



# ParentsCAN Advocate

Parent-Child Advocacy Network

Volume 3, Issue 2

SPRING 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

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## Inside This Issue:

### Page 1

- From the Director
- Success Story

### Page 2

- Transitions:  
What's Your Plan?  
Grandparents as Parents

### Page 3

- 504 Plans
- Changing the Future
- College Bound

### Page 4

- Mental Health Month
- MHSA Update
- Family Picnic

### Page 5

- Fun & Games & Things  
to Do

### Page 6

- Calendars
- Just for You

### Cover Page

- Autism Awareness

## From Our Director ...

When a child has a disability, it is not just the child who has special needs. The entire family has special needs, especially parents. These parents need to learn how to care for, provide help for, and enjoy their special child while continuing to work and take care of the rest of the family. Grandparents, siblings and other relatives and caretakers need information, training and support. Our unique parent-to-parent approach breaks down barriers and helps parents access the services and community resources they need to stay strong and healthy, and that makes life better and richer for everyone, including the child with a disability.

We are grateful to the families, county agencies, and generous donors who believe in this work and support it so generously. Thanks to you, we are reaching hundreds of families throughout Napa County, and have a presence in every community. There is much more to be done. I hope you feel the same pride we do in making such a positive difference in the lives of families who are on the difficult, challenging, and rewarding journey of raising a child with disabilities.

*Joan Lockhart*

## A Success Story

As a Health Care Liaison at ParentsCAN, I was pleased to have played a part in a recreational opportunity for Tony and his family. Tony had been diagnosed with leukemia and after experiencing many significant ups and downs, is currently on an upswing.



While researching available summer camps for children with healthcare, mental, and physical disabilities, I thought often of Tony and his family. With several children in the family home, I thought about what it would be like for Tony and his siblings to have a camp experience. I contacted Karen, Tony's mom, and we discussed the family in general but focused on Tony and his progress.

Tony was hospitalized for many months, and I had participated in previous meetings and phone calls with Tony's school to maintain his enrollment. He is currently on maintenance chemotherapy, and has settled into regular physical and occupational therapy. Despite his initial hesitation and shyness in returning to school on a regular basis, he has missed therapy occasionally in order to participate in school activities. According to his mother, he is still fragile but is doing well in readjusting to his life at school.

What a great opportunity to explore a camp designed to help and support children who have cancer! We spoke at great length about Camp Okizu, a camp designed for children with cancer and their families. Since I had attended the camp several times with my own family, I was able to share our personal experience. There is no better place to go in California for kids who have cancer! They are protected, cared for, and challenged by being with others on the same journey. There is a sibling camp as well, and all programs are free of charge to families.

Karen was eager to take part in the experience and a camping trip, including transportation, has been arranged for the entire family. This camping experience will provide the emotional boost the family needs as well as much-needed fun, rest and relaxation.

*See page 5 for a list of the many camps in our area being offered this summer!*

## Transitions ... What's Your Plan?

The word "transition" brings thoughts of change. Whether the transition is from one teacher to another or one school to the next, or the big one... from school to the world, we as parents are nervous about transitions. From our point of view, the big transition happens too soon and usually about ages 18-22. "Transition planning" is an opportunity to build a new and better tomorrow for a child with any type of disability. Here are some things to remember in planning for transition from school to the world:

Children with special needs do not deal easily with change, as they are working hard to meet life's tests added by their particular challenge. **Go slow**, and build self determination skills. Let your child make choices early, and live with the outcomes.

**Let go a little at a time**, always remembering the ultimate goal in life for our disabled children is to help them be as independent as possible, not unlike our typically developing children. The fact is, none of us can go through life all alone. We need others for various reasons, even if we think we can do it all.

**Start early!** Using the support of teachers and counselors, your child can learn what kind of future to plan for. A job? More schooling? What interests him most? What are the dreams and experiences of the current school and life situation that will be his strengths in the future? Ask your child questions such as "What makes a great day? What is your worst day? Whom do you want in your life? What living situation would you like? What help will you need?" Testing is available through counselor's offices at high schools and perhaps the IEP team can help. Who should be at the planning meeting?

**Make a Plan.** It can always be changed! Just start! Look 3 years into the future and focus on the hope for that future. With the help of supporters and family members, you and your child can develop a plan. What challenge is your child ready for?

**Do the paperwork.** Do you need to get in line for housing? Do you have to apply for SSI? What are the agencies and steps that will help with the next phase of growth?

