

CAROL'S KIDS NEWS

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July 2007

NEW SUPPORT GROUP FORMS IN HUNTSVILLE SUBMITTED BY ED AND SANDY ROLL

For the parents and care givers of Autistic children there is a new resource in town! "Making Connections", the new Autism Support Group in Huntsville, held its first monthly meeting on Saturday, June the 9th at the main library on Monroe Street. Turn out for this "Getting to Know You" meeting was encouraging, with around 15 sets of parents and care givers. They provided a wonderful mix of experience from those who've just received a diagnosis of Autism to those who've been walking this path for many years.

Ms. Jennifer Muller, Executive Director of the Autism Society of Alabama, set the pace for this new organization by beginning the meeting with a discussion of the newly formed Alabama Autism Task Force, and what *we* can do to bring about changes in *our* state for *our* chil-

dren. This pro-active effort is being realized through a call for handwritten letters (with a photo of your child) explaining our children's condition and the problems we've experienced getting adequate services and assistance for their treatment.

Following the Task Force discussion was a very informative "Getting to Know You" session. Each parent or care giver introduced themselves and told the group about their specific situation such as when their child was diagnosed, what the diagnosis was (Autism, Asperger's, etc), whether or not they have other children, and what services they have found in the area. This information is still being compiled but will continue to be collected, refined, cataloged, and used to answer the question "What do we want from this organization?"

If you are the parent or

care giver of a child on the spectrum or know a parent or care giver of a child on the spectrum please come out and join us. Making Connections is, as its name implies, a wonderful organization allowing us the opportunity to network and make the connections we need to help our special kids. For more information about Making Connections call Debbie Bumbika at 256-885-5959 or visit their web site at <http://www.makingconnectionsasd.com>

Thank you Ed and Sandy for letting us know about this group. When the meetings are planned, we will be happy to print them in the upcoming events section of our newsletter.

APPLIED BEHAVIORAL CONCEPTS, INC. OFFERS:

INCLUSION

INCIDENTAL TEACHING

DISCRETE TRIALS

1:1 OR 2:1 STUDENT TEACHER RATIO

BEHAVIOR STRATEGIES

SCHOOL OBSERVATIONS

TRAINING FOR PARENTS AND TEACHERS

THOROUGH EVALUATIONS

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

Applied Behavioral Concepts, Inc. is pleased to announce a camp specifically developed to target social skills for children diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder, Language or Developmental Delay. Children in the elementary years (grades K-5) will benefit from curriculum designed around-

weekly themes specifically targeting areas where social deficits are noted in children with delays or a spectrum disorder.

Themes or topics are introduced weekly and practice time in the classroom setting with our professional staff will aid in skill acquisition. Parents will be advised and

included in their child's learning with ideas and instructions about the skill as well as ways to work on generalization at home and teacher tips for the school setting when appropriate.

The social skills group will meet at the Premier School on Slaughter Road every Monday through Friday from 3:00 until 5:30pm beginning on August 13, 2007.

THERAPISTS AND FAMILIES ENJOY AN EVENING AT THE WALCZAKS

All families and therapists of Applied Behavioral Concepts were invited to join the Walczaks on the evening of June 24th. Many of our families were able to attend and enjoy the food and fellowship in a safe environment (well, with one exception!).

Food was provided and great care was taken to ensure all food was Gluten Free and Casien free. Juice, Water, Hamburgers, Hotdogs, Cape Cod potato chips and TerraChips were provided with care to separate the buns from the meat, but available for those not on the diet.

The children enjoyed the sandbox, swings and slides, but children of *all* ages enjoyed the trampoline!

A presentation on Apraxia was given by Dan Bennett for several families of non-verbal children.

"We had a good time!" says Betsy Walczak. "Everyone seemed to enjoy getting together and meeting each other."

Two families shared the ride and joined us from another county. The families were able to attend the presentation by Dan while their children were supervised alongside their peers by the therapists also in attendance.

While the weatherman warned of rain and storms, the outdoor events were only briefly interrupted with a light rain shower.

The rain forced the children upstairs to the large, well equipped playroom off the Walczaks kitchen area while the presentation continued in Jeff's downstairs den.

Dan Bennett enjoyed addressing the parents and is planning the next presentation for the upcoming event. He

liked answering the questions posed by our parents and is considering becoming a parent advocate in addition to the many other hats he wears for Applied Behavioral Concepts, Inc..

Our next family gathering is planned for July 22nd so mark you calendars now!

OUR SUMMER CAMPS ARE THANKFUL FOR

- **SOUTHERN FAMILY MARKET (BAILEY COVE)**
- **HOME DEPOT**
- **TELLINIS**
- **BICYCLES, ETC.**

FOR THEIR DONATIONS TO OUR SUMMER CAMP CRAFTS AND ACTIVITIES!

PLEASE PATRONIZE THESE STORES AND THANK THEM YOURSELF FOR THEIR GIFTS TO OUR KIDS

UPCOMING EVENTS

Family meeting

July 22nd at 4:00pm at the home of Jeff and Betsy Walczak. More to follow!

Fundraiser and Pre Tournament Wine Pairing Dinner

August 12 at 6:00 pm a five course dinner paired with wine carefully selected by one of our moms will be held at the Ledges Ballroom. Chef Ty has tasted the wines and is in

The Autism Resource Foundation has been set up to help families in the Huntsville area and will include the North Alabama Information. The mission of ARF is to provide both a financial and family support network.

the process of preparing the menu to bring out the best in the wines. Please check your calendars, call your sitters and tell your friends and coworkers to come out and support the Autism Resource Foundation.

August 13 Countrywide Golf Tournament will be held at the Ledges, to benefit the Autism Resource Foundation, a non-profit organization (see inset).

Contact Jeff at 714-8464 to attend the wine dinner or participate and sign up your team for the golf event.

Casino Night at the Roundhouse

Suzanne Roten is setting up another fundraiser for ARF. The date has been set for September 22. Tickets can be purchased for \$50.00 per person and \$75.00 for a couple. Light hors'd'oeuvres will be provided. The evening will begin a 7:00 pm. Join us for craps, poker and roulette!

If you know of up coming conferences or events please let us know for our next newsletter.

SPOTLIGHT ON KIMBERLY CANTRELL

Kim Cantrell has become an employee of Applied Behavioral Concepts after her initial journey as the mother of an autistic child who no longer receives services either privately or in the public school system.

Kim earned a Bachelors of Science in Behavioral Sciences from the University of Alabama in Birmingham. She has previously worked with Three Springs where she had several roles.

Kim was a counselor, supervisor, staff training and development officer and trainer for

Prevention and Management of Aggressive Behavior as a Master Facilitator.

She is happily married to her husband Eric and the mother of two children. Her daughter is nine and received straight A's in the third grade. Her son is seven, also an academic achiever entering the second grade.

Kim has been organizing, planning and implementing the summer camp for the younger children while her children are enrolled in the Premier Schools summer

activities program.

Kim plans to continue her education in a masters program for Applied Behavioral Analysis and recertify for the Prevention and Management of Aggressive Behavior.

If you haven't already met her, you will meet Kim at many of the functions held for the families of autistic children and related conferences. Feel free to introduce yourself!