



ParentsCAN Advocate

Parent-Child Advocacy Network

Volume 3, Issue 3

SUMMER 2007

OUR MISSION

ParentsCAN empowers families of children with disabilities to become successful advocates for their unique needs.

OUR CENTER

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From Our Director ...

Grand Traditions Celebrates Grandparents!

Did you know that 6.3% of all children under 18 are living with grandparents? This represents a 30% increase from 1990 to 2000. According to the U.S. census, in California the numbers are even higher; 6.8% are living with grandparents, and another 3.5% are living with other relatives. Approximately half are living with grandparents without either parent present.

Whether the grandparents are totally responsible for their grandchildren, or are there to provide love, affection and support alongside mom and dad, grandparents play a significant and vital role in the lives of our children. Grandparents often are the foundation of healthy families.

Grandparents of children with disabilities play a large part in the acceptance of the child with special needs. In Napa County there is an estimated 100-150 such children whose grandparents help sustain the family in their quest to provide the needed treatment and services, often at a high financial and emotional cost. The acceptance and support by the extended family can be the difference in whether or not a family with special needs stays together.

ParentsCAN wants to celebrate the powerful and generous grandparents of Napa County who make the difference for so many children.

On September 8, National Grandparents Weekend, ParentsCAN will hold its 2nd annual fundraiser, **Grand Traditions: In Celebration of Grandparents**. We will honor all grandparents that evening and make a presentation of "Grandparent of the Year" to Vera Trincherro Torres, who has been a vital grandparent in her own family, and also has been a foundation and ongoing support to so many worthy projects for the benefit of children in Napa County.

In addition to the "Grandparent of the Year" award, we will hear from Dr. Arthur Kornhaber who will return to speak on "Grandparent Power II". This year we have added "the arts" to our celebration featuring five well known local artists who are offering their original works in the theme of "grandparents and family" for bid on our silent auction. Jessel Miller has provided us with her original art work entitled "Parents CAN" painted especially for this event, which will be auctioned that evening. Visit our website www.parentscan.org to see the original art.

We hope all of you will join us in celebrating the love, sacrifices and joys of the grandparents of Napa Valley. Call 253-7444 to receive an invitation by mail.

Joan Lockhart



Back to School!

This issue is stuffed like a backpack with information and help for the new school year!



ParentsCAN is revamping several of our support groups. Replies to a recent needs and interest survey of families being served by ParentsCAN is helping to shape the focus of our support groups.

Topic ideas from parents include: teaching social skills, dealing with acting out behavior, and support for other children in the family. The topics will be woven into a new format of support series, with 6-8 meetings per support group series. Parents and professionals will share information that applies to families' special disability needs. There will be plenty of time for personal sharing as well. We are working hard to bring to parents what will most benefit their family. Let us hear from you—send us an email or give us a call!



KICK OFF INFO!

CHALLENGING BEHAVIORS

2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 7:00—8:30 p.m.
ParentsCAN Resource Center

Kick Off Night: Wed., September 12 at 7:00 p.m.

Some of the topics we'll be covering:
Home/School relationships, socialization

SCHOOLUTIONS!

2nd Tuesday of every month,
Noon -1:30 p.m.
ParentsCAN Resource Center

Kick Off: Tues., September 11 at noon

Make this school year your child's best yet and get school solutions—*Schoolutions!*

This is a lunch-hour learning opportunity for parents focusing on solutions at school for physical, emotional, cognitive & health needs.



AUTISM SUPPORT GROUP

Meets 2nd Thursdays, 9:00—10:00 a.m.
ParentsCAN Resource Center

Kick Off: Thurs., September 13 at 9:00 a.m.

GRANDPARENTING

A monthly gathering for grandparents raising their special needs grandchildren.

Kick Off: We're celebrating Grandparents' Week! Join us Mon., September 10 from 10:00—11:30 a.m.

for tea & cookies, conversation & support.



We will also plan our calendar of monthly meeting times.

AMERICAN CANYON

Watch for details of Schoolutions coming to AmCan soon, as well as the fall start up of our Spanish support group.

