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# EMPOWERMENT

Our eNewsletter is dedicated to providing you with the knowledge and resources to unlock your child's potential.



## Did you know...

April/May 2007, Volume 1 - Number 3

### 3rd Annual Journey of Dreams Benefit

The staff of Parent to Parent of Miami and Board of Trustees, cordially invite you and your friends to join us at the **3rd Annual Journey of Dreams Benefit, Saturday, November 17, 2007** at the J W Marriot in Miami, Florida. The benefit is the major source of fundraising and all proceeds go to benefiting the program.



Our Journey of Dreams Benefit honors individuals in the community who are dedicated to improving the lives of children and adults with disabilities. If you know a teacher, friend, dentist, doctor, therapist, a student or a community leader who has made a difference, please complete the attached **nomination form** and mail it to Parent to Parent of Miami by **July 31, 2007**.

Finally, this event is also a reflection of the continuous year-long relationship with our sponsors, friends and supporters. It allows each of you an opportunity to contribute and thereby impact the lives of all of our children.

The Board of Trustees and staff thank you in advance for your continued support of our mission and we look forward to seeing you in November.

For Honoree Nomination Form, click [here](#).

## Money Does Matter - Here's Help

## Events

- Jun. 01** [Learn How to Actively Participate in Your Child's IEP](#)
- Jun. 01** [Learn How to Actively Participate in Your Child's IEP!](#)
- Jun.06** [¡La Nueva IDEA! \(Acta para la Educación de Individuos con Discapacidades del 2004\)](#)
- Jun.08** [9th Annual Family Cafe Conference](#)
- Jun. 08** [Learn How to Actively Participate in Your Child's IEP](#)
- Jun. 13** [Learn How to Actively Participate in Your Child's IEP](#)
- Jun. 13** [Grupo de Apoyo](#)
- Jun. 15** [Learn How to Actively Participate in Your Child's IEP](#)
- Jun. 16** [Making A Difference / Haciendo la Diferencia](#)
- Jun. 22** [Learn How to Actively Participate in Your Child's IEP!](#)
- Jun. 27** [Stress Management](#)
- Jun. 29** [Learn How to Actively Participate in Your Child's IEP!](#)
- Jul. 06** [Learn How to Actively Participate in Your Child's IEP!](#)
- Jul. 11** [Support Group Meeting](#)
- Jul. 11** [Learn How to Actively Participate in Your Child's IEP!](#)
- Jul. 13** [Learn How to Actively Participate in Your Child's IEP!](#)

### Voluntary Dollar Program Information

If you know of someone who needs transportation to get to work or school, or who has no way to get to the doctor's office or clinic, there is a way to help. The Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged program offers transportation for citizens throughout the state. [More...](#)

[Information about Miami-Dade Paratransit Service](#)



### Preparing for the Future

Florida High School/High Tech (HS/HT) is designed to provide high school students with all types of disabilities the opportunity to explore jobs or postsecondary education leading to technology- related careers.

[More...](#)

### Guardianship and Estate Planning

Herbert Hinkle gives an important message that every parent of a special needs child should hear regarding mistakes not to make when planning for your child's financial future. [See Video](#)

### Resources: Airline Flights

The airlines shown in the [following link](#) provide flights for patients that need to travel for medical reasons. Also note: One parent reports that if you contact the airlines for medical issues they will let you have the cheapest rate for the airfare, meaning even though you are leaving tomorrow, they will give you the same discount as though you did a 30 day advance ticket. [More...](#)

## Legislation That Affects You

### New Assessment Option for Students with Disabilities under No Child Left Behind

April 9, 2007, the U.S. Department of Education (ED) announced a new regulation pertaining to the assessment of students with disabilities under No Child Left Behind (NCLB). The new regulation allows states to develop modified academic achievement standards and to use the results of assessments based on those standards for certain students with disabilities when making adequate yearly progress (AYP) determinations, with certain limitations. [More...](#)

### Promoting Wellness for Individuals with Disabilities Act of 2007 has been introduced, Sponsors Needed!

Last month NCIL started collecting stories from across the country in support of Senator Harkin's Promoting Wellness for Individuals with Disabilities Act of 2007. Senator Harkin was the chief sponsor of the Americans with Disabilities Act and now he has introduced break-through legislation to increase the availability of accessible healthcare equipment. The bill also creates a national wellness grant program to support the prevention of secondary conditions and training requirements to increase competency and clinical skills for healthcare providers. [More...](#)

