

# Families CAN Newsletter

Student Services Center 1, Room 301  
4365 Cougar Village Drive,  
Houston, Texas 77204-3055

## Spring Transition Workshop



Transition Workshops are another service that Families CAN offers on the 3rd Thursday of every odd-numbered month at 6:30 p.m. It is focused on your child's transition into adulthood (14 years and up). Just for the March meeting - our regular 3rd Thursday time slot will be changed due to the School Districts' Spring Break week. Our Transition Workshop will be held on **Thursday, March 23, 2017**. Our speaker will be Roni Frazier, Team Lead from the MOSAIC program in Humble I.S.D.

Shriners Hospital is located at 6977 Main St., 6th Floor Cafeteria area (just past intersection of Main & Holcombe). **Parking is free**, pizza and drinks will be provided by Texas Children's Health plan. Please RSVP (you do not have to RSVP to attend, it is for ordering enough pizza)

**For more information or to be added to the Transition Workshop email list, contact:** Ava Fletcher, Transition Workshop Coordinator, 713-743-0608 or Olga Guerra (bilingual) 713-743-5592. See you there!

Spring 2017  
(FY 17)

Volume 23, Issue 3

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### Quote of the Quarter

"Spring translates earth's happiness into colorful flowers."

-Terri Guillemets



Spring forward March  
12, 2017!

## Transition Resource Fair Thursday, July 20, 2017

**Time:** 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

**Where:** Shriner's Hospital. 6<sup>th</sup> floor

**Address:** 6977 Main St.

Parking is **free** at Shriner's Hospital.

Come and educate yourself on community resources and services for your child/young adult with disabilities.

**Door Prizes!!**

For more information please contact the following staff:  
Ava Fletcher, Transition Coordinator at 713-743-0608  
Olga Guerra at 713-743-5592 (bilingual: English/Spanish)  
Sherena Smith at 713-743-5992  
Shelley Townsend at 713-743-5491/713-743-5435

April is Autism  
Awareness  
Month



# RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

## Children's Museum of Houston

To the families that are being served by Families CAN, please call 713-743-5435 to request free passes. You can use these passes to visit the Children's Museum of Houston anytime. Each pass admits up to four people for FREE!

## Picnic in the Park Linking Families Together

– Autism & Intellectual and developmental disabilities Awareness Fair

**Saturday, April 22, 2017**

12 pm – 4:00 pm

This fourteenth annual event allows families to learn about community resources, network with other families and professionals, and of course, enjoy free food, fun and games. Location: George Bush Park, 16756 Westheimer Parkway, Houston, TX, 77082. For more information call, 713-970-3824 or email us: [picnicinthepark@mhmrahraris.org](mailto:picnicinthepark@mhmrahraris.org)



**Go sailing in the spring with Sailing Angels.** Sailing Angels teaches sailing to special needs children as a form of recreational therapy. For more information please contact, Captain Dave McCabe at, (281) 507-1867, or email Dave at [DaveMcCabe@SailingAngels.org](mailto:DaveMcCabe@SailingAngels.org) or visit their website at <http://www.sailingangels.org/>

**Stroll for Epilepsy-** Saturday, April 8, 2017, Houston Zoo, 6200 Hermann Park Drive. For more information call 713- 789- 6295 or visit the website at <http://eftx.org/stroll/>

## Walk with Me

**Saturday, April 29, 2017**

Houston Zoo. Call Madison Shofner at 713-838-9050, Ext 304, Easter Seals or visit the website at: [www.walkwithmehouston.org](http://www.walkwithmehouston.org)

**Field of Dreams** is an exciting opportunity for children with special needs from 4 years (with parental participation) to 8<sup>th</sup> grade to participate in a baseball camp.

## **Practices Dates**

**Monday (Group A) - April 17<sup>th</sup>**  
Or

**Thursday (Group B) - April 20<sup>th</sup>**

All Practices will be held at San Jacinto Baptist Church from 6:30-7:45. 310 West P St, Deer Park, Tx. 77536

**Game Day - Sun. April 23,** Abshire Stadium Deer Park High School South Campus  
**Awards Ceremony-Wed. May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6:30 pm - 7:45 pm.** –

The ceremony will be held at the South Campus Cafeteria, dinner will be served.

