



Parent to Parent of Whatcom County

Issue No. 1-07
February 2007
Newsletter

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



Coordinator's Corner: It Takes a Village

Many of you may have heard the saying "It Takes a Village...", and that was also the case with the 2006 Parent to Parent Holiday Party. Dressed in holiday cheer, we welcomed nearly 100 both familiar and new smiling faces to our biggest event of the year.



Many sincere thanks go out to Amanda Grove and Bellingham Parks and Recreation, as well as The Arc of Whatcom County's board and staff members: Dana Little, Susan Jewell, and Marilyn and Gig Korver. We also wish to acknowledge and thank the local businesses that made our family event a huge success: Kim Shelly and all of the booksellers at Bellingham's Barnes and Noble Books for their incredibly generous donation of over 300 children's books; Wal-Mart, Target, Bakerview Fred Meyer, Meridian Cost Cutter, Albertson's, Rudy's Pizzeria, The Sandwich Odyssey, Costco, and massage therapist Jan Burbank.

Certainly, no event would be successful without our many kindhearted volunteers and supporters: entertainer and balloon artist Brit Anders at twistofair.com, Caitlyn Golden, Janelle Kann, Bobbi Buchanan, Debbie Brubaker, Terri Cove, Caitlyn Donahue, Kathy Adams, Missy Bartel, and Dave & Lynn Elardy. Finally, we wish to thank you, our community members, who make Parent to Parent and our events a place where families can feel supported and at home.



Submitted by Christine Griffin

Snapshots from the 2006 Parent to Parent Holiday Party

Inside this issue:

Page 2: P2P Calendar; Community Announcements & Events

Page 3: 2007 P2P Calendar of Events

Page 4: Sibshop Invitation & WCEL News

Page 5: P2P Office Hours, Thank-Yous, Contact Information



Mission Statement: *The Parent to Parent Support Program provides 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

Parent to Parent Support Meeting

Monday, February 19, 2007

7:00 - 8:30 pm

Parent to Parent Bowling & Burgers Sibshop

Saturday, March 10, 2007

10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Please see insert page for more information.

Parent to Parent Support Meeting

Monday, March 19, 2007

7:00 - 8:30 pm

Guest Speaker: Jessica Lee, DD

Topic: Transitions into adulthood from the school system, and how preparations start at early ages in the home!

All P2P support meetings are held at: Whatcom Center for Early Learning; 2001 H Street; Bellingham, WA 98225. Come join us for support, fun, and food. Child care and treats provided. **Please RSVP 36 hours in advance for on-site child care.** For more information or to RSVP, please call (360) 255-2056.



.....

**Whatcom Interagency
Coordinating
Council (WICC) Meeting
Tuesday, March 13, 2007
12:00 - 1:30 p.m.
Garden Street Family Center
1231 N. Garden St.**

The WICC is a group of *providers and parents* who meet to discuss the needs of children ages birth to six years old. *Parents* are welcome and encouraged to attend WICC meetings to provide input. Parent stipends available for attendance. Child care & refreshments are provided. For more information please contact Jennifer Schouten at (360) 255-2056, ext. 1.

Announcements/Events

Bellingham Parks and Recreation

... is seeking input from parents who have a child with a hearing loss to identify the recreational needs and barriers to recreational involvement for families. Please email Amanda Grove at agrove@cob.org to begin this discussion. Thank you!

Save the Date!


The **Infant & Early Childhood Conference** will take place May 2, 3, and 4, 2007 at the Meydenbauer Center in Bellevue, WA and will feature more than 100 speakers .

Conference Goals:

- Challenge thinking about diversity and disability;
- Increase family and provider effectiveness through new skills, strategies and ideas for providing high quality services;
- Enhance understanding of the unique strengths and needs of each family;
- Foster partnerships across families, disciplines, agencies and funders to provide coordinated services in local communities;
- Promote networking and coalition building around early childhood issues;
- Enhance the lives of families and their children through the use of information and technology; and
- Promote the mutual understanding of the contributions families and providers bring to the lives of young children.

Online registration will begin February 1, 2007. Scholarships available for parents of children with special needs. Please visit <http://www.ieccwa.org> or contact Tracy Ulrich at 360-629-8181 or tracyulrich@verizon.net for more information.

“Keep your faith in all beautiful things; in the sun when it is hidden, in the spring when it is gone.”



--Roy R. Gilson (February 2007 Ladies' Home Journal)



2007
Parent to Parent
Calendar

February

Monday, February 19, 7:00-8:30 pm

Parent to Parent Support Meeting

March

Saturday, March 10, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Bowling & Burgers Sibshop Ages 8-13 years

Monday, March 19, 7:00-8:30 pm

Parent to Parent Support Meeting



Guest Speaker - Jessica Lee, DD

Topic: Transitions

April

Monday, April 16, 7:00-8:30 pm

Parent to Parent Support Meeting

Topic: Nutrition

Friday, April 20, 6:30-7:30 pm

Family Swim Social at Arne

Hanna Aquatic Center

May

Saturday, May 19

Saturday, July 21, 12:00- 2:00 pm

Parent to Parent Annual

Family Summer Picnic at

Bloedel Donovan Park



August

Friday, August 10, 6:30-7:30 pm

Family Swim Social at Arne Hanna Aquatic

Center

Saturday, August 18, 12:00 - 2:00 pm

P2P Hispanic Outreach Summer Picnic

Monday, August 20, 7:00-8:30 pm

Parent to Parent Support Meeting

September

Monday, September 17, 7:00-8:30 pm

Parent to Parent Support Meeting

Guest Speaker - Parent Advocate from The Arc's

Parent Coalition;

Topic: School Issues

Saturday, September 22, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

All-Day Sibshop

Bloedel Donovan Beach

Pavilion, Ages 8 - 13 years



October

Monday, October 15, 7:00-8:30 pm

***All events are subject to change. Please call P2P at (360)255-2056 to confirm dates & times &/or to RSVP for event attendance. All P2P support meetings are located at Whatcom Center for Early Learning (2001 H Street in Bellingham). For on-site childcare at support meetings, please call to RSVP at least 36 hours in advance. We look forward to seeing you in 2007!**



Sibshops: A program just for brothers and sisters of children with special needs.

