Maneuvering the Maze
January 9, 16, 23, 30, 2008
7:00-9:00pm
Do you have a child, age 2-10, who has been diagnosed with a developmental disability? Are you confused about how to receive support and what services to ask for? Are you nervous about leaving Early Intervention and entering the public school system? Then be sure to attend this series of informative workshops that will help you understand and navigate the human service system!

Jan. 9th - Understanding the Maze - How it works, where to go for services and how to advocate for what you need!
Jan. 16th - Overview of the Dept. of Mental Retardation and The Division of Autism - What are the Services and Supports Offered?
Jan. 23rd - Government Benefits - Financial and Health
Jan. 30th - Working with Schools
Workshops will be held at Perkins Hall, Melrose Wakefield Hospital. Register by calling Kerry Mahoney, 781-942-4888 x4015 or e-mail Kerry at km@theemarc.org. There is no charge for these workshops. Sponsored by The Arc of East Middlesex, The Family Networks of Malden-Everett, North Suburban and Medford, Massachusetts Families Organizing for Change, Family Ties and Riverside Community Care.

FAMILY DANCE
Bring the whole family and dance the night away
January 12, 2008
5:30-9:00pm
at Memorial Hall, Main St., Melrose.
We have a GREAT DJ, big screen music videos, dance contests, games, and more! Pizza and drinks will be served. Join us for a fun, festive night courtesy of Riverside Community Care, the ARC of East Middlesex, Project Cope, Autism Support Center, Mass. Families Organizing for Change, North Shore ARC, Project Cope and our friends at Memorial Hall. $10 donation per family. RSVP to Susan 781-665-5179 or snadworny@riversidecc.org.

Father’s Network
Hockey Game
Lowell Devils vs. Portland Pirates
January 13, 2008 4:05pm
For Dads and their kids living in the metro north area. Limited seats available. Contact Kerry Mahoney at 781-942-4888 x4015 or km@theemarc.org.

An IEP for my Child
January 14, 2008-6:30-8:30pm
Held at Lincoln Elementary School, Lowell. Call the Federation for Children with Special Needs to register or more information 800-331-0688.

Yelling Doesn’t Work
January 16, 2008-7-9pm
Held at RJ Grey Junior High School, 16 Charter Rd., Acton and at Swampscott Middle School, Swampscott. Call the Federation for Children with Special Needs to register or more information 800-331-0688.

Looking for Teens with Down Syndrome to Participate in Health U., A Weight Loss Study
January 16, 2008-5-8 PM
Health U. is a study for teenagers (ages 13-21) with Down syndrome who are overweight. The study emphasizes a sensible, balanced diet and achievable levels of physical activity, geared toward weight loss and health promotion. Classes and visits take place at the Shriver Center in Waltham. Participation is free. Health U. starts in March 2008 but screening and enrollment are taking place now. Come to an Open House to learn more and meet our Health U. team! For more information contact Melissa Maslin at 781-642-0292 or via email at shriverhealth@umassmed.edu

MCAS
January 17, 2008-7-9pm
Held at Stoneham High School, 147 Franklin St. Call the Federation for Children with Special Needs to register or more information 800-331-0688
Stand for Children
4th Annual Statewide Education Summit
January 26, 2008
8:30am – 3:30pm
SPEDWatch is pleased to be collaborating this important gathering of education advocates. Held at Reading Memorial High School. Keynote speakers include State Board of Education Chairman Paul Reville and Dr. Dana Mohler-Faria, Special Advisor to the Governor on Education. Eighteen workshop sessions cover a range of critical education policy issues and grassroots advocacy skills. Space is limited. Register today by calling 617-547-3800 or go to website www.standleadershipcenter.org/ma/summit

Open to Past Northeast Mass.
Families Organizing for Change Family Leadership Participants
ANNUAL REUNION
January 27, 2008
Brunch 10:00am-1:00pm
All past participants are invited to the Courtyard Marriott, Woburn for fun, food, friends and prizes! Reconnect and network with the past 15 years of Leadership participants. You MUST RSVP to Susan Nadworny, 781-665-5179 or snadw@aol.com to attend this event.

