



News from Parents Reaching Out Winter 2012



Your One Stop Resource For
A Stronger Family

Volume 4—Issue 1

reachingout!

From the Executive Director's Desk:

Hello Supporters of Parents Reaching Out!

As we enter 2012, we here at Parents Reaching Out are reeling from a past year full of substantial change. Not only has the organization adjusted to a new Executive Director (that's right, I just had my one year anniversary!) but we have seen the elimination of a federal program, endured painful downsizing as a result, and been through a significant re-organization to ensure that programs are effective and accountable to funders and families.

Parents Reaching Out is leaner by necessity. We are striving to find more efficient ways to provide quality services to families. As grant support shrinks, we have become more attentive to the need to reach out to you, the supporters of the important work that Parents Reaching Out does. Many of you have volunteered over the years, and some of you give money to support us. We want to thank all of you who have donated time and/or money. You are appreciated.

In this newsletter we will share information about the valuable work that is happening in the different projects here at Parents Reaching Out. We will also be sharing with you what your donation will "buy." I hope that as you review our work, you will consider making a tax-deductible financial contribution to Parents Reaching Out. You can donate online or mail a donation to us at our offices.

The staff at Parents Reaching Out is as dedicated as ever to the families we serve. This dedication is inspired by the challenges we see families face, made more intense and frightening in these economic times. Our commitment is buoyed by the evidence of families' unwavering belief in their children, regardless of diagnosis or challenge. Families believe that their children can excel, can push their own boundaries, and can live vital and meaningful lives. Parents Reaching Out is here to serve that spirit.

Best Regards,

Johnny Wilson

1920B Columbia Dr. SE
Albuquerque, NM 87106

1-800-524-5176
505-247-0192

www.parentsreachingout.org

8th Annual Family Leadership Conference



Mark your calendars for the 8th Annual Family Leadership Conference to be held at the lovely Isleta Conference Center April 12-13, 2012. This year's conference will feature a rich variety of workshops as we have recruited presenters from throughout the state to share their knowledge and experiences with you. In addition, we will have more breakout sessions this year so you can have even more interaction with the presenters. As a first this year, we will have workshops presented in Navajo. As before, we will also be offering sessions in Spanish. One thing that will stay the same, though, is the low price for registration. Families may register for \$15 for the two days. That price includes breakfast and lunch for both days. A block of rooms at the Isleta Conference Center have been reserved for us at the special conference price for families of \$200 for two nights. Registration is available now by calling our office at 505-247-0192 or toll-free at 1-800-524-5176. On-line registration is also available at www.parentsreachingout.org/flan. Sponsors of this year's Conference are Parents Reaching Out, the Navajo Nation, and the New Mexico Department of Health. Participants will be able to attend workshops in the areas of: Early Childhood, Family Engagement, Fatherhood, General Education, Health Care, and Special Education. We encourage families and school districts to register early as we do fill up quickly. Special Education and Title 1 Directors in your district have received information about the conference and we encourage you to contact them to ask for financial support to attend this amazing conference. We look forward to seeing all of you! For more information, contact the Family Leadership Conference Coordinator, Jan Winslow at: jwinslow@parentsreachingout.org



7th Annual Family Leadership Conference participants at the PRO Resource Table

Your \$200 donation will sponsor a family for the 2-day 8th Annual Family Leadership Conference!

New Mexico Parent Training Information Center

Kendra Morrison, Project Manager

The New Mexico Parent Training and Information Center (NM PTI) has been doing some traveling these past few months in order to provide resources and training to families throughout the state. We also welcomed two new family liaisons - April Gonzales-Moeller and Cindy Lafon. April is based in Las Cruces and Cindy is in our Albuquerque office. Both April and Cindy have considerable experience with special education issues and we are happy to have them with us.

We are working to make our materials more accessible to families outside the Albuquerque area. We have set up Resource Centers around the southern region of the state and we have utilized some Head Start Centers to house materials for families in those areas. In this way, families have more immediate access to our materials. We will be looking for opportunities to be able to establish Resource Centers in the northern part of the state very soon. If you are interested in providing a space within your business where families could access materials from Parents Reaching Out, we invite you to call us at 505-247-0192 or toll-free at 1-800-524-5176.

This past summer we supported a Family Involvement Institute in Las Vegas, NM that incorporated families from Mora, Wagon Mound, and Las Vegas. It was a great opportunity to meet and talk with families and provide support for their needs. The Institute was a great success! We also supported the Children, Youth, and Families Department (CYFD) conference this year at the Albuquerque Hotel. We appreciate the opportunity to provide resources for foster families as they advocate for children with disabilities.

We have eight new fact sheets which are available on our website in English and Spanish. A few of the new topics are: Restraint and Seclusion, Behavior Intervention Plans, and Functional Behavior Assessments. Be sure to check them out! We hope they will be useful for you as you advocate for your child in the school setting.

