



# Parent to Parent of Whatcom County

Issue No. 3-06  
May 2006  
Newsletter

Supporting Families with Children Who Have Special Needs  
2001 H Street Bellingham, WA 98225 (360) 255-2056  
www.arcwhatcom.org/p2p email p2pwhatcom@nas.com

## ***Congratulations to our new Parent to Parent Staff in Whatcom County: Jennifer Schouten and Christine Griffin***



*Jennifer & Craig Schouten & Dominic Andersen*

We are pleased to announce Jennifer Schouten as our new P2P Coordinator effective July 2006. Jennifer and her husband Craig, with their son Dominic Andersen, live in Bellingham, WA. Dominic is a graduate of Whatcom Center for Early Learning (WCEL), and he has several complications from being born 16 weeks premature 5 years ago. Jennifer is a life-long resident & active community member of Whatcom County. Prior to her son's birth, Jennifer was the Hotel Manager at Homestead Farms Golf Resort in Lynden, WA. Currently, Jennifer is the Co-Chair of the Whatcom County Interagency Coordinating Council (WICC), Co-Chair of the WICC Advisory Board, Member of the WICC Parent/Membership Committee & a P2P Parent Helping Parent. Jennifer and her family have also participated in the Human Race to help raise funds for WCEL. Also, she has shared the story of Dominic's life on KOMO TV's Northwest Afternoon, Cornwall Church, and at press releases to help raise support for United Way. In addition, their story has been featured in the Lynden Tribune, Western Front, Klipsun magazine & Ferndale Record/Journal in efforts to raise community awareness of microprematurity and to show both the many joys & struggles involved with being the mother of a child with special needs. Jennifer is both honored & excited to become the new P2P Coordinator & looks forward to many opportunities to advocate for and support our wonderful special needs community & families.



*Christine, Steve, Tess, and Sawyer Griffin*

Christine has lived in Bellingham with her family, Steve, Sawyer, and Tess since 1996. Soon after her children's hearing loss diagnosis five years ago, Christine has co-founded and facilitated Whatcom County Families for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children. She has also been involved as co-chair of the ICC's Program Provider committee, parent representative with the ICC's Advisory Board, the Whatcom Hearing Detection and Intervention Task Force and Hearing Speech and Deafness Center's advisory committee. In her spare time she enjoys being on stage in local productions at Bellingham Theatre Guild and watching her kids play soccer. Christine is very honored to be a part of the Whatcom County Parent to Parent team to further support families in our community.



### ***Parent to Parent Swim Social***

About 30 families gathered at the Arne Hanna Aquatic Center in Bellingham on April 21st. Our first swim social of the year was a splashing success, and we look forward to the next one on June 9th from 6:30 -7:30 .  
See you there!

*Mission Statement: The Parent to Parent Support Programs provide emotional support and information to families of a newborn or a newly diagnosed child with a disability or special health care need. "Helping Parents" are parents who provide one-on-one support to other parents who have a child with similar needs.*

# Parent to Parent Calendar

**Sibshops:** A program just for brothers and sisters of children with special needs. For children ages 8-13yrs

**Saturday, June 3, 2006**

**12:00 am - 2:30 pm**

Paint Glaze & Fire

1155 E. Sunset Drive Bellingham

To RSVP or to register call Parent to Parent at 255-2056 and leave a message for Pam Dakar.



**Family Swim Social**  
**Arne Hanna Aquatic Center**  
**1114 Potter St. Bellingham**

**Friday June 9, 2006**

**6:30 - 7:30 pm**

**Cost: FREE**



Come and join all your friends for fun in the pool for an hour! If you need an extra set of hands in the water call for a Super Sitter list. We hope to see you there.

For more information or to RSVP, call Parent to Parent at 255 - 2056.

## Parent to Parent Notebook Training

**Saturday, June 17, 2006**

**Community Food CO-OP**

**Connections Building**

**1220 N. Forest, Bellingham**

**10:00 am - 2:00 pm**

Come to a free, hands-on-workshop that will send you out feeling on top of your organization and advocacy game. To RSVP or to find out more information call 255-2056.

## Parent to Parent Support Meeting

**Monday June 19, 2006**

**7:00 - 8:30 pm**

Whatcom Center for Early Learning

2001 H Street, Bellingham

**Guest Speaker - FACES**

Come join us for food, fun, and support. Childcare and sweets provided. Please RSVP 24 hours in advance for childcare. For more information, contact Parent to Parent at (360) 255-2056.

## Parent to Parent Support Meeting

**Monday July 17, 2006**

**7:00 - 8:30 pm**

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Come join us for food, fun, and support. Childcare and sweets provided. Please RSVP 24 hours in advance for childcare. For more information, contact Parent to Parent at (360) 255-2056.