SEPTEMBER 2007

- 4 Spanish-IEP Workshop, ParentsCAN, 10-11:30 am
- 6 Spanish-Napa Park Homes, 10:30 am-noon
- 7 Spanish-St. Helena Family Center, 10 am-noon
- 10 Grandparent Tea/Support Group, ParentsCAN, 10-11:30 am
- 11 Schoolutions, ParentsCAN, noon-1:30 pm
- 12 Challenging Behaviors, ParentsCAN, 7-8:30 pm
- 13 Autism Support Group, ParentsCAN, 9-10 am
- 17 Spanish-Puertas Abiertas Resource Center, 10 am-noon
- 21 Spanish-Stonebridge Apts, St. Helena, 6-8 pm
- 26 Challenging Behaviors, ParentsCAN, 7-8:30 pm
- 29 Spanish-General Disabilities, ParentsCAN, 10 am-noon

OCTOBER 2007

- 1 Spanish-IEP Workshop, ParentsCAN, 10-11:30 am
- 4 Spanish-Napa Park Homes, 10:30 am-noon
- 5 Spanish-St. Helena Family Center, 10 am-noon
- 8 Grandparents Support Group, ParentsCAN, 10-11:30 am
- 9 Schoolutions, ParentsCAN, noon-1:30 pm
- 10 Challenging Behaviors, ParentsCAN, 7-8:30 pm
- 11 Autism Support Group, ParentsCAN, 9-10 am
- 15 Spanish-Puertas Abiertas Resource Center, 10 am-noon
- 19 Spanish-Stonebridge Apts, St. Helena, 6-8 pm
- 24 Challenging Behaviors, ParentsCAN, 7-8:30 pm
- 27 Spanish-General Disabilities, ParentsCAN, 10 am-noon

NOVEMBER 2007

- 1 Spanish-Napa Park Homes, 10:30 am-noon
- 2 Spanish-St. Helena Family Center, 10 am-noon
- 5 Spanish-IEP Workshop, ParentsCAN, 10-11:30 am
- 8 Autism Support Group, ParentsCAN, 9-10 am
- 12 Grandparents Support Group, ParentsCAN, 10-11:30 am
- 13 Schoolutions, ParentsCAN, noon-1:30 pm
- 14 Challenging Behaviors, ParentsCAN, 7-8:30 pm
- 16 Spanish-Stonebridge Apts, St. Helena, 6-8 pm
- 19 Spanish-Puertas Abiertas Resource Center, 10 am-noon
- 24 Spanish-General Disabilities, ParentsCAN, 10 am-noon
- 28 Challenging Behaviors, ParentsCAN, 7-8:30 pm

Support Group Locations:

ParentsCAN: 3299 Claremont Way, Ste. 3, Napa

Napa Park Homes: 790 Lincoln Avenue, Napa

Puertas Abiertas Resource Center: 592 Napa Street, Napa

Another local support group and resource for families of children with Autism:

SOAR... Sharing Our Autism Resources

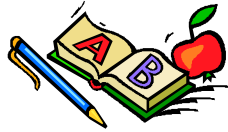


Meets 2nd Thursday evenings from 7-9 p.m. at
First Five Financial Plaza, 2nd Floor.
Drop in, various topics, and support.

Facilitator: Keri Horan 255-4907 or 738-8956.

Napa Valley Unified School District Special Education Dept.

Written by Adam Stein, Director



The 2007-08 school year finds us with a new Coordinator coming to us most recently from Sonoma County and Southern California just before that. Anne LaLonde-Berg has a strong background working with children with Autism. She is replacing Linda Barbour-Kambe who recently retired from the district. Please join us in welcoming Anne and helping her get oriented to the needs of Napa Valley.

This year the Special Education department is focusing on several big events. First, we are going through a Self Review, the process by which the state analyzes our programs for compliance with state and federal law. We will be selecting a random sampling of files and spending time conducting assessments of them. The first round of this process is intended to be completed by the end of September with a final round to be completed by the Winter Break. We are required to do a review every four years or so.