For more info: contact San Jacinto Baptist Church at 281-479-7269 or register at

<http://www.sanjacintochurch.com> or if you have questions [fieldofdreamssjcdp@gmail.com](mailto:fieldofdreamssjcdp@gmail.com)



## Conroe Lions Club - Kids on the Lake Fishing Event -

**Saturday, May 13, 2017, 9am to 1pm.** Ages: 5- 18. For more information call 936-760-1666.

**National Super Kids**, a nationwide program to promote **Soap Box Derby** racing for children with disabilities. **Houston's National Super Kids** race will be held on Saturday, April 22, 2017 from 9am to 12 noon. For registration and more information, please call 281-891-3420 or register online at <http://www.houstonsoapboxderby.org>.



**TIP for CAMP:** Please do not forget to call your child's medical home NOW to schedule those needed physicals, required when you register your child for Summer camp and for the Special Olympics Summer Games.

## **Resource Fairs**

**Tomball ISD Transition & Community Resource Fair** – Located at Tomball ISD Staff Development Center ( 1302 Keefer Suite B) on **Saturday, February 25, 2017** from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. For more information please contact Lori Waldrop at 281-357-3140 x4126 or email [loriwaldrop@tomballisd.net](mailto:loriwaldrop@tomballisd.net).

**Pasadena ISD Community Partnership Forum-** This year's forum will be held at the Plaza Paseo Mall (171 Pasadena Town Square Mall, Pasadena, TX 77506) on **Tuesday, February 28, 2017** from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. For more information contact Corey Krampen at 713-740-0939 or [CKrampen@pasadenaisd.org](mailto:CKrampen@pasadenaisd.org).

**Conroe ISD Department of Special Education Services** - Parent Resource Center presents- Transition & Resource Fair on **Thursday, March 2, 2017** – 6pm to 8 pm at The Woodlands College Park High School – 3701 College Park Drive- For more information call 936-709-8210.

**Alvin ISD, Special Education Parent Advisory Committee, and Pearland ISD** – Annual Autism & Other Developmental Disabilities Conference & Resource Fair - **Saturday, April 8, 2017** – Manvel Junior High School, 7302 McCoy road, Manvel, Tx 77578 – 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 pm. For more information contact Jeanna TenBrink at [autismalvinpearland@gmail.com](mailto:autismalvinpearland@gmail.com)

## **Trainings for Parents**

### **Department of Education The ARC - Greater Houston Upcoming Trainings**

#### **Special Education 101 -- Spring 2017**

**Wednesday, March 8th**

**Wednesday, April 12th**

**Wednesday, May 10th**

**Time: 11:00 am – 1:00 pm**

**Cost: \$25.00 for training**

**Location: Harris Center (Room 104) - 9401 Southwest Freeway, Free parking in the parking garage.**

#### **Reservation Requirements:**

**(to [Karen@aogh.org](mailto:Karen@aogh.org)) or call 713-957-1600, ext. 114** - must be made 2 days in advance (by 5:00 pm) of any training date; - must provide full name, contact phone number and e-mail.

# Youth Employment Opportunities

## Jewish Family Service

**Summer Transition Supported Employment Program** - The Summer Transition Supported Employment Program provides competitive volunteer/ work experience for participants, ages 16 – 26, with an Autism Spectrum Disorder and Mental Illness. JFS and Easter Seals Houston collaborate to in this 6 week program. The program is designed to help participants become more independent and successful in their communities and enhance their resumes. Participants will be matched with mentors who will accompany them to their workplace. **Date: June 19 - July 27**, Monday - Thursday, 9 am - noon or 1:30 pm - 4:30 pm - may choose 1 or both shifts. This program is **free** due to generous grant by the Hogg Foundation.

**Celebrating Transitions** - A 6 week program for students with cognitive disability, aged 15 -25, to help them prepare for their transition from school to work. They will be introduced to a variety of vocational experiences, including assembly, retail and culinary. **Date: June 12 - July 21**, Monday - Friday, 9 am - 3 pm, Cost: \$1,000.

**What's Next** - A collaborative program between JFS Celebration Company and Houston Community College VAST program for seniors in high school and young adults with disabilities thinking about attending the VAST program. Celebration Company will offer training in photography, culinary skills, retail and personal social adjustment training. A showing in the Celebration Company photography/ art gallery will end the session. **Date: June 12 - July 21**, Monday - Friday, 9 am - 3 pm, Cost: \$1,300 which includes HCC fees.

For more information about these programs and intake, please contact Laura Alter at [lalter@ifshouston.org](mailto:lalter@ifshouston.org), Jamie Weiner at [jweiner@ifshouston.org](mailto:jweiner@ifshouston.org) or Morgan Zeringue at [mzeringue@ifshouston.org](mailto:mzeringue@ifshouston.org). All three can be reached at 713-667-9336.

