



# ParentsCAN Advocate

Parent-Child Advocacy Network

Volume 4, Issue 1

WINTER 2008

## OUR MISSION

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

## OUR CENTER

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Joan Lockhart

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## From Our Director ...

As we begin 2008, I am pleased with the progress we have made in providing support to families whose children have disabilities and special health-care needs in Napa County. Up and down the Napa Valley, ParentsCAN Family Advocates are meeting in homes, in Family Resource Centers, and at Napa County Health and Human Services to share the journeys of parents ... the feelings of loss and isolation, frustration and fear, and the hope and joy.

Each of our Advocates knows from experience the difficult and rewarding journey of having children with special needs. ParentsCAN staff is working with an average of 130 families each and every month through support groups, training workshops, and direct advocacy for parents through county healthcare, education, and law enforcement agencies to ensure that children, parents, grandparents, siblings and foster parents have the resources they need to be successful.

ParentsCAN has been generously supported by the communities we serve. With grants from Auction Napa Valley, Queen of the Valley Medical Center, The Master Settlement Agreement, Community Foundation of Napa Valley, and First Five and contracts with Health & Human Services and Napa County Office of Education we are able to continue to serve the entire county. Two successful fundraising activities have brought in over \$180,000, which will help us launch some exciting new programs including a Sibling Support Conference and a respite reimbursement program for caregivers, as well as continuation of the grandparents support group. Respite is the most common request we receive — caregivers need a break from their responsibilities for their own health and wellness.

There are 2,700 children with disabilities in Napa County. Each one represents a family in need of support and guidance. That's why we are here. Just two and a half years after opening our doors, we are serving hundreds of families county-wide. While our growth and community support is exciting, there are many more families in the county who are not accessing valuable services. With your continued support we will reach more each year.

*Joan Lockhart*



**Napa County Child Care Planning Council recognizes ParentsCAN as an honored nominee for 2008 Napa Family Friendly Workplace**

The award certificate reads ...

“Family friendly philosophies create not only highly desirable work cultures, they also support employees to raise children who find more success as students and community members, resulting in a circle of success for the community, business, employee and the family. ParentsCAN is hereby recognized as a valuable community asset whose leadership is committed to the overall success of its employees and their families.”



*The Parent Project® is a training model for parents of teens that not only delivers new skills and insights, it rekindles hope. Parents attending Parent Project® classes have the opportunity to experience success at home within the first week!*

The overwhelming majority of parents deeply love and care about their children. Unfortunately, for many high risk families, repeated frustrations and failures combined with the daily stresses of life often lead to feelings of helplessness. *Parents may have given up because they felt success was unattainable.*

ParentsCAN has invested considerable time, energy and funds in Parent Project®, a **ten week parenting class for parents of children ages 11-18 who have special needs such as ADHD, Bipolar disorder, and other behavioral challenges.**

Six ParentsCAN staff members have participated in the week-long training of the curriculum to be Parent Project® facilitators. Official training is required to provide this evidence based parenting program. Parent Project® is based on the core values of love and affection, with consequence built in. ParentsCAN is

committed to providing it because we know it works!

Our ParentsCAN staff not only teaches or assists with the facilitation, but follows up with the families by providing one to one peer counseling. That follow-up gives parents the opportunity to continue learning after the 10 week class is completed.

**Parent Project® topics include:**

- ◆ Strong-willed vs. compliant children; Love and Affection
- ◆ Addressing problematic behavior
- ◆ Active supervision
- ◆ Drugs and alcohol
- ◆ Gangs and relationships
- ◆ Action plans and establishing house rules
- ◆ Supporting change and improving relationships

This year in St. Helena we will also be offering Parent Project® classes designed especially for teens

to increase their awareness of the effect their actions have on other people and to learn communication skills including active listening. Watch for more teen classes soon!

Following are some of the responses over the last three years from parents who participated in ParentsCAN facilitated Parent Project® classes:

78% have changed and now regularly convey love and affection to their teen

77% now actively supervise their child

69% reported a significant to complete change in their child's former use of drugs or alcohol

***Amazing program ~ amazing results!***

**Contact ParentsCAN to register for one of our FREE\* (no cost!) upcoming Parent Project® series:**

February 15 - April 18, 2008, Friday evenings  
in Napa for Spanish speakers  
Contact Martha Soto 253-4866

February 21 - April 24, 2008, Thursday evenings  
In Napa for English speakers  
Contact Karen Roby 259-8655

February 15 — April 18, 2008, Friday evenings  
in St. Helena for Spanish speakers  
Contact Marlena Garcia 253-7444

Watch for Parent Project® coming to American Canyon soon!

