



# FUSE News

## Special Needs Financial Planning at November Meeting

Volume 14, Issue 5

October 2010

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

### 2010 FUSE Board of Directors

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### 2010 FUSE Staff

Executive Director	Denise Arland
Development Director	Amy Borgmann
Administrative Assistant	Lindsey Fields

On Monday, November 1, FUSE is pleased to host Gordon F. Homes, Jr., CFP, Certified Financial Planner with MetLife's Division of Estate Planning for Special Kids, and Robert W. Fechtman, Attorney at Law, to present "Planning For The Future of Your Child or Dependent with Special Needs." Important Issues To Be Addressed in their presentation include:



- Special Needs Trusts
- Government Benefit Eligibility
- Financial Security and Funding Options

The meeting will be held from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at Harris Elementary in Greenfield.

### PLEASE NOTE THIS IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT PARKING AND ENTRY!

There is work going on all around the building in the parking lots. As of now, we are still supposed to use the parking lot in the back of the building. Next month that likely

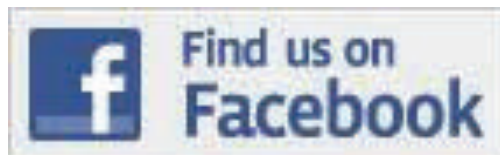
will change. Please be sure to check the website for parking information this month and next month to be sure you park near the doors that will be unlocked. For November, it sounds like it will be the back lot. Please observe any blocked off areas and cones as you navigate around the construction areas.

We will provide a light dinner for the meeting. This month we are planning hot dogs, sides and desserts. Registration helps us plan better for the meal, so please

[register your family for the meal here.](#)

Child care is available on site for meetings by reservation only so we can plan an appropriate number of volunteers. Please make your child care reservation for this meeting by noon on Monday, the day of the meeting. I have extended the deadline since the newsletter is getting out behind schedule this month. Use our [online reservation system for child care](#) or call Denise at 317-462-9064.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the meeting!



Become a FUSE fan on Facebook by visiting our page at

<http://www.facebook.com/fuseinc>

## Ponderings From Your President

I don't know about you, but the year sure seems to be flying by for me. It is hard to believe Halloween is here and the holiday season is just around the corner.



Rusty Kimmerly, President  
FUSE Board of Directors

FUSE has had a lot going on in the past few months. We've been fundraising at the Rotary Bands and BBQ, Riley Days, and even at a movie night fundraiser planned by two student groups at New Palestine High School, the Helping Hands Club and National Honor Society. We had a great event at That Fun Place to welcome new families and get them resources to help their children. We even started a new program for preschool age children called Growing Together. Adaptive swim is currently going on, and we are planning for our holiday activities. No wonder the year has flown by!

The FUSE annual fundraising campaign is also winding down. Please consider making a pledge to FUSE. All donations no matter how large or small are appreciated. We make it easy to donate a little bit at a time with our \$10 for 10 program. We can debit your checking account or credit card once a month for ten months, and by year end you have made a nice donation to an organization that is important to

you and your family. Just contact the FUSE office to make your pledge.

If your company is having a United Way campaign, your contributions can be directed to FUSE by writing in "FUSE Inc. Greenfield Indiana" in the directed donation section of your pledge card. This is an easy way to support FUSE, especially if you already give through United Way. State employees can also support FUSE in a similar way through the State Employee Community Campaign. We appreciate your support in any way to help FUSE meet the needs of families and children.

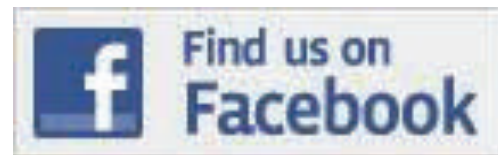
Although it seems a little early to say this, I wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season. Remember you can also support FUSE while you do your internet shopping for the holidays! Look for details in this issue about using GoodShop for your holiday shopping.

Happy holidays!

*Rusty Kimmerly*  
Rusty Kimmerly, President  
rkimmerly@fuseinc.org

### Year to Date Financials 2010

	Actual Thru Sept 2010	Budget 2010	Variance from budget
Funds Received	\$ 50,335	\$ 77,010	\$ - 26,675
Total Expenses	\$ 56,497	\$ 73,273	\$ -16,776
Net increase in assets	\$ - 6162	\$ 3737	\$ - 9899



Become a FUSE fan on Facebook by visiting our page at

<http://www.facebook.com/fuseinc>

## Annual Holiday Dinner

The holiday season will soon be upon us, so we are already planning the December holiday pitch-in! The annual holiday family pitch in will be Monday December 6. We will have dinner together as families and time afterward for socializing. FUSE will supply fried chicken and drinks. To be sure that we have enough food for the whole group, each family should bring a large side dish and a small dessert to share. We will be feeding both kids and adults, so plan the size of your side dishes accordingly!

