



ParentsCAN Advocate

Parent-Child Advocacy Network

Volume 3, Issue 4

FALL 2007

OUR MISSION

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

OUR CENTER

3299 Claremont Way,
Suite 3
Napa, CA 94558
(707) 253-7444
(707) 253-2244 Fax
www.parentscan.org
parents@parentscan.org

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Joan Lockhart

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bill Peatman, President
Erica Conway-Wahle, Vice Pres
Joan Harrison-Cohn, Secretary
Paul Hoffman, Treasurer
Tina Altamura
Juan Cisneros
Karen Kaplan
Donald E. Simons

Inside This Issue:

- **Page 1**
From the Director
- **Page 2**
Success Story
- **Page 3**
Calendar Nov/Dec/Jan
- **Page 4**
Surviving the Holidays with a Special Needs Child
- **Page 5**
Need a Break?
- **Page 6**
Holiday Activities for the Whole Family
- **Page 7**
St. Helena & Calistoga SAP
- Schoolutions
- NVUSD—First Steps
- CAC Invitation
- **Page 7**
Welcome
- Book Review
- Click Here!

From Our Director ...

What is ParentsCAN? ParentsCAN (Parent-Child Advocacy Network) is a 501(c)(3) family resource center dedicated to providing individuals with disabilities and special health needs, their families, educators and professionals with:

Information ...

Special needs library of over 1000 books, periodicals and videos, a quarterly newsletter (*The Advocate*), and our website: www.parentscan.org

Training ...

Workshops on specific topics such as disabilities, medical, educational, financial and parenting issues for children with special needs, as well as communication and advocacy skills.

Support ...

ParentsCAN staff offer support and assistance with information, support groups, referrals to essential services, and conflict resolution. Parent-to-parent volunteers offer moral support and encouragement to other parents.

We value ...

- ◆ Support for families to nurture their child in their home
- ◆ Empowerment of families to make decisions about their child's unique life
- ◆ Inclusion of children and adults with disabilities into the mainstream of community
- ◆ Individualized services for persons with disabilities to meet their unique needs
- ◆ Access to education and technology needed to participate fully in life
- ◆ High expectations of individuals challenged by disability or illness
- ◆ Partnership of parents, professionals and individuals with disabilities that result in quality outcomes
- ◆ Respectful use of language, dignity, and rights of persons with disabilities.

If you or someone you know can benefit from our services, we're just a phone call away!

Joan Lockhart



With Thanks



ParentsCAN would like to acknowledge the following members of our Board of Directors who joined us in the year 2007 — Juan Cisneros, Karen Kaplan, and Don Simons. We also extend a warm welcome to Tina Altamura who just recently became a board member. They join board president Bill Peatman, vice president Erica Conway Wahle, secretary Joan Harrison Cohn and treasurer Paul Hoffman. We offer our thanks to all of them for their service and leadership of ParentsCAN's growth and development in empowering families of children with disabilities.

A ParentsCAN Success Story

My daughter, "Emma", was always a very active and athletic child - the class clown, the first one picked for a team in any sport, AND the one with her name on the board every day. Throughout elementary school her teachers were in tune with her behavior and personality and made the accommodations necessary for her to succeed. She usually had her desk next to, if not touching, the teacher's desk and was given as many opportunities as possible to get out of her seat and move around.

The transition to middle school was very difficult for Emma. She had to move to different classrooms for each subject and the teachers were not familiar with her challenges and did not have time to get to know her the way her elementary school teachers had. She was failing.

We had her evaluated by a private psychiatrist and she was diagnosed with ADHD and prescribed medications accordingly. An Individual Education Plan (IEP) was developed which addressed specific learning disabilities but not her emotional issues. Interaction with her peers and teachers was very difficult for Emma. She was unable to ask for help when she needed it and typically, when facing a task she could not perform, she would "act out" and get sent to the office or be suspended.