*\* Parent Project® is provided free to Napa County families through funding provided by: The Master Settlement Agreement, Juvenile Probation, and Napa Valley Community Foundation.*

**ParentsCAN Success Stories ~ Parent Project®**

There is a success story behind every family who completes the Parent Project®! Some of them include ...

**Several moms** who began to work to benefit other families by facilitating a support group for the families to continue meeting, learning and supporting one another after the 10 week series.

**Teens** who saw a positive change in their family and began to encourage their parents to go to the classes.

**Single fathers** who resented the fact they were required to attend ... until they saw a response on the part of their teens to the techniques taught in the classes. Then these dads were there and fully participating each week.

There is no doubt that the Parent Project® is a huge commitment due to the time involvement but the payoff is worth every minute. Even if you are not having major issues in your family, the lessons of the Parent Project® will improve communication with your children and provide insight into gang activity and drug and alcohol use. Contact ParentsCAN today! You may visit the Parent Project website at [www.parentproject.com](http://www.parentproject.com) for details as well.



## Upcoming Support Groups and Trainings



### ADHD Workshop & Support Group

For parents, caregivers, teachers, anyone interested in kids with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder.

#### **Final week of a 4 week series:**

Thursday, February 7, 2008 ~ 6:30 — 8:30 p.m.  
ParentsCAN Resource Center

**Topics:** Home organization, parent self-care, a 13 year old guest speaker with ADHD shares her view

Watch for another series for ADHD coming in Spring! Topics will include ADHD myths, causes, symptoms, treatments, parents' rights, building school teams, strategies, behavior modification and more!

### AUTISM Support Group

Find encouragement, resources and support for parenting an autistic child

**Meets 2nd Fridays, 9:00 — 10:30 a.m.**  
ParentsCAN Resource Center

**NOTE the new date!**

February 8: Transitions from high school  
March 14, April 11, May 9: Topics to be announced

### GRANDPARENTING Support Group

Monthly gathering for grandparents who are raising their grandchildren.  
Tea & cookies spiced with support!

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

February 25: Using humor; Camps for special needs children  
March 17: Trauma Induced Behavior (PTSD)  
April 21: Explaining sex to your special needs child

### SCHOOLUTIONS workshops

Find great school solutions—*Schoolutions!* This is a 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.

First Wednesdays of every month during the school year  
9:30—11:00 a.m.  
ParentsCAN Resource Center

February 6 ~ March 5 ~ April 2 ~ May 7



**Mental Health Educational/Support Group for families or caregivers of ADULTS with mental illnesses**

**Meets 2nd and 4th Thursdays, 6:30—8:00 p.m.**  
ParentsCAN Resource Center

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.  
Contact Juanita at 253-4172 with questions.

#### Beginning in January ...

the ParentsCAN Drop-In Center is available every Tuesday from 1—3 p.m. for family members of adults with mental illness. Our staff group facilitator will be available to provide you with one-on-one support. If you need resources, a safe place to talk, or just a hand to hold ... Hope is here.

## Support Groups & Trainings for Spanish Speakers



### **FEBRUARY 2008**

- 1 St. Helena Schoolutions, 10a-12p, St. Helena Fam Ctr
- 4 Napa Schoolutions, 10-11:30 am, ParentsCAN Center
- 8 St. Helena Support Group 6-8 pm, Stonebridge Apts.
- 12 Puertas Abiertas Group, 10a-12p
- 23 General Disabilities, 10a-12p, ParentsCAN Center

### **MARCH 2008**

- 3 Napa Schoolutions, 10-11:30 am, ParentsCAN Center
- 4 St. Helena Schoolutions 10a-12p, St. Helena Fam Ctr
- 11 Puertas Abiertas, 10a-12p
- 14 St. Helena Support Group 6-8pm, Stonebridge Apts.
- 29 General Disabilities, 10a-12p ParentsCAN Center