# Upcoming Events

## Whatcom Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) Meeting

**Tuesday, June 6th, 2006**

**12:00 - 1:30pm**

**Garden Street Family Center, Bellingham**

The Whatcom ICC is a group of **Providers and Parents** who meet to discuss the needs of children birth to six years old. They are looking for interested **Parents** to come to the meeting to provide input. Come join us to hear other parents' stories and experiences. Child care and goodies will be provided. For more information contact Maureen Godwin at 738-2504 ext. 32093 or Pam Dakar at 255-2056.



## Overview of Guardianship

Presented by Larry Jones, Attorney

**Tuesday, June 6<sup>2006</sup>**

**6 pm to 8 pm**



Location: 3000 Rockefeller Everett. WA 98201  
Public Hearing Room located on the 1<sup>st</sup> Floor (plaza)  
in the new Admin East building

To sign up, leave your name and email /phone number and name of the workshop you are interested in attending at 425-388-7259. *Larry Jones* became a lawyer because his daughter Wendy had severe intellectual disabilities. For a quarter century, he has used the Americans with Disabilities Act and its predecessor statute to promote the integration and equal treatment of people with severe disabilities in our society. In 1984 his efforts on behalf of persons with mental retardation were recognized when he was chosen national Volunteer of the Year by The Arc of the United States. Larry has a Ph.D. in Ethics and Society from the Divinity School of the University of Chicago (1975) and a J.D. from the University of Washington (1989).

## DsO News: Down Syndrome Outreach of Whatcom County

**Woodland Park Zoo trip**

**Wednesday, July 12, 2006**

**8:00 am to 5:00 pm**

**For more information or to attend this event,  
please contact Sarah Weg at (360) 715-0170 X2**

## Attention!

*A Parent to Parent Workshop has been rescheduled:*

*From Mess to Magnificence !*

*Assembling and organizing your child's i*



**When: Saturday June 17, 2006**

**Time: 10:00 am - 2:00 pm**

**Where: Community Food CO-OP**

**1220 N. Forest, Bellingham**

*Come to a free, hands-on workshop that will send you out feeling on top of your organization and advocacy game. Bring your*

### **WCEL News:**

2001 H Street Bellingham, WA 98225

(360) 671-3660 [www.wcel.net](http://www.wcel.net)

*Whatcom Center for Early Learning provides comprehensive, family-centered early intervention services to birth to three children with developmental delays.*



**The Human Race  
Saturday, June 10th**

**Last 2005-2006 Ferndale Toddler Time**

Thursday, June 15 10:00 - 11:30 am  
at Boys and Girls Club of Ferndale in Pico Park.



**Summer Graduation**

Wednesday, June 28 th  
5:30 - 7:00 pm at WCEL



**Independents Sidewalk Sale  
Village Green in Fairhaven**

Saturday, July 1  
9:00 am -5:00 pm

**Sensational Toddlers**

Summer Session begins July 13, 2006

Please join us for the Human Race  
**YOUR DOLLARS MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

We invite you to participate in the Human Race June 10<sup>th</sup> to raise funds for Whatcom Center for Early Learning. From these funds raised by walkers, bikers, or runners in this event 75% will directly benefit WCEL. The remaining 25% supports the Whatcom Volunteer Center as event sponsor. Join us as a participant or pledge your support by calling Faith (360) 305-1236. Pick up your packets or drop off your donations at WCEL, 2001 H Street, Bellingham 98225. **You can make a difference in a child's life.** A \$10 contribution from each person receiving this newsletter would raise \$9,000. **Together we can make an even bigger difference!**

Whatcom Center for Early Learning is currently serving over sixty children with special needs, the highest enrollment in our history. Why the increase? It is partly due to changes in eligibility requirements by state and federal programs, but the most significant reason is the overall increase of this population in our country. One in 12 American workers now has a child with a disability. The rate of children being diagnosed with autism is one in 166.

The good news is that nearly 21% of all children graduating from birth to three programs like ours no longer need special services. Dollars invested in birth to three services significantly reduce the amount of dollars spent down the road!

Whatcom Center for Early Learning needs your continued monetary support to maintain current levels of service. Government grants, our largest funding source, are a much smaller portion of our annual revenue budget than they have been in the past. WCEL is committed to providing quality, family-centered early intervention services to young children with special needs and their families throughout Whatcom County.

**We look forward to seeing you June 10<sup>th</sup> for the Human Race.** All WCEL participants are welcome at the Big Blue House between 8:30 and 9:30 am for a light "kickoff" breakfast. If you are available to help set up or



# Parent to Parent *Super Sitter Training* Registration Form



## Summer Jobs Opportunities!

Super Sitters are young men and women, trained to care for children who have physical and/or developmental disabilities.

Training topics will include: communicating with parents, responsive play, alternative communications systems, adaptive equipment, special needs experts, emergency procedures, first aid training, Child/Infant CPR Certification.

Super Sitters will have the opportunity to connect with families for potential future jobs. This will be a fun learning experience. Come join us!