What Does Your Donation to Parents Reaching Out Buy?

We thank those of you who have donated to PRO in our recent fundraising campaigns. With cuts in federal funding, your donations are more vital now than ever before. Parents Reaching Out is registered with the Internal Revenue service as a 501(c) 3 organization, meaning that your donation is tax-deductible.

We are asking you to consider giving to PRO on a regular basis, for example \$40 a month, to help us continue to do our work to support families in New Mexico as they navigate the educational and health systems. In addition, we invite you to remember PRO in your estate planning. Please call Leon Emplit at 247-0192 if you have any questions about planned giving.



Here are some examples of how your donation will be used:

\$25 - helps provide materials for a skill building workshop.

\$60 - will provide a family with an individual consultation to prepare for an IEP meeting, learn about the early intervention system, or apply for a Medicaid waiver.

\$175 –allows us to travel to rural areas of New Mexico to offer materials, outreach, and trainings to families who have few local resources.

\$275 –covers some of the costs of updating and printing our materials in English and Spanish to provide you with the most up-to-date information.

For more information about donating to PRO and how your donation is used, please visit our website at <http://www.parentsreachingout.org/donatenow/>

Family Engagement ♦ Alethea First, Project Manager

Greetings to all our families and friends.

Yes, it is true that the New Mexico Parent Information and Resource Center (NM PIRC) is no longer around. Our grant funding ended on September 30, 2011. However, we have reorganized and are continuing to support parents, schools, and organizations through our General Education/Family Engagement Program. We're still on the move!

Our Family Engagement Program is designed to help parents gain the skills and knowledge they may need to support their children's growth and learning. We offer information and workshops on parenting topics from early childhood through adolescence.

We are experts at facilitating family engagement in schools. We can provide consultation services or help schools, day care centers, or other family organizations manage a family engagement program. Our programming helps schools meet the requirements of section 1118 of the Elementary Secondary Education Act (ESEA) and New Mexico House Bill 212.

One of our model schools is Puesta del Sol in Rio Rancho. The school's administration - Principal, Bryan Garcia and Assistant Principal, Veronica Sanders – along with the Parent Engagement Coordinator, Barbara Smith, and the teachers, have gone the extra mile to build partnerships with many families in the Rio Rancho District.



We are hopeful that we will expand our reach in 2012. Many schools and districts, such as Socorro, Gallup, and the Navajo Nation have expressed an interest in joining the PRO team.

Let PRO help you bring your schools, families, and communities together to work toward academic success for all children.

Give PRO a call at (505) 247-0192 or toll-free at 1-800-524-5176 and ask for Alethea. Together, we'll design a program to meet the unique needs of your school, organization, and community.

Families as Faculty ♦ Jan Winslow, Director of Family Leadership

Families as Faculty has continued to work with higher education around the state, providing students with the opportunity to learn from our host family volunteers' experiences, both positive and negative, with the education and health care systems.

This past semester, Parents Reaching Out has collaborated with two LEND fellows from UNM's Center for Development and Disability (who also both happen to be PRO volunteers) as they conducted their required research projects with us.

Lisa Blue has been working with Joanna Cosby, a professor at the UNM College of Education. In her Educational Diagnostician class, Dr. Cosby and Lisa Blue have used a family centered planning approach to consider every aspect of the student's life in helping to create the best avenue for student success. This approach, called COACH (Choosing Options and Accommodations for Children) is not new, but is not actively being used in most New Mexico school settings.

The COACH model is intended to accompany, COACH is designed to: (1) make the IEP more goals written, (2) positively affect relation- and (3) create new opportunities for student

Several of our host families volunteered for dents in walking through the process. The the UNM education class was that the process teacher focus on where the student is, and tion process. The students thought it was very than just test results.

Families as Faculty hopes to work with UNM lum at the School of Education. If you would ing in one class per semester, please contact

Lisa Rossignol, our former Families as Faculty search project through the LEND program and Families as Faculty, Lisa intends to study the as Faculty on family-centered care practices.

students experience an emotional shift that leads them to want to offer increased levels of respect and dignity, information sharing, participation, and collaboration with families of children with special health care needs after participating in the Families as Faculty program. Few studies of this kind have been done, so her efforts could prove very effective in supporting the work of Families as Faculty in relation to family-centered care education. This, in turn, could lead to more funding opportunities, and the program's ability to grow throughout the state.

In addition to these two new collaborations, Families as Faculty continues its work with Margo Collier, UNM College of Education professor, on the production of videos of family visits to be used throughout the state when it's not possible for students to meet in person with a host family. The original 14 family visits are ready for dissemination with credible university professors, and the second phase of this project is underway. This second phase will take five of the 14 families and produce a documentary highlighting what families with children in special education encounter with the education system. Topics include: quality of life, least restrictive environment, the importance of early intervention, the use of behavior modification, inclusion,



UNM Students in a FAF class session.

