



FUSE Ink

February Welcome for New Families

Volume 16, Issue 1

February 2012

Denise Arland, Editor

FUSE Mission

Committed to improving the lives of children with special needs and their families through:

- Education and training
- Public awareness
- Advocacy
- Support
- Resources and Referrals
- Networking
- Community Activities

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Are you ready for some fun after all the football mania? Have you always thought about attending a FUSE event but just haven't gotten around to it yet? If so, you should plan to join us for a **First Timer Funfest!**

FUSE invites you and your family to join us on

Monday, February 6
6:30 to 8:30 pm
That Fun Place
1618 N State Street, Greenfield

This is a special event specifically designed for new families and those who have not been to an event for a while. "Veteran" families will be on-hand to answer questions about FUSE. The party rooms convert for the night to a resource center where families can pick up brochures and information about programs and services that can benefit their child. Ask questions of our



Executive Director, and socialize with other families who regularly attend FUSE EVENTS.

FUSE will cover the cost of pizza for your family and 2-hour armbands for children ages 18 and younger to access black light golf, carnival rides (weather permitting), bumper cars, bounce house, soft playground and a game of laser tag. Please note arcade games are not included.

This event is limited to the first 100 people registered. Past events have filled up, so register now! Event registration will close once 100 people are registered.

Please register online [by clicking here](#).

You can access an event flyer to share with your friends on our website at www.fuseinc.org/news.

Touchdown Breakfast this Saturday
February 4
O'Charley's in Greenfield
8 am to 10 am
See details inside this issue!!



1993 N State St, Greenfield

&



Improving the lives of children with special needs

WWW.FUSEINC.ORG

The graphic features a green football field background with white yard lines. A football is positioned on the left side. The text is centered and reads:

O'Charley's Restaurant
"Touchdown Breakfast"
February 4, 2012
8am-10am
Cost \$5.00
100% of the proceeds will be donated to FUSE
Kids under 3 eat free

This event is a pancake breakfast with sausage or bacon, juice, milk or coffee. Tickets may be purchased at the door day of event or call FUSE @ 317-462-9064 to purchase in advance.

Health Care Finance Training Series

FUSE and Family Voices Indiana are partnering to bring a series of health care finance trainings to families in east central Indiana. This series kicks off with:

Understanding the Funding MAZE
Saturday, February 18, 2012
Ameriana Bank
Community Room
1810 N State Street, Greenfield
9:30 am –11:30 am
Cost: no charge

A wide variety of state and federal programs provide funding for persons who have disabilities. This training will provide an overview of programs, their eligibility requirements and enrollment procedures. Participants will leave ready to pursue “next steps” for programs for which they may be eligible.

The speaker, Jennifer Akers, is the parent of a child with complex health care needs and disabilities. She has been a family advocate for The Arc of Indiana; and is now the Project Coordinator for Family Voices Indiana, the state family to family health information center.

Child care is not available at this event, but parents who need child care to attend may apply for a scholarship to support their child care expense. Please request a claim form when you register. A check will be issued at the conclusion of the training.

Register for this event by [clicking this link](#).

Future sessions in the series include:

- ◆ Filling Funding Gaps (April 21)
- ◆ All Kinds of Medicaid (August 18)
- ◆ Health Care Financing after age 18 (October 18)

This training is brought to you with support from



Strike a Difference for FUSE

The 4th annual Strike a Difference Bowl-a-thon to benefit FUSE will be held on Saturday, February 25, at Strike Force Lanes in Greenfield. This year’s event will start at 5:00

p.m. with check-in at 4:00. As usual, we’ll have terrific door prizes to draw for during the evening. You can put together a team of 5 or sign up as an individual. All bowlers are required to raise a minimum of \$100. It’s as easy as getting 10 people to sponsor you for \$10 each. Again this year we will have special prizes for the top individual

fundraiser and for the team that raises the most money. Last year our top individual fundraiser raised nearly \$700 online, and one teen bowler raised \$255 online!