Second, we are initiating our first model program for children with Autism at Snow Elementary. This program is the result of the work of our Autism Task Force in conjunction with the Special Education Dept. We will begin with the existing classrooms at Snow and over the course of this year provide specific training and support for the teachers and staff there. We have secured five dedicated days of training for our staff in relation to working with this population this fall and hope to set up some more training in the spring. We hope that by the end of this year, we will have a solid, research based instructional program at Snow. The Autism Task Force will continue its work as we seek to develop programs at the middle and high school level as well.

Third, we are looking at implementing the Response to Intervention model within NVUSD. The effect of this on most of our students in special education is that they will be receiving high quality instruction based on the same standards for curriculum that all of our general education students receive. The idea is that all of our students are general education students first and thus they deserve the same support and quality instruction as their typical peers. This is a relatively new concept in American education and there are many people studying it to see how it will work. We are getting support of some national experts in implementing this program.

Fourth, NVUSD is implementing some new and different models of delivering speech and language services. This was brought about by the nationwide shortage of speech therapists and the realization that we need to change how we provide these services. The result is that we have some dedicated staff time this year looking at both improving the quality of service to our students with speech and language needs and reducing the case loads for our therapists. It's being done around the country and we are excited to be pushing some new initiatives forward that will improve the quality of interventions for our kids. Finally, the NVUSD Special Education Department is starting the year with renewed energy towards building great services and supports for our students. We are looking forward to a wonderful year.

Back To School Website Help:

Click Here!



Here we go with "back to school" information and special tips from some informative websites. If you need help, support or ideas for back to school and have access to the internet, you can click your way to information at these suggested sites. And don't forget: **[www.parentscan.org!](http://www.parentscan.org)**

www.4children.org (English & Spanish)

Action Alliance for Children. Resources for policy makers, children's service providers and advocates, and the media. Articles in the following topic areas: advocacy, books, childcare, early childhood education, child development, health, parent leadership and family support, school age children, violence prevention, welfare/family income/poverty.

www.schwablearning.org

Schwab Learning. A parent's guide to helping children with learning disabilities. Highlights include identifying learning disabilities, successful people with LD or AD/HD, parent to parent message board. Their website for kids 8-12 years old with learning disabilities:

www.sparktop.org for both information and fun.

www.disabilitysolutions.org/newsletters

Disability Solutions is a free publication for families and others interested in Down syndrome and developmental disabilities. It is part of Creating Solutions, a project of The San Francisco Foundation Community Initiative Funds. Current issue includes "Communicating Means Success", "Special Education: A Parent's Guide for a Child's Success" and more. Includes back issues with a search feature.

www.arccalifornia.org

The Arc of California: Advocacy – Respect – Commitment. General disability information. Advocacy for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

MENTAL HEALTH WEBSITES:



www.networkofcare.org

(English & Spanish)

Network of Care for Behavioral Health for individuals, families and agencies concerned with mental health. It provides information about mental health services, laws, related news and more.

www.apahelpcenter.org (English) -

www.centrodeapoyoapa.org (Spanish)

American Psychologist Association. Mental health articles such as "Healthy Minds and Bodies", "The Road to Resilience", "Warning Signs of Youth Violence" and "Painful Shyness in Children and Adults".



Response to Intervention

When Congress reauthorized IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) in 2004 it stated that schools are no longer required to use a “discrepancy model” to determine whether a child has a learning disability and is entitled to special education services. A discrepancy model is an assessment to determine whether there is a “severe discrepancy” between a student’s achievement level and intellectual ability.

The law states that: *In determining whether a child has a specific learning disability, a local educational agency may use a process which determines if a child responds to scientifically research based intervention.* It further states, *Local Education Agencies shall use a Response to Intervention prior to determining eligibility.* At this time, the State of California Education Code continues to require a discrepancy model to determine eligibility for Special Education based on a specific learning disability. However, schools and districts are directed to use Response to Intervention to determine if a student’s needs may be met within the general education program. The goal is to meet students’ needs earlier in the least restrictive environment. This discrepancy model required that a student be performing below his apparent ability and has resulted in a “wait to fail” system.