“Being in the home reminds me that kids are kids first, who just happen to have disability in their lives.”
FAF Student

not replace the IEP planning process. specific and reduce the overall number of ships between families and professionals, success.

this pilot program at UNM by assisting stu- consensus by both the PRO volunteers and helped the parents, the student, and the where the student wants to go in the educa- good to help them see the child as other

to implement this training into the curricu- like to be part of this program by volunteer- our office.

coordinator, has been working on a re- her graduate studies. In collaboration with impact of education programs like Families She will explore whether or not medical

the grieving process, due process, the school's attitudes toward the family, positive experiences of parents with teachers and the IEP process, testing, Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) services, the Medicaid waivers, financial concerns, and teachers valuing the parent's perspective. We hope this documentary will be wrapped up in the summer of 2012

As always, if you have a desire to be a part of Families as Faculty and to make a difference for the future of children who have special health care needs and/or receive special education services in New Mexico, please contact the office. We take great pleasure in adding new families to our program, and Host Family trainings will be held this winter.

News from the PRO Resource Center ♦ Dolores Wansa

Education students from the University of New Mexico (UNM) and Central New Mexico Community College (CNM) have made good use of the PRO Resource Center in the past few months. Students come in to learn about PRO, gather some of our free resources, check out materials, and do research. It's great that future educators are discovering that we are a valuable resource for themselves and the families they work with.

We are happy to once again have a student from the Service Learning Program at the South Valley Academy (SVA) placed here at PRO. Our student is Francisca Hernandez, who is in the 10th grade. Francisca helps us with various duties such as gathering materials for workshops. She also is learning about the work PRO does. Francisca's hobbies include playing on her school's varsity basketball team and taking care of her family's horses. Thank you to Francisca, her teacher, Kristen Koffman, and Francisca's family for their support of Parents Reaching Out.

Here's a reminder if you have checked books or videos out. Please remember to return your materials on time. If you need to extend your check-out time, please call Dolores Wansa at 247-0192 or e-mail her at dwansa@parentsreachingout.org to make arrangements for returning items. Please remember that other families and professionals may want to use the materials you have. Thank you for your help.



The 2nd Annual Swing to be a PRO Golf Tournament

was great fun and a wonderful boost to PRO's fundraising efforts. All of our golfers enjoyed the lovely day and the challenging Isleta Championship Course. This year a few children and adults with disabilities also were able to participate on the driving range thanks to the generous support of: Martinez Bail Bonds, Tony Madrid Bail Bonding Company/ Rick Davis – Bail Agent, Tony Madrid, and Roll Off Containers. Prizes were awarded during the luncheon. The 1st place team was: Anthony Garcia, Donald Garcia, Orlando Garcia, and Epi Gurule. 2nd place went to the team of: Charles Jojola, Joe L. Jojola, Kenneth Jojola, and Michael Jojola. The 3rd place team was: Josh Jolly, Rick Benson, Dave Headricks, and Mike Maestas. Donald Garcia won the Longest Drive on 5 Mesa and Orlando Garcia was Closest to the Pin on 6 Mesa.

This year's tournament raised \$7,724 to support the programs at Parents Reaching Out. We'd like to acknowledge our wonderful sponsors: Hole in One and Classic Sponsor – PRO Board member, Chris Lehman; Longest Drive Sponsor – CT Power and Iceberg Enterprises; Closest to the Pin Sponsor – PRO Board members, Carloyn Hilton Miney, Martha Gomez, and Renata Witte.



One of our sponsored players

Many thanks to Saralisa Sanchez for her support in a variety of ways – sponsoring a team, donating items, and volunteering at the tournament. PRO staff enjoyed a day on the links and the company of the golfers and our other volunteers – Breanne Dillon, Vicki Baker, Rebecca Lesperance, Jennifer Montañó, Luci Josyln, and Samantha Carl.

We also appreciate the donations by the following individuals and businesses for our Silent Auction: Jacob Bogart, Breanne Dillon, Embroiderme, EPICS, Frank at Mr. Shears, Tim Jimerson, Fishing Trip Guide; Lucie Josyln, Anne Lund of the San Antonio General Store, Lynn at Orly Nails & Spa, Sharon Manuelito, Potter; Saralisa Sanchez, Avon; Jon Saylor, Los Ranchos Antique Mall; Wendy Zheng Yuan of China Casa.

We encourage you to patronize our donors' businesses and thank them for supporting Parents Reaching Out. We will be looking for you to join us in the fall for our 3rd year of this fun event. Get your clubs out and start practicing so you will be ready to "Swing to be a PRO."



