns, complaints or ideas. My cell is 661-345-8565 and my home phone number is 661-397-8339. We at H.E.A.R.T.S. need volunteers and fresh ideas. We welcome your input. If you would like a tour or just time to come by and meet the staff, give me a call. I want to get to know your family.

From the Director....

Can you believe that 2009 is almost over? The year 2010 is a very special year for H.E.A.R.T.S. Connection. It is our 20th year of service to families in Kern County. We have many activities scheduled during the year to celebrate our anniversary. On March 25, 2010, we will host the Wrightslaw Conference at the Doubletree Hotel in Bakersfield. Pete Wright has not presented in California for a few years. The conference is a unique opportunity for you to learn more about Special Education Law and your child's rights. It will also give you a chance to meet other parents and professionals from all over California.

We are planning a sibling event in the summer and a grand celebration in September. More event details will be coming in future mailings and newsletters. Don't miss out on the celebration; we will have family events and educational events.

We evaluate our programs each year. If you have suggestions for improving the services that we provide, I would love to hear from you. We want to service the families, not just have programs.

Consider a Gift to 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.

Wish List

Polycom Conference Call Equipment
42" flat-screen TV (for training room)
Donations to purchase refreshments for support group meetings

Thank You

H.E.A.R.T.S. Connection says thanks to our supporters:

Fall Festival held on September 19, 2009.

Active 20/30 Club #27
Chateau d' Bakersfield
Kohls
Grocery Store Outlet
Fresh & Easy on Olive Drive
Kern Autism Network
Von's
Costco
Sam's Club
Albertsons
Bakersfield Shrine Club
Nick Stobach

BUNKO Tournament held on November 7, 2009.

CC&M Truck Service
Sheila Lake
Champion Hand Cleaner
Barber Honda
Mylissa Waclawski
Craig Jensen
Margaret Johns
Tami Stoner
La Dolce Vita Salon & Spa
Shirley Nichols
Agnes Lopez
Jennifer Adams
Santee Fry
Natalie Mallouk
Sandy Weeks-Kirk
Jim & Sharon Boen
Donna Moe
Cathy Elder
Darlyn's Darlings

Bakersfield Buddy Walk held on October 24, 2009.

H.E.A.R.T.S. Connection
TNT Entertainment
Bakersfield East Rotary Club
Bakersfield North Rotary Club
Fred & Yvonne Brown
Don & Cathy Prince
Greg & Tracy Brown

Buddy Walk Volunteers

H.E.A.R.T.S. Connection
West High School Interact Club
Centennial High School Interact Club
Men's Active 20/30 Club
Women's Active 20/30 Club
U.S. Young Marines
U.S. Navy ROTC

**Check out these Books at our
Bakersfield Library**

Autism and Asperger Syndrome: Preparing for Adulthood
by Patricia Howlin

This book reviews what is known about adults with autism in terms of their social functioning, educational and occupational status. It focuses mainly on the problems experienced by high-functioning people with autism, and those working with and caring for them.

Crossing Bridges: A Parent's Perspective on Coping after a Child is Diagnosed with Autism/PDD by Viki Satkiewicz Gayhardt, Barbara Peerenboom & Roxanne Campbell, R.N.

This is a guidebook for parents whose child is newly diagnosed with autism/PPD by parents who have been there.

Could It Be Autism? by Nancy D. Wiseman

If you have questions or concerns about your child's social, emotional, communication, or behavioral development, you're not alone. *Could It Be Autism?* provides vital information so you can recognize the red flags of developmental delays and begin treatment based on those first signs.

A Regular Guy: Growing Up with Autism by Laura Shumaker

A family's story of love and acceptance.

Ridgecrest

For those of you with questions regarding Social Security benefits, a Social Security Representative can now be seen in your area. On the third Thursday of the month, a representative will be available from 9:30 a.m. to noon at the Kerr McGee Center. You may contact City Parks & Recreation at 760-499-5151, or the Social Security Office at 1-800-772-1213 for more information.

Looking for something to do with your little ones? The public library in Ridgecrest currently conducts story time hour on Thursdays at 12:30 p.m., geared for children ages two to seven. Children and parents alike are invited to gather around the librarian and listen as she reads popular books such as *My Sister Ate One Hair* and *Leonardo, the Terrible Monster*. Story time gives children the perfect opportunity to practice their listening skills, while at the same time stimulating their imagination.