### **APRIL 2008**

- 4 St. Helena Schoolutions, 10a-12p, St. Helena Fam Ctr
- 7 Napa Schoolutions, 10-11:30 am, ParentsCAN Center
- 8 Puertas Abiertas Group, 10a-12p
- 11 St. Helena Support Group, 6-8pm, Stonbridge Apts.
- 26 General Disabilities, 10a-12p ParentsCAN Center

### **LOCATIONS**

**ParentsCAN:** 3299 Claremont Way, Ste. 3, 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

## Calling All Artists!

Each year in the month of March we celebrate the "ABILITIES" of people with disabilities. In support of "Abilities Awareness Month" for 2008, the Community Advisory Committee to Special Education in Napa County (CAC) announces a "Call for Entries" for their Annual Poster Contest. The theme for the 2008 Poster Contest will be decided at the upcoming CAC meeting. (Visit [www.parentscan.org](http://www.parentscan.org) to learn the theme once it is announced.)



The winners of the Poster Contest are recognized at the Board of Education meetings of Napa County and districts. Winners' art is used to create the Inclusion Awards which are also presented at this board meeting to teachers and staff who make a concerted effort to include ALL children into their school community. The CAC creates a special event for this Board Meeting and it is a great occasion for all who attend. The Poster contest is open to all the children of the public schools.

CAC meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of every month from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. at the Napa County Office of Education on Imola Avenue, Napa. CAC is open to parents and professionals from the Napa Valley as a forum to discuss policies, ideas and issues. If your child has an IEP (Individualized Education Plan) please come - we would like to hear your ideas and let your voice be heard.

If you would like more information on the CAC, learn what they do, and hear about upcoming activities, please feel free to contact:

Susan SegalWood - Chairperson [segalfoto@napanet.net](mailto:segalfoto@napanet.net)

Cheri Ruise - VP Chairperson [cher9585@aol.com](mailto:cher9585@aol.com)

Bill Fried - Treasurer [williamfried@sbcglobal.net](mailto:williamfried@sbcglobal.net)

## Sports for All!



Children are more alike than different. All children, whether typically developing, or with special needs, have strengths and special interests. For those children with disabilities who love sports, here are some opportunities to learn, be around other children, and gain a sense of accomplishment.

**Special Olympics: Contact Suzy Jordan, 280-4694**

Basketball now in session. Call for details.

Bocce ball practice begins March 16 at Fuller Park, Napa.

Swim practice begins March 18 at Exertec.

Winter games at Kirkwood Ski Resort March 10-13.

Bowling begins April 5 at Napa Bowl.

Basketball, volleyball begins April 10 at 1st Baptist Church

Track & Field begins April 26 at Justin Siena High School

There are year round opportunities in Special Olympics!

**Challenger Baseball: Patti Saunders, 255-5871**

Kids age 6—18 who have a disability can be paired with a peer from a local little league team and play ball!

## The System versus the Community

*In a social service system people are known by what's wrong: by their condition or label.*

**In community people are known as individuals.**

*In a system people are incomplete and need to be changed or "fixed" .*

**In community people are as they are, with opportunities to follow their own dreams.**

*In a system relationships are unequal; service workers do things "for" clients and don't look for any contribution in return.*

**In community relationships are reciprocal, give and take; and the diverse gifts of many people are recognized.**

*In a system people are broken into parts and separated into groups.*

**In community people have the chance to be accepted as whole persons, and viewed as part of the whole society.**

*In a system problems are solved by consulting authorities, policies, procedures.*

**In community people seek answers from their own experience and the wisdom of others.**

*In a system there is no room to acknowledge mistakes and uncertainty; information is communicated in professional jargon that distances individuals from their actions.*

**In community people can make honest efforts and acknowledge honest mistakes and fears.**

*In a system all problems have a rational solution.*

**In community there is room for confusion, and mystery, and recognition that some things are beyond human control.**

*From: The Gift of Hospitality: Opening the Doors of Community to People with Disabilities.*

*Written By: Mary O'Connell. Produced By: The Community Life Project. Center for Urban Affairs and Policy Research. Northwestern University, Evanston, IL. From the newsletter "Sharing" of the Down Syndrome Parent Support Group in Phoenix, AZ. As Seen By the System Versus The Community [www.kidstogether.org](http://www.kidstogether.org), reprinted with permission.*



**ParentsCAN Vision:**

**That all individuals with disabilities and their families have access to services and support to reach their full potential.**

***It is our hope that all of our client families feel the support of a community when partnering with an advocate from ParentsCAN.***

## Holidays Bring a Gift to ParentsCAN



Each year Napa County Supervisor Bill Dodd and his wife Mary hold a party and "shamble" golf tournament to celebrate the holidays. ParentsCAN thanks Bill and Mary for donating the receipts of this year's party to ParentsCAN to support our work with families of children with disabilities and special health needs.