To remedy this, many school districts, including NVUSD, are implementing “Response to Intervention” (RTI) programs. The goal is to provide early detection and intervention for students with learning disabilities and not wait for them to fail.

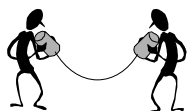
Napa schools will be implementing a 3-tiered approach which will include “Student Success Teams” (SST). If a student is not learning as well as his peers, specific interventions such as additional class time and/or district approved materials and strategies will be used to address the concern. Tier 1 interventions typically are implemented for 6 to 12 weeks. At that time, a second meeting would be held to determine if the student is improving. If this first level of intervention is not successful then an SST meeting will be convened to discuss additional Tier 2 interventions and resources designed to help the student. If this second level of intervention is not successful, then a student will receive Tier 3 interventions. If Tier 3 interventions are not successful then the SST team will consider additional options including: referral to a District Alternative Education Committee or community agency, a site 504 meeting, retention, or an assessment for special education services will be conducted. An IEP will be developed if the student is eligible for Special Education. **Parents will be involved at every intervention level and they retain the right to request a Special Education evaluation at any time.** If this occurs before the student has participated in an SST process the family will be encouraged to meet to discuss the new supports that are available to students.

Laura Ryan, Administrator for Assessment and Interventions from NVUSD recently visited ParentsCAN and outlined some exciting new programs which will be used

to provide the early interventions for students who are struggling. For English learners there are two new programs; “High Point” will be used in Middle School and “Shining Star” will be used in High School. “Read 180” is a new reading program for adolescent and adult learners which has been piloted at Harvest Middle School, Napa High School, and Vintage High School. This program enables students to learn at their own pace using headphones and a computer program which assesses progress and fluency as the student advances. A program called “Voyages” will be used in 4th and 5th grades.

“Response to Intervention” is a new approach to helping challenged learners; new to parents, to school personnel and ParentsCAN advocates. We will stay in touch with the latest developments and will be available as always to assist parents to learn how to participate effectively.

Napa County Office of Education presents
a Parent and Community Education Series ...



COMMUNICATION: The Most Critical Life Skill

Sometimes conversations with family lead to raised voices, folded arms, resentment or hurt feelings, instead of the closeness hoped for.

This introduction to a 4 step communication process helps people hear each others’ needs, stay connected and problem solve together.

Wednesday, August 29 at 7:00 p.m.

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, Napa Street, Napa
FREE program ~ Spanish translation available

For adults, parents of 2–18 year olds,
and middle and high school students.

Speaker: Cathy Bucher, trainer in Non-Violent Communication, special education teacher, mother. She will offer a follow-up 6 hour workshop on September 29.

“Saturday Sidekicks”

Adapted Activity Lab
for children 5-19 years of age
with special needs of any kind.



8 Saturday mornings, Sept 8—Oct 27, 2007

Held at Sonoma State University

Sports—Games—Dance— Perceptual-motor—Relaxation

Fee is \$60 but no one is turned away!

Contact Dr. Elaine McHugh at 707.664.2660

Or by email: Elaine.mchugh@sonoma.edu



**One call to ParentsCAN
will make a difference,
no matter if you need support
or can give it!**

How can ParentsCAN help YOU?

- ◆ Trained advocates who have “been there” and will partner with you to provide emotional support, information on disabilities, referrals to services
- ◆ Drop-in Resource Center with extensive resource library and other parents to talk with
- ◆ Family home visits
- ◆ Support groups
- ◆ Parent-to-parent support
- ◆ Workshop and clinics on a variety of topics and issues
- ◆ Family connections to services such as mental health, juvenile probation, child welfare, special services
- ◆ Special events and gatherings for families
- ◆ Website: www.parentscan.org

How can YOU help ParentsCAN?

