

Northeast Region – Susan Nadworny, Coordinator

A family support newsletter of upcoming trainings, conferences and events

Volume No.: 7

Issue No.: 3

Date: September, 2008

**In this issue.....**

● **Mass. Families Organizing for Change 16<sup>th</sup> Leadership Series Information and Application**

● **MFOFC's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference STONE SOUP\ October 4, 2008 Holiday Inn, Marlboro**

● **MFOFC Taste of Autumn Silent Auction November 1, 2008 PAL Office, Worcester**

**Your Passport to the Future**

Pick a package that fits your informational needs! Our tour is designed to give you access to information at North Shore Arc, or from any of the other agencies that we collaborate with.

**September 9, 2008**

What is Family Support? Let's Get Organized!

**October 14, 2008**

Health Care Financing

**November 11, 2008**

Let's Get Creative About Living!

**December 9, 2008**

DMR: Constant Traveling Companion

Monthly topics scheduled throughout the year on Financial Planning, Employment, Recreation, and lots more. All workshops take place at North Shore Arc, 6 Southside Rd., Danvers from 7:00-9:00pm.

\$100 for all workshops or \$10 for each workshop. Call Beth Mazzetta at 978-624-2326 or email [bazzetta@nsarc.org](mailto:bazzetta@nsarc.org) for information and registration.

**IEP Clinics****Beginning Sept. 10, 2008**

Meet with Special Educational Advocate Elizabeth Bostic for a one hour meeting to review your IEP. Call or email for an appointment 781-942-4888 ext. 4019, [Elizabeth@theemarc.org](mailto:Elizabeth@theemarc.org).

Held at The Arc of East Middlesex, 20 Gould St., Reading.

**Melrose Annual****Victorian Fair****September 14, 2008**

Held in Melrose on Main St. Come and enjoy this all-day event. Games, rides, demonstrations, food, fun for all ages. Please visit the Donate Life booth.

**Autism Support Center****6<sup>th</sup> Annual Family Picnic & Networking Day****September 20, 2008****12:00 noon-2:00pm**

Come and enjoy the fun! Extended family and friends welcome. We provide free drinks, hamburgers, hotdogs (courtesy Danvers Kiwanis Club). Held at Endicott Park, 57 Forest St., Danvers. RSVP by 9/12 to Stephanie Gammons at 978-624-2311 or email [sgammons@nsarc.org](mailto:sgammons@nsarc.org) to ensure we provide sufficient food.

**Building and Sustaining Strong Communities that Include People with Disabilities and all those who Support Them**

**September 25 & 26, 2008**

Northeast Assets Leadership Project presents their first conference on community inclusion and ABCD. Keynote speaker is Mike Green, ABCD Institute faculty member. Sept. 25 will feature workshops, case studies, plenary sessions and networking. Sept. 26 will be three optional all day intensive workshops. Held at The Highlander Inn & Conference Center, 2 Highlander Way, Manchester, N.H. Contact John Walker, 207-799-2580 or email [Jwalker3@maine.rr.com](mailto:Jwalker3@maine.rr.com) for information and registration.

**Asperger Syndrome****Connections 2008****October 3 & 4, 2008**

AANE's Annual Conference. Workshops plus keynote speeches by Dr. Dan Rosenn,

John Robison and his brother, Augusten Burroughs, and Richard Roy Grinker. Held in Marlborough. Call AANE at 617-393-3824 for more information.

**MFOFC's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual  
Conference**

***Stone Soup***

**“Bringing Together a  
Community”**

**October 4, 2008**

A conference to assist individuals with disabilities and their families to strengthen and utilize their communities for full membership and participation. Be inspired by the abundant ingredients we share to create a unique recipe of your own.

Why should you attend?

- ▶ Be Inspired
- ▶ Identify your community opportunities
- ▶ Move past barriers
- ▶ Become re-energized
- ▶ Network

Keynote speaker is Kathie Snow, “Disability is Natural” Kathie is the author of *Disability is Natural: Revolutionary Common Sense for Raising Successful Children with Disabilities* and

*101 Reproducible Articles: Revolutionary Common Sense for a New Disability Program.*

Held at the Holiday Inn, Marlboro. Contact Dianne Huggon, [mfofc@comcast.net](mailto:mfofc@comcast.net) or call 800-406-3632 for registration information. Space is limited. \$30 registration fee.

Limited scholarships are available

**Working Together 101**  
**October 7, 2008-7:00-9:00pm**

The Citizen Advisory Board (CAB) invites you to join us for a Legislative Reception on how to communicate and work with your legislator to create a quality level of rapport to achieve positive results for our individuals, families and service providers. The reception will include the opportunity to meet local legislators, highlights of the 2009 budget, how to become a member of CAB, an opportunity to register to vote. Light refreshments, desserts will be served. Held at 20 Academy St., Arlington. Call 781-646-5500 for more information.

**Pre-School Sibshops for**  
**4-6 year olds**  
**October 18, 2008 9:30-12:00**

Sponsored by North Shore Arc Family Resource Center and The Arc of East Middlesex. Call for location and registration info 978-777-SCNE or email [sibshopcollaborativene@gmail.com](mailto:sibshopcollaborativene@gmail.com)

**Meaningful Communication**  
**for People with Autism: An**  
**Introduction to Augmentative**  
**& Alternative Communication**  
**October 25, 2008**  
**9:00am-1:00pm**

Research has shown that for children, adolescents and adults with autism, AAC can have a tremendous positive impact on communication, social skills and behavior. Attendees will have an opportunity to view devices from various vendors. Presenter: Patricia Walsh-Cassidy, MS, CCC/SLP is a speech-language pathologist who is a co-founder of the CCATT Center. Held at

the Event Center at Boott Cotton Mills Museum, 155 John St., Lowell. Contact ASC at 978-777-9135 for registration and information.