**Face some hard facts.** You will not be here for ever. What makes parents most uncomfortable about children being on their own? Lack of skills? Lack of friends? Activities? Fear that they will get sick? What is their need for ongoing help? You can plan for most eventualities, but you need to face them first. Write them down with your child. Share the burden with others who care about your child.

Our kids may never be totally independent, but we can absolutely prepare them for the day when we are no longer in their lives. ParentsCAN is staffed with parents who have been through this transition with their own children and with whom you can talk. Drop in at our ParentsCAN Center or call to make an appointment with one of our Advocates.



## Grandparents as Parents ... A Transition

What parent does not look forward to the day he or she becomes a grandparent? To be able to witness the development of a unique little person to carry the family into the future, to be able to indulge that child with special time, special gifts, and fun and noisy toys to send home with him when "PaPa and Grammy" are tired - these are some of the joys of grandparenting. But what about those grandparents who have grandchildren who cannot go home with their parents because their parents are not able to care for them? What happens to those grandparents...and those children?



The most prevalent special needs of children living with grandparents are related to substance abuse by the mother during pregnancy. Approximately 60% of these children live with relatives, and of that sixty percent, 25% live with family members over the age of 60, usually a grandparent and most often a grandmother.

Often, a grandparent will assume custody of the child because of the absence of the parents due to substance abuse, incarceration, a move, or the unwillingness to let the grandchildren go into foster care. When this happens, the grandparents are often totally unprepared for the challenges of childrearing today. Many never apply for resources and services for which they and the children are eligible because of fear that the children will be removed from their custody, or they do not know that services are available. Many feel ill-equipped to access community-based and school-based services that may be necessary to meet the needs of their grandchild. Often, the grandparent minimizes the need for assistance.

For grandparents who have been childless, sometimes for many years, there may be issues of lack of space or money, and the necessary skills of raising children in today's world. In the best scenario, where grandparents have a comfortable retirement and access to services to help them in their new roles, they may face a completely new life: friends of the grandparents may be hesitant to include them in social plans for fear a toddler will be accompanying them to lunch, and a quiet chat may no longer be possible, thus bringing about isolation. Losing support from friends because of a change in lifestyle can leave the grandparent grieving and in danger of depression. Respite services (to get a break) are difficult or impossible to find even if the grandparent can afford to pay, and resources for payment of respite are currently nonexistent.

When grandparents are raising their grandchildren, they lose out on one of the best parts of life: just being a grandparent, and loving and playing with their special grandchild until it is time for him or her to go home. Not being able to just be Papa and Grammy may be the greatest loss of all.

For grandparents raising their grandchildren with special needs, ParentsCAN provides a support group with educational speakers. Contact us for more information.

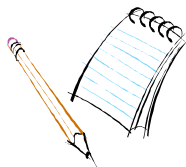
## When is a 504 plan appropriate?

In 1973 the Rehabilitation Act was passed to ensure equal access to federally funded programs by people with disabilities. The initial purpose to be served by §504 (with reference to education), was to provide meaningful access to the public schools for students with disabilities. Some of that role is now shared with the IDEA, under which students with the most severe disabilities are served. What remains in §504 is an anti-discrimination statute which requires that the educational needs of disabled students are met as adequately as the needs of non-disabled students. That nondiscrimination protection extends to IDEA students as well. §504 likewise retains responsibility to provide a free appropriate public education (FAPE) to qualifying disabled students whose disabilities are not so severe as to create IDEA eligibility. These are the “§504 Only” students upon whom schools must focus their efforts under §504. That protection applies not only to individuals with a current disability, but also to persons who have a record of a disability, or who may be “regarded as” or perceived by the district as being disabled. §504 presumes a regular classroom placement for the child (or education in the mainstream). Examples of 504 qualifying conditions are chronic severe illnesses, mental illness, and ADHD.

The real question for districts to ask is whether a student requires special education and related services under IDEA. If the child’s needs can be met as adequately as the needs of non-disabled students by use of a set of accommodations in the regular class under §504, the child does not need to be served under IDEA.

Accommodations are not specifically described in the law and are determined by the needs of the child. Common accommodations include seating near the black board, separate testing areas, permission to stand at the desk or move around regularly, or note-takers among others.

Disruption of the regular classroom by the disabled child is a factor in determining appropriateness of the regular class. When a student with disabilities is so disruptive in a regular classroom that the education of other students is significantly impaired, the needs of the disabled child cannot be met in that environment. Therefore, regular placement would not be appropriate to his or her needs and would not be required by § 104.34.” Appendix A, p. 429. However, if supplementary aids and services have not been tried, or a behavior management plan is not in place, disruption by the student does not mean that he cannot be educated in the regular classroom. His disruption means that the School District needs to modify appropriately, and then make the determination.