An Introduction to DIR/Floortime for Parents
6 weeks beginning
January 29, 2008
10:30am to 12:30pm
This 6 weeks course will consist of short presentations, video to illustrate topics, lots of examples and discussion in a supportive environment. We will be using the book, The Child with Special Needs as a starting point for our discussions. Sarah Measures, M.Ed,PGCE is the Presenter. The cost is $90/individual or $110/couple. Held at the Autism Support Center, 6 Southside Rd., Danvers. Call Stephanie Gammons at 978-624-2311 or sgammons@nsarc.org for brochure with complete information.

Planning A Life
Making the Most Out of High School
February 1 and 2, 2008
8:00 am – 4:00 pm
Come and learn about:
*Creating a vision for your future
*Person Centered Planning
*Transition Requirements of IDEA
*Prioritize and incorporate transition goals into the IEP
*Employment, Job Development, Work Supports
*Making connections and networking with other families going through the process
Sponsored by The Federation for Children with Special Needs in partnership with Mass. Dept. of Education. Central Mass site TBA. For more information contact Terri McLaughlin, Transition Projects, 617-236-7210 X336 or email tmlaugh@fcsn.org

Basic Rights
February 5, 2008-7-9pm
Held in Amesbury at Amesbury Middle School, 222 Main St. Call the Federation for Children with Special Needs to register or more information 800-331-0688

An IEP For My Child
February 7, 2008-7-9pm
Held in Arlington at the Brackett Elementary School. Call the Federation for Children with Special Needs to register or more information 800-331-0688

The Autism Support Center presents 3 free workshops
Featuring Autism Public Information Specialists from Mass. Advocates for Children:
#1 – Feb. 12th,7-9pm at 6 Southside Rd., Danvers. Shelly Green
#2 – April 8th, 10-12 noon at Acton Memorial Library, 466 Main St., Acton. Leslie Hughes
#3 – April 10th, 6:30-8:30pm, Newburyport Library, 94 State St., Newburyport. Shelly Greene.
These workshops will help parents understand the rights and procedures which ensure children with ASD receive educational opportunities which reflect competency and potential. RSVP Stephanie Gammons, 978-624-2311 or sgammons@nsarc.org.

Celebrate Yourself
February 13, 2008
6:30-8:30pm
Held in Belmont at Chenery Middle School, 95 Washington St. Call the Federation for Children with Special Needs to register or more information 800-331-0688

Upcoming Pre-School Sibshops
February 22, 2008 – 11:00am-2:30pm
To request Autism Support Center’s Sibling Packet, contact Scott Buchanan and for more information call 978-624-2347 or e-mail sbuchanan@nsarc.org.

Autism Support Center’s 6th Annual Camp & Recreation Fair
February 28, 2008-4-6:30pm
Held at Autism Support Center, 6 Southside Rd., Danvers. For more information call 978-777-9135 or asc@nsarc.org.
Basic Rights
March 18, 2008-7-9pm
Held at Tewksbury High School.
Call the Federation for Children with Special Needs to register or more information 800-331-0688

2008 Do-it-yourself Guide to Creating Housing Options
March 19 to April 16, 2008
5 weeks, 7:00-9:00pm
This workshop series is held at The Arc of East Middlesex, 20 Gould St., Reading. Contact Michelle Faugno at 781-942-4888 x4018 or fam2fam@theemarc.org.

Special Needs Financial Planning-and MORE!
March 19, 2008-7:00-8:30pm
Cynthia Haddad, CFP, Co-author of The Special Needs Planning Guide: How to Prepare for Every Stage of Your Child’s Life, provides informative and empowering presentations and workshops for families, caregivers, and service providers seeking to learn about the unique issues and concerns related to families planning for a family member with special needs. Held at Riverside Community Care, 338 Main St. Suite 301, Conference Room, Wakefield. Call 781-246-2003 x226 to register. Respond/childcare funds and/or transportation funds available in order to attend workshop. Call for details.

Transition to 22: Where to start, What to know, and How to get the services your Young Adult will need
March 25, April 1 & 8
7:00-9:00pm
This 3 part series will focus on several key pieces to the Transition Process: Eligibility requirements for Adult Services, DMER and Mass Rehab Services, Chapter 688, Govt. Benefits-including Social Security and Mass Health, Employment and Housing Options. Don’t wait until it’s too late…learn facts and be an active participant in developing a meaningful transition plan for your son or daughter! Meets in the Malden area. Contact Michelle Faugno, 781-942-4888 x4018 or e-mail Fam2fam@theemarc.org.