Emma was very athletic and

excelled at all sports, but because of her issues with behavior and attendance, was often not able to play on the school teams.

In October of her 8th grade year Emma was hospitalized in a psychiatric facility because of her extreme anxiety, depression and suicidal thoughts. She stayed out of school for the remainder of that semester and in January she went to a middle school in the next town which had a "home base" classroom. She was too anxious to join the regular population of the school at recess and lunch. The teacher arranged for her to take all her classes in the morning and go home at lunch time. It was during this very difficult period of

Emma's life that I met a ParentsCAN advocate, and she and I talked often. She had been through this kind of challenge herself and was a positive influence on my outlook.

Because of Emma's success at the middle school home base classroom, she started ninth grade in a similar classroom on a high school campus. This was not successful and during the next two years we worked

with the Parents CAN advocate to find an appropriate setting for Emma. She was in residential treatment for 10 months and hospitalized two more times because of mental health issues. It was a long journey full of disappointment, but also hope and success, during which time Emma gained much insight about her disability and learned many tools for successfully managing her mood swings and anxiety.

At the beginning of 11th grade she returned to the non-public school. She rode the minivan every day to the next town and successfully completed all credits needed for graduation.

She has worked for a local company for over a year and is successful on the job. Emma is about to embark on her college career and, with the continued help and support of ParentsCAN, we are learning to navigate the world of disabilities and post secondary education.

Emma's goal is to become a personal trainer, and we are confident that she will reach that goal.



"It was during this very difficult period of Emma's life that I met a ParentsCAN advocate ..."

The name "Emma" is a pseudonym ...

But her family's story is very real. There are many similar stories in our community illustrating the need for families to know they are not alone. Maybe your family is one of them. Maybe you've experienced that needed support from ParentsCAN at just the right moment. Or perhaps you don't have a family member with a disability but are looking for a way to "give back" to the community. In either case, as a 501(c)(3) organization, ParentsCAN always has a wish list. Can you fill one of these needs?

- ◆ A up-to-date laptop computer for community presentations
- ◆ Donations towards mailing costs of this newsletter
- ◆ Volunteers in the office and in the community to represent ParentsCAN
- ◆ Consider becoming a member of our Board of Directors
- ◆ Donate books or videos on disabilities to our library that you have found helpful
- ◆ Give parent-to-parent support: veteran and new parents can be matched by culture, language or disability
- ◆ Monetary donations of any size are always appreciated



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

Upcoming Support Groups and Trainings

CHALLENGING BEHAVIORS Support Group



Come learn strategies and gain insight for dealing with your behaviorally challenging child.

Meets 2nd & 4th Tuesdays, 6:30 — 8:00 p.m.
ParentsCAN resource center

November 13: "Living with the Bipolar Child", video presentation followed by discussion

November 27: Through the eyes of your "other" children: siblings of special needs kids, presentation/discussion

December 11: Coping with challenging behaviors during the holidays

January 8: To be announced

January 22: To be announced

AUTISM Support Group

Find encouragement and help in your parenting of an autistic child

Meets 2nd Thursdays, 9:00 — 10:00 a.m.
ParentsCAN resource center



November 8: Sharing ideas for holiday school break

December — No meeting

January 10: How we as parents can support siblings

GRANDPARENTING Support Group



Monthly gathering for grandparents raising their special needs grandchildren.

Tea & cookies spiced with support!

Meets 3rd Mondays, 10:00 — 11:30 a.m.
ParentsCAN resource center

November 19: Making holiday activities less stressful

December 17: Explaining sex to your special needs child, with Planned Parenthood expert, Beth Nevins

January 21: Scrapping a Life Book for your grandchild

SCHOOLUTIONS workshops

Find great school solutions—*Schoolutions!* This is a lunch-hour learning opportunity for parents focusing on solutions at school for physical, emotional, cognitive & health needs. Advance reservations helpful so we can assist with your specific IEP/504 needs.