The meeting will be held on Monday, December 6, from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at Harris Elementary in Greenfield. Child care is NOT provided at this meeting, so plan to enjoy this family meal together with your FUSE friends! At about 7:30 we will show a one hour holiday classic movie for the kids, so have them bring a blanket and a pillow if they want to go relax and enjoy the show! Supervision in the movie will be provided so adults can stay behind in the cafeteria to chat.

Please let us know you will attend so we can plan enough food for everyone. [Register online](#) or call 317-462-9064 to let us know how many family members will attend.

Happy holidays!

## Santa Claus is Coming to Town

Are your children making their list and checking it twice? If so, maybe they are gearing up for our

December visit with Santa!



Once again our favorite man in the red suit is going to visit FUSE on Saturday morning, December 4, from 9 to 11 am. We are pleased to announce that

Mitford Homes has agreed to host our party in their model home at Centennial Village at 200 South and Gem Rd (500 West) between Greenfield and New Palestine. More specific directions will be provided upon registration.

Registration for this event is required and will be limited to the first 25 children, so

be sure to register early! You can submit this online [registration form](#) or print and mail or fax the form from page 11. Once you register, you will be given a timeframe for your arrival so we can make sure all the kids get to talk with Santa before he has to hop in the



sleigh at 11:00 and get to another event. Sign up early for the most flexibility in your assigned time. Santa likes to spend as much quality time as possible with our children, so your registration will help him make sure the elves get his notebook updated before he makes the trip from the North Pole! I will need your registration by November 23 in order for Santa to have time to prepare, so don't delay! Call 317-462-9064 if you have questions about this event.



## Resource for High School Transition

**Are you looking for transition resources?**

**Do you need to learn more about what is available when your high school student graduates?**

If so, go to <http://instrc.indiana.edu> for the Indiana Secondary Transition Resource Center's (INSTRC) website. Here is what you will find or what will be coming soon:

**Calendar:** The unified calendar is a collaborative with Indiana Resource Network supported by the Indiana Department of Education. The calendar will be live on Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Resources:** The Secondary Transition Services Programming Resources is divided into 5 major categories where you can find online tutorials, webinars, podcasts, fact sheets, articles and other information as developed.

**Community Resource Map:** Coming Soon! You will be able to click on your local county to find local community agencies and organizations that can assist students and families transitioning from high school.

**Best Practices:** Our "Best Practices" zone will highlight examples of individual schools, teachers, students and families. The purpose will be to make connections and share practices across the state.

**State and National Links:** A list of state and national links will be continuously updated.

**What's New?:** Discover our latest products, upcoming events, changes in transition policies and practices and much more!

Thanks for the Indiana Institute on Disability and Community for developing and sharing this great resource for both families and professionals!

## Children's Mental Health Blog

Check out the National Federation's website for a new blog where we're tracking health care reform implementation. As rules and regulations are released from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, we'll keep you updated about the ones affecting children with mental health challenges and their families.

<http://www.ffcmh.org/what-we-do/policy/health-care-reform-implementation/>



## Family Information Guide to Assistive Technology & Transition Planning

This 50 page guide is aimed at providing families with the information they need to effectively prepare for and participate in periods of transition in their children's lives.

Individuals may order one free copy of the guide. Additional print copies are available for \$10. A discount is available for bulk orders. To request one or more print copies, visit their homepage, <http://www.fctd.info>, and click on the link to fill out an order form.

**BORGSMANN REALTY**

**Amy Borgmann, Broker/Owner**  
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 Office: (317) 462-4216  
 Cell: (317) 979-0074  
 Fax: (317) 467-1916

REALTOR BLC

## Training Opportunities

### Inside Advocacy from A to Z

Saturday, November 12  
9 am to 4 pm  
Riley Hospital for Children Conference Center  
Auditorium  
402 S. Barnhill Drive  
Indianapolis IN 46202  
Cost: free

Riley Child Development Center hosts this free Child's Play workshop. Lann E. Thompson, Ed.D., MSSW, MA, ACSW, LCSW, LMFT, associate director of Riley Child Development Center, will present information on

- Defining different types of advocacy and the skills required
- Successful applications of advocacy in action across the life span
- What makes advocacy effective at the individual, family, community, state and national levels
- Developing strategies for applying advocacy in practice

To register for this workshop, call the Riley Child Development Center at 317-944-8167, or email Rylin Rodgers at [ryrodger@iupui.edu](mailto:ryrodger@iupui.edu) for more information.