The Ridgecrest Public Library is located at 131 E. Las Flores Avenue in Ridgecrest.

**Check it out! New items at H.E.A.R.T.S.
Library in Lake Isabella!**

The H.E.A.R.T.S. Connection Library in Lake Isabella has just received copies of some great new books and videos. Among the new items is the DVD, *Autism is a World*. This amazing documentary is about Sue Rubin, who is Autistic. Sue was diagnosed and treated as mentally retarded until the age of 13, when she began to communicate with a keyboard. Now she is a junior in college. This film has been honored with numerous awards, including a 2004 Academy Award nomination for Documentary Short Subject.

The book, *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down*, explores the clash between a refugee family from Laos and doctors in Merced over the care of their daughter, diagnosed with severe Epilepsy. Both the doctors and the little girl's parents wanted what was best for her, but the lack of understanding between them led to heartbreak. This book is the winner of the National Book critics Award for Nonfiction.

Please visit our library to check out these items or any of our other items. The library is open every Thursday from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. and by appointment on the other days of the week.

Holiday Happenings in Delano

Come celebrate the holidays with us! On December 18, the H.E.A.R.T.S. Connection office in Delano will hold its Annual Holiday Party from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Kids of all ages will have the opportunity to have their picture taken with Santa while asking him to deliver that special gift they're wishing for. There will be a D.J. playing music throughout the evening, so wear your dancing shoes! Please call Isabel at 661-328-9055 for details.

The Community Connection Center is now accepting referrals and applications for Christmas Food Baskets. The baskets will be distributed on December 8, at Armory Hall. Please call Claudia Molina at 661-721-7036 for more information.



DECEMBER 2009

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 Autism Support Group Holiday Party Ana X257	3 Unique Perspectives David 326-0826	4 Ridgecrest Autism & ADHD Support Groups Holiday Party Pat (760) 375-7332 Delano IDP Isabel 721-0846	5
6	7 Richardson Center IDP Ivette X259	8 Richardson Center IDP Ivette X259 Epilepsy Support Group Larry (760) 376-1606 Rudy 663-7196	9	10 IEP Clinic Dian X256 Wasco IDP Isabel 721-0846	11 Lake Isabella Support Group Holiday Party Andrea (760) 379-5775	12 Kern Autism Network "Adult Support Group" Ramona 588-4235
13	14 Rafer Johnson IDP Ivette X259	15 Rafer Johnson IDP Ivette X259 Holiday Party for English & Spanish Support Groups 0-5, Autism, Arco Iris, Arvin/Lamont & Down Syndrome Holiday Party Elva X292 Ivette X259 Ana X257 Epilepsy Society Support Groups for Adults & Children Doug 634-9810	16	17 Ch.A.D.D. Danielle X222	18 Delano Support Group Holiday Party Isabel 721-0846	19
20	21 MDA Support Group Barbara 364-5717	22	23	24 H.E.A.R.T.S. Connection Offices Closed	25 H.E.A.R.T.S. Connection Offices Closed	26
27	28 H.E.A.R.T.S. Connection Offices Closed	29 H.E.A.R.T.S. Connection Offices Closed	30 H.E.A.R.T.S. Connection Offices Closed	H.E.A.R.T.S. Connection will be closed from Wednesday December 24, 2009 thru January 1, 2010 for the Holidays. We will reopen Monday, January 4, 2010		

DETAILS FOR DECEMBER 2009

December 2

Autism Support Group
Holiday Party RSVP
Ana X257

December 3

☼Unique Perspectives
The support group for high school students with Asperger's Syndrome. Please call for location & time.
David 326-0826

December 4

Ridgecrest Autism & ADHD Support Groups
Holiday Party
Please call for location and time
Pat (760) 375-7332

Delano IDP

Isabel 721-0846

December 7

Richardson Center IDP
Ivette X259

December 8

Richardson Center IDP
Ivette X259

☼Epilepsy Support Group
Time: 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m.
Location: 2900 Eye St. Bakersfield (Kern Adult Program)
Larry (760) 376-1606 Rudy 663-7196

Deadline to RSVP for Dec. 15 Holiday Party

**** Unless otherwise noted location is:**

**3101 N. Sillect Ave., Ste. 115
Bakersfield, CA 93308**

December 10

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

Wasco IDP

Isabel 721-0846

December 11

Lake Isabella Support Group
Holiday Party & Potluck
Time: 6:00 p.m.-8:00 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