Note change of date: First Wednesdays every month
Noon -1:30 p.m., ParentsCAN resource center

November 7 ~ December 5 ~ No January workshop
Next workshop: February 6



Never give up hope! **Mental Health Education Support Group for families or caregivers of ADULTS with mental illnesses**

Sponsored by ParentsCAN in collaboration with Napa County Health & Human Services' Mental Health Services Act. This 6 week series will provide resources and information about mental illness and navigating the mental health system to get the help you need for your adult family member with mental illness. Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8:00 p.m. at ParentsCAN, Oct. 24—Dec. 5.

Upcoming topics:

11/7: Video/discussion: "Mental Illness in the Family"

11/14: Self care workshop for caregivers

11/21: Video/discussion: "Recovering from Mental Illness"

11/28: Q&A with a Mental Health Professional

12/5: Video/discussion: "My Sister is Mentally Ill"

For additional information, contact Juanita at 253.4866.

Support Groups and Trainings for Spanish Speakers



NOVEMBER 2007

- 1 Napa Park Homes, 10:30 am-noon
- 2 Schoolutions, St. Helena Family Center, 10 am-noon
- 5 Schoolutions, ParentsCAN, 10:00—11:30 a.m.
- 16 Stonebridge Apts, St. Helena, 6-8 pm
- 19 Puertas Abiertas Resource Center, 10 am-noon
- 24 General Disabilities, ParentsCAN, 10 am-noon

DECEMBER 2007

- 3 Schoolutions, ParentsCAN, 10 –11:30 a.m.
- 6 Napa Park Homes, 10:30 am-noon
- 7 Schoolutions, St. Helena Family Center, 10 am-noon
- 17 Puertas Abiertas Resource Center, 10 am-noon
- 21 Stonebridge Apts, St. Helena, 6-8 pm

JANUARY 2008

- 3 Napa Park Homes, 10:30 am-noon
- 11 Schoolutions, St. Helena Family Center, 10 am-noon
- 14 Schoolutions, ParentsCAN, 10:00—11:30 a.m.
- 18 Stonebridge Apts, St. Helena, 6-8 pm
- 21 Puertas Abiertas Resource Center, 10 am-noon
- 26 General Disabilities, ParentsCAN, 10 am-noon

LOCATIONS

ParentsCAN: 3299 Claremont Way, Ste. 3, Napa

Napa Park Homes: 790 Lincoln Avenue, Napa

Puertas Abiertas Resource Center: 592 Napa Street, Napa

St. Helena Family Center: 1440 Spring Street, St. Helena

Stonebridge Apartments: 900 College Avenue, St. Helena

Surviving the Holidays with a Special Needs Child



Part of the allure of the holidays is that it's a change from the mundane. There's more going on, our houses have special decorations, we try new and different foods, we go out to friends' and family's homes more; in short, we totally alter our regular lives and schedules.

Most of us can handle a little change, but what about our most vulnerable family members? Our children with special needs and disabilities often cannot handle changes or upsets in their daily routine. So how can we parents help them enjoy the holidays without major setbacks or meltdowns?

- 1. Refuel.** Hunger and thirst are often the reasons for a meltdown. Often our children do not recognize the signs of hunger and thirst until it is already affecting them. A light snack of yogurt and granola with a little water can save the day and lengthen his or her ability to wait for the next meal.
- 2. Routine.** Do your best to keep as much of his or her routine the same as usual. For these exceptional children it's best to follow a routine. For instance, rather than make them wait for the special meal, give them a nutritious snack and expect them to eat lighter at the big family event.
- 3. Needs.** If your child needs accommodations surrounding sound, lighting or close quarters, make sure you remember to supply ear phones, sunglasses or an out of the way space for your child when their senses could become overloaded. It may cause some people to raise their eyebrows but saving your child's delicate sensory system from meltdown will make the occasion more pleasant for everyone.
- 4. Plan.** Do some of the traditional events at times when there are less people. Avoiding peak times at the Christmas tree farm might be one. You can call ahead to check on their quieter times of the week or day.
- 5. Easy.** Baking cookies with just your one child can make the time more enjoyable for both of you. Don't be afraid to use commercially made dough or a make-ahead recipe to shorten the time spent on this activity. It's just as much fun for the kids and clean-up is easier. It is often better to spend 15 fun-filled minutes decorating store-bought cookies than to have the "whole long experience" of baking cookies from scratch. Also if you have some cookies pre-baked you don't have to wait for the first batch to cool.

