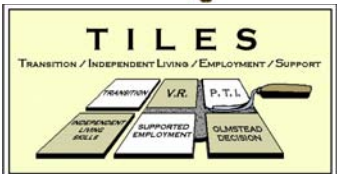




The Heart ♥ Network



PARENT
EDUCTION
NETWORK
Parents Educating Parents
in the Community
(PEP)



Sharing The Commitment



Fundamentally For Families

The Quarterly Newsletter for Families and Advocates of Children and Adults with Disabilities, Special Needs, or At-Risk and the Professionals Who Work With Them.

HEART AND HOPE CONFERENCE HUGE SUCCESS FOR FAMILIES

FND's Second Annual Heart and Hope Conference in St. Petersburg in August was a huge success for persons with disabilities and their families. Exceeding our expectations, we doubled our attendance from last year. Workshops were full and the ballroom was packed to capacity to hear Jonathan Mooney take back the short bus and loudly proclaim that "normal people suck."



Once again, we built this conference from the ground up around those topics that we know you want to hear about most. We carefully track all that we do at FND and we used this information to bring you our "greatest hits" – both from FND and from our many partners across the state. We are very happy that Rep. Ken Littlefield co-presented "Making Your Case" on effective public policy advocacy with FND Board member Sarah Lopez. I'd like to thank Rep. Littlefield and all of the other presenters who contributed their time and efforts to make this conference such a success.

Melissa Tremblay, a fantastic mother, tremendous advocate and member of STAND, and all around great person, was the recipient of this year's Heart Award. This award is given on an annual basis to a person whose efforts have made a true difference in the lives of persons with disabilities. Melissa more than fits that description in every way and we are very happy to be able to honor her in this way.

Continue on page 2

Family Network on Disabilities of Florida, Inc. (The Heart ♥ Network)

2735 Whitney Road, Clearwater, FL 33760-1610

(800) 825-5736 or (727) 523-1130 fax: (727) 523-8687

FND Web Page: <http://fndfl.org> FND e-mail: fnd@fndfl.org

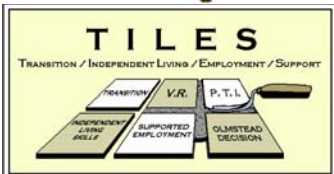
Executive Director: Rich La Belle e-mail: richlabelle@fndfl.org



The Heart ♥ Network



PARENT
EDUCTION
NETWORK
Parents Educating Parents
in the Community
(PEP)



Sharing The Commitment



Fundamentally For Families

I want to thank the staff of FND for their very hard work, both throughout the year and in putting on this conference. This wonderful group of women and men put themselves on the line every day for families and persons with disabilities. Many, many times, we work with people on the worst days of their lives. This can take a toll very quickly, but our folks keep at it, day after day, month after month, and year after year. I am honored and humbled to be able to work with such a great group of people every day.



I'd like to single out Christine Stoltz for special thanks and recognition. Christine served as the point person for the conference and really made things happen. I'd also like to recognize FND's Management Team – Tara Bremer, our Director of Programs; Terry Gleba, our Director of Operations; and Mark Lofgren, our Director of Finance. Without

them constantly going above and beyond, this conference wouldn't have happened.

I'd also like to thank the FND Board members who attended. Their leadership and the time they volunteer to FND have allowed us to reach where we are.

At last year's Heart and Hope Conference, I said in my opening remarks that we were just started. This year, I was very happy to be able to report that we are well on our way to reaching all persons with disabilities and their families in Florida. Over the last year, as the result of much hard work from our staff, our Board, and many volunteers, FND has been awarded grants from the U.S. Department of Education that total well over \$1,000,000 a year in funding.

Continue on page 3

Family Network of Disabilities of Florida, Inc. (The Heart ♥ Network)

2735 Whitney Road, Clearwater, FL 33760-1610

(800) 825-5736 or (727) 523-1130 fax: (727) 523-8687

FND Web Page: <http://fndfl.org> FND e-mail: fnd@fndfl.org

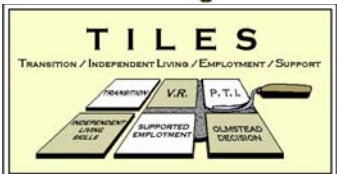
Executive Director: Rich La Belle e-mail: richlabelle@fndfl.org

Family NETWORK ON DISABILITIES

The Heart ♥ Network



PARENT
EDUCTION
NETWORK
Parents Educating Parents
in the Community
(PEP)



Sharing The Commitment



Fundamentally For Families



These programs include the Parent Information Resource Center (PIRC), the Parent Training and Information Center (PTI) for Region 3 (the southernmost nine counties in the state), and the TILES program (Transition, Independent Living, Employment, and Support), which is one of

only seven such programs funded in the entire country.