## Changing the Future

Parents of children with disabilities in Napa County were able to attend a 5-part training series presented by Parent-Child Advocacy Network (ParentsCAN) which was designed to empower parents of children with special needs to become leaders in their families, schools, and communities. Parents learned the history of current laws that protect children with disabilities and how these laws were made possible by the actions of parents just like themselves.

ParentsCAN uses a strength-based model, which validates parents for the tremendous daily contributions they make in the lives of their children with special needs. It was a dynamic opportunity for parents to explore their own leadership styles and to obtain skills needed to initiate changes in their families and in their communities.

ParentsCAN is able to offer this family empowerment series free of charge through the ongoing support of Auction Napa Valley. This series is uniquely designed for parents of children with disabilities. The next series will be offered in Spanish in fall 2007. Contact the ParentsCAN office for information on the Spanish series or the next English series.



## College Bound! Meeting Special Needs After High School



The IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) does not extend to post secondary education. There are no IEPs and “No Child Left Behind” protections after high school graduation.

There are, however, services in place to help your child be successful in college if that is his or her plan. The protections of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (504 plans) are available to college students.

Wendy Martinez, the Dean of Special Students at Napa Valley College, emphasized that the post secondary services available to students are designed to guarantee access to an education, and not success. Her advice is to make an appointment with a counselor in her department as soon as you have the final IEP from your child’s high school. This will help the College staff to know what testing should be done and, if there is not enough time for testing, there are classes in which the student can enroll while the testing process takes place. The assessment tools used in colleges are not the same as those used in K-12 education. They are designed to assess adults. There may be some cost for the assessment which could be equal to the tuition for 2 units.

Just as they do to K-12 education, every student comes to higher education with a unique set of special needs. A student education plan is developed which addresses the specific interests and needs of that particular student. Services might include books on tape, note-takers, special testing arrangements, assistive technology training, or any services or accommodations which enable the student to access a rewarding and enriching college experience.

## May is Mental Health Month: Promote Wellness!

This May celebrates the 58<sup>th</sup> year of National Mental Health Awareness Month. This celebration helps to raise awareness of the mental health of our communities and the importance of mental wellness for everyone (MHA, 2007). "Resiliency and Well Being" is the theme for Children's Mental Health Day on May 8<sup>th</sup>. This is especially important because recent statistics report that 11 million children suffer from some form of mental or emotional illness each year (Neddermeyer, 2007).

If you, your partner or your child have mental illness, it is very important that the caregiver and the consumer get support. In Napa, there are support groups for adult consumers (those diagnosed with a mental disorder) and their caregivers. The groups are:

### Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance

Meets Mondays 7:15 pm-9:15 pm at  
Clinic Olé 1141 Pear Tree Ln., Napa  
2<sup>nd</sup> floor Schafer Room  
Contact Brenda Navarro  
Phone: (707) 747-1989 Fax: (707) 746-7823  
Email: [brennavarro9@aol.com](mailto:brennavarro9@aol.com)

### Family Support Group

Meets the first Monday of the month at  
1500 Third St., Suite B1, Napa  
Contact Dr. Harriet Lehman 253-6192

### Behavioral Health Support Group



For parents of children with  
mental health issues  
Meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays at 6:30 pm at  
ParentsCAN, 3299 Claremont Way, Suite 3, Napa  
Contact Chris Lieber 259-8656.  
Email: [clieber@co.napa.ca.us](mailto:clieber@co.napa.ca.us)

Sources for this article:

<http://EzineArticles.com/?expert:DorothyMNeddermyer,PhD>  
<http://www.mentalhealthamerica.net/go/may>  
[www.dbsalliance.org](http://www.dbsalliance.org)



### TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK: May 7-11, 2007

Is there a special teacher who goes out of their way to support and care for your child? Be sure to let them know how valued they are during Teacher Appreciation Week!

## MHSA Update:

### Full Service Partnership for Latino Children

The Mental Health Services Act, also referred to as Prop 63, became effective on January 1, 2005. The law imposes a tax of 1% of earned income over \$1 million for California residents. This revenue is earmarked for mental health services and is distributed to the counties based on their present mental health budgets. 50% of the funds allocated to the counties must be used for Full Service Partnerships, which are based on a "wraparound" model of delivering services. The agency "wraps" the client and his or her family and uses the existing strengths and community supports to provide for the client's needs, supplemented with the FSP funds and services.