### **Leaping into Employment:**

*"Workshops for Youth with disABILITIES"*

**When:** March 4, 2017

**Time:** 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**Who:** Youth with disabilities ages 16-21

**Location:** Houston Community College 5601 West Loop S  
Houston, TX 77081

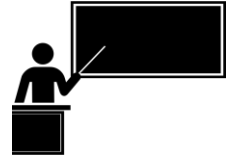
The Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities, Houston Commission on Disabilities and Houston Community College bring you a series of job readiness workshops that will educate both parents and youth with disabilities on entering into the workforce and summer work programs.

Come experience workshops on empowerment, keeping children's benefits while allowing them to work, soft skills, tips on interviewing, disclosures and issues facing parents with youth who have disabilities.

Seats are limited. Register at <http://www.houstontx.gov/disabilities/rsvp.html>.

For more questions contact: [lesajackson2010@yahoo.com](mailto:lesajackson2010@yahoo.com) or 281-690-9912.

## More Trainings for Parents



### UH-Clear Lake Autism Center - Speaker Series

**Where:** UH-Clear Lake – 2700 Bay Area Blvd, Houston, Texas 77058.

**Room 1510 (Garden Room) Bayou Building**

**Time:** 10:30 am to 12:30 pm.

All lectures are free and include a lunch provided by Jersey Mike's Sandwiches. Please contact [AutismCenter@uhcl.edu](mailto:AutismCenter@uhcl.edu) or at 281- 283-3437 for more information and to reserve a space.

**March 25th** – “How to make ‘You’re hired’ a reality: Prepping Teens for Their First Jobs.” Carolyn Grob.

**April 15th** – “Look Who’s Talking! Teaching Early Communication Skills.” Stephanie Smothermon.

### Rare Disease Day Houston

**Date:** Feb. 25, 2017 from 9:00am – 1:00pm

**Where:** The United Way of Greater Houston, 50 Waugh Drive, Houston, TX 77007.

En Español: para reservar un auricular para traducción al español, favor de llamar a 832-822-4182

To Register [www.bcm.edu/rare-disease-day](http://www.bcm.edu/rare-disease-day) or call 832-822-4182. This event is free and open to our community!

### Reel Abilities Film Festival



**When:** February 19-23, 2017

ReelAbilities: Houston Film Festival is a FREE city-wide film and arts festival to promote inclusion and celebrate the lives, stories and talents of people with disabilities—making an impact that lasts far beyond the week of the festival. A robust and exciting array of films, special events, and extraordinary speakers from around the country are being featured this year. It will be held at Edwards Greenway.

For more information please visit <http://www.reelabilitieshouston.org/>.

### Texas Miss Amazing Pageant

**When:** Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup> 2017

**Location:** Sugarland Town Square

**General Admission:** \$5.00

Any girl or woman ages 5 and up with a disability (as defined by the Disability Discrimination Act of 1995) is eligible.

Participants show their abilities in evening wear, in an interview with judges, and they introduce themselves to the audience.

Talent is optional. The only cost for participants to enter is 5 cans of food to be given to charity.

For more information please contact Ashley Christian or Laura Bueno at 832-845-8250





## **Upcoming Webinars:**

To register go to [partnerstx.webex.com](http://partnerstx.webex.com).

### **Interview with a Journalist**

with Brian Rosenthal, reporter for the Houston Chronicle, Austin Bureau

**February 14, 2017 at 12:15pm**

In 2016, one of the biggest developments in Special Education in Texas was the uncovering of TEA's decade long practice of limiting special education services to 8.5% of the student population, far below the national average. Join us for a special "behind the scenes" interview with the Houston Chronicle reporter who first broke the story and continues to advocate on behalf of the thousands of families affected by this story.

### **Legislative Update - Your Voice Matters**

with Steven Aleman, Policy Specialist, Disability Rights Texas

**March 7, 2017 at 12:15pm**

The 85th Texas Legislature is in regular session from January through June of 2017. Join us to learn the status of important bills that impact people with disabilities in Texas. Find out what you can do to lend your voice to the process by supporting bills that are important to you. Parents historically play an important role in the legislative process. Your input matters!