December 12

☼Kern Autism Network
"Adults on the Spectrum" Support Group
Participant must be 18 years and older and need to be able to share within a group setting. Reservations are required.
Time: 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Location Buena Vista Museum
2018 Chester Avenue, Bakersfield
Ramona 588-4235-kernautism@gmail.com

December 14

Rafer Johnson
Ivette X259

December 15

Rafer Johnson
Ivette X259

☼Epilepsy Society Support Group
Time: 3:30 p.m. for children
6:30 p.m. for adults
Location: 5717 Office Park Drive
Doug 634-9810

December 15 cont.

Holiday Party for both English & Spanish Support Groups Bakersfield, 0-5, Autism, Down Syndrome and Arco Iris
Must RSVP to make sure that there are enough gifts for every child and 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 expense.
Elva X292, Ivette X259, Ana X257

December 17

☼Ch.A.D.D. (Children & Adults with Attention Deficit Hyper Active Disorder) Support Group.
Time: 6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m.
Danielle X222

December 18

Delano Support Group
Holiday Party
Time: 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.
Call for location
Isabel 721-0846

December 21

☼MDA Support Group
Topic: MDA Research Update
Time: 5:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.
Location: 1400 Easton Dr., Ste. 147
Barbara 364-5717

DECEMBER 24, 2009- JANUARY 1, 2010

H.E.A.R.T.S. Connection Offices will be closed for the holidays. We will reopen Monday, Jan 4, 2010 at 9:30 a.m.

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



Save the Date!

4th Conference in Spanish

**Celebración de Familias
Excepcionales**

Saturday, May 15, 2010

**IEP
WORKSHOP
in Spanish
SATURDAY
January 16, 2010
9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
H.E.A.R.T.S. Connection
3101 N. Sillect Avenue
Limited seating so please call
to reserve your spot
Elva 328-9055 X292**

Preparing For the H1N1 Virus

A Pandemic Is Declared

On June 11, 2009, the [World Health Organization](#) (WHO) declared that a global pandemic of the 2009 H1N1 virus was underway. This declaration was a reflection of the spread of the new H1N1 virus, not the severity of illness caused by the virus. At the time, more than 70 countries had reported cases of the H1N1 virus infection and there were ongoing community-level outbreaks of the H1N1 virus in multiple parts of the world.

Given ongoing H1N1 virus activity to date, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) anticipates that there will be more cases, more hospitalizations and more deaths associated with this pandemic in the United States over the winter and into the spring. The H1N1 virus, in conjunction with regular seasonal influenza viruses, poses the potential to cause significant illness with associated hospitalizations and deaths during the U.S. influenza season.

The H1N1 Flu in Humans

Human infections with H1N1 virus are ongoing in the United States. Most people who have become ill with this new virus have recovered without requiring medical treatment. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) routinely works with states to collect, compile and analyze information about influenza, and has done the same for the new H1N1 virus since the beginning of the outbreak.

The 2009 H1N1 virus is contagious and is spreading from human to human. The spread of the H1N1 virus is thought to occur in the same way that seasonal flu spreads.

Flu viruses are spread mainly from person to person through coughing or sneezing by people with influenza. Sometimes people may become infected by touching something—such as a surface or object—with flu viruses on it and then touching their mouth or nose.

What are the signs and symptoms of this virus in people?

The symptoms of the H1N1 virus in people include fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue. Some people may have vomiting and diarrhea. People who may be infected with the H1N1 virus could also have respiratory symptoms without a fever. Severe illnesses and deaths have occurred as a result of illness associated with this virus.

The H1N1 virus has ranged from mild to severe. While most people who have been sick with the H1N1 virus have recovered without needing medical treatment,

Certain populations are at “high risk” of serious complications if infected with the H1N1 virus. Children younger than five years old, pregnant women, and people of any age with certain chronic medical conditions are a greater risk. And while people 65 and older are the least likely to be infected with the H1N1 virus, if they get sick, they are also considered to be at high risk of developing serious complications.

At this time 70 percent of people who have been hospitalized with the H1N1 virus have had one or more medical conditions that have placed them at high risk of serious H1N1 virus-related complications.

What can I do to protect myself from getting sick?

