

*~A Special Letter for Special Friends~*



## *Family Support Network is Spreading the Love*



This year, FSN received a truly inspiring New Year's gift: volunteers from the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District's Adult Transition program. Through the Adult Transition program, young adults with special needs of their own develop skills crucial to their success in future jobs by volunteering at a variety of partner agencies and companies. These young adults work

one-on-one with a job coach and may assist with anything from clerical work to preparing silverware at restaurants, depending on their varying strengths and abilities. For the last several weeks, FSN has had the fortunate opportunity to participate as one of these partner agencies with the Adult Transition program. Our young adult volunteers have already completed a number of tasks, including packaging food bags for 40 of our families, organizing 2 of our storage areas to run more efficiently, and assisting with Camp TLC preparations--all with a smile.

Through our participation in the Adult Transition program, FSN has witnessed its work in the community come full circle. The children pictured above are students of Bill Greenfield (far right), our Adult Transition Specialist at the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District. In the photo, Bill's students are wearing just a few of the hundreds of T-shirts and sweatshirts donated to us by Cal South Soccer, our neighboring soccer association in Fullerton. As our volunteers learned more about our programs, Bill brought to FSN's attention some of the

financial needs of his own students. Now, each time our Adult Transition volunteers visit our "one-stop-shop," they leave with food, clothing, and other items they may need. When asked why our volunteers like visiting FSN, one of our regular volunteers, Gabe, responded with "because I like to help people." Our community partnerships make spreading love to our families who have children with special needs easier and easier.



## Your "One-Stop Shop" for FSN News

### A Bittersweet Start to Camp TLC 2017

After a bittersweet meeting in late January, the Camp TLC planning committee is happy to announce that FSN is currently accepting applications again for Camp TLC! Available spots for families are first-come, first-serve, and applications for Camp TLC 2017, Orange County's best respite care for children who have special needs, may be found here at: <http://familysupportnetworkca.org/CampTLC>. New and seasoned committee members are sad to also announce that Camp TLC 2017 will be the last camp of one of its founder, biggest advocate, and cherished committee leader--Linda Smith, FSN's Executive Director. As Linda prepares to retire next year, she is determined to make Camp TLC 2017 the best and most memorable camp for our Orange County parents who have children with special needs.



### Share the Love and Host a Developmental Screening!

FSN's Developmental Screening program is currently looking for sites interested in hosting a developmental screening in 2017. FSN provides the willing site with the appropriate therapists and professionals, paperwork, and information required for the developmental screening-- all free of charge. In return, FSN asks that each site provide at least 20 attendees for each screening. More information regarding hosting a developmental screening may be found here at: <http://familysupportnetworkca.org/HostAScreening>.

Jocalyn Chunne, our new Developmental Screening Program Administrator, recently joined FSN back in December. Jocalyn is a single mother with a background in social work, child abuse, and children and adults with disabilities. She received her BA in

psychology from Cal Poly Pomona and a MPA from South University. Her love for the Developmental Screening program evolved from her past personal and work experiences, as well as her education. In the last few months, Jocalyn has witnessed the Developmental Screening program "bring Orange County communities together." Jocalyn and our Developmental Screening team will be available throughout all hosted developmental screenings to set up, translate for families, and ensure that the event runs smoothly.

### Give Your Child A Gift To Remember this Holiday

Want to give your child a gift to remember this Valentine's Day? Join one of our Parent Mentor Services' support groups and reunify with your child today! The PMS program currently serves parents who have an open dependency court case by providing them with the emotional support, resources, and information they need to reunify with their child. Since July, the PMS program has already served over 138 parents. As FSN celebrates the new marriage of our accounting manager and the anniversaries of many of our employees this month, we are continuously reminded of how important family ties are to any healthy and long-lasting relationship. More information regarding PMS support groups may be found at: <http://familysupportnetworkca.org/SupportGroups>.



### The Cost of Parents' Love and Care Adds Up

A new study by Dr. Mark Schuster, chief of general pediatrics at Boston Children's Hospital, reveals the exact cost of care that parents who have children with special needs provide to their children on a daily basis. According to our Parent-to-Parent Outreach Mentor, Mo Byron, parents who have children with special needs are never "off-duty." As a mother of a seventeen-year old daughter with cerebral palsy, Mo shared: "I am up 2-3 times every night watching my daughter over the baby monitor, making sure she does not become tangled up in the sheets of her bed." Parents who have a child with a significant medical condition or disability must remain aware and vigilant at all times--regardless of the kind of condition or disability their child may have. To access the study, please visit the article here: <https://medlineplus.gov/news/fullstory>. Thank you to all our loving parents out there who do so much for their child with special needs each day!



## A Heartfelt Thank You to Our Sponsors



### Sunwest Bank Charitable Foundation

Thank you, Sunwest Bank Charitable Foundation, for your continued support of Family Support Network! FSN's Parent-to-Parent Outreach program could not be possible without your assistance of \$10,000.



### Angels Baseball Foundation

FSN is very grateful for the \$3,000 from the Angels Baseball Foundation! This funding will continue supporting program expenses from the Parent-to-Parent Outreach program.



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### Union Pacific Foundation

Union Pacific Foundation has also chosen to fund our Parent-to-Parent Outreach program! Thank you for your support of \$1,000. We look forward to meeting with you!



### ALPHA Assistance League- Fullerton

Without ALPHA Assistance League's monthly donations, many of our mothers would be without car seats, strollers, and cribs. Thank you for supporting our Emergency Needs department and our vulnerable families!

## Upcoming Events Winter & Spring 2017

*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*  
*Developmental Screening at United Methodist Church.....Apr. 7*  
*Easter Eggcitement at Kraemer Park ..... Apr. 8*  
*Community Resource Fair at Irvine Valley College.....Apr. 29*  
*Camp TLC 2017.....May 19-21*  
*Memorial Day- Office Closed.....May 29*

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