### **Exploring a Terrific Texas Resource for Parents - Texas Project FIRST**

with Mary Jane Williams, Executive Director for Family to Family Network and Administrator for the Texas Project FIRST Website

**April 11, 2017 at 12:15pm**

Has your child recently been diagnosed with a disability? Do you have concerns about your child's learning and are trying to find help? Your child may be receiving special education services and you need to understand more about the process. Come learn about a bilingual resource created by parents, for parents, committed to providing accurate and consistent information on the special education process. Texas Project FIRST is a project funded by the Texas Education Agency.

### **8th Annual Camp & Resource Fair**

All ages & disabilities

**February 11, 2017** from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
12955 Memorial Drive Houston, TX 77079.

Hosted by Mikey's Place and Memorial Drive United Methodist Church.

- Meet camp providers and other disability-related service providers and organizations.
- Purchase your MIKEY'S GUIDE.
- Complementary hot chocolate and popcorn.
- Fun kids' area.
- FREE Event for the whole family!
- Bring questions and leave inspired, empowered and informed!

For more information please visit  
[www.mikeysplace.net](http://www.mikeysplace.net).

### **Empower My Journey**

**When: March 23, 2017 from 8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.**

**Where: Texas Children's Hospital West Campus**

**Address: 18200 Katy Fwy, Houston, TX 77094**

This is a FREE event for all participants but pre-registration is required.

The symposium will include three presentations and a youth panel offering information to help empower parents and youth to become better advocates.

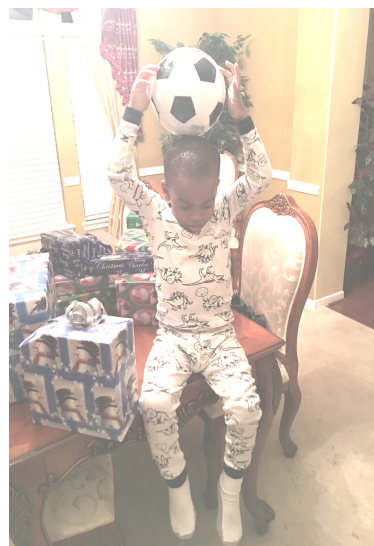
The resource fair will feature a variety of local agencies and service providers. Topics that will be discussed include guardianship, stress relief, genetics, and a youth panel discussion.

For more information contact:  
[culloaprn@sbcbglobal.net](mailto:culloaprn@sbcbglobal.net).

**\*\*NOTE:** All presentations will be in English only.

The UH Challenger Program Staff with Challenger students --- first generation and low income students from UH--- worked together to donate presents to some of our Families CAN Families.

**Families CAN staff & families would like to thank them for their generosity.**



### **Other FUN Activities:**



**Families got a chance to go and see the Harlem Globetrotters and also to participate in the weekend camp called "Be An Angel"**

**Newsletter Staff**  
 Translation Editor  
 Ana Perez  
 Parent Volunteer  
 Emma Fritz  
 Student Assistant

## Department of Education The ARC - Greater Houston Upcoming Trainings

### [Staff Directory](#)

#### **Families CAN**

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 713.743.0608

Sherena Smith- Family  
 Partner  
[slsmit23@central.uh.edu](mailto:slsmit23@central.uh.edu)  
 713.743.5992

The trainings cover a variety of education and special needs topics such as "How to Write Meaningful Educational Goals"; "How to Create Successful Behavior Intervention Plans in School Settings" and "How to Prepare for Next Year's Special Education Needs". Cost: Free

**February 22, 2017:** How Related, Supplementary and Assistive Technology Services Enhance Special Education Planning **(11 am-1 pm)**.

**March 22, 2017:** Helping a Child with Special Needs Prepare for Transition from School: How to Achieve Independence and Life Success **(11 am-1:30 pm)**.

**April 26, 2017:** How to Prepare for Next Year's ARD **(11 am-1 pm)**.

**May 24, 2017:** Open ARD and IEP Q & A Session (bring all the questions you feel could be beneficially asked and answered within a group session environment) **(11 am- 1:30 pm)**.

#### **Reservation Requirements:**

(to [Karen@aogh.org](mailto:Karen@aogh.org)) or call 713-957-1600, ext. 114 - must be made 2 days in advance (by 5:00 pm) of any training date; - must provide full name, contact phone number and e-mail.

Families CAN is part of UH College of Education and is funded by a grant from the Children with Special Health Care Needs Systems Development Group – Title V Maternal and Child Health, Texas Dept. of State Health Services.

**0073059836**

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 Parent Education Project  
 Student Services Center 1, Room 301  
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 Houston, Texas 77204-3055