As we enter our new Federal fiscal year on October 1, which marks the start of many of our grant years, we are very optimistic. We are constantly looking for ways to expand our reach and to more effectively connect with folks. Remember – we have all of our workshops available online. Most of them are available in Spanish and many are also available in Haitian Creole. We will shortly have all of them available in all three languages.

As persons with disabilities and as family members of persons with disabilities, we know the situations you face on a daily basis. We know how overwhelming going through the day can be. It may seem hopeless – but it's not; we're here to bring you hope. The night may seem long and without end – but there is a light in the window. We're here to help – we're reaching for you.

We look forward to seeing you next year at the Third Annual Heart and Hope Statewide Conference. We're out to change the world. Come join us.

Rich La Belle-Executive Director

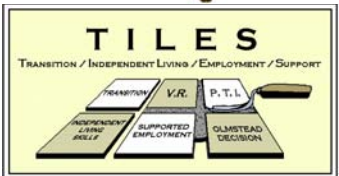
Family Network on Disabilities of Florida, Inc. (The Heart ♥ Network)
 2735 Whitney Road, Clearwater, FL 33760-1610
 (800) 825-5736 or (727) 523-1130 fax: (727) 523-8687
 FND Web Page: <http://fndfl.org> FND e-mail: fnd@fndfl.org
 Executive Director: Rich La Belle e-mail: richlabelle@fndfl.org

Family NETWORK ON DISABILITIES

The Heart ♥ Network



PARENT
EDUCTION
NETWORK
Parents Educating Parents
in the Community
(PEP)



Sharing The Commitment



Fundamentally For Families



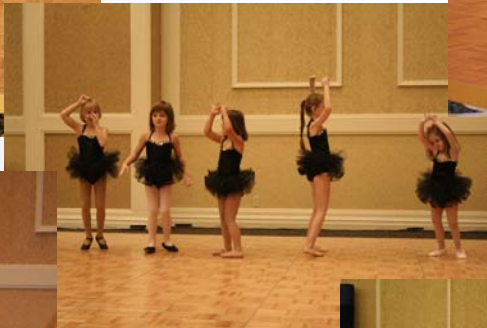
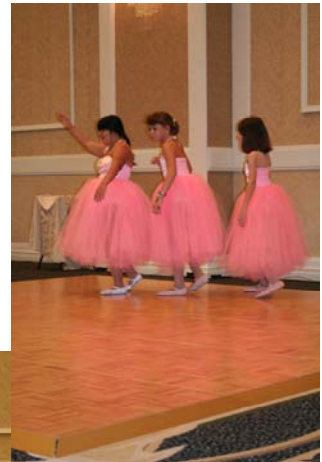
Jonathan Mooney, author of *The Short Bus*, made us remember how to “enjoy the ride”.



FND was very honored to present Melissa Tremblay with the Heart Award.



Special Kids Dance had us dancing in our seats to a wonderful performance of our favorite Grease songs. Go Danny! Go Sandy!

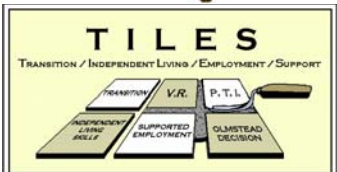




The Heart ♥ Network



PARENT EDUCATION NETWORK Parents Educating Parents in the Community (PEP)



Sharing The Commitment



Fundamentally For Families

What Does Independence Mean to You??

Family Network on Disabilities of Florida and Brandon Computer Geeks are proud to announce a CONTEST, open to individuals with disabilities, ages 6-26, in the state of Florida.

We want you to let us know what independence means to you.

Family Network has a long history of working to provide avenues of options for families and individuals with disabilities through local, state-wide and national resources and agencies with the goal of helping them realize happy and independent lives.

Brandon Computer Geeks serves the business community in the greater Tampa/Clearwater/St. Pete area. With a focus on providing business owners reliable computer support and networking, they understand the importance of computers in providing access to many of the avenues of support and information needed for independence. They are graciously providing the prizes for this contest: a computer and monitor.