Our current wish list includes:

- ◆ Family event planners
- ◆ Parents who can support other parents through their experience
- ◆ Volunteers at special events
- ◆ Donate books to our library that have been helpful to you
- ◆ Volunteer committee members for fundraising
- ◆ Grocery store gift certificates for workshop snacks and family emergencies
- ◆ Taxi scrip for transportation to parenting classes and support groups
- ◆ Monetary donations for specific or general support of ParentsCAN programs
- ◆ Your ideas here! Just let us know!

Many Thanks!



Smiles, arts and crafts, donkey rides, family photos, good food and fun ... we shared all this and more at our summer ParentsCAN family picnic on June 30. We especially thank Ralph Gianinni, Barbara Scheumann, Dale Digennaro and his daughter Janae, Al Dunkelberger, and Jack Rands all from the Kiwanis Club of Greater Napa who served up the food. We thank Brad Hanson who was our photographer and Antonio Garcia and Robert Lockhart who helped ParentsCAN staff with set up and clean up. Thanks to Elizabeth Oliver who joined us with her Discovery Toys and the Napa Infant Program for loaning us tables and toys. Having Vine Village for our picnic location was the best part! Thank you to the Kersons for the old fashioned music, and Max the donkey who gave rides ... and rides and rides. Finally, thank you to the families who joined us, helping make the day so memorable.

Community Advisory Committee (CAC)

The CAC for Special Education meets the 4th Thursday of every month during the school year, from September through May from 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. at the Napa County Office of Education on Imola Ave, Napa. All parents, family members, caregivers and professionals in the area of special education are welcome and encouraged to attend.

The first CAC meeting of the new school year will be Thursday, September 27.

The CAC writes, “At CAC meetings we discuss the educational needs of special ed students in the Napa County area and how to increase awareness and understanding of the disabilities that affect those students. The CAC is also given reports from the Napa County SELPA Director and the Napa Valley Unified School District Special Education Directors on the current issues that may have an impact on these students in our school district.

We, on the board, hope the attendance for CAC meetings will increase with the coming school year. We realize that having a meeting in the middle of the day is difficult for working parents. Therefore, if you are unable to attend, the CAC board would like to extend an invitation to contact one of us directly with your idea, comments or concerns you may have regarding your child’s education, or any general special ed questions. We will attempt to have a response to you within 48 hours after the next CAC meeting.”

Susan Wood, CAC Chairperson
segalfoto@napanet.net or cell: 707.480.3280
Cheri Ruise, CAC Vice Chairperson
cher9585@aol.com
Bill Fried, CAC Treasurer
williamfried@sbcglobal.net or home: 707.252.6020

A Partnership Support Group: Napa Park Homes

Once a month ParentsCAN advocates share topics related to disability issues with a group of residents at the Napa Park Homes complex. Along with Sue Nahass, Resident Coordinator of Napa Valley Community Housing, ParentsCAN is able to outreach to families in order to promote awareness regarding disabilities and promote early identification of special needs.

Families learn about signs of autism and depression, how to handle difficult behaviors, how to get help for their child, and more. Studies show that children in low income homes are more likely to have health, emotional, behavioral or learning issues. 22% of children in the US that live in poverty have some sort of limitation; this is 5% higher than the average household.

We acknowledge and appreciate our long-standing partnership with NVCH to serve the needs of low income families.

A ParentsCAN Success Story



The Child Welfare System is a difficult system to navigate through, especially for a single parent with a language barrier and two prior cases with Child Protective Services (CPS).

ParentsCAN recently received a referral for a father whose 3 children were taken into protective custody while in their mother's care. This father had two other children involved with CPS years back, both of whom were not able to reunify with their dad and were adopted. Because of this prior history, it was unlikely that the social worker on the case would recommend reunification services to the parent.

As this dad spoke to his ParentsCAN advocate he explained why this time around was different for him. He believed he had matured and wanted to be there for his children and to raise them. He was not able to reunify with his other children as one of them had special needs, and he knew he wasn't capable of providing proper care; he has made peace with this decision. His motivation today comes from the loss he feels regarding the adoption of his only daughter.

Since the children's removal, this dad has come to every visit scheduled. He and his children play, talk, eat and make the most of their time together. He talks to his advocate about his feeling of sadness when they say good-bye, but this makes him more determined to have his children back in his life.