**Fall Family Festival**  
**October 26, 2008 1:00-4:00**

Held at Smolak Farms, North Andover. Farm animals, hayrides, pumpkin decoration, music and more! Cost \$10 per family. Transportation from Reading is available. RSVP to Kerry Mahoney, The Arc of East Middlesex, 781-942-4888 X4015 or email [km@theemarc.org](mailto:km@theemarc.org).

**Joining Voices Conference for**  
**Families with Children &**  
**Youth with Special**  
**Health Needs**  
**November 5, 2008**

The Mass. Family-to-Family Health Information Center, a project of Mass Family Voices at the Federation, will host its annual conference at Indian Meadows in Westborough.

Dr. Charles Homer, CEO of the National Initiative for Children's Healthcare Quality (NICHQ) will give the keynote address.

This is a free day of learning and networking for families with children and youth with special healthcare needs (including mental, behavioral, emotional needs). The conference brochure and registration will be available by Sept. 15. For more information call Family-to-Family Center at 1-800-331-0688 ext. 210, or e-mail [massfv@fcsn.org](mailto:massfv@fcsn.org) or visit [www.massfamilyvoices.org](http://www.massfamilyvoices.org).

Massachusetts Families  
Organizing for Change  
Presents

### **A Taste of Autumn**

Silent Auction

Along with delicious fall  
desserts, warm cider and wine  
tasting

November 1, 2008  
7:00 pm  
The PAL Office  
21 Cedar St., Worcester

\$10/person advanced tickets  
Contact Anne Hurst  
[annehurst@yahoo.com](mailto:annehurst@yahoo.com)  
Meri Viano  
508-892-4859

This fundraising event is a  
statewide initiative to support  
the MFOFC  
Statewide organization

### **Name Change for DMR**

The Mass. Legislature has agreed to formally change the name of the Department of Mental Retardation (DMR) to the Department of Developmental Services (DDS). The impetus for this change came from self-advocates, families and individuals who receive services from the Commonwealth of Mass. The use of the words "mental retardation" was hurtful and offensive to both individuals and advocacy organizations. Additionally, for many families served by DDS (formerly DMR), the term was simply not accurate.

Looking for an easy way to help **Mass. Families Organizing for Change?** Go shopping! That's right, go ahead and buy something for yourself, but first

join [www.igive.com/mfofc](http://www.igive.com/mfofc). Every time you shop at one of the over 680 name-brand stores in the iGive.com mall, we'll receive a donation of up to 26% of each purchase you make, at no cost to you. Remember, donating to **MFOFC** won't cost you a thing, but we'll miss out on a lot of extra dough if you don't join. Membership is free and your privacy is guaranteed.

~~~~~  
Looking for interactive and gentle introductory materials to help prepare your young child for medical tests, operations and hospitalization? Learn about medical terminology, tests and procedures, see packing lists, listen to stories, play games and more at [www.kidshealthgalaxy.com](http://www.kidshealthgalaxy.com).

### **Successful Parenting**

~~~~~  
A weekly group for parents who have cognitive limitation. Group meets in Lynn and will begin end of September. Contact Christine Favazza-Lubawski at the Arc of East Middlesex 781-942-4888 Ext. 4021 or email Christine at [Cfazza@thearc.org](mailto:Cfazza@thearc.org).

### **Lets "CHAT"**

~~~~~  
New group forming!! Does your son or daughter use assistive technology to help communicate? Bring your child's communication device and share tips, resources and "how-to's" with other parents. For more information contact Paula Thompson at The Arc of East Middlesex, 781-942-4888 Ext. 4039 or email Paula at [paulat@thearc.org](mailto:paulat@thearc.org). Meets in Reading at 20 Gould St.

### **Senior Support**

Monthly meetings for caregivers over 65. Meets monthly beginning Sept. 17. Contact Michelle Faugno at The Arc of East Middlesex [Fam2fam@thearc.org](mailto:Fam2fam@thearc.org) Meets at Family Resource Center 20 Gould St., Reading.

### **Sibshops for 7-13 year olds** **November 22, 2008 10:00-2:00**

Sponsored by The Arc of East Middlesex. Call for location and registration information 978-777-SCNE or email [ssibshopcollaborativene@gmail.com](mailto:ssibshopcollaborativene@gmail.com)

### **WORKSHOPS**

The Federation for Children with Special Needs offers the following workshops. All workshops are open to the public. To register call the Federation at 617-236-7210 or on-line <http://fcsn.org>.

**Basic Rights** workshop is designed to help parents learn how to be effective partners with the school, to decide the child's eligibility for special education, to plan, make decisions and to monitor the progress of their child.

Sept. 10-Danvers-held at the Holten-Richmond Middle School, 55 Conant St. - 7-9pm

Sept. 16-Medford-held at South Medford Fire Station Community Room, Zero Medford St.-7-9pm

Oct. 15-Andover- The Professional Center for Child Development, 32 Osgood St., 7-9pm

Oct. 22-Concord-Concord Public School Admin. Bldg., 7-9pm

Nov. 13-Lynn-Breed Middle School, O'Callahan Way, 7-9pm