You can register as an individual or register your team online at

<https://fuse.myetap.org/fundraiser/2012strikeadifference/>

The online fundraising page makes it AMAZINGLY easy to raise \$100. Just ask your friends and family to sponsor you to bowl. Remember, it just takes \$10 from 10 people to get your minimum! Sign up now!

If you have friends who would be interested in bowling, please send them to our website to learn how they can sign up and get started too. You can also download a brochure about the event and a pledge form to record your off line pledges. Just click the link <http://fuseinc.org/news.html#Bowl-A-Thon>

As always, we welcome sponsors for this event. Contributions can be anything from a raffle prize to a lane sponsorship for \$100 or more. Sponsor details are outlined in the brochure on our website. All contributions are very much appreciated and go a long way toward making this event a success!

Please mark February 25 on your calendar now and plan on striking a difference for FUSE!

Inspiring Abilities Expo

FUSE brings you the 6th annual Inspiring Abilities Expo on Saturday, March 10, from 9 am to 2 pm at Greenfield-Central High School. Parents of children with disabilities of all types will have the opportunity to speak directly with service providers, non-profit agencies and other organizations to learn more about products, services or programs to benefit their child. This year's expo will be bigger and better than ever!

One exciting addition to this year's expo will be sessions and exhibitors specifically targeted to



students planning for the transition from high school to adulthood. These sessions are part of our PITSTOP

Transition Training series. Look in our program for the PITSTOP logo to locate sessions that are most applicable to transitioning young adults.

Nine training sessions are scheduled to address topics such as financial planning, transitioning to adult health care, guardianship, employment services, conscious discipline, nutrition challenges, transitions in early childhood, assistive technology apps for ipods/ipads, and caring for the caregiver. The full

speaker schedule will be posted on the FUSE website at www.fuseinc.org/expo in the coming days, as well as the list of exhibitors as they register. Be sure to check the website often for updated expo information.

Admission is free and on-site child care is available, so families can browse the exhibit area or attend training sessions. Lunch will be available to purchase on site.

FUSE would like to thank our generous sponsors for the 2012 Inspiring Abilities Expo, including Answers for Autism, JMC Technology, Applied Behavior Center for Autism, Gordon Homes/MetLife Center for Special Needs Planning, Greenfield Area Soccer Club, ASD Perspectives/ASD Advocates, INTRAC, and Unlocking the Spectrum. We hope you will visit and thank our sponsor tables as you make your way around the exhibit hall. If you know of a company you would like to see at the expo, vendors and sponsors are still being accepted, so be sure to spread the word. We are adding exhibitors and sponsors often, so check the website for that information as it develops.

Pre-registration helps us bring you the best possible event. All preregistered guests who attend will be eligible for a \$25 gift card drawing after the expo. Please [preregister by clicking this link](#).



Don't miss this great day of learning and celebrating the inspiring abilities of the children in your life.





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A Taste of College

Children’s Resource Group is conducting an afternoon workshop this winter to help participants learn how to make a smooth transition to college. A Taste of College will be held on Saturday, February 25th, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. CRG will conduct this practical, interactive workshop at Indiana Wesleyan University's conference center, located near the intersection of I-465 and N. Keystone Avenue. The workshop is targeted to:

- All high school students planning to start college next fall or who are actively involved in a college search
- Parents
- Special Education teachers
- Guidance counselors
- Transition specialists
- School administrators

While the workshop will provide specific information for students with LD, ADHD, Asperger's, and psychiatric disabilities such as depression/anxiety, the sessions will help all students/families develop an effective plan for transitioning to college successfully.

Click here for more information and registration <http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07e5fvy5qm7b16437d&llr=tt7cpeab>

Funding Your Education The Federal Guide to Student Aid

An informational alert prepared by Fifth Freedom Information courtesy of the US Department of Education and Disability.gov

The Department of Education has released a new guide to federal student aid. "Funding Your Education" covers all the federal aid programs available for students and how to apply.