Sometimes it takes a little creativity to cut down on the things that will cause our children with special needs to feel anxious or unable to cope with all the "fun" things we want to expose them to. Plan well and enjoy the good times. The effort is worth it.



Need a Break?



Foster parents, relative caregivers and parents of children with disabilities need a break! Whether it is planned as a weekend away, an appointment with a doctor or lunch out with a friend, or just an afternoon spent paying bills without interruption, RESPITE can save our sanity!

The dictionary's definition of respite is: a delay or cessation for a time, esp. of anything distressing or trying; an interval of relief. Respite can return us to loving compassionate caregivers once again, and help us keep doing the great job of care giving that we wondered if we could continue. Planned time away from the child or loved one who needs our caring attention is proven to be a service that can save our families.

Respite is the number one service requested by parents and foster parents as indicated in the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) forums and other locally done surveys with caregivers. Respite makes the difference in a caregiver's ability to continue being the effective care and support for a child in special circumstances. Not all children in foster care or relative (kin) care have disabilities, but many have special needs. So while most families' children can go out to an activity on their own or with a friend or spend the night with another child's family, there are children and families who need a substitute caregiver (respite provider) and a planned opportunity to get a break from each other.

Napa County Health and Human Services, through the MHSA, has recently contracted with ParentsCAN to provide a limited amount of funding for respite to families whose children have mental health challenges. The Foster Care Advocates group, chaired by Jim Asbury, a local businessman, and Linda Canan, Director of Child Welfare, is committed to identifying and developing resources for respite service provision to foster families. The Respite Subcommittee of the Foster Care Advocates, chaired by Joan Lockhart, is currently planning a study of the limited amounts of respite service currently available in the county, the funding streams that provide the service, the current and future need, and how to organize the service provision so that it gets to the caregivers who need it most.

There are several models for providing respite care, such as in-home, out-of-home, and care at a respite center. The needs of families vary as well. The respite service provision is a huge puzzle with several missing pieces. **Funding is currently the number one missing piece.**

As additional information becomes available and the program is up and running, ParentsCAN will proudly let you know.

Holiday Activities for the Whole Family Around the Valley



November 4 – “Seussical”, Napa Valley Opera House

Child Time: 2 p.m.

"Oh the things you can think" when Dr. Seuss' best-loved stories collide and cavort in this theatrical musical caper. The Cat in the Hat is the host and emcee (and all-around mischief-maker) in a romp through the Dr. Seuss classics.

1030 Main St., Napa. Phone 226.7372

Fee: \$25 Adult/\$15 Child.

November 17 – How to Survive the Holidays without Going into Debt! Offered through Cope Family Center.

Time: 10:30 a.m.

Take some of the stress out of the holidays. Learn how to make the holidays more about family tradition and less about materialism. Learn how to create a budget for the holidays and get through the financial challenges while having fun and enjoying time with your family. Childcare available; must pre-register. Call Cope Family Center 252-1123. Concurrently offered in Spanish.

Fee: Free

November 23 – Annual Festival of Lights in Yountville

Time: 2 p.m. - 6 p.m.

All-day holiday faire with food, wine and entertainment town-wide. Visit by Santa Claus, carolers, carriage rides and shopping. In the evening the Town is set aglow with thousands of sparkling white lights. For information call the Yountville Chamber of Commerce, 944.0904.

Fee: Free.