Please join us for an afternoon of bowling and burgers, yummy!

Saturday, March 10, 2007

10:00 am to 1:00 pm

Park Bowl in Bellingham

(4175 Meridian Street)



Scholarships Available!

For questions or to RSVP call Parent to Parent at 255-2056, ext. 1,
& leave message for Jennifer Schouten.



Whatcom Center for Early Learning



2001 H Street Bellingham, WA 98225

(360) 671-3660 www.wcel.net

The mission of Whatcom Center for Early Learning is to provide comprehensive, family-centered early intervention services to children ages birth to three with developmental delays.

Upcoming Events:

Thursday, January 25 - begin of Sensational Toddlers' 8-week winter session at WCEL - please call Bellingham Parks and Recreation for more information/registration at 676- 6985.

Friday, February 23 at 5:30 pm - Join us in "Celebrating Children...Creating Futures" Dinner, Silent Auction, and Entertainment featuring The Upfront Players at the Bellingham Golf & Country Club. Please call 671-3660 x100 for reservations.

April 10 - 14 - WCEL closed for Spring Break.

Smiles of Life

2007 Calendars are going fast! Be sure to get yours today!

Down syndrome Outreach of Whatcom County is proud to announce our 2007 calendar, "Smiles of Life". The calendar portrays the depth and diversity among persons with Down syndrome in regards to personality and interests from birth through adulthood. The calendar also raises awareness for Down syndrome. Photographer Lesley Keefer of Donette Studio has brought this portrayal to life. Lesley stated, "Working on this calendar is one of the most enjoyable and exciting projects in her career". Working up close and personal with each of the models, ranging in age from 5 months to 43 years was an inspiring and fun experience for her. The calendar features 16 models; Fourteen from Whatcom County and Two from Anacortes.

The calendars are now available - please call (360) 715-0170, ext. 2, to inquire about reserving yours today!



Submitted by Sarah Weg

Parent to Parent would like to *thank* Cheryl Isaacs, EC Special Education Teacher, and Kari Lee, SLP, for their presentation on January 17, 2006 at Northern Heights Elementary School's Boardmaker Night. Parents learned to communicate using pictures, plan activities, use a schedule, make choices, and apply visual communication strategies. If you missed this activity and are interested in future Boardmaker Night Opportunities, please call Jennifer Schouten at (360) 255-2056 ext. 1.

Parent to Parent would like to give Special Thanks to our guest presenter for December - Amy McKinley - for sharing her supplies and expertise during our holiday craft project!

Moving? If you are moving, please contact Parent to Parent by dialing (360) 255-2056 or send an email to p2pwhatcom@nas.com. Please leave your new address to avoid mail being returned. Feel free to include your new phone number or email address in your message. *We also have Parent to Parent information available nationwide. Please call the Parent to Parent office if we can assist you with your moving transition.*

PARENT TO PARENT OFFICE HOURS FEBRUARY 2007

Parent to Parent Coordinators
Tuesdays 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
Wednesdays 10:00 am - 5:00 p.m.
& by appointment

Hispanic Outreach Coordinator
Mondays 6:00 - 7:00 pm
Thursdays 8:00 - 9:30 am

The Parent-to-Parent Office is located at:
Whatcom Center for Early Learning
2001 H Street
Bellingham, WA 98225
(360) 255-2056
p2pwhatcom@nas.com
p2phispanic@nas.com

Jennifer Schouten, Coordinator (360) 255-2056, ext. 1
Christine Griffin, Asst. Coordinator (360) 255-2056, ext. 3
Alina Zollfrank, Hispanic Outreach (360) 255-2056, ext. 2

ATTENTION: If you would like to receive our Spanish newsletter for Padres a Padres (or know someone who could benefit from it), please call Alina Zollfrank, Hispanic Outreach Coordinator, at (360) 255-2056, ext. 2. Please leave your/their full name, mailing address, and phone number.


ANUNCIO: ¿Quiere recibir nuestro boletín de Padres a padres en español? Por favor, llame a Alina, la Coordinadora para la comunidad hispana, al 255-2056 y marque el 2 para dejar un mensaje. Incluya su nombre, número de teléfono y dirección.

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., Ste. 205; Bellingham, WA 98225
(360) 715-0170

Funded by grants from:
-Whatcom County Developmental Disabilities Program
-Family Support Program, DSHS
-Washington State Parent to Parent program.

Whatcom Center for Early Learning is the host agency for the Whatcom County Parent to Parent office.

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

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
BELLINGHAM, WA
PERMIT NO. 124



Parent to Parent Support Meetings
7:00 - 8:30 p.m.



Monday, February 19, 2007

and

Monday, March 19, 2007

Guest Speaker: Jessica Lee, DD

Topic: Transitions into adulthood from the school system, and how preparations start at early ages in the home!

Where: Whatcom Center for Early Learning (2001 H Street in Bellingham)
Come join us for support, fun, and food! Free child care is provided by trained Super Sitters.
Please RSVP 36 hours in advance if you need child care! (360) 255-2056