This season, there is a vaccine to protect against the H1N1 virus. The H1N1 vaccine is the first and most important step in protecting against infection. There are also everyday actions that can help prevent the spread of germs that cause the virus.

Take these everyday steps to protect your health:

- ♥ Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- ♥ Wash your hands often with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub.
- ♥ Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread this way.
- ♥ Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
- ♥ If you are sick with H1N1 virus-like symptoms, [the Center for Disease Control recommends that you stay home for at least 24 hours after your fever is gone](#) except to get medical care or for other necessities. (Your fever should be gone without the use of a fever-reducing medicine.) Keep away from others as much as possible to keep from making others sick.

People at High-Risk of Developing H1N1 Virus Complications

Most people who get the H1N1 virus will have mild illness, will not need medical care or antiviral drugs, and will recover in less than two weeks. Some people, however, are more likely to have complications that may result in being hospitalized and occasionally result in death. The H1N1 virus may also make chronic health problems worse.

(Cont. on p 8)

(cont. from p. 7)

The list below includes the groups of people more likely to have H1N1 virus-related complications if they contract the virus.

- ♥ Children younger than five, but especially children younger than two years old
- ♥ Adults 65 years of age and older
- ♥ [Pregnant women](#)
- ♥ People who have:
 - Cancer
 - Blood disorders (including sickle cell disease)
 - Chronic lung disease [such as [asthma](#) or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)]
 - [Diabetes](#)
 - [Heart disease](#)
 - Kidney disorders
 - Liver disorders
 - Neurological disorders (such as epilepsy, cerebral palsy, brain or spinal cord injuries, moderate to profound intellectual disability, mental retardation, or developmental delay)
 - Neuromuscular disorders (such as muscular dystrophy and multiple sclerosis)
 - Weakened immune systems (such as people with [HIV or AIDS](#) or who are on medications that weaken the immune system)

What are “emergency warning signs” that should signal anyone to seek medical care urgently?

In children:

- Fast breathing or trouble breathing
- Bluish skin color
- Not drinking enough fluids
- Not waking up or not interacting
- Being so irritable that the child does not want to be held
- Flu-like symptoms improve but then return with fever and worse cough
- Fever with a rash

In adults:

- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- Pain or pressure in the chest or abdomen
- Sudden dizziness
- Confusion
- Severe or persistent vomiting

This article was compiled using information from www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/groups.htm

Defining Measurable Annual Goals

What do you want the student to know or be able to do in 12 months as a result of this IEP? Is this information measurable / observable? What will you observe? (The annual goal - "Increase study skills for academic success" is not measurable. However, the statement "The student will demonstrate the following study skills: skimming written material and the use of reference materials in the social studies class" is measurable and observable.)

Does the goal have meaning for the parents? For other IEP members who will be working with this student? If you used jargon, do you provide additional information somewhere else? For example, some of you state that the goal will be achieved by reaching a Standard Score of 85, or increase expressive communication by greater or equal to .5 Standard deviation. If you use this terminology, either your goal or your objectives need to describe what the student will accomplish when he/she reaches that standard score or standard deviation.

Present Level of Educational Performance:

- ♥ What do you want the student to know or be able to do in 12 months, and why can't he /she do it now? In other words, how does the disability affect the student's progress?
- ♥ What can he / she do now? What is the actual starting point for each area of need? What are the current skills / knowledge?
- ♥ If, in nine weeks, you have to describe the student's progress in this area of need, what kind of information will you be able to provide?

Short term objectives and benchmarks

- ♥
- ♥ Are the objectives / benchmarks clear, observable steps that will advance the student from the "Present Level of Educational Performance" to the "Measurable annual goals"?
- ♥ Is each objective measurable?
- ♥ Is each objective / benchmark a major milestone or other obvious marker along the path from "Present Level of Educational Performance" to the "Measurable annual goals"?

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Interested in learning call
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 @
 (661) 589-3375
 (661) 599-0503 Vendorized thru Kern Regional #P63080

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 Email cbr@etcrier.net

H.E.A.R.T.S. Connection does not endorse any particular agency or service. Regional Center services are based on an individual's needs and the issues identified in their IPP document.