Contest Guidelines

Entries must:

1. Be an essay of 250 words or less, a photograph or entrant's own art work.
2. Contain a cover sheet with the following information;
 - A. Entrant's name
 - B. Address
 - C. Phone Number
 - D. E-mail address (if available)
 - E. Contain no identifying information on the essay or artwork itself-i.e. do not write your name on it

3. Submit via e-mail to: independencecontest@fndfl.org

or mail to:
FND of Florida
Independence Contest
2735 Whitney Rd.
Clearwater, FL 33760

All entries must be received by October 31st, 2007
Winner announced: November 30, 2007

Chuck Butler



PO BOX 3487
Riverview, Florida 33568

813.508.1060
Fax 813.672.3762

Networks
Computers
Service
Repairs

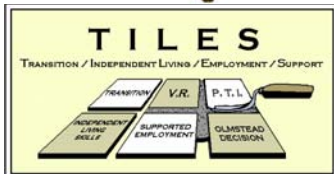
Your Computer Solution For Tampa Bay
info@brandoncomputergeek.com



The Heart ♥ Network



PARENT
EDUCTION
NETWORK
Parents Educating Parents
in the Community
(PEP)



Sharing The Commitment



Fundamentally For Families

Community Connections

Community Connections are meetings that are held at local restaurants, churches or libraries where parents can get to know other parents who may have similar stories to share.

Community Connections also feature workshops and informational handouts. They are a great place to network and get the most up to date information available.

October 8th, 2007

November 13th, 2007

December 10th, 2007

9am-11am

Village Inn

4843 Hwy. 90

Pace, Fl

October 23rd, 2007

November 27th, 2007

December 18th, 2007

9am-11am

Village Inn

5170 N. 9th Ave.

Pensacola, Fl

October 18th, 2007

November 15th, 2007

December 20th, 2007

10am-11:30am

Panera Bread

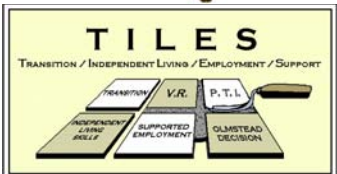
101 North Blairstone Rd.

Tallahassee, FL

For more information about Community Connections please contact: Nicole Brown or Ashley Ocampo (800) 825-5736



The Heart ♥ Network



Sharing The Commitment



Fundamentally For Families

Are you in a Support, Information, or Advocacy Group??

Is your group listed on our website??

If not, please contact us and let us know that you would like to be listed!

We will also post a link to your website.

Call today! (800)825-5736 or e-mail fnd@fndfl.org.

FND Wants To Hear From You!!!!!!

FND welcomes input from our Fundamentally for Families readers. Whether you are a parent, family member, consumer, or professional, we value your opinions and insights.

If you would like to submit an article, an inspirational story about yourself, your child or family member, accomplishments or upcoming events of your local support group, photographs or best practices, you may write us at:

Family Network on Disabilities of Florida, Inc.

Attn: Tara Bremer

2735 Whitney Road

Clearwater, Fl 33760-1610

By email at: tara@fndfl.org or call the FND State Office at (800) 825-5736.

ONLINE TUTORIALS

There are TWO choices for online learning from FND!

Workshop Tutorials

Just like attending a workshop... only from the comfort of your own home! Viewing each workshop takes about 30 minutes... but go at your own pace!

Topics include: IDEA, IEP, Juvenile Justice & IDEA,

Collaborative Communication,

PBS, Transition, The Rehabilitation Act and IPE!

Or An Online Course on "It's a Great IDEA!"

Based on the same curriculum as the workshop and tutorial, but more in-depth. This online 4-week course includes: mini pop-quizzes, weekly homework assignments, and a final test. Upon successful completion of this online Distance Learning course, participants will receive a personalized certificate in the mail.



Fundamentally For Families

PLEASE HELP SUPPORT FND

All donations are tax-deductible. Please send donations with this form to:
Family Network on Disabilities of Florida, Inc.
2735 Whitney Rd. Clearwater, FL 33760

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 50.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 250.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 100.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Other \$ _____ |

Name (Please Print): _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone () _____ Email: _____

Family Network on Disabilities
2735 Whitney Road
Clearwater, FL 33760-1610

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. Postage Paid
Clearwater, FL
Permit No. 67