

# **Family to Family Network Annual Report 6/30/08**

The Mission of Family to Family Network is:  
To help families of children with disabilities by providing information, training, referral and support.

## **Program Accomplishments:**

### **Information, Training, Referral and Support**

Due to recent changes in the education law and the Texas special education assessment process, Family to Family Network experienced an increase in the number of calls to our office. Also F2F receives many calls from persons seeking social services outside of the scope of our mission. Approximately 430 family calls have been logged into the system this year. An average call requires approx. 1-2 hours of staff time in listening, answering questions, researching and forwarding information to the family. In addition, staff responds to 3-5 calls per week requesting information on social services or other issues impacting families without disabilities where we attempt to refer people on to appropriate agencies when feasible.

Our Katy Chapter provided training to 91 families at its monthly meetings, offered a End of School year event for 110 family members on the west side of town, and hosted a Parent Conference and Resource Fair that was attended by 339 family members. We also offered other events in our office for families, including ARD Clinics, as well as various supplemental in-service trainings for our *Family Friends* program volunteers.

In collaboration with school districts and universities, we provided training to educators. The University of St. Thomas asked us to provide 2 parent panels for its Educator training programs spotlighting Initial Diagnosis/ARD meetings and Transition. Sam Houston State University Diagnostician Cohort also invited us to present the Parent Perspective on the ARD process to educators in continuing ed. In addition, we made presentations at the state *Inclusion Works* conference (a conference established to promote inclusive education) and the State *Autism* conference (a conference providing training on autism). Both conferences are attended by over 1200 educators and family members. We also provided additional training for 590 people from Houston Independent School District – South Region, Head Start providers, MHMRA-ECI case workers, Council on Agencies Serving Youth, Northwest Harris County Autism Society, and Child Protective Services agency. Our quarterly ARD clinics also provided training for 40 family members.

This past year we also participated in a number of Community Resource Fairs where we are able to provide information & referral to many families who might otherwise not

know about us. We provided approximately 200 people with information & referral at those events.

Our Lending Library with over 650 books, videos, and other resources continued to be used by parents and educators; and we published quarterly newsletters. We supplied a monthly E-List of events and trainings in the Greater Houston area to over 725 individuals/agencies. The Family to Family Network website also received over 1.2 million hits last year.

### **Disability Leadership Network Of Houston (DLNH)**

DLNH is a leadership training program for people in the Greater Houston area who have a vested interest in the issues and policies affecting people with disabilities in our community. It is an exciting opportunity for adults with disabilities, family members of people with disabilities and professionals to get connected to each other and learn from experts in the field about current disability issues, best practices, decision making processes at both the local and state level, and how to impact those decisions. The Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities recently renewed this project which began on July 1, 2008. Staff has been hired and plans are being made to host 12 training events throughout the Greater Houston area. We are collaborating with Katy ISD to include provide 4 months of training to their Elementary School parent liaisons and approximately 15 youth with disabilities. We will also collaborate to include adults with disabilities from the Arc Of Katy. Our second training program will take place in Kingwood by collaborating with The Village Learning and Achievement Center, a program that provides supports and day program for adults with disabilities. This will enable us to provide outreach to family and community members in the northern portion of Harris County, as well as Montgomery and Liberty counties. A third location is to be determined.

We expect to train at least 100 people this year, including a minimum of 42 adults with disabilities in our 4 month training course. As adults with disabilities, family members, professionals and other community members gain knowledge, skills and a network of support, they will become more empowered to advocate on behalf of people with disabilities and to spark change. There is a ripple effect that continues to impact more and more people with disabilities as concerns are voiced, information is shared, decisions are made and policies are changed. The result is a better today and tomorrow, not just for those who are directly connected to our program participants, but for people with disabilities throughout our community.

### **Family Friends**

Family Friends is a volunteer mentoring program that matches adults over age 50 with a child with a disability. We are not only providing direct service to families of children with disabilities, we are also serving seniors over the age of 50. The relationships that occur between families and volunteers have been awe inspiring and have changed people's lives. Families are grateful for the help of a volunteer which allows them to

spent time with their other children or to simply catch up on things that they have neglected.

In the past year, we trained 17 new volunteers, and have matched an additional 20 families with volunteers to bring this total to 34 active family matches; yet approx. 50 families have been interviewed and are still awaiting a volunteer match. Over 1800 hours of respite support for family members and 540 hours of additional volunteer support was provided by our *Family Friends* volunteers. Family Friends also provided a Holiday Event for our families in which over 125 family members attended.

### **Texas Project FIRST**

In October of 2006, in collaboration with Texas Education Agency and Region 9 Education Service Center, we launched the Texas Project FIRST (*Families, Information, Resources, Support and Training*) website. The purpose of the site is to provide accurate and consistent information on the special education process to families of children with disabilities. We have loaded over 170 pages of content in English and Spanish, bringing the total to over 400 pages of content. This year we had approximately 375 families and educators have registered for updates to bring the total number of people registering to 635. The website received over 891,346 hits this past year compared to 213,000 hits in its first 9 months last year.

### **Financial Information**

	YEAR ENDED:	
	Audited <u>6/30/07</u>	Audited <u>6/30/08</u>
<b>Revenues:</b>		
Grants and Contracts	416,300	384,584
Fundraising	15,377	23,251
Memberships	595	794
Contributions	20,302	16,550
Program Income	10,607	1,683
Donated Services	<u>0</u>	<u>6,990</u>
Total Revenue	463,181	433,851
<b>Expenses:</b>		
Program	389,994	319,425
Fundraising	5,121	18,310
Administrative/Support	<u>10,068</u>	<u>6,805</u>
Total Expenses	405,183	344,540
Net Change in Assets	57,998	89,311
Beginning Net Assets	61,843	119,841
Ending Net Assets	119,841	209,152

### **Supporters**

**\$1,000+**

Texas Education Agency/Region 9 Education Service Center  
Houston Endowment  
National Council on Aging  
Newfield Foundation  
Rotary Club of Katy Sunrise  
Katy Independent School District  
Citigroup Foundation  
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**\$500+**

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Tamara Schakleford  
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**\$100+**

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David & Pam Nelson  
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Angela Greenburg  
Gary Jones  
Leslie & Rick Lawson  
M/M James Mezaros  
Anne & TC Nix  
Catherine & Lawrence Panico  
Anne Pratt

Kids Developmental Therapy  
George or Mary Dietrich  
Andrea & Tim Dore  
Joyce Gort  
Linda Hankamp  
Jean & William Kanes  
Kristi & Bruce Marino  
Linda Murray  
Marilyn Noll  
Gina & Mike Pepchinski  
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Linda Sutton  
Sue Troutman

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### **\$50+**

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Orland Sullivan	Tim & Renee Wilson	Katherine Woolfolk	Judson & Dwana Waltman
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### **\$25+**

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**Many Thanks to All Our other Generous Supporters and Members!**

### **BOARD MEMBERS:**

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Family to Family Network is a 501(c)(3) public charity.