



# TILES MOSAIC

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## 3rd Annual Heart and Hope Statewide Family Conference is coming to Orlando February 7th, 2009.

Heart and Hope is a full day event that promotes family involvement and is designed to help bring individuals who are at risk, families who have children with disabilities, and the professionals that serve them awareness in regard to their options and rights that are available to them within the school system and beyond.



Heart and Hope is presented by: Family Network on Disabilities of Florida, Inc. in partnership with Orange County Public Schools/Exceptional

Student Education and the Toni Jennings Exceptional Education Institute.

Heart and Hope offers: FREE lunch and FREE kid camp to those 12 and younger. The kid camp fills up quickly, so pre-registration is required.

For more information call 800-825-5736 or to register online please go to:

<http://www.fndfl.org/hearthope.asp>

### Special points of interest:

- Students with disabilities attending college
- Upcoming Events
- Individuals with disabilities and voting
- Individuals with disabilities living the "American Dream"

## EXTRA! EXTRA!

### Read all about your products and services!

You can advertise your business products and services in The Heart and Hope conference program!

For a competitive rate, select from advertising

spaces beginning with a business card size, 1/8 page; 1/4 page; 1/2 page and full page!

Ads will also be listed on our website for one year!

For more information about advertising and exhibitor opportunities visit:

<http://www.fndfl.org/hearthope.asp>

## What are some of the first things I need to know if I wish to take College Board tests with accommodations?

To take College Board tests with accommodations, you must ensure that your school has an SSD Coordinator's Form on file with the College Board. Your school can find a blank SSD Coordinator's Form in the [Resources and Tools](#) section of the Educators SSD site.

There is one common *Student Eligibility Form* for all College Board tests. It is a scannable form; therefore, neither you nor your school can download and complete the copy of the form that is

part of this website—it is being provided here for information purposes only. [View a sample of the Student Eligibility Form](#) (.pdf/446k). Only an original *Student Eligibility Form*, completed and signed in pencil, can be



processed by the College Board. Copies of the *Instructions for Completing the 2008-2009 Student Eligibility Form* (also found in [Eligibility](#)) and the *Student Eligibility Form* have been sent to all schools. If your school did not receive the *Instructions* and *Form*, please ask your school to notify the College Board SSD office by telephone at (609) 771-7137 or by email at [ssd@info.collegeboard.org](mailto:ssd@info.collegeboard.org).

## Follow These Six Steps

1. You must complete Section I of the *Student Eligibility Form* and forward it to your school.
2. School officials complete Sections II and III and send all three sections to the College Board (detailed guidance for all sections is provided in the *Instructions*).
3. Because the College Board process includes a thorough review of information on the *Form*, it takes 5 weeks from the point that the *Form* information is complete (and, when the College Board needs to review the disability documentation, 7 weeks from the point that the

disability information is complete). Deadlines are established prior to the first test you wish to take (test dates and eligibility deadlines are on the last page of the *Instructions*).

4. You and your school officials will receive copies of an Eligibility Letter that either identifies approved accommodations and provides a SSD Identification Number (SSD Eligibility Code), or explains why the accommodations you requested are not approved for College Board tests.

5. When you register/indicate that you wish to take a College

Board test with your approved accommodations, you must provide your SSD Eligibility Code. Your testing site (usually your home school for AP Exams, the PSAT/NMSQT, and some administrations of the SAT; or a national test site for most SAT administrations) will make the appropriate testing arrangements (e.g., setting; proctor; materials).

6. You go to the testing site identified for your tests (either your home school or a site identified on your SAT admission ticket) and test with the accommodations.

## Find A College

Choosing a college is a big decision. The key is to remember that there's no such thing as a "perfect" school—you'll find many colleges and universities that match your preferences. Explore your interests and

take the time to find the college that's right for you.

Use the College Board [college search engine](#) now to find colleges and universities with specific characteristics and to

For more information on testing accommodations visit:  
[www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)

research college admissions requirements.

## MySpace in College Admission by Nicole Verardi

You've been working hard trying to get into college—researching schools, refining your essay, collecting glowing recommendations, studying on nights and weekends for the SATs or ACTs, maybe even preparing for a campus interview.

Throughout all of this process, you've made a great impression as a serious, promising college student. Wait, though. Before you can relax on the couch to watch "American Idol," there's one more detail to take care of—your online blog.

### Blogs, Private or Public Information?

Whether it's through MySpace, Facebook, Xanga, LiveJournal, or Friendster, students are online—online sharing details with friends, online for everyone to see.

These sites help you keep in touch with friends and allow you to meet new people. Many students spend hours each day updating their profiles, messaging their friends and

clicking through photo albums. It's harmless fun, right?