The guide includes information on grants, work-study programs, and loans:

- Federal Pell Grant
- Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant
- Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant
- Federal Work-Study
- Federal Perkins Loans
- Direct Subsidized and Unsubsidized Loans
- And more

Also covered are topics like completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), loan repayment, and programs available for students with intellectual disabilities.

This valuable guide can be downloaded at <http://fifthfreedom.org/attachments>

McDonald’s Benefits for FUSE

McDonald's in New Palestine has partnered with FUSE for monthly benefit nights through July! Please mark your calendars for the last Wednesday of each month, and stop in or drive through McDonald's between 5 pm and 8 pm. McDonald's will donate 10 percent of the proceeds to FUSE. No flyer required!

Be sure to invite your family and friends to enjoy a quick dinner out for a good cause. We're lovin' it! See you at McDonald’s!

Year End Financials 2011

	Actual Thru Dec 2011	Budget 2011	Variance from budget
Funds Received	\$ 92,029	\$ 83,700	\$ 8,329
Total Expenses	\$ 94,468	\$ 83,053	\$ 11,415
Net increase in assets	\$ -2,439	\$ 647	\$ -3,086

Participate in the 2012 Indiana Disability Poll

You are invited to participate in the annual survey, sponsored by Indiana's Developmental Disabilities Network partners, to help identify the current state of services, programs, and supports for people with disabilities in your community. The purpose of this survey is to ask people with disabilities, family members, and professionals in the disability field to share their thoughts about how "livable" Indiana communities are for people with disabilities.

The results will be used to help guide programs in local communities around the state, ultimately with the goal of fostering independence, choice and control for people with disabilities. For more information, contact Jeffrey Chait at (812) 855-6508 or e-mail jchait@indiana.edu. Go to www.thepollingplace.org for more information.

Click the link to Take the 2012 Disability Poll
<http://www.iidc.indiana.edu/cpps/survey/>

Training Opportunities

Free Webinar: Understanding research and developing evidence-based treatment plans

Tuesday, February 7, 2012
1:00 PM
Webinar
Cost: free

The Science Doesn't Have to Be Scary: Understanding Research in the News and Making Evidenced-Based Decisions

This free webinar is for parents and non-medical professionals to introduce the components of published research and give a foundation of knowledge that will allow participants to read published research, understand research coverage in the media, and formulate meaningful questions for their clinicians. We will also discuss research articles in the news and ways to be a critical consumer. (This webinar is being presented and produced in collaboration with the Johnson Center for Child Health and Development.)

PRE-REGISTER ONLINE - there is no fee to attend - <https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/805469230>

Road Map to Special Education: Laws and Processes

Friday, February 23
8:30 am—4:00 pm
East 91st Street Christian Church
6049 East 91st Street
Indianapolis, IN 46250
Cost: \$40 family member/ \$75 professional

This workshop, combining the Article 7 and IEP training, is all day training that offers basic information about special education laws and regulations for Indiana children ages 3-21. In addition, this training will provide information on how to prepare for a case conference and write an IEP. This training is a great opportunity for family members and professionals who advocate for children with a disability or serious chronic illness.

Register online at www.aboutspecialkids.org or call 800-964-4746

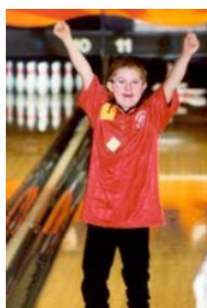
Lunch is not provided. Time will be allotted for lunch on your own. Minimum of 6 per training is required for training to take place. Training Certificates for Professional Growth Points are available for this training. ASK is required to charge a training participant fee to recoup our costs for qualified trainers, travel, printing, etc.

A Bowling League For Kids & Adults with Special Needs

- Saturdays @ 1 PM (*New Time*)
- 10 Weeks: January 21-March 24
- Great way to exercise & socialize for parents & bowlers alike!
- Bowl 2 games—\$6/person
- Gets kids off the couch—more fun than the Wii!
- Busy schedule? We have plenty of great staff & volunteers.
- Bumpers & ramps available
- WEEKLY DOOR PRIZES!!