When disabilities or significant health issues strike an infant or child of any age, the entire family is changed forever. ParentsCAN staff has been through the experience of having a child with a disability and are trained to provide the emotional support, resources and training that parents need to learn about the systems and become a life advocate for their unique needs.

Thank you to the many donors and attendees that helped the cause and enjoyed the event. We also appreciate all who volunteered their time and talents to make it possible. To see the list of supporters and view photos from the party, visit our website at [www.parentscan.org](http://www.parentscan.org).

**ParentsCAN served an average of 130 families each month in 2007!  
So many that we had 2 holiday parties!**

### Holiday Happenings at St. A's ...

One of our parties was held at St. Apollinaris on December 13 for our client families and their children.

Thank you to all who provided the great food; Suppertime, California Pizza, Hop Hing Chinese Food, Quinto Patio Mexican Restaurant, Taco Garcia Mexican Food, Safeway, Raley's, Brown's Valley Market, and Sharon McDonald of Mrs. McDonald's Catering.

Our decorators had several theme tables. We had a picnic table (cheeses & deli meats), there was the Chinese food table, a table decorated in a Mexican theme, an Italian theme table (pizza and meatballs) and the best table of all was the dessert table ... chocolate cake, gingerbread train, cream puff balls, chocolate mousse and many other goodies!

50 families joined us for this event. Everyone ate, laughed and enjoyed each others' company. Santa Claus arrived with his helpers and took pictures with the kids!

Most of the kids were a little overwhelmed with the amount of toys, hats, comic books and food available, which showed the generosity of our community. It was a great time for the kids and their families. Thanks to all who made it possible! See some of the photos on our ParentsCAN website.



### Holiday Happenings at the Elks Lodge ...

On December 19 the Elks Lodge was transformed into Santa's workshop! The busy Elves (members of the Napa Elks Lodge) decorated the space, prepared a delicious meal, purchased gifts for the children, and welcomed the families with big smiles. We so appreciate their special touches that provided a festive and relaxing place for families to join together to celebrate the holiday.

Upon arrival the children and parents enjoyed visiting with some special four-legged friends from Loving Animals Providing Smiles (LAPS). Thank you to the therapy teams who joined us for the evening! Soon after dinner Santa arrived! Family photos were taken - thank you Brad and Cody Hanson.

Many thanks to all the wonderful folks from the Elks Lodge, especially Sandy Silveira, who helped make this event one that will be long remembered by the 40 families who attended. You can view some photos on our ParentsCAN website.



## Local Parent Leaders to be Honored



ParentsCAN joins numerous agencies across the country in celebrating National Parent Leadership Month in February 2008 as a way of honoring and celebrating parents for their leadership roles in their homes and communities in state, national and international areas. On February 27, 2008 at the Napa City and County Library, ParentsCAN and the other family resource centers of Napa County will honor a group of extraordinary parents from throughout Napa Valley. These parents, nominated by each family resource center, have used their experience facing significant challenges in their own families to assist and support other parents and family members in similar situations.

When a family is in crisis, parents are often overwhelmed and afraid. As parent leaders, these individuals have become role models from whom others can learn, draw strength, and find hope. By sharing their experiences, resources and coping skills with others, these parent leaders let others know they are not alone.

Many past honorees have become advocates, staff members and peer review team members in organizations that support families in Napa County. They lend their voice to committees and at the policy tables of providers of the County. They share their own struggles and trials for the good of others.

All are welcome to join us as we honor the parents who make a difference for others through their leadership.



### **Parent Leadership Tea**

*Sponsored by ParentsCAN*

*Wed., February 27, 2008*

*12:30 — 3:00 p.m.*

*Napa City and County Library  
580 Coombs Street, Napa*

*Refreshments  
will be served*

The exciting news is that  
**ALL PARENTS**  
have the potential to become Parent Leaders!

Contact ParentsCAN for information on how you  
can get started on the road to leadership  
in your community.