What a great shot!

Upcoming Workshops

For more information, visit our website calendar at <http://www.parentsreachingout.org/calendar/> or call us at 1-800-524-5176, 505-247-0192. More workshops will be added throughout the year. Keep checking our website!

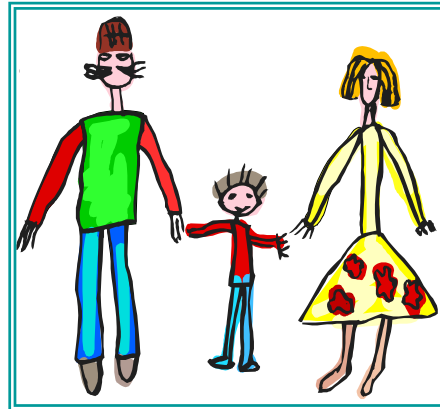


Community Based Advocacy - Telling Your Story

Wednesday, January 11, 2012
Time: 9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Location: Parents Reaching Out
1920 B Columbia Dr. SE
Albuquerque, NM

Host Family 101 - Las Cruces

Date: Thursday, January 19, 2012
Time: 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Location: Aprendamos Intervention Team
Esperanza Training Room
301 Perkins Drive, Suite B
Las Cruces, NM 88005



Host Family 101 - Albuquerque

Choose from one of the following dates:

Thursday, January 26, 2012
Thursday, February 23, 2012
Thursday, March 29, 2012
Thursday, April 26, 2012
Time: 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Location: Parents Reaching Out
1920 B Columbia Dr. SE
Albuquerque, NM



Parent to Parent - 2 Day Training

Part 1 - Monday, February 27, 2012 - 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Part 2 - Tuesday, February 28, 2012 - 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Location: Parents Reaching Out
1920 B Columbia Dr. SE
Albuquerque, NM

Need a break? Have you applied for respite care funding from the Carrie Tingley Hospital Foundation?

The Carrie Tingley Hospital Foundation offers financial assistance for respite care. If you feel like you could use an extra hand or a temporary break from time-to-time, the respite care program may be right for you. Respite is a flexible support service intended to provide relief for primary caregivers of children with special needs. Whether an afternoon or a weekend, this short-term care allows families time for themselves to take a break, run errands, or plan other activities, while the child enjoys favorite activities with a trained caregiver.



The Foundation accepts applications on a rolling basis, at any time, and reviews applications on a monthly basis. If you have not yet applied or have questions, please call 505-243-6626. It is a simple application form. While there is limited funding available, we are working to assist as many eligible families as possible.

Please call the Foundation at 505-243-6626 to apply for assistance with respite care today.

Frequently Asked Questions & Answers



Who's Eligible?

Families with a child (ages birth to 21) with special needs in New Mexico may apply directly to the Foundation. All families are encouraged and welcome to apply. Priority is given to families whose child is currently a Carrie Tingley patient and to families who have never received respite care. Please answer all the questions honestly.

Will my application to the Foundation affect any other assistance I receive?

If you apply to the Foundation and are awarded assistance, the Foundation pays your provider directly, so it will not affect any other applications for assistance or benefits that you have pending.

I think my family earns too much to qualify, but we are under a lot of stress and need a break.

There's no income screening for this program. We understand that many families may earn just a little too much to qualify for Medicaid or the DD Waiver but that you might be feeling like you are struggling. Please complete an application today.

Is there a waiting list to get a respite care provider?

If you are approved for respite care assistance from the Carrie Tingley Hospital Foundation, you will receive a voucher which can be redeemed immediately. There is no waiting list, and your family will be matched promptly with a qualified provider after you complete the intake process.



Help PRO Go GREEN!

In an effort to save resources, both natural and financial, we are trying to reduce the number of people who receive this newsletter in printed form. If you would prefer to receive this newsletter electronically, please let us know. All we need is your name and e-mail address. Please call Parents Reaching Out at 1-800-524-5176 or e-mail dwansa@parentsreachingout.org

Thank you for your help.

Legislative Session - Disability Rights Awareness Day

Bringing the Voice of Disability to our Legislators

Monday and Tuesday, January 23-24, 2012

There will be a gathering of New Mexicans with disabilities from all across the State during the 2012 Legislative Session. Monday, January 23, will feature presentations and workshops from 9 a.m. to approximately 4 p.m. at the Courtyard by Marriott on Cerrillos Road regarding key issues facing New Mexicans with disabilities. A continental breakfast and lunch are provided. Registration is required. On Tuesday, January 24 there will be a rally in the Capitol Rotunda with speakers and awards from 11 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., information tables from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. in both wings of the Capitol Building, and visits with legislators. For more information, contact:

Steve Scarton, Self-Advocacy Coordinator
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Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has. - Margaret Mead

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