

Heart-to-Heart



The Family Center for Children and Youth with Special Needs (FC) is a section of the Children's Special Health Care Services (CSHCS) Division of the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH). CSHCS is part of the MDCH's Bureau of Family, Maternal and Child Health.

CSHCS primarily provides medical specialty care to children with qualifying diagnoses. The Family Support Network of Michigan (FSN) is the FC's parent-to-parent support arm. The FC serves families of all children with special needs.

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CSHCS Family Phone Line

1-800-359-3722

www.michigan.gov/cshcs

Click on "Family Center"

8 a.m.—5 p.m., Monday - Friday

Events & resources are compiled by the Family Center from a variety of sources. A listing does not stand for endorsement.

A Word from Mary.....

From the Desk of
Mary J. Marin, Executive Director
Family Center

We know that attending conferences is an important way to receive up-to-date information and to have the opportunity to communicate one-on-one with others with the same problems and interests. However, the financial cost of the conference may prevent the families we serve from participating. To help with this, the Family Center has a limited amount of funding to provide two types of scholarships.

The Young Adult Scholarship is available for individuals between the ages of 16-25 to attend a conference that relates to their CSHCS eligible condition. Applicants must have a CSHCS eligible medical diagnosis to qualify for the scholarship.

Families may apply for a scholarship for one parent to attend a conference that relates to their child's diagnosis, condition or treatment. Funds are very limited and so when two or more families wish to attend a conference, we must make some very hard choices and give a scholarship to only one. Preference is given to families who have never attended a conference. Scholarships are limited to one every two years. Conference scholarships are funded by the CSN Fund, a donor-supported fund started in 1944 with a very generous bequest by Dr. and Mrs. James T. Pardee. Dr. Pardee was a Dow Chemical Company founder. The CSN Fund supports unique services and projects for children with special health care needs that are not provided by state, federal, or any other funding.

Call the Family Phone line for complete details on applying for either scholarship. We look forward to hearing from you at 1-800-359-3722.

Mary J. Marin

Be Ready for the Flu Season

Everyone is concerned about the upcoming flu (influenza) season, with concern focusing on the possible severity of the H1N1 virus (Swine Flu). Planning ahead to prevent the flu is especially important for individuals with special health care needs. Don't forget to take simple precautions everyday to help keep everyone healthy! These include:

- Get vaccinated
- Cover coughs and sneezes
- Ask your doctor about antiviral medications
- If a family member with special needs becomes ill, contact the doctor immediately. Don't wait until symptoms worsen.
- Wash hands frequently
- Drink plenty of fluids
- Stay home when sick

The U. S. Department of Health & Human Services has information and updates about seasonal and H1N1 flu. For specific information about vaccinations, prevention, symptoms and more recommendations about how to keep your children and family safe, visit www.flu.gov

Plan for the Future— There are Special Answers for Special Needs

One of the most difficult challenges facing parents of special needs children is planning for the time when they will not be able to act as primary care givers. Often expenses will increase when care and management, which had once been provided by a parent, must be given professionally. Advance planning can make a significant difference in the life of a special needs child as well as the lives of family members. Siblings may need to assume caretaking responsibilities while starting their own families, careers, and possibly caring for elderly parents. While each family situation is unique, a website sponsored by the Academy of Special Needs Planners provides a general overview of strategies which parents and others can use to plan for their own futures and for those family members with special needs. For more information go to: www.specialneedsanswers.com

Resources

We're on the Web!

www.michigan.gov/cshcs
click on "Family Center"

Assistive Technology (AT) Xchange

www.atxchange.org

CSHCS Courses
www.training.mihealth.org/coursedetail.htm#CSHCS

Down Syndrome Guild
www.dsgsemi.org 248-827-9135

Family Center 1-800-359-3722 and
www.bridges4kids.org/f2f

Healthy Children Project Monthly e-News
www.LDAofmichigan.org/healthychild.htm

Heart-to-Heart Updates
www.michigan.gov/cshcs, click on "Family Center"
E-mail [Dianna Rigato at RigatoD@Michigan.gov](mailto:Dianna.Rigato@Michigan.gov)
for electronic copies of the Updates.