## Step Two NVUSD Student Success Teams



In our last issue of the Advocate we described the three tier school based intervention process being introduced in Napa schools to help children who are struggling with Math or Reading/Language Arts. The Action Plan formulated at the Step One collaborative meeting will be implemented for 6 – 12 weeks and will typically include universal or benchmark interventions. For example, Step One interventions will be used for students who are satisfactorily achieving grade level standards but on occasion may require additional assistance and support for specific standards and concepts (benchmark interventions). Step One interventions can often be implemented by the classroom teacher as soon as a concern is identified.

If the student is still struggling after these initial Step One interventions have been implemented, a Student Success Team (SST) will be formed and a meeting will be held. The team will review all available information about the student's performance, including observations, previous interventions and their effectiveness, and District and State tests. The parents are an important part of the team and their observations will provide valuable insight for the team members as they design a Step Two plan for the student. The team may also include other resource members such as tutors, counselors, the school psychologist and the school nurse. The site administrator will be the Team facilitator and will organize meetings and coordinate interventions.

Step Two academic interventions are typically strategic in nature and designed to help the student perform successfully across the curriculum. They will include the use of scientifically based intervention materials and differentiated instruction. Individual or small group tutoring may be provided before, during, or after school or on Saturdays. If small group tutoring is used, students will be grouped according to their learning needs.

The team facilitator will schedule a follow up meeting to assess the effectiveness of the interventions being used. If they are successful, the team will continue to observe and monitor the student's progress. If these interventions are insufficient and the student continues to fall behind, then Step Three interventions will be introduced.

Student Success teams are designed to provide a supportive atmosphere in which students' needs and parents' and school staff's concerns can be addressed. In our next issue we will discuss Step Three interventions.

Back issues of *The Advocate*, ParentsCAN quarterly newsletter, can be found on our website:  
[www.parentscan.org](http://www.parentscan.org)

There you'll also find helpful website links of interest to families who have children with disabilities.

## 2-1-1 Coming to Napa

February 11 has been designated as "2-1-1 Day" by United Way of the Bay Area. They will be celebrating the region-wide expansion of 2-1-1 phone service in the Bay Area. 2-1-1 is a toll-free, easy-to-remember phone number that connects people in need with local community services, such as child care, youth programs, job training, senior services, immigration assistance, counseling, food, shelter and so much more.

As of February 2008, 2-1-1 will be available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week in seven Bay Areas counties including Napa. Give them a call!



## What is SELPA?

SELPA is "Special Education Local Plan Area". SELPA's role is to ensure that the specialized education needs of each disabled student in the Calistoga, Howell Mountain, Napa Valley, Pope Valley and St. Helena Unified school districts are appropriately met.

Napa County SELPA is located at the Napa County Office of Education (NCOE), 2121 Imola Avenue, Napa. Some of the services and programs they provide include infant and preschool services, day treatment programs, court and community special education services, California Children Services Medical Therapy Unit, adaptive physical education and more. A full list of services and programs can be found on their website: [www.ncoe.k12.ca.us/selpa/index.htm](http://www.ncoe.k12.ca.us/selpa/index.htm) or by calling their office at 253.6810.



## Volunteer Opportunity at ParentSCAN!

ParentsCAN hopes you find each issue of The Advocate to be a useful tool for your family. In order to continue to provide this newsletter in Spanish to our Napa County Hispanic population, we are looking for a volunteer to help with translation of the newsletter.

**SKILLS** needed are Microsoft Word and the ability to translate written English to written Spanish. **TIME** involved would be approximately 8-10 hours over a 1 week period during the months of January, March, June and September. May be done in our office or at your home via email. Please call ParentsCAN at 253.7444 to say Si!

### WEBSITE LINKS

[www.chadd.org](http://www.chadd.org)

Children and Adults with Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). Site has info for Spanish speakers.

[www.bpkids.org](http://www.bpkids.org)

Child and Adolescent Bipolar Foundation. Site not available in Spanish.