November 24 – Napa Christmas Parade

Time: 5 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

45th annual Napa Christmas Parade will begin at Napa City Hall, rain or shine, and end at COPIA where Santa will greet children. Parking is available in Downtown Napa and at COPIA located at 500 First St. Phone 257.0322.

Fee: Free.



Christmas Celebrations at ParentsCAN!

The spirit of giving is important to ParentsCAN. With the holidays approaching, our staff is planning celebrations for the families we serve that will be fun yet low key. If you are currently a client family of ParentsCAN, now is the time to contact your advocate to assure that you are on our list for the upcoming holiday festivities.



December 1 – Faux Gingerbread House Workshop

Come see the fabulous Gingerbread House Display created by contestants. These delightful Gingerbread Houses will be judged on Saturday December 1 at 1:00 pm. The display will be open from December 1 till December 31 from Noon till 3 pm every Saturday for you to enjoy. Phone 253.0376.

Fee: \$5.

December 1 – Napa Valley Lighted Tractor Parade

Time: Dusk

Napa Valley Lighted Tractor Parade in Calistoga held just after dark, is a salute to our agricultural heritage and features a wide range of small to gigantic equipment lighted and decorated bearing every thing from kids to Santa. Begins the Calistoga's Classic Christmas Season, which runs thru December. Phone 942.6333.

Fee: Free.

December 1 – The Elves & the Shoemaker

Time: 11 a.m.

Two merry elves arrive in a small Black Forest village and discover a poor, gentle shoemaker clearly in need of their special assistance. Lincoln Theater, 100 California Dr., Yountville. Phone 944.1300

Fee: \$10

December 2 – Annual Tree Lighting & Cookie Contest

Time: 6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Town of Yountville Annual Tree Lighting and 4th Annual Cookie Contest at Yountville Elementary Multipurpose Room. Phone: 944.0904

Fee: Free.

December 9 – Festival of Lights Ice Carving and Wine Tasting

Time: 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

An ice carving exhibition will be held at the Vintage 1870 Event Pavilion along with a food and wine pairing and silent auction. Music and fun for the whole family. Phone: 944.0904

Fee: Free

December 12 – Old Bale Mill: It's a Pioneer Christmas

Call 942-4575 for details

Any Day — Create Your Own Special Family Times!

Create your own special family time throughout the holidays ... take a walk or car ride to see the lights, create simple art together while listening to music, learn and sing a new holiday song, have an "all family quiet time" for puzzles or reading. Ask your child what their favorite thing to do is during the holidays .. and do it!



St. Helena & Calistoga's Student Assistance Programs

A new approach focusing on at-risk youth is being implemented at the Junior High and High Schools in the communities of St. Helena and Calistoga.

Students who are having difficulties with their grades, attendance, drug or alcohol use, emotional or behavioral issues, whether at home or in the classroom, can now be referred to the Student Assistance Program (SAP). This program connects students to programs and services within the schools and across community systems to create a network of support for the student. The process identifies and assesses the student's needs, and provides them with support and referrals to appropriate resources.

The overarching goal is to remove the obstacles to education so that the student may achieve academically. Students may be referred to the program by a staff member, a parent or the student themselves. To make a referral in St. Helena contact Terri Meineke, 967-2816. In Calistoga contact Lili Osoiro, 942-6206.

Schoolutions: A Workshop for Parents of Children Struggling in School



Every month, ParentsCAN provides educational workshops in English and Spanish on how to work effectively with your child's school to get the solutions needed for school success. The workshop provides orientation on the student study team process, information about Response to Intervention, and if it applies, the special education procedures set out by the IDEA (Individuals With Disabilities Education Act).

The name "Schoolutions" truly means "school solutions"! See the ParentsCAN calendar for dates and times, and call 253.7444 for more information.

An Open Invitation from the CAC

The Community Advisory Committee (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.

Meetings focus on 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 NVUSD Special Education Directors on the current issues that may have an impact on these students in our school district.

