~A Special Letter for Special Friends~

Family Support Network
Special Services for Special Families

Peace, Love, and FSN

Every year, around the holidays, FSN's office space is transformed: garland is hung, stockings are stuffed, and toys overflow the bags filled for our families in need of holiday cheer. This year, FSN's extensive resource base and growing capacity prevented any vulnerable family from being denied a holiday application. Since early November, the FSN staff had worked diligently to ensure that our families' children received age-appropriate toys, as well as clothing and shoes that fit properly and comfortably.

For weeks, dozens of families left FSN with gifts not only for their child with special needs, but also for the siblings. FSN graciously handled the holiday rush, providing as many families as we could with enough toys and clothing to last the year. However, the day before we were scheduled to close for the holidays, FSN received an urgent call from one of our community partners, asking if FSN could service a family whose child had been in the hospital for three months. The mother of this particular family had spent the last months there caring for her son, the victim of a gunshot wound, and had no time to shop for gifts for him or her two other children. FSN agreed to sponsor the family without hesitation. Despite the short notice, FSN garnered phenomenal support from our community sponsors and helped the mother and children by bringing presents, gift cards, and holiday cheer directly to the hospital. With the help of our community, FSN was able to provide gifts for more than 200 children this year.

Your "One-Stop Shop" for FSN News

Parent Mentor Services Performs at 100%

In the most recent review of FSN's Parent Mentor Services program, every client surveyed reported a positive experience with their parent mentor, giving the program a 100% success rate for November of 2016. When asked what the clients liked best about the program, many relayed that it was the emotional support provided by the parent mentors. Others stated that it was the education and information provided. One individual shared: "I was told I would get my baby back in 6 months; I got my baby back in 2 months." Encouraged by these results and a recent meeting with state officials, Maria Enriquez, the Parent Mentor Coordinator, envisions an expanded Parent Mentor Services program that could satiate the demand for mentors and eliminate the waiting list.

Glenknoll Shares in the Holiday Spirit

For the last several years, the students of Glenknoll Elementary School in Yorba Linda have collected food, clothing, and toys for FSN families each holiday season. This year, the students of Glenknoll's Leadership Team provided and loaded more than twenty bags of items for our families. Without the support of individuals and community partners, such as Glenknoll Elementary School, the Orange County Scroll Saw Association, and Sisters in Spirit Women's Fellowship, our holiday

gifts to families would not be possible. Thank you for your donations and support of children who have special needs and who are "at-risk!"

Heart of Wraparound Recipient 2016: Jeannette

Congratulations to Jeannette Blanco, FSN's Resource and Data Collection Specialist, for receiving this year's Heart of Wraparound award! FSN is one of seven Orange County agencies that serve the Wraparound program, an individualized and comprehensive service designed to help children who are at risk of out-of-home placement. The Heart of Wraparound award is given to one individual at each agency and symbolizes exceptional service to families. For the last eight years, Jeannette has truly been an asset to both FSN and the Wraparound program. Thank you and congratulations, Jeannette!

Check Out Our New and Improved Website!

After months of preparation, our new and improved FSN website officially launched last week. Visit our website at *www.familysupportnetworkca.org* and discover events, developmental screening dates, photos, and your latest FSN news! An enormous thank you to Greg LaPorte, our web designer, and board member Anthony Aurigemma for your creativity and commitment to this web project.

Our New Sponsors

CHOC Health Alliance

Thank you, CHOC Health Alliance and Tina Olson, for your ongoing support this season! Without your donations and gift cards, the holidays at FSN would not have

Carothers, DiSante, & Freudenberger, LLP

We are pleased to recognize Carothers, DiSante, & Freudenberger, LLP as one of our new sponsors of 2016! Your donation

been possible for our families.

The HealthCare Foundation for Orange County

We are delighted to announce that we are one of The HealthCare Foundation for Orange County's 2016 grant recipients! The grant will help ensure that our parents of children who have special needs continue receiving health care resources and information.

will help us continue serving our 6,500+ individuals each year.

Change A Life Foundation

Thank you, Change A Life Foundation, for your continued support of individuals with special needs! Your partnership has truly changed the lives of our families, and we look forward to the New Year with you.

And thank you to all the individuals, businesses, and organizations who supported FSN this past year and holiday season!

Upcoming Events
Winter 2016

New Year's Holiday- Office Closed.....Jan. 2

Moms' Support Group Begins.....Jan. 9

Fathers' Support Group Begins.....Jan. 12

Developmental Screening at Delhi Center.....Jan. 13

Developmental Screening at First Presbyterian Church.....Jan. 20

Developmental Screening at Boys & Girls Club of Santa Ana.....Feb. 3

Developmental Screening at Buena Clinton Family Resource Center....Feb. 17

President's Day- Office Closed.....Feb.20

Developmental Screening at St. Thomas Korean Catholic Church.....Mar. 10

Developmental Screening at Westminster Family Resource Center.....Mar. 24

Camp TLC 2017.....May 20-21

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Visit our website

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