The ParentsCAN advocate had met with this father numerous times and could see that father was genuine about wanting to get his kids back. The advocate relayed the father's feelings and worries about the case to the social worker. The social worker first stated that the department was not obligated to offer services due to prior history. But upon speaking with the advocate, felt she had a new perspective on the father. After meeting with both the father and the advocate, the social worker agreed that the father would be offered reunification services!

The father was thankful for this opportunity and stated his appreciation for the advocate's support and this new hope for his family. The advocate will continue to work with this father by providing moral support, locating resources and giving guidance throughout the case.

Book Review

"Drums, Girls and Dangerous Pie"

by Jordan Sonnenblink

Fiction, Turning Tide Press © 2004, 182 pages

This book is about a middle school youth going through a tough time because of a sibling's critical illness. Parents who have a child with special needs or who are experiencing a crisis will find this book particularly helpful. It demonstrates how the other children in the family are affected by an illness or crises.

Steven is a typical student who is going through the usual angst of puberty and first love with a girl who barely knows he's alive, when his five-year-old brother gets a bloody nose.

The next thing Steven knows, his brother and his mother leave for a big hospital in Philadelphia for a week ... Jeffrey, Steven's little brother, has leukemia. The boys' parents are in such shock they barely communicate with each other and forget to tell Steven what is going on at all.

Steven goes through the days making deals with God and trying to pretend everything is normal. His only bright spot is that he is an awesome drummer and is getting better and better because drums help him forget the pain his family is experiencing.

This book takes the reader through fear, anger, hopelessness and then, faith, love and hope for the future. It shows the deterioration of the family in the first weeks after a diagnosis of this magnitude, but then it shows their growth and love as they all rise to the occasion. Great for a young reader.

Have a box of tissues handy.

This fiction book is one of many in our ParentsCAN lending library. We also have books on disability resources, parenting help, education, as well as some resources in VHS and DVD. We also have a books and VHS in Spanish. A \$20 refundable deposit is required for check out. The library is part of our drop in resource center located at 3299 Claremont Way, Suite 3, Napa and is open weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



Anti - Stigma

Did you know that ...

Anti - Stigma

- ◆ Stigma is a barrier that discourages individuals and their families from seeking help.
- ◆ Many people would rather tell employers they committed a petty crime and served time in jail than admit to being in a psychiatric hospital.
 - ◆ Stigma can result in inadequate insurance coverage for mental health services.
- ◆ Stigma leads to fear, mistrust, and violence against people living with mental illness and their families.
 - ◆ Stigma can cause families and friends to turn their backs on people with mental illness.

DO use respectful language. DO emphasize abilities, not limitations. DO tell someone if they express a stigmatizing attitude. DON'T portray successful persons with disabilities as super human. DON'T use generic labels such as retarded or the mentally ill. DON'T use terms like crazy, lunatic, manic depressive or slow functioning.

DO your part to create an anti-stigma world!

Mental Health Services Act (MHSA): and ParentsCAN Involvement!

Recently ParentsCAN was chosen to be the "Parent Partner" provider for the "Full Service Partnership" program. This program provides intensive services designed to help families keep their child with mental health needs at home. MHSA focuses on families who have been underserved, providing these services with a team approach to families who qualify.

The Parent Partner is an experienced, trained parent who can understand firsthand what the family is going through and be a bridge between the family and the services. ParentsCAN staff has been providing this service for several children's programs at the County of Napa's Health and Human Services, so it is no surprise that we are the choice to serve the designated fourteen Latino families whose children have mental health challenges. We are eager to be a part of these intensive services.

In addition to the children's services, ParentsCAN will engage in outreach to families of adults and older adults with mental illness, and also provide a support group for families of adults who have mental health issues. Some of our staff has been participating in this support already as volunteers.