Now, how would you feel if your teachers saw your site? A college admission officer?

"Well, I would be a little angry because there are things in my profile that I don't want them to

see," said Aubrey Fait, a freshman at Saint-Mary-of-the Woods College (IN). "There is some information that I want to keep private between me and my friends, so I would prefer if my parents and college faculty not look at my Facebook profile."

Other students don't think what they do in their free time influences their school work, so it shouldn't matter what information they have online. They may be right: You can be a great student, regardless of what you do outside of school. When the embarrassing details of your social life are online for anyone to look up, though, you might want to re-consider what you post.

Now, how would you feel if your teachers saw your site?

You might not like it, but you should know that adults—from your schools, families and even law enforcement—are looking at your pages.

### The Consequences: What Has Already Happened to Some Students

Most colleges are not surfing the Web for your profile. However, when other people bring students' blogging to their attention, schools do respond.

<sup>a</sup> At least one college applicant was denied admission in part because of his blog on LiveJournal. ....

To read this article in it's entirety copy and paste the link below:

[http://www.nacacnet.org/MemberPortal/News/StepsNewsletter/myspace\\_students.htm](http://www.nacacnet.org/MemberPortal/News/StepsNewsletter/myspace_students.htm)

For more information about College admissions visit:

<http://www.nacacnet.org>

Visit the TILES Myspace page at: <http://www.myspace.com/fndfl>

## World Congress on Disabilities Expo November 21-22, 2008-Jacksonville

**WCD Expo** is an event with two main features. The [Expo](#) is where you can see all of the latest products and services that are improving the lives of those with disabilities. The [Conference](#) is where you can learn about issues facing the disability community from experts.



There are also [Keynotes](#) and several [Special Events](#) planned throughout the two days.

### Questions?

Call us at **201.722.9233** or email us at [info@wcdexpo.com](mailto:info@wcdexpo.com).

To register online go to:

<http://www.wcdexpo.com>

## People with Disabilities and Voting

### *All Polling Places Must Be Accessible.*

The law says all polling places must be accessible to a person with disabilities. Everyone should be able to get into their polling place. The doors should be wide enough for a wheelchair to fit through. There should be ramps or elevators if there are steps up or down. The parking lot and the walkways must be accessible.

**Note: The Help America Vote Act requires at least one voting machine in every polling place to be accessible to anyone who has a disability.**

### *Can I Get Help When I Vote?*

Don't be afraid to ask for help if you need it. You have the

right to ask for assistance when voting. You can ask a poll worker to show you how to operate the voting equipment or how to mark the ballot. If you still do not understand, do not hesitate to ask them to show you again.

### *What Happens If I Make A Mistake?*

The law says that anyone who makes a mistake in voting must be given a second chance. If you make a mistake on your paper ballot, you must return it to one of the poll workers and ask for a new ballot. You can have up to *three* (3) ballots if you make mistakes. Electronic voting systems should warn you if you have voted for too

many candidates, or if you left any portion of your ballot blank, to give you the opportunity to correct it. If you vote on a machine, you will again have the opportunity to review your choices before casting your final vote. Unfortunately, once you push the "vote" button, you cannot change your vote.

### *What Happens If I Am Told I Cannot Vote?*

**Find the answer to this question and many more at:**

<http://www.advocacycenter.org>

## Paying Tribute To Loved Ones

Would you like to pay tribute to friend or loved one with a disability?

FND is hosting a regular series of tributes to friends and loved ones with disabilities - who are either still with us or who have passed on - that we will be featuring in this newsletter as well as online.

If you would like to have your tribute to a friend or loved one published, please send it (electronic form, Word format, would be preferred, but we'll take fax and snail mail, too)

**"Donna was a woman of few words, but, when she spoke, it was always meaningful and people listened."**

to:  
Family Network on Disabilities of Florida, Inc.  
Attn: Tara Bremer  
2735 Whitney Road  
Clearwater, FL 33760-1610  
Email: tara@fndfl.org

It doesn't have to be fancy. If you have a photograph, that would be great to include. We are asking for donations of \$25 for each tribute. All funds will go to finance FND's Jan La Belle Scholarship Fund for persons with disabilities who pursue higher education.

To view tributes please go to:  
<http://www.fndfl.org/tribute.asp>

## TILES Has 2 New Trainings!

Family Network on Disabilities is proud to announce two new trainings being offered by the TILES Program called **“In the Drivers Seat”** and **“Transition Planning with Sticky Notes”**.

*In the Driver’s Seat* is a series of six workshops for youth in transition from high school to



adult life. During the workshops, youth experience hands-on learning that enables them to achieve adult life goals. With encouragement and support, young adults identify their skills, interests, and needs and work toward improving their ability for self-advocacy.