Napa has implemented a Full Service Partnership for children which is staffed by bilingual, bicultural workers and gives priority to Latino families. The supervisor is a licensed mental health counselor and the team consists of one other mental health professional and two community aides. To be referred to this program, the child must have a serious impairment which affects one or more major life areas: school, family, interpersonal or mental functioning. The child must also be at risk for hospitalization, incarceration, suicide, homicide or removal from the home. There are 14 slots available in the program and 7 of these are currently filled with children ages 10 to 16. Referrals to this program come from different sources, including Napa County Probation, Napa County Mental Health and Clinic Ole. The focus of the team is to keep the child safe in the community. To help the family to cope with the special needs of the child, the team helps them to interact with the various agencies and systems involved in their lives. The family is then less likely to be overwhelmed by numerous commitments and demands on their time and energy.

Of course, each family comes to the program with its own unique blend of strengths and challenges. As these are identified through the wraparound family meetings, the group (team) assures support for the family to use its strengths to meet the challenges it faces, and more effectively advocate for the child with special needs, and the needs of the whole family.

California Mental Health Advocates for Children and Youth  
27th Annual Conference:

### **CELEBRATE TRANSFORMATION: Keep it Movin'**

May 16-18, 2007

Located at Asilomar Conference Grounds on the Monterey Peninsula. For registration information contact: The Coordinators at [www.CMHACY.org](http://www.CMHACY.org). Registration packet and information also available at the ParentsCAN Drop-In Office.



## FUN & GAMES & THINGS TO DO!

### Summer camps for 2007



#### Blind and Visually Impaired:

Enchanted Hills Camp  
(415) 694-7319 ~ [www.lighthouse-sf.org](http://www.lighthouse-sf.org)

#### Oncology Camps:

Camp Okizu  
(415) 382-9083 ~ [www.okizu.org](http://www.okizu.org)

#### Adults with Developmental Disabilities:

Westminster Woods Friendship Camp  
(707) 874-2426 x615 ~ [www.westminsterwoods.org](http://www.westminsterwoods.org)

#### Epilepsy Camps:

Camp Coelho  
(800) 632-3532 ~ [www.epilepsynorcal.org](http://www.epilepsynorcal.org)

#### Diabetic Camps:

Bearskin Meadow  
(925) 680-4994 ~ [www.dyf.org](http://www.dyf.org)  
Family Camps available!

#### Bipolar Camp:

Camp New Hope ~ [www.campnewhope.net](http://www.campnewhope.net)

#### Children with Physical Disabilities:

Ability First Sports Camp  
(916) 427-2779 ~ (Cal State University, Chico)

Northern California Junior Sports Camp,  
San Jose University ~ (408)369-6448

#### Children/Adults with Physical or Developmental Disabilities:

Camp Costanoan  
(408) 243-7861x218 ~ [www.viaservices.org/camp/](http://www.viaservices.org/camp/)

Camp Lots a Fun  
(775) 827-3866 ~ [www.campplotsafun.com](http://www.campplotsafun.com)

Camp Recreation  
(916) 733-0136 ~ [www.camprec.org](http://www.camprec.org)

Camp Rubber Soul  
(707) 962-0906

Camping Unlimited (Camp Krem)  
(510) 222-6662 ~ [www.campingunlimited.com](http://www.campingunlimited.com)

Christian Berets  
(209) 524-7993 ~ [www.christianberets.org](http://www.christianberets.org)

#### Easter Seals Northern California:

Bike & Swim Camp at Sonoma State Univ, Rohnert Park, June 11-15 for 8-22 yrs old. Contact ParentsCAN for registration information or contact Easter Seals at [www.noca.easterseals.com](http://www.noca.easterseals.com) or 707-584-1443.

#### Easter Seals Central California:

Camp Harmon - (831) 684-2380; Buzzard's Gulch - (530) 894-0205; Eagle Lake Camp - (530) 894-0205

## NAPA VALLEY SPECIAL OLYMPICS ...

Contact Suzy at (707) 280-4694 for times and locations of these programs:

Aquatics ~ Basketball ~ Bocceball  
Bowling ~ Gymnastics ~ Track & Field  
Softball ~ Skiing (training) ~ Volleyball



### TWO MUSIC THERAPY RESOURCES ...



#### "Music for Life" & "Music for Therapy"

Kathy Quain provides music therapy to benefit persons with special needs including children with autism. Call 246-4116 or visit [www.kathyquain.com](http://www.kathyquain.com)

~ and ~

#### "Magically Musical"

Shauna Joseph, Registered Music Therapist  
Guitar, piano, voice. Specializing in lessons for people with special needs. Call Shauna at (707) 226-5032

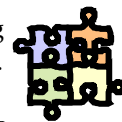
### PRESCHOOL DANCE ...