The last piece of the MHSA contract we will fulfill is a respite service for families of children with mental illness. Respite is a service that provides families with a needed break from their child to regenerate their energy and outlook. Parenting a child with special needs is challenging beyond regular parenting. The county realizes the great need for respite, but has not provided respite in several years. ParentsCAN will be working closely with mental health case managers to provide "Family Choice Respite Service" as one model of the service.

Everyone needs a break, and parents of mentally ill children are among those that need it the most. Respite will be the glue for some families that will keep them together. Others will need to let their child go into more restrictive settings. The program is still in the planning phase and will be running by September. If your family would benefit from respite, work with your case manager at Children's Mental Health to find out how to obtain services to support your family life.

Calistoga Services!

ParentsCAN is again partnering with the Calistoga Family Center to renew and enhance ParentsCAN services to families of children with special needs in the Calistoga area. Our Advocate will concentrate on outreach efforts within the community of Calistoga, investigate the unique needs of families of children with disabilities there, and partner with existing efforts to serve the family's unique needs. Families are encouraged to contact ParentsCAN Resource Center with their disability questions and concerns, 253-7444, or contact our Outreach Advocate through the Calistoga Family Center at 942-6206.



Parent Project Moves Up Valley!

ParentsCAN is excited to offer The Parent Project® to families in St. Helena and up-valley communities.

The Parent Project® is a parenting education curriculum designed specifically to address the needs of *strong-willed children*. It has proven to be a highly effective, low-cost training for parenting children with ADHD/ADD, bipolar, oppositional defiant and conduct disorders, youth with drug and alcohol issues and other destructive behavior. The course teaches parents how to effectively communicate with their child and how to set appropriate limits. Parents learn to engage in active supervision of their child with love and affection as the basis for setting limits and controlling destructive behaviors. The Parent Project® gives parents the tools to be proactive in the supervision of, and involvement in, their child's life. Parents attending Parent Project® classes have the opportunity to experience success at home within the first week!

ParentsCAN will also offer, for the first time, a corresponding course specifically designed for teens. The curriculum teaches teens about personal and social responsibility, recognize their impact on others, accept responsibility for their actions and exercise self discipline; it directly complements the efforts of The Parent Project®.

ParentsCAN currently offers The Parent Project in both Spanish and English in Napa. Please look for dates and location of our St. Helena classes coming this fall. If you are interested in participating in one of our classes or would like more information regarding this program, please contact us at 253-7444.

We would like to acknowledge everyone who supports ParentsCAN in different ways, and a special thanks to the Community Foundation of the Napa Valley for making it possible for our Up-Valley families to now have access to this valuable training.

Up Valley Special Education



The St Helena, Calistoga and Howell Mountain/Pope Valley School Districts have restructured their Special Education Programs for the 2007-8 school year.

Of note are several changes in personnel and administration. Dave Miller is no longer in the County, and in his place are several staff members depending on the district.

In Calistoga Helen Bass, is Psychologist, Administrator of Special Education Services. For Pope Valley and Howell Mountain, Beth McClain is the Resource Specialist. In St Helena the role of Special Education Administration will be a shared duty with Rob Haley, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, taking the lead.

Of course, the first contact anyone should make to inquire about Special Education services is with the teacher and the principal of the school your child attends. If the school staff cannot assist you, they will direct you to the next level of support. ParentsCAN is available to provide infor-

ParentsCAN

presents the second annual



Grand Traditions

IN CELEBRATION OF GRANDPARENTS

Saturday, September 8, 2007 ~ 6 p.m.

Lincoln Theater, 100 California Drive, Yountville
on the historic grounds of the Veterans Home of California

\$100 per person

*Proceeds benefit Parent-Child Advocacy Network (ParentsCAN),
a 501(c)(3) organization that provides
support and hope to Napa County families of children with disabilities.*



Call 253.7444 for reservations, to bid on artwork, or to donate auction items!



ParentsCAN
Parent-Child Advocacy Network
3299 Claremont Way, Suite 3
Napa, CA 94558

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

PRESORTED
STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
NAPA, CA
PERMIT #3

Summer 2007 Issue!



To change your address or add a
friend to our mailing list:
Call 253-7444
or email parents@parentscan.org