*Transition Planning with Sticky Notes* is a hands-on, interactive way to plan an effective transition IEP with nothing more than a sharpie and a package of sticky notes.

To request workshops from the TILES program in your area please contact: Marilyn Ruiz-Santiago at 800-825-5736/tiles@fndfl.org

## Job Corps

Job Corps is the nation’s largest and most comprehensive residential education and job training program for economically disadvantaged at-risk youth, who are between the ages 16 through 24.

Since 1964, the Job Corps program has provided more than 1.7 million disadvantaged young people with the integrated academic, vocational, and social skills

training they need to gain independence. Training programs help to prepare young people for quality, long-term jobs or to further their education.

Job Corps works for everyone. It works for the disadvantaged youth who attend the program, for communities where Job Corps centers are located, and for employers who hire Job Corps graduates. It also works for educators, including school and peer counselors, who refer candidates to Job Corps.

Job Corps is a public-private partnership, administered by the [U.S. Department of Labor](http://www.dhs.gov)

To apply for Job Corps, prospective enrollees can contact Job Corps free by calling: 1-800-733-5627. The person answering the call will explain Job Corps’ eligibility requirements and benefits, answer questions, and refer the prospective student to an admissions counselor in the local area.

Visit the Job Corp website at: <http://www.floridajobs.org>

## Tips To A Successful Interview

1. Practice makes perfect! Ask your parents or friends to help with role modeling a job interview! Make a list of questions you think an employer may ask you and a list of questions you might ask. There are so many ways to answer each question.

After you’ve practiced them, you’ll be better prepared and confident for the job interview.

2. You should always look your best on a job interview! Your appearance is important to employers.

3. Get to a job interview early! Don’t be late! Being late tells the interviewer that you’re not serious about any job if you’re not even willing to make it to the first interview on time.

4. Always greet your interviewer with a smile and a hand shake! Be yourself. Your pride for who you are and what you can do will shine right through you. This goes a long way for first impressions.

5. Relax! Remind yourself that an interview is just a conversa-

tion between two or more people getting to know each other.

6. Take a moment and collect your thoughts before you answer a question. Remember to answer questions with full sentences.

To view 10 Tips To A Successful Job Interview in it’s entirety and all the TILES Tips Sheets go to: <http://www.fndfl.org/projects/tiles/Tilestip.asp>



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FAMILY NETWORK ON  
 DISABILITIES OF FLORIDA, INC.

*Respect, Independence,  
 Knowledge*

[www.fndfl.org](http://www.fndfl.org)



## TILES Philosophy

- The philosophy of self-determination, developing and maintaining high expectations of students with disabilities based upon their unique skills and abilities, and the value of student/family/ professional partnerships are the guiding principles in all that TILES sets forth to accomplish.

## TILES Activities

- TILES activities are designed to enable individuals with disabilities and their families to participate more effectively with professionals in meeting the vocational, independent living, and rehabilitation needs of individuals with disabilities.
- TILES strives to help to improve the quality of lives for individuals with disabilities by building capacity at the local and state level, by developing replicable materials in multiple languages and formats, and by cooperating and collaborating with many other agencies and organizations who serve persons with disabilities.

## How Can You Help Support FND?

♥ **Volunteer.** If you are an individual with a disability or a parent or other family member, you can provide information and emotional support to other parents in your area. Call the FND office to find out how to get involved.

♥ **Refer Families.** Whether you are a parent or professional, there may be someone that you know who could use our services.

♥ **Donate to FND.** Helping to fund FND strengthens our network which includes families, individuals with disabilities, support groups, educators, service providers, professionals, and other concerned citizens.

**Where Will Your Donation Go?** Development initiatives and priorities have been clearly defined for FND by the Board of Directors. Their thoughtful vision for the future of our family driven organization has been carefully developed and is continually monitored and adjusted to meet the needs of the disability community. Grant seeking, fund raising, and corporate sponsorship will be pursued to endow the full range of programs and activities provided by FND, including the following priorities:

- \* 1) Matching funds to boost our currently government funded programs.
- \* 2) Parent to Parent support services
- \* 3) Adult services focusing on

the individual and family after the school aged years

- \* 4) Building fund
- \* 5) Developing scholarship and other financial support programs
- \* 6) Community partnerships

These are only a few of our plans for the future. We ask for your financial support in bringing these priorities from goals to viable, active programs and services. Not one of us can achieve this alone, but together we can create this and so much more! Be a part of the future of disability services in Florida by supporting FND. Please remember, your donation is tax deductible.

If you would like to make a donation to FND online please go to: <http://fndfl.org/Support.asp>