### Ask the Advocate

Tuesday, November 30th  
6 – 8 PM  
White River Christian Church  
(Upstairs in the Attic Room)  
1685 N. 10th Street, Noblesville, IN 46060

Cost: Free

Hamilton County Autism Support Group Presents: Ask the Advocate with Sheila Wolfe.

Space is limited and will be First Come – First Served

Please RSVP to Beth Schweigel, [bethschweigel@hcasg.org](mailto:bethschweigel@hcasg.org), by Friday, November 26th. A confirmation will be sent to those who RSVP while space is still available.

Sheila Wolfe has worked as a professional advocate since 2004. She is also the founder of the Autism Education and Training Center, Inc. Through the AETC, she has developed a parent and advocate training and certification program to assist families with the training and education needed to navigate the complicated world of special education.

## Online Training Opportunities

Nothing is easier than attending training from home! Check out these online trainings on First Steps and Special Education:

InSource—Training on special education topics, including general special education rules/regulations, discipline and advocating for foster children

<http://training.insource.org/?jsessionid=8030c57a703f31b4a03f16497c7629148634>

About Special Kids—Training on special education topics including Procedural Safeguards, Transition, Discipline and nonpublic schools. <http://www.aboutspecialkids.org/OnlineTraining.aspx>

Family to Family—Offers training on First Steps, including topics such as referral, intake, eligibility, evaluation, cost participation and more! <http://www.inf2f.org/Pathway.htm>

## Autism Divorce Rate Debunked

<http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/189288.php>

### 80 Percent Autism Divorce Rate Debunked In First-of-Its Kind Scientific Study

Article Date: 20 May 2010 - 1:00 PDT

Having a child with [autism](#) can put [stress](#) on the parents' marriage, and a frequently cited statistic leads to a common perception that the divorce rate among these families is as high as 80 percent. But a study to be released at a news conference by researchers from Kennedy Krieger Institute in Baltimore found that a child's autism has no effect on the family structure.

Brian Freedman, PhD, lead author of the study and clinical director of the Center for Autism and Related Disorders at Kennedy Krieger Institute, said the findings seem to debunk a lot of the general understanding about high divorce rates among parents of children with autism. Dr. Freedman and his research team found that 64 percent of children with an autism spectrum disorder (ASD) belong to a family with two married biological or adoptive parents, compared with 65 percent of children who do not have an ASD.

Dr. Freedman will present results of the study in Philadelphia at the International Meeting for Autism Research, an annual scientific meeting convened to exchange new scientific progress among autism researchers from around the world.

Receiving the news of a child's autism diagnosis can be devastating, and Dr. Freedman said the pain is compounded as parents ponder what will happen to them as a couple. "In the work I've done with children with autism, I've come across many couples who quote this 80 percent divorce rate to me. They don't know what the future holds for their child, and feel a

sense of hopelessness about the future of their marriage as well almost like getting a diagnosis of autism and a diagnosis of divorce at the same time," he said.

With very little empirical and no epidemiological research addressing the issue of separation and divorce among parents of children with autism, researchers sought to more scientifically examine the incidence. Using data from the 2007 National Survey of Children's Health\*, they examined a nationally representative sample of 77,911 children, ages 3 to 17.

Previous research speaks to the fact that parenting a child with autism is stressful, and it puts pressure on the marriage. Dr. Freedman noted that past studies have found couples with a child with autism experience more stress in their marriage than couples with typically developing children or couples with children with other types of developmental disabilities, such as Down syndrome. Mothers of children with autism report more [depression](#) than those with typically developing children, while fathers report they deal with the stress by distancing themselves and becoming less involved with the family.

"While there are indeed stressors in parenting a child with autism, it doesn't necessarily result in the family breaking up more often than would occur in another family," said Dr. Freedman. "And as someone who works with a team of health care professionals to treat and provide support for families of children with autism, it's important for us to make sure our patients' parents know that, and for our fellow clinicians to provide reliable, evidence-based information about the divorce rate among this population as well."