## Community Resources for Independence

Community Resources for Independence (CRI) has a branch office new to Napa, but CRI is not new as a North Bay Area resource for disability related information. Their goal is to advance the rights of people with disabilities to equal justice, access, opportunity and participation in our communities. Persons with any type of disability, any age, and/or their families, are eligible to receive services from CRI. Appointments are recommended and no fees are charged to consumers except for legal representation. CRI provides services such as benefits counseling, skills training for housing searches, peer support groups, and independent living skills training. Of interest to families with a special needs teen: **Peer Support Group for Teens**

### with Disabilities

2nd Tuesdays from 4-6 p.m. at  
Community Resources for Independence  
1040 Main St., Suite 208, Napa  
Teens with disabilities get together to socialize and talk about life issues. Snacks provided.  
Contact April Dawson at 258.0270, [www.cri-dove.org](http://www.cri-dove.org)



## ParentsCAN Services Up Valley!

Families in St. Helena and Calistoga now have local ParentsCAN parent partners to support and assist them in finding the resources and information they need to effectively advocate for their child with special needs.

Vilma Moreno Dodds and Maria Calderon are two of the newest members of our staff who will be focusing their efforts in providing services specifically tailored to our families up valley. They join Hilda Gutierrez, who continues to be a source of support to St. Helena families. In collaboration with the St. Helena Family Center and the Calistoga Family Center, Vilma and Maria are able to provide services in Spanish and English to families within those communities. Their current "office hours" will be Mondays 9 a.m. -12 noon in Calistoga and Fridays 9 a.m. -12 noon in St. Helena. Families may call the centers any time to leave a message. Vilma will assist families in English; Maria will assist families in Spanish.

We are excited to have staff that lives in and understands the unique needs of each community. They will be able to assist families who might not otherwise be able to use our Napa based services. Currently, our up valley parent partners are available to conduct IEP preparation clinics both in Spanish and English for families on an individual basis by appointment. In St. Helena we are also hosting a Latino Support Group on the second Friday of each month from 6-8 p.m. at the St. Helena Family Center. ParentsCAN is currently researching the needs discussed at these meetings to assist us in making plans to host other workshops and support groups. **Vilma, Maria and Hilda look forward to meeting you!**

St. Helena Family Center, 1440 Spring Street, 963-1919  
Calistoga Family Center, 1500 Cedar St., 942-6206

ParentsCAN has many books in our library for siblings of all ages. We have books for young children to explain disabilities to them, such as Down Syndrome, Autism, physical disabilities and more. We also have books for teen and adult siblings. **Our free resource library is available Monday—Friday from 8:30 a.m.—5:00 p.m.**

Helpful websites regarding siblings issues:  
[www.siblingsupport.org](http://www.siblingsupport.org) The Sibling Support Project  
[www.supersibs.org](http://www.supersibs.org) for siblings of children with cancer

ParentsCAN is working to establish a new sibling support program using the "Sibshop" model to address the emotional needs of siblings and contribute to the overall health of the families of children with special needs in Napa County. Stay tuned!

For families of children with special needs, it is important to acknowledge the other children in the family. The reactions of your typically developing children to their sibling with a disability can affect the overall adjustment and development of self-esteem in all children. If siblings are supported they are more likely to develop strong self-esteem and positive qualities, and also contribute to the quality of life of the person with special needs.

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**April 10<sup>th</sup> is National Sibling Awareness Day!**

- 95% of Americans have siblings
- Siblings are likely to have the longest relationship than any other person in their life
- Many siblings have relationships that can easily extend 70 years or more
- Mother's Day and Father's Day were established over 100 years ago, yet siblings are still largely overlooked

**Did you know ...**

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Several ParentsCAN staff members have children with autism. Together we can learn, cope, grow and support each other! See our calendar for meetings and call us for one-on-one support ~ together we're stronger!

On April 17 Keri Horan, co-founder of the Napa based autism support group SOAR, is hosting a movie screening of "Autism Yesterday" produced by Generation Rescue. Call her for details: at 738-8956.

Autism is a complex neurological disorder that typically lasts throughout a person's lifetime. It is part of a group of disorders known as autism spectrum disorders (ASD). Autism impairs a person's ability to communicate and relate to others. It is also associated with rigid routines and repetitive behaviors, such as obsessively arranging objects or following very specific routines. Symptoms can range from very mild to quite severe.

- 1 in 150 children is diagnosed with autism; 67 children are diagnosed per day; a new case almost every 20 minutes
- Autism is the fastest-growing serious developmental disability in the U.S.
- There is no medical detection or cure for autism
- A Google search resulted in 24,200,000 sites that included the word "autism"

**April is Autism Awareness Month!**

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Parent-Child Advocacy Network  
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Winter 2008 Issue!



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