Judson Center Autism Connections
www.judsoncenter.org

Michigan Loan Funds
www.michiganloanfunds.org

Natural Learning Concepts
www.nlconcepts.com
Toll free: 800-823-3430

On the Spectrum: Autism Resources
www.myspace.com/on_the_spectrum

Syndromes Without A Name-USA
269-692-2090 or 888-880-SWAN (7926)

The Special Needs Store
www.thespecialneedsstore.com

Upcoming Conferences

17th Annual Parenting Awareness Michigan Conferences

There are two dates and locations from which to choose:

Tuesday, October 14, Northern Michigan University, Marquette

Keynote by Bob Howe, Executive Director, Mich. Elementary and Middle School Principals Association
Sunday, November 9, Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center, East Lansing

Keynote by Barbara Flis, Founder, Parent Action for Healthy Kids

Both conferences will include workshops on issues facing parents and caregivers, resources to kick-off a successful Parenting Awareness Month in 2010, and parenting information and resources for the entire year. The winning 2010 PAM Poster Contest entries will be on display. To register or for more information call 800-968-4968 or go to www.preventionnetwork.org

Building a System of Care: Putting Principles into Practice

October 29-30, The Lansing Center, Lansing, MI

The conference will include keynote speakers and workshops related to School, Mental Health, Juvenile Justice, Child Welfare, Building a System of Care, Youth and Family Involvement in Systems of Care and many other topics will be offered. Conference and registration information is available at www.impactssystemofcare.org

Epilepsy Today Conferences

There are three dates and locations from which to choose:

Saturday, November 7, The Fetzer Center, Kalamazoo

Friday, November 13, St Clair County Community Mental Health Authority, Admin. Office, Port Huron

Friday, November 20, Doubletree Hotel, Dearborn

These conferences are designed for individuals with epilepsy, their families and others whose lives are touched by epilepsy including caregivers and professionals. For complete details go to:

www.epilepsymichigan.org

4th Annual Life without Limits through Assistive Technology Conference and Expo

Thursday, November 12

Silver Garden of Southfield, Southfield, MI

For complete information visit www.ucpdetroit.org or contact Chaka Harris at 248-557-5070

Learning Disability Association of Michigan Annual Conference

November 16-17, Kellogg Center, Michigan State University, East Lansing

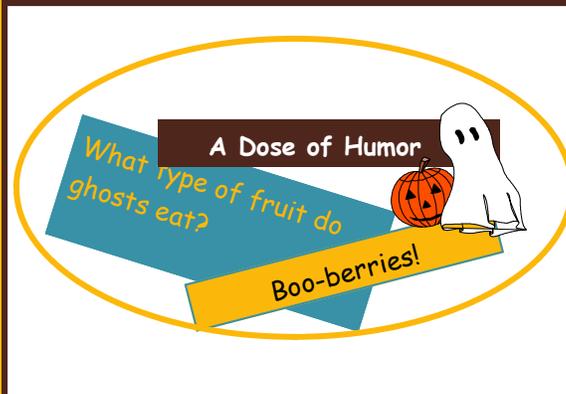
Keynote speakers will be Lynell Burmark, Ph.D. and Christopher Lee, Ph.D. The conference will include a wide variety of workshops and special sessions for high school students. There will be an exhibit hall, bookstores, raffles and prizes. For more information and registration details go to:

www.ldaofmichigan.org

Help Your Child Live a Life Without Limits

United Cerebral Palsy has partnered with experts in developmental disabilities to develop a website to help you prepare your special needs child to face life's challenges. Especially helpful for parents with a newly diagnosed child, it connects parents to share experiences, tools, and support. It can provide you with resources and information to help you make decisions that will enable you to help your child develop a life without limits. Visit this valuable resource at:

www.mychildwithoutlimits.org



Fun Fundraisers

The 13th Annual DisAbility Awareness Dinner

Thursday, October 8, Gene Davis Banquet Center, Jackson

This benefit for the DisAbility Connections Foundation will feature Amy Roloff from TLC's hit television show "Little People Big World". For ticket and sponsorship information call DisAbility Connections at 517-782-6024.

Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan 1st Annual Toast in Hope Wine Event

Thursday, October 15, Matt Prentice's Shirz Gardens, Bingham Farms

Enjoy a fine wine-tasting arranged by Jim Lufty of the Fine Wine Sources of Livonia and sample hors d'oeuvres prepared by the chefs of Shiraz Gardens and support the Michigan Epilepsy Foundation's mission. The event will also include a live, fine-wine auctions and the opportunity to win door prizes. To purchase tickets and for more details go to www.epilepsymichigan.org and click on the event sidebar. For other questions, please contact Brianna Romines, at 800-377-6226, option 1, ext 217.

The Michigan Arthritis Foundation Presents: Bone Bash! — A Halloween Themed Costume Party

Friday, October 23, Royal Oak Music Theatre

Enjoy a frightfully fun evening of drinks, contests, raffles, spooky decorations and concert entertainment. Event the youngest arthritis sufferers have worked hard to make this event a success. During arts and crafts sessions at Camp Dakota, a camp with attitude and adventure for children with arthritis and related rheumatic diseases, campers created a special Bone Bash poster. Sales of the poster will provide Camp Dakota scholarships. Bone Bash proceeds will help support Camp Dakota and other Michigan Arthritis Foundation programming. You must be over 21 to attend this event. For tickets or more information go to www.bonebashdetroit.com or contact Heather Luka at 248-649-2891, ext. 232.