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Assistive Technology Resources

Early Childhood and Assistive Technology

The Family Center on Technology and Disability (FCTD) has an online resource that provides images of AT devices designed for young children and identifies the issues that should be considered when selecting AT for them. Functional areas include: communication, mobility and learning. The PowerPoint briefly discusses IDEA issues and the need to identify AT in IFSP and IEP plans.

Access the presentation at

<http://www.fctd.info/powerpoints>

AT Solutions Fact Sheet

FCTD's new AT Solutions fact sheet provides illustrated examples of a range of AT products to help parents who are beginning their search for assistive technology. The fact sheet includes basic questions to be considered when trying to identify assistive technology devices that will best suit your child. Each AT example has an icon indicating whether it is high-tech, mid-tech or low-tech. Although we've included sample vendors for your convenience, please note that FCTD does not endorse specific products or vendors. Most products are available through a number of reputable vendors. When listing AT devices in an IEP it is best to identify a product type and not a particular brand name.

[View a pdf of the AT Solutions fact sheet.](#)

AT Resources CD-Rom

The 2011 FCTD AT Resources CD Rom is still available. We provide copies to you at no cost. We can send you individual copies or provide bulk copies for you to distribute to colleagues, families you serve or at conferences.

To order your CD's, please visit

http://www.fctd.info/show/order_form.

2012 Indiana Legislative Session

As you are probably already aware from all the news coverage, the 2012 Indiana General Assembly is back in session. The “short” session, which started on January 4, has been dominated by some large controversial bills to this point. After a brief recess from February 2-7 due to the Super Bowl activities downtown, legislators will be back to work on the many bills that are still pending in both houses.

Every session brings bills to the forefront which impact people of all ages with disabilities. Families who express their opinions to their legislators about specific legislation can make a huge impact on whether or not a bill gets a hearing or passes out of committee. It is a well known fact that very few people actually take the time to personally contact legislators on any individual bill, so when people do start contacting them, they take notice and want to hear what you have to say. Building relationships with your legislators now can help you have impact on both current and future legislation.

Family Voices Indiana has developed a guide which is intended to be a reference issue; in it you will find information on how a bill becomes a law, definitions and translations of acronyms, and information on the House and Senate leadership. You can download the guide from their website at [http://fvindiana.org/Articles/Guide to the session 2012.pdf](http://fvindiana.org/Articles/Guide%20to%20the%20session%202012.pdf)

There are many organizations that provide legislative updates and action alerts that may be of interest to families. If you want to follow the issues, signing up for the email alerts from these organizations will keep you informed. They keep track of bill activity, provide summaries of the bill and in some cases provide analysis of the impact. Here is a list of just a few of the groups you can contact to sign up for legislative alerts. Thanks to Family Voices Indiana for providing this info. There

may be others that follow key issues important to your family, so take some time to check out what other organizations and associations you interact with may have to offer.

Family Voices Indiana

www.fvindiana.org

<http://fvindiana.blogspot.com>

The Arc of Indiana

<http://www.arcind.org/>

[legislative information page.htm](http://www.arcind.org/legislative%20information%20page.htm)

Information on the Arc's legislative agenda and general legislative information including link to sign up for action alerts.

Fifth Freedom

<http://www.fifthfreedom.org/bt.php>

Sign up for state and national bill trackers

Indiana Government

<http://www.in.gov/apps/lisa/session/billwatch/billinfo?year=2011&session=1&request=all>

Session information including Bill Watch (information on bills, votes, resolutions, etc.).

Indiana General Assembly

<http://www.ai.org/legislative/index.html>

Indiana General Assembly website.

Indiana DOE

<http://www.doe.in.gov/puttingstudentsfirst/>

Legislative agenda by the Indiana Department of Education.

Indiana PTA

<http://www.indianapta.org/LegAlert.html>

State and national legislative information from Indiana PTA.