"A Chance to Dance", a no fee child and parent dance/music/connection group for preschoolers with special needs. Thursdays 10 —11 a.m. at the Napa Valley Dance Center, 950 Pearl Street, Napa. Call Beth at (707) 332-8023 for details.

### DISCOVERY TOYS ...

Toys specifically designed to maximize learning moments across age groups and skill categories. Discovery Toys has interfaced with the Princeton Child Development Institute to develop the Autism Support Project. Children with autism often have difficulty playing independently. They need toy choices that can be enjoyed following some initial instruction.



Contact Napa representative Elizabeth Oliver at 265-9655 or visit [www.discoverytoyslink.com/lizoliver](http://www.discoverytoyslink.com/lizoliver)

Come to the ParentsCAN Family

# PICNIC

You are invited to our annual family picnic sponsored by **ParentsCAN!**

Join us for fun, games, food and activities for all ages and abilities! Hot dogs, drinks and dessert will be provided. Please bring a side dish to share.



Date: Saturday, June 30, 2007

Time: 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Location: VINE VILLAGE, 4059 Old Sonoma Rd, Napa

Please **RSVP** how many adults/children in your family will be attending. Contact ParentsCAN at 253-7444 or [admin@parents-can.org](mailto:admin@parents-can.org)



# Calendar of Events

For times and locations, please call 253-7444.



## MAY 2007

## JUNE 2007

- |      |   |      |   |
|------|---|------|---|
| 5/1  | General Disability Support Group in English, American Canyon, Adrienne DeSantis, 259-8655 | 6/1  | General Disability Support Group in Spanish, American Canyon, Martha Soto, 259-8174       |
| 5/1  | IEP Clinic Spanish, Napa, Urania Ambriz, 253-7444   | 6/1  | IEP Clinic in Spanish, St. Helena, Hilda Gutierrez, 963-1919                              |
| 5/3  | General Disability Support Group in Spanish, Napa, Urania Ambriz, 253-7444                | 6/4  | Grandparent Support Group in English, Napa, Kathie Karcher, 253-4750                      |
| 5/4  | General Disability Support Group in Spanish, American Canyon, Martha Soto, 259-8174       | 6/5  | General Disability Support Group in English, American Canyon, Adrienne DeSantis, 259-8655 |
| 5/4  | IEP Clinic in Spanish, St. Helena, Hilda Gutierrez, 963-1919                              | 6/5  | IEP Clinic Spanish, Napa, Urania Ambriz, 253-7444   |
| 5/7  | Grandparent Support Group in English, Napa, Kathie Karcher, 253-4750                      | 6/7  | General Disability Support Group in Spanish, Napa, Urania Ambriz, 253-7444                |
| 5/8  | General Disability Support Group in English, American Canyon, Adrienne DeSantis, 259-8655 | 6/12 | General Disability Support Group in English, American Canyon, Adrienne DeSantis, 259-8655 |
| 5/8  | IEP Clinic in Spanish, American Canyon, Urania Ambriz, 253-7444                           | 6/12 | IEP Clinic in Spanish, American Canyon, Urania Ambriz, 253-7444                           |
| 5/8  | IEP Clinic in English, Napa, Karen Ragan, 253-7444  | 6/12 | IEP Clinic in English, Napa, Karen Ragan, 253-7444  |
| 5/9  | Challenging Behaviors Support Group in English, Napa, Chris Lieber, 259-8656              | 6/13 | Challenging Behaviors Support Group in English, Napa, Chris Lieber, 259-8656              |
| 5/10 | Autism Support Group in English, Napa, Teresa Vogt, 253-7444                              | 6/15 | General Disability Support Group in Spanish, St. Helena, Hilda Gutierrez, 963-1919        |
| 5/15 | General Disability Support Group in English, American Canyon, Adrienne DeSantis, 259-8655 | 6/18 | Grandparent Support Group, Napa, Kathie Karcher, 253-4750                                 |
| 5/15 | General Disability Support Group in Spanish, Napa, Urania Ambriz, 253-7444                | 6/19 | General Disability Support Group in English, American Canyon, Adrienne DeSantis, 259-8655 |
| 5/18 | General Disability Support Group in Spanish, St. Helena, Hilda Gutierrez, 963-1919        | 6/19 | General Disability Support Group in Spanish, Napa, Urania Ambriz, 253-7444                |
| 5/21 | Grandparent Support Group in English, Napa, Kathie Karcher, 253-4750                      | 6/26 | General Disability Support Group in English, American Canyon, Adrienne DeSantis, 259-8655 |
| 5/22 | General Disability Support Group in English, American Canyon, Adrienne DeSantis, 259-8655 | 6/27 | Challenging Behaviors Support Group in English, Napa, Chris Lieber, 259-8656              |
| 5/23 | Challenging Behaviors Support Group, Napa, Chris Lieber, 259-8656                         | 6/30 | General Disability Support Group in Spanish, Napa, Urania Ambriz, 253-7444                |
| 5/26 | General Disability Support Group in Spanish, Napa, Urania Ambriz, 253-7444                | 6/30 | ParentsCan Family Picnic—see page 5!  |
| 5/29 | General Disability Support Group in English, American Canyon, Adrienne DeSantis, 259-8655 |      |   |