This analysis of the National Survey of Children's Health data showed there are certain factors in a

*(Continued on page 7)*

## Autism Divorce Rate Debunked

*(Continued from page 6)*

family that can contribute to divorce, such as having a child with particularly challenging behaviors, with or without autism. For some families, the challenges of parenting a child with special needs may indeed result in straining the marriage to the breaking point. Further research is needed to understand the relationships among in-tact families with children with autism to identify how they work through the challenges.

"I would hope this research drives home the importance of providing support to these families, and letting them know that their relationships can survive these stressors," he said. "We should continue to provide training for parents so that they can work through the stressors in their relationship to keep their family together and have a successful marriage."

### About Autism

Autism spectrum disorders (ASD) is the nation's fastest growing developmental disorder, with current incidence rates estimated at 1 in 110 children. This year more children will be diagnosed with autism than [AIDS](#), [diabetes](#) and [cancer](#) combined, yet profound gaps remain in our understanding of both the causes and cures of the disorder. Continued research and education about developmental disruptions in individuals with ASD is crucial, as early detection and intervention can lead to improved outcomes in individuals with ASD.

### About the Kennedy Krieger Institute

Internationally recognized for improving the lives of children and adolescents with disorders and injuries of the brain and spinal cord, the Kennedy Krieger Institute in Baltimore, MD serves more than 13,000 individuals each year through inpatient and outpatient clinics, home and community services and school-based programs. Kennedy Krieger provides a wide range of services for children with developmental concerns mild to severe, and is home to a team of investigators who are contributing to the understanding of how disorders develop while pioneering new interventions and earlier diagnosis.

Source: Kennedy Krieger Institute

## FUSE Teens Tell Your Story

An informational alert prepared by Fifth Freedom

Information courtesy of the American Association of People with Disabilities (ADA), Ari Ne'eman, and Stacey Milbern

Here's your chance to tell your story! Be a part of "Disability in America: Voices of a New Generation"

Editors Ari Ne'eman and Stacey Milbern are seeking proposals for essays to appear in their new book, "Disability in America: Voices of a New Generation." This book will tell the story of what it's like to grow up in America with a disability after the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act in 1990. How much has changed? What work still remains to be done? This is your chance to tell your story!

**Proposals requested for  
"Disability in America: Voices of a New Generation"**

**Authors should be people with disabilities age 13 to 30**

**Submissions should be 2,000-5,000 words & include contact information & bio**

**Deadline: January 15, 2011**

For questions, more information, or to submit your proposal, email editors Stacey Milbern and Ari Ne'eman at [voicesoftheadageneration@gmail.com](mailto:voicesoftheadageneration@gmail.com).

**Save the Date**

**Inspiring Abilities Expo**

**March 12, 2010**

**Greenfield-Central High School**

**9 am to 2 pm**

**Large exhibit area, free workshops, food and fun!  
Vendor Registration forms available in November  
Family Registration in January**

The Bright and Beyond ideas for our families with young children were provided at no cost to FUSE by Pal Toys. Thank you to Pal Toys for providing these activities. We will feature these activities regularly as space allows.



Age 1

### Mix and Match

*Visual Discrimination, Sorting*

**G**ather up pairs of socks or mittens. Mix them up and encourage your child to try to match them. Or, mix up several pairs of shoes, then give your child one shoe from the pile and ask him to find the mate. Matching socks can also be a great way for your child to help with the laundry folding!



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Preschool

Ages 3-5

### Apple Zigzag Puzzle

*Problem solving*

**C**ut the core out of an apple, then use a sharp knife to cut a deep zigzag pattern around the middle so that the upper and lower halves separate. Show your child how the two halves fit together properly. Hand him the two halves to the "puzzle" and encourage him to try to put it back together. Afterwards, let him eat his puzzle!



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**WestPoint**financial  
G R O U P

**WestPoint Financial Group** is offering you and your family a free "Lights Up. Sound Down" movie at Hamilton 16 IMAX!

"Lights Up Sound Down" gives families with children who have special needs the opportunity to enjoy their favorite movies in a comfortable, sensory-friendly setting with the lights turned up and the volume down in the auditorium.

The next movie times are 9:15 am on the following dates:

**Saturday, November 6—Megamind**

**Saturday, December 18—Yogi Bear**

Please register by going to [www.westpointfinancialgroup.com](http://www.westpointfinancialgroup.com) and clicking on the movie banner.