Building Momentum, Moving Forward
Health Care For All Conference
March 28, 2008
Held at the Holiday Inn, 242 Adams Pl., Boxborough. Registration and ticket sales coming soon! For more information call 617-275-2823 or hcfaconferenceinfo@hcfama.org

Stone Soup Conference
March 29, 2008
Join us for an interactive conference for families of transition age young adults, and beyond, at the BU Conference Center, Tyngsboro. A recipe for a satisfying life requires a little bit of this and a little bit of that; similar to the traditional folktale in which the community comes together each contributing something different, but where everyone benefits. Call Susan Nadworny at 781-665-5179, snadw@aol.com or www.mfofc.org
Information will be available Feb.

MCAS
April 2, 2008-7-9pm
Held in Peabody at Higgins Middle School, Rm. 54, 1 King St. Ext. Call the Federation for Children with Special Needs to register or more information 800-331-0688

Reading With Your Child
April 5, 2008-9:00-11:00am
Reading together can be a relaxing bonding experience, if the details are planned carefully in advance. In this workshop, learn strategies for helping your child choose an appropriate book, discover helpful cueing methods, and discuss other tried and true tips used by Landmark tutors. Presented by Moira Smith, M.S.Ed., Landmark Elementary Middle School Faculty. Held at the EMS Meeting Room, Landmark School, Beverly. Call Kathryn Frye, 978-236-3216 or e-mail outreach@landmarkschool.org for more information. Workshop is free and open to the public.
An IEP for My Child
April 8, 2008 7-8pm
Held at Groton Dunstable Regional High School, 703 Chicopee Row, Groton. Call the Federation for Children with Special Needs to register or more information 800-331-0688

Animals in Translation & Autism & Asperger’s Syndrome
April 11, 2008
8:00am – 4:30pm
Temple Grandin, Ph.D. teaches about livestock behavior and facility design at Colorado State University. She blends her first hand knowledge on both topics presented in this conference, animals and autism. She will speak about how she uses her unique way of thinking as an autistic person to help her in both studying animal behavior and speaking on autism from her personal perspective. Held at Tewksbury Hospital, home of T.H.E. Farm (“Where special horses help special people”)
East St., Tewksbury. Contact Susan Weiner, 978-774-5000 x389 or susan.weiner@dmr.state.ma.us.

Upcoming Pre-School Sibshops
April 18, 2008 – 11:00am-2:30pm
To request Autism Support Center’s Sibling Packet, contact Scott Buchanan. For more information call 978-624-2347 or e-mail sbuchanan@nsarc.org.

CONGRATULATIONS
To activist, poet, community leader and self advocate Joe Canto of Haverhill on his new full time position in DMR's Human Rights Office!

Teen Drop-In Center
Are you looking for dependable, consistent and enriching weekly programming for your teen/young adult? The Teen Drop In-Center located at The Arc of East Middlesex, 20 Gould St., Reading, is open Mon., Tues., and Fri. from 2:00-5:30. Cost is $35/day. Want to find out more? Attend our Open House Jan. 17th 6:00-7:30pm. Call Paula Thompson 781-942-4888 x4039 or paula@theemarc.org for more information

The Institute for Community Inclusion at UMass Boston is in the process of developing a parent-to-parent network for disseminating information and resources related to employment for young people who are transitioning into adult life. Parents who participate in the network will receive training on employment options and services and related topics such as the impact of work on benefits. After completing the training the parents will serve as a resource for other families. If you are interested in providing input into the development of this new network or participate in the project contact Elena Varney at 617-287-4362 or e-mail at Elena.varney@umb.edu.

UPCOMING EVENTS
Legal and Future Care Planning
For Family Members with a Person With a Disability
April 12, 2008
8:00am – 3:00pm
Held at Merrimack Valley Hospital. Contact Fran Hogan at Arc of Northern Essex 978-373-0552 for information. $25 per person includes lunch and materials

Finding Passion for People
June 10, 2008
24th Annual DMR Human Rights Conference
To be held at the DCU Center in Worcester. This year’s theme, Finding Passion for People, offers stories talents and expertise about how, in using a human rights framework, you can cultivate a passion for people supported by DMR.

You can make a difference!!!
You can make a gift to Massachusetts Families Organizing for Change

Name:______________
Street___________
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Phone___________

Enclosed is my gift of □$5 □$10 □$15
□$25 □$50 □Other

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