Contact CAC Chairperson Susan Wood for an update or to share input, ideas or concerns. Her number is 707-480-3280 and email is segalfoto@napanet.net.

NVUSD First Steps



Napa Valley Unified School District is in the process of implementing a series of school based interventions designed to identify and help those students who are struggling to keep up with math and language arts (reading & writing) instruction. Student achievement is tested through benchmark assessments to determine how the student is progressing. If the student is not progressing as expected for their grade level they will receive additional or different instruction to meet their identified needs. A three-tiered intervention process provides increasing levels of support for students when they need it, including specific programs designed to address their needs. However, sometimes students will continue to struggle despite the additional supports that they have been provided through the system of interventions. When that occurs, the school will begin to implement the Student Success Team (SST) process. The SST process also has three steps.

Step One of this process is a collaborative meeting. If the Step One interventions are not successful then it is followed by the more formal SST meetings at steps two and three.

Students will be referred to Step One if there are any issues which need to be addressed. These meetings are frequently called because the student is experiencing difficulty with academic instruction. However, the meetings may be called for a number of other concerns including: poor school attendance; behavioral problems (withdrawn, lethargic, defiant, destructive, aggressive, impulsive, etc.); discipline problems such as referrals to the office, suspension, running away; physical problems (sleeps in class, decline in physical ability, unexplained injuries, significant weight loss, frequent physical complaints); change in performance or behavior; or any other issues that remain unresolved after the school has tried initial interventions.

A Step One Action meeting will include the parent or guardian, and any other staff members who may be able to give information about the student, or help to formulate an action plan. The person making the referral will present basic information about the student, describe the student's response to interventions which have already been attempted, and share their continued concerns. An Action Plan will be developed with the help and input of everyone at the meeting. The plan will be documented and will include target areas and goals, a home support plan if appropriate, and any academic or behavioral supports which are decided upon at the at the meeting.

The plan agreed to at the Step One meeting will be implemented for 6 – 12 weeks, depending on the type of intervention being used. At the end of that time a follow-up meeting will be held to determine the student's response to the interventions. If, after an appropriate period of time, up to 12 weeks, the interventions are successful, the student will continue with the supports if still needed, or they will return to their previous program if they no longer require supports. If the student is successful the SST process stops. If the methods agreed to at the Step One meeting are not successful a Student Success Team will be formed and a Step Two meeting will be scheduled.

Steps Two and Three will be discussed in later issues of this newsletter.

Welcome to the Community ...

FRIENDS' CLUB

A social understanding group for children with high functioning Autism and Asperger's syndrome offered by



Comprehensive Autism Services & Education (CASE)

Small, same age groups in an environment structured to facilitate friendship-making and successful group interactions.

1886 El Centro Ave., Napa
258-5545 ~ napa@casefamily.com
www.casefamily.com



CYPRESS SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Cypress School is hosting an Open House to celebrate the opening of their new non-public school for students with autism and similar disabilities.

November 5, 2007
between the hours of 12 p.m. and 7p.m.
1-2 p.m. Spanish presentation

Refreshments and tours will be provided all day.
3835 Cypress Drive, Petaluma, CA 94954.
RSVP is not required.

For more information contact
Cypress School Director, Laura Briggin,
lbriggin@ucpnb.org or 415-720-9328 cell

Book Review ... "Featherless"

Featherless by Juan Felipe Herrera
Illustrated by Ernesto Cuevas, Jr.
Publisher: Children's Book Press, © 2004
A children's storybook



Tomasito is a young boy with Spina Bifida. He is always being asked why he is in a wheelchair. Those questions make him feel sad. One day his father brings home a small bird without feathers and with a crooked foot. Tomasito doesn't understand. Tomasito then gets a chance to be like the other kids at school and that changes the way he sees himself and his bird, Desplumado. Each page of this book has English on one side and Spanish on the other, and is really fun.