Disclaimer: FUSE publishes information about issues and events that we believe may be of interest to families raising children with disabilities. FUSE does not necessarily endorse all events, sponsoring organizations, individuals, products, reports or advertisers which appear in this newsletter. Families should research the information to make judgments about the appropriateness of the information to their child.

2011 FUSE DONORS

The FUSE Board thanks all of our donors for their contributions to further the mission of FUSE. In each newsletter we list gifts from donors and sponsors received in the months covered by that issue. The complete list of donors appears on our website.

October through December 2011

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- Hancock County Board of Realtors
- Hoosier Mike's
- John Jones Insurance Agency
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- McDonald's of New Palestine
- Rotary Club of Greenfield
- The Foster Group
- Unlocking the Spectrum

Grant Received

- Answers for Autism/Autism Advocates of Indiana
- Hancock County Community Foundation
- Wal-Mart

Memorial/Honorary Gifts

In memory of Paul and Margaret Bogigian

- Margaret Robinson

In honor of Rick and Rosemary Bogigian

- Margaret Robinson

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- Papa John's Pizza
- Pendleton Heights High School
- Team Image
- Villas at Timber Run

Thank you to all of our donors.

If you made a donation or pledge in the stated time period and your name does not appear here, please contact me at darland@fuseinc.org so we can ensure your gifts are recognized. Thank you!

Summer ABA Program Available

Information provided by Applied Behavior Center for Autism

The Applied Behavior Center for Autism is offering a summer therapy program for children with autism, ages 3 and up. Registration is now open, and limited space is available.

Our Summer ABA Therapy Program focuses on increasing language and social skills. For those children who have problematic behaviors, we focus on reducing those behaviors while increasing language and social skills. We utilize evidence-based strategies to teach young children improved communication skills among adults and peers. All therapy is 1:1 ratio or group instruction. Transportation services are also available in some geographical areas.

Inquire Online at www.appliedbehaviorcenter.org

For more information regarding our Summer Therapy Program or any of our other programs, please contact Jane Grimes, Enrollment Director, at 317-849-5437 ext. 112 or jane@appliedbehaviorcenter.org

Early Childhood Systems Survey

Indiana Families and Professionals are invited to share their thoughts on early childhood systems and services by completing a short survey. Your input will support the work of The Sunny Start: Healthy Bodies, Healthy Minds initiative, a comprehensive, collaborative, statewide effort funded by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau's (MCHB) Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems grant.

The survey is online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SunnyStart>



Family Leadership Development Fund

The Family Leadership Development Fund assists families to participate in activities (public forums and meetings, task forces and work groups, etc.) that are intended to solicit public/consumer input and perspective concerning disability-related public policy, programs and services.

Some examples of approved activities might include attendance at these public meetings: State Advisory Council for Special Education (SAC), Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC), Developmental Disability (DD) commission, Select Joint Commission for Medicaid Oversight, Transition council, Sunny Start advisory council, Head Start council, etc.

This funding does NOT pay for trainings and conferences. Families are encouraged to apply for other sources of funding: GPCPD consumer investment fund, parent training in the IEP, local service organizations, parent training funds via the DD Medicaid waiver program

Parents who request to participate in formal meetings, committees, task force, etc. may receive a

stipend, if approved. The following stipulations generally apply:

- must be the parent of a child with disabilities and/or special health care needs
- must have no other paid affiliation or role with the organization hosting the formal meeting, committee, task force, etc.
- must not be participating with the financial support of another program
- events or activities of 4 hours or less/day (including travel) may be reimbursed \$50
- events or activities of more than 4 hours/day (including travel) may be reimbursed \$100
- families may access this for stipends totaling \$250/yr
- priority will be given to families who agree to write a summary of the meeting for Family Voices
- An email or signed letter of verification from the head of the agency or organization sponsoring the activity to Family Voices Indiana

To apply for this funding, please request an application from the Family Voices Indiana health information center at 317 944 8982 or by email, Jennifer@fvindiana.org