AGES: 12 years and older

**Thursday & Friday, July 6th & 7th**

9:30 am - 3:30 pm

Garden Street Family Center

1231 N. Garden Street, Bellingham

**Saturday, July 8th**

Bloedel Donovan Park

Small Beach Pavilion, Bellingham

10:00 am - 3:00 pm



## *Parent to Parent*

### *Annual Family Picnic*

*A picnic for children with special needs  
and their families*

**Bloedel Donovan Park**

**Saturday, July 8, 2006**

**2214 Electric Ave., Bellingham**

**Small Beach Pavilion**

**12:00 - 2:00 pm**



*BBQ and drinks will be provided. Bring your favorite picnic dish and join us for food, fun, and socializing. There will be activities for the kids and Super Sitters who are anxious to meet your children! For more information call Parent to Parent at 255-2056.*

## **Parent to Parent**

would like to give **Special Thanks**  
to our guest speakers for  
**April - Liliana Sacarin** from Tomatis-Effect  
Listening Learning Program  
and **May - Amanda Grove** from  
Bellingham Parks & Recreation Department.

## **WCF News:**



Whatcom County Families for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children's final event for the 2005/06 season "Looking into the Future - a Panel" was a great success. I'd like to thank all those involved who helped bring this event about: St. Luke's Foundation for honoring our goals; Parent to Parent Coordinator Pam Dakar and Hispanic Outreach Coordinator Alina Zollfrank for their cheering and support along the way; Bellingham's Hearing Speech and Deafness Center Coordinators, James Christianson Jr and Joel Bergsbaken for their insightful planning efforts in providing interpreters and adult panel members; Katie Humes for keeping me on track; Sarah Lewis and her amazing efforts as Child Care Coordinator along with the incredibly talented and valuable child care volunteers, without which this event would not have been nearly as successful. Lastly, a big "Thank You" to the presenters Rogan, Isabel, Elizabeth, Maria, Dan, Heather, Bryan, and Colin in sharing your stories allowing others to view your feelings and passion, as well as our facilitators Tonda Smit and Rebecca Storey. I also wish to thank you, our community, for your unwavering support, enabling us to continue encouraging success for families and their children. *Submitted by Christine Griffin*

The Parent to Parent of Whatcom County Newsletter is published six times a year.

The Arc of Whatcom County is located at:  
1111 Cornwall Ave., St. 205  
Bellingham, WA 98225  
360-255-2056  
email: p2pwhatcom@nas.com

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- Whatcom County Developmental Disabilities Program
- Family Support Program, DSHS
- Washington State Parent to Parent program.

Edited by Pam Dakar, Parent to Parent Coordinator and  
Alina Zollfrank, Hispanic Outreach Coordinator

## **Troutfest 2006**

**Baker River Hydroelectric Project**

**Trout-Fishing Derby**

**Saturday, June 10, 2006**

**10 am - 2 pm**

hosted by **Puget Sound Energy**



**What:** An opportunity to have a successful "fishing trip" & the chance to participate in games and other fun **FREE** events including a **BBQ & ice cream wagon**. Sure to be a fun-filled, rewarding day for all involved!

**Who can participate:** *All students with special needs* from the *Skagit, Whatcom, Island & Snohomish Counties School Districts*. Both the families of the students & teaching staff and families are also welcome!

**Where:** Baker River Project near the Upper Baker Dam at the trout rearing ponds. There is **plenty of parking** for everyone. **Specialized transportation is provided** from the parking lot to the Trout Ponds by Skagit Area Transit.

**Bring:** Warm clothing, rain gear, boots, and other appropriate apparel *in case of rain* - but keep your fingers crossed for sunshine!

**How to sign up:** Contact the Education Services Dept.  
Please dial **(888) 225-5773, ext. 813445**  
or email **educationservices@psc.com**

**Pre-registration is required and space is limited!** Leave a detailed message that includes: child's school name, your mailing address, daytime phone number, # of students & adults that will be attending. Confirmations & a detailed map will be sent out to all groups that register for this event. *Please call if you have any questions about this event!*

*A big "Thank you" to the helping parents  
who have volunteered to answer  
the Parent to Parent Phone Line!!*

**April - Jennifer Schouten**

**May - Sarah Weg**



## **PARENT TO PARENT JUNE OFFICE HOURS**

9:00 - 12:00 pm Monday - Friday

Parent to Parent Coordinator

8:00 - 9:30 am Monday & 6:00 - 7:00 pm Thursday

Hispanic Coordinator

Whatcom Center for Early Learning

2001 H Street Bellingham

360-255-2056

*Feel free to stop by & say "HI!" or  
just browse through our lending library.*



The Arc  
of Whatcom County  
1111 Cornwall Avenue, #205  
Bellingham, WA 98225

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## Parent to Parent Support Meetings



When: June 19th, Monday

Time: 7:00 pm

***Guest Speaker: FACES***

When: July 17th, Monday

Time: 7:00 pm

Where: Whatcom Center for Early Learning  
2001 H Street, Bellingham

Come join us for food, fun & support. Childcare will be provided by a trained Super Sitters, **please** RSVP 24 hours in advance for **free** childcare.