If you have any questions, please contact West Point's Special Care Team at 317-469-9999 or by contacting the Hamilton 16 IMAX at 317-773-3324

Movies are brought to you by:

**LIGHTS UP**  
**SO...ND DOWN**  
Sensory Friendly Movies

**HAMILTON 16 IMAX**



## 2010 FUSE DONORS

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

### August through September 2010

#### Individuals

- ◆ Dr. Charles Hayes

#### Business and Community Support

- ◆ Culver's
- ◆ MatJack Airbags
- ◆ Beaty Construction
- ◆ Kiwanis Club of Greenfield
- ◆ SAMS Club Foundation
- ◆ Rotary Club of Greenfield
- ◆ Applied Behavior Center for Autism

#### Memorial Gifts

*In memory of Russell Parke*

- ◆ FUSE Board of Directors

A full list of annual campaign donors will be published at the beginning of 2011. We thank

### 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](mailto:darland@fuseinc.org) so we can ensure your gifts are recognized. Thank you!

## Shopping for the Holidays can Support FUSE

The holidays are just around the corner. I don't know about you, but I would much rather shop online than spend hours at the mall fighting the holiday crowds. Now you can shop online and make a donation to FUSE at the same time!

GoodShop.com is an online shopping mall which donates up to 37 percent of each purchase to your favorite cause! Hundreds of great stores including Amazon, Target, Gap, Best Buy, eBay, Macy's, Kohl's, Old Navy, LLBean, Land's End, and Barnes & Noble along with hundreds more, have teamed up with GoodShop. Every time you place an order, you could be supporting FUSE.

Just go to GoodSearch.com and select FUSE as your charity to support. Then click on the GoodShop "shop now" button, pick your store and start shopping. To make it even easier, you can download the GoodSearch toolbar, and it will automatically track any on-line purchases you make and alert you about the percentage of donation going to FUSE. Make sure you re-enter FUSE as your charity any time you delete your history or cookies, as the charity selection will be deleted also. You just need to visit the Goodsearch website again to reselect your charity.

This is a great way to make an impact for FUSE with something that you are doing anyway, shopping. It costs you nothing, and pays FUSE at the end of the year. Be sure to spread the word to friends and families too!



*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.*



Santa Claus will visit FUSE at Centennial Village at 200 South and Gem Rd (500W.) on Saturday, December 4, from 9:00 am to 11 am. This event will be limited to the first 25 FUSE children (and their siblings) who register. New families are welcome! Santa Claus is updating the list he keeps in his little black book, and he is requesting our help with the following information. Please complete this form and return by November 23.

**Please provide your contact information below so we can let you know of any weather related cancellations. Email is easiest for us, but we will call those without email access.**

Please list the names and ages of your children who will attend, and one or two nice and naughty things for Santa to discuss with the kids during his visit!

Parent's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name	Age	Nice Thing	Naughty Thing
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Return to FUSE at PO Box 314, Greenfield IN 46140 or fax to 317-467-0814 by November 23.

**SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO TOWN**

FUSE, Inc.  
PO Box 314  
Greenfield IN 46140

Phone: 317-462-9064  
Fax: 317-467-0814  
E-mail: [info@fuseinc.org](mailto:info@fuseinc.org)

We're on the web!

<http://www.fuseinc.org>



Improving the lives of children with special needs

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## Stay Educated About Benefit Changes for Your Child

If you are connected to any statewide advocacy organizations you have probably heard lots of concerning news about the benefits available to help your child and family. If you are not connected, you may be uninformed about events that could have significant impact on your family and the financial resources you may be counting on for help. We cannot stress enough that NOW is the time to tap into the information available through the advocacy organizations in the state. Many of them spend significant time advocating on behalf of families and passing on information so families are not surprised by a decrease in services or benefits. Timely information helps families plan to fill the gaps that may be created by state program changes and budget cuts.

Here are some newsletters, blogs or email lists that we use regularly to help pass info on to you. These groups put out much more information than we can

effectively share, so please take time to subscribe (free) to those you think will be most beneficial to your family.

Click the item name to go to the sign up page:

### **Arc of Indiana**

[E-Newsletters](#)

[Blog](#)

### **Family Voices of Indiana**

[Blog](#)

### **Fifth Freedom**

[E-News Alerts](#)

You can also search Facebook for these organizations and like them to follow their posts. Be sure to like FUSE on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/fuseinc](http://www.facebook.com/fuseinc).