This storybook is one of many children's books in the ParentsCAN lending library that help explain disabilities in a way children can understand. We have books, periodicals and videos in both English and Spanish, in a wide range of topics for adults as well. The library is located in our Resource Center at 3299 Claremont Way, Suite 3, Napa, open weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Click Here!

Comprehensive Autism Services & Education (CASE)

www.casefamily.com

Extensive information and links on autism and Asperger's syndrome. CASE has recently opened a Napa office.



Network of Care, Napa County Behavioral Health

<http://napa.networkofcare.org/mh>

Resource for individuals, families and agencies concerned with mental health. Provides information about mental health services, laws, and related news. *In Spanish also.*

National Fathers Network

www.fathersnetwork.org

Information, support, and resources for fathers of children with disabilities or chronic illness. Supports the efforts of 83 fathers' programs in the US. *Site available in Spanish.*

Mothers United for Moral Support (MUMS)

National Parent to Parent Network

www.netnet.net/mums/

If your child has a rare disability and you cannot find another parent whose child has the same disability, MUMS provides networking that matches you with other parents whose children have the same or a similar condition.

National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities (NICHCY)

www.nichcy.org

National clearinghouse for families and professionals that offers information about disabilities and related services, assists with referrals, produces state resource sheets that provide contacts for disability related services and programs in each state. *Site available in Spanish.*

The ARC, National and State sites

www.thearc.org and www.arccalifornia.org

Organization of and for people with mental retardation and related disabilities and their families.

Alliance of Genetic Support Groups

www.geneticalliance.org

Partnership of self-help groups and professionals addressing communication, service delivery, and advocacy issues for individuals and families affected by genetic disorders.

Family Voices

www.familyvoices.org

Speaking on behalf of children with special healthcare needs. *Site available in Spanish.*

Federation of Families for Children's' Mental Health

www.ffcmh.org

National parent-directed organization focused on the needs of children and youth with emotional, behavioral, or mental disorders and their families.

United Advocates for Children and Families

www.UACF4HOPE.org

Created by parents for parents of children in public mental health systems. *Site available in Spanish.*

And of course: www.ParentsCAN.org

with special needs!

With everyone's generous support we are making a difference for over 400 families and their children

tion items. (See the complete list and photos from the event on our website.)
who donated wine for our raffle and items for our silent and live auctions, as well as all those who purchased auc-
Cellars, Susan Burchill, Trincherro Family Estates, and Winetech. We also thank all the businesses and individuals
erscreen, Queen of the Valley Medical Center, Robert Biale Vineyards, Roger Kieffer and family, Stags Leap Wine
ics, Napa Valley Register, North Bay Plywood, Peter and Vernice H Casser Foundation, Pisenti and Brinker, Pow-
Gifts, Jack and Donna Morgan, Mike Scully Allstate Insurance, Napa County First Five, Napa Printing and Graph-
Dickenson Peatman and Fogarty, The Doctors Company, Foster's Wine Group Beringer, Garaventa's Flowers and
prehensive Autism Services and Education (CASE), Dey Community Fund/Community Foundation of Napa Valley,
We would like to thank our sponsors: Balzac Design, Bank of Napa, Bell Products, Bill Peatman, Com-

thrive. It shows that people in Napa County care about all children!"
commitment of the Napa County community to help children with disabilities and their families to survive and
standing Grand Traditions' committee, the great support of the many dedicated friends of ParentsCAN, and the
Executive Director, Joan Lockhart reports, "This fantastic event was the result of the hard work of an out-
Lincoln Theater on the grounds of the historic Veterans Home, in Yountville.
supporting ParentsCAN programs for children with disabilities and their parents, was held September 8, at the
enthusiasm as we honored Vera Trincherro Torres, as Grandparent of the Year, 2007. The event, with proceeds
Grand Traditions, our celebration of grandparents, saw record attendance, record support and great

Jessel Miller ©



Grand Traditions



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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Fall 2007 Issue!



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