### Commission Releases Legislative Language on 75 Recommendations

- Jul. 18** [The New IDEA! Individuals with Disabilities Education Act 2004](#)
- Jul. 20-21** [Helping Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders Succeed at School \(K-12\)](#)
- Jul. 25** [Teaching Behavioral Skills: Calm, Connect, Clarify!](#)

For more information, please call Parent to Parent of Miami at (305) 271-9797.

## Career Opportunities



[Parent Resource Specialist](#)  
[Parent Liaison, ESE](#)

All applications and inquiries should be sent to [jobs@ptopmiami.org](mailto:jobs@ptopmiami.org) or faxed to 305-271-6628.

## Community Partners



**Switchboard**  
Answering the Call

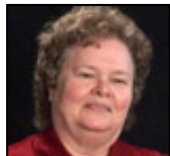
In February, the Commission released a report, **Beyond NCLB: Fulfilling the Promise to Our Nation's Children**, outlining 75 recommendations for improving the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB). Today, the Commission released these recommendations in the form of legislative language to further clarify how they can help improve NCLB. [More...](#)

### Changes in Section 1003.01, Florida Statutes

Effective July 1, 2006, changes in Section 1003.01, Florida Statutes, were made that affect speech/language (S/L) services for students with disabilities. [More...](#)



## Success Story



### Chickahominy Volunteer Fire Department Station 10 - Ashland, VA

Many years ago my Down syndrome son Mark saw a program on TV that showed another individual with Down syndrome who got to go with his brother to the firehouse and rode in the ambulance when he went out on calls. Mark got excited and said he could do that, too. [More...](#)



Congratulations to **Marie-Ilene Whitehurst**, who received the Ethel & W. George Kennedy Family Foundation Volunteerism Award, during the **Red Cross 2007 Spectrum Awards**

## We Value Your Input

Do you like our new eNewsletter?

- Very Much
- Somewhat
- Not at all

[Comments](#)



Forward to  
a Friend

This program is generously funded by



### Disaster Preparedness for Families of Children with Special Needs

Disaster Preparedness: Hurricanes, acts of terrorism, and floods are all clear in the minds of everyone today. But, even though we all know what CAN happen... are we prepared? Can we protect ourselves and our family? Would we know what to do? [More...](#)

### APD Launches Toll-Free Number

In the spirit of Florida Governor Charlie Crist's Office of Open Government and Plain Language Initiative, the Agency for Persons with Disabilities has secured a toll-free phone number to better serve Florida citizens. The agency's new phone number is **1-866-APD-CARES** or 1-866-273-2273. It will be manned Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. (EDT). [More...](#)



### Children on Medication: What Every Parent Should Know

Medicating children is a very different process than adults. When a child has been prescribed a medication, usually parents are cautious and concerned. Having a child on medication is the joint responsibility of parent, child, and physician. [More...](#)

### The Facts: Ensuring Students With Disabilities Achieve Academic Success

The standards-based reform movement of the past 15 years has had significant effects on students with disabilities. Educators recognize that nearly all students with disabilities are capable of achieving at high levels and they are being held increasingly accountable for improving the achievement of students with disabilities. [More...](#)

### Kennedy Krieger Institute Launches First National Online Autism Registry

Kennedy Krieger Institute today announced the launch of the Interactive Autism Network (IAN) - the first national online autism registry - at [www.IANproject.org](http://www.IANproject.org). [More...](#)

<a href="#">Parent Support System</a>	<a href="#">Financial Assistance</a>	<a href="#">Subscribe to our eNewsletter</a>	<a href="#">Volunteer Opportunities</a>	<a href="#">Special Resources</a>	<a href="#">Career Opportunities</a>
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#### Mission

To empower and support a network of parents of children and adults with disabilities.

#### Vision

All parents of children and adults with disabilities will have universal access to information, training, support and advocacy skills to ensure their children achieve their fullest potential, while leading the community on the rights of all children.

#### Parent to Parent of Miami

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