## JULY 2007

No trainings scheduled this month.

### Just for you



ParentsCAN has two beneficial resources for you—our new lending library and our website: [www.parentscan.org](http://www.parentscan.org). The goals for both of these resources are to provide up-to-date and useful information to help enrich your family's life. Our **website** includes calendars, photos, events, volunteer opportunities, and links to other websites that provide support and more. The **library** is located in our drop-in center and has a wide variety of topics of books, VHS and DVD, including selections for families to read or view together as well as children's books. Our check-out policy requires a \$20 deposit per item which is returned to you when you return the item. This way we can offer a free lending library and ensure that any items that are lost or damaged will be replaced by the deposit. You may borrow up to 3 items at a time: books may be checked out for 4 weeks and audio/videos for 2 weeks. Stop by the center weekdays from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm.

## DID YOU KNOW ...

- The Center for Disease Control reports that one out of every 150 births in the United States results in a child with Autism and there are 9 new cases of autism reported every day, seven days a week in CA.
- In 1987 – twenty years ago - there were 2,700 children and adults with ASD in our state. Today we are closely approaching 34,000. (Cases between 0-2 not included).
- Autism is a complex developmental disability that typically appears during the first three years of life. Children and adults with autism typically have serious difficulties in verbal and non-verbal communication, social interactions, self-care, and leisure or play activities often requiring individualized and intensive supports.



### Websites to find information and support:

[www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/autism/actearly/](http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/autism/actearly/)  
[www.autismspeaks.com](http://www.autismspeaks.com)  
<http://autism.easterseals.com>



### "Autism Speaks" pins and car magnets

increase autism awareness and are available for purchase in the ParentsCAN office. \$10 per pin, \$5 per car magnet. Thanks to Cheri Ruise for providing them!

### AUTISM SUPPORT GROUP

2nd Thursday of every month  
9:00—10:00 a.m.



ParentsCAN Drop-In Center  
Information: Teresa Vogt, 253-7444

### TEACHING STRATEGIES FOR CHILDREN ON THE AUTISM SPECTRUM, with Karen Kaplan (Oak Hill School, Marin City, and ParentsCAN Board Member)

**Thurs., May 10, 2007 ~ 7:00—8:30 p.m.**

ParentsCAN Drop-In Center. Reserve a space: 253-7444.  
Karen will share her expertise in the field of education with autistic spectrum disorder and innovative approaches.



### CALIF. LEGISLATIVE BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION ON AUTISM



You are invited to a FREE Town Hall Meeting to learn about recommendations made by the Commission and to have an opportunity to comment on those recommendations.

**Thursday, May 17, 2007, 8:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m.**

Petaluma Community Center,  
320 N. McDowell Blvd., Petaluma

RSVP to (707) 648-4073 or [ab4@scdd.ca.gov](mailto:ab4@scdd.ca.gov).

The Commission's recommendations are available at  
<http://senweb03.senate.ca.gov/autism/>

**\*\* ParentsCAN is organizing carpooling to this event. Call 253-7444 if you need a ride or can drive others! \*\***



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

### To change your address or add a friend to our mailing list:

Call 253-7444  
or email  
[parents@parentcan.org](mailto:parents@parentcan.org)