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

Director

Susan Graham X304

Resource Development Coordinator

Danielle Pilkington X222

Family Resource Specialists

Elva Darrett X292

Ana Gomez X257

Ivette Quiroz X259

Dian Schneider X256

Andrea Jahn (760) 379-5775

Isabel Santana (661) 721-0846

Pat Walters (760) 375-7332

Cal City (760) 373-7004

Receptionist/Librarian

Vicki Slater X282

Kids On The Block Coordinator

Anna Murillo X229

Main Phone Numbers

(661) 328-9055

(800) 210-7633

(661) 328-9940 (fax)

Newsletter

Committee

Susan Graham Elva Darrett

Vicki Slater Anna Murillo

Danielle Pilkington

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

Ana Gomez

•Arvin/Lamont

•FFCDS

•Autism

Andrea Jahn

•Lake Isabella

Pat Walters

•Ridgecrest & Cal City

(661) 823-1972

•Tehachapi

•Tehachapi IDP

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

Elva Darrett

•Autism (Spanish Only)

•Arco Iris

Ivette Quiroz

•0-5 English

•0-5 Spanish

•Rafer Johnson IDP

•Richardson Center IDP

Isabel Santana

•Delano

•Delano IDP

•Wasco IDP

•FFCDS

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

Allison Thomas 636-1305

Epilepsy Society

Doug Valdez 634-9810

Ch.A.D.D.

Cindy Chapman 393-7918

Sensory Processing Disorders

Jamie Chavarria

205-7451

B-GLAD

TTY (661) 327-5652

V/TTY (661) 327-3781

***H.E.A.R.T.S. Connection's Annual
Holiday Party!!!
(Bakersfield Area)***



Tuesday, December 15, 2009

6:00-9:00 p.m.

Families MUST make

Reservations by

Monday, December 7, 2009

Please call 328-9055

Elva X292, Ana X257.

Ivette X259, Vicki X282

Dian X256

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Fee includes:

- ♥ Two books on special education law and advocacy (\$50.00 value)
- ♥ CA Special Education Regulations
- ♥ Breakfast, Lunch, Snacks
- ♥ Free parking

Cancellations:

- ♥ All cancellations must be made in writing.
- ♥ Cancellation will be accepted until February 26 and refunds will be given minus a \$20.00 administrative charge. After this time, no refunds will be given.

Hotel Accommodations

H.E.A.R.T.S. Connection has negotiated special rates for conference attendees at the Doubletree Hotel. Please make your reservation as soon as possible by contacting the hotel(s) directly. You must mention WRIGHTSLAW to get the special group rate.

DoubleTree Hotel
3100 Camino Del Rio Court
Bakersfield, California, USA, 93308
1-661-323-7111

Questions:

Call H.E.A.R.T.S. Connection at (661) 328-9055 or (800) 210-7633 between 9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

You can register on-line at www.heartsfrc.org using credit card or PayPal. You can also pay in person by check at our office or mail your registration form (**postmarked before Feb. 26, 2010**) with a check to:

Attn: Danielle Pilkington
H.E.A.R.T.S. Connection
3101 N. Sillect Ave., Suite 115
Bakersfield, CA 93308



H.E.A.R.T.S. Connection
Family Resource & Empowerment Center
Presents

Special Education Law and Advocacy
Training
by Pete Wright Esq.

March 25, 2010
8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Doubletree Hotel
3100 Camino Del Rio Court
Bakersfield, CA

Conference Information

Presentation will focus on four areas:
Special education law, rights and responsibilities
Tests and measurements to measure progress & regression
SMART IEPs
Introduction to tactics & strategies for effective advocacy

Introducing our speaker:

Pete Wright is an experienced and well-respected attorney whose law practice is devoted to assisting children with disabilities and their parents. He argued and won a landmark special education case before the U.S. Supreme Court. His determination to help children grow out of his own education experiences.

Pete and his wife Pam are the authors of *Wrightslaw: IDEA 2004* and *From Emotions To Advocacy: The Special Education Survival Guide*. Registrants will receive copies of both books for use during the conference sessions.

If you require special accommodations, please call the office.

Wrightslaw REGISTRATION FORM

Name (s) _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____
Phone (h) _____ (w) _____
Email _____
(requested by Wrightslaw)

I am registering as a: (please circle)
Parent Educator
Advocate Attorney
Other _____

Total Enclosed _____
Individual Registration before 1/29/2010 \$100
Individual Registration after 1/29/2020 \$125

Couple Registration before 1/29/2010 \$175
Couple Registration before 1/29/2010 \$200
Couple Registration only receives one set of books.

CEU Requested _____ CLU Requested _____
Fees required for both.