



**Families Helping Families  
of Southwest Louisiana, Inc.**  
2927 Hodges Street, Lake Charles, LA 70601  
(337) 436-2570 1-800-894-6558  
Fax: (337) 436-2578  
Email: [info@fhfswla.org](mailto:info@fhfswla.org)  
Website: [www.fhfswla.org](http://www.fhfswla.org)

## **FHF SWLA Fact Sheet**

Families Helping Families is beginning their 18<sup>th</sup> year serving the Southwest Louisiana community.

Our community includes: Allen, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron and Jeff Davis parishes.

Our mission is to enable and empower individuals with disabilities and their families by providing information, referral, education, training, peer support, and advocacy skills.

Our vision is that all individuals with disabilities have the opportunity to attend school, live, work, and play in their own community.

## **Information and Referral**

### **Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) Facilitator**

Working with the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities to assist families to find and receive appropriate services and support in their community and facilitate the Family Empowerment Forum each year.

### **Parent Stipends**

Funds sponsored by the Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council to provide stipends to individuals with developmental disabilities and family members to help in attending regional, state and local conferences related to disabilities.

### **Resource Lending Library**

FHF has a large lending library with up to date information about all types of disabilities. The library is filled with books, video tapes & DVD's on various topics relevant to individuals with disabilities and their families.

## **Education and Training**

### **Louisiana Parent Training & Information Center (LaPTIC)**

Training and Direct Assistance regarding Educational Laws, Rights & Advocacy by providing information and training to parents of children with disabilities, on their rights and responsibilities under state and federal laws.

### **Louisiana Department of Education Contract**

Promotes collaboration between home, school and community through planned workshops and one-on-one training from our Education Coordinators & Transition Specialist to effectively work with the school system to facilitate a free appropriate public education.

### **LaTEACH - Louisiana Together Educating All Children**

A statewide grassroots organization that promotes appropriate, inclusive education for all students. We work to make parents, educators, the general public, and state leadership informed and supportive of research based and effective practices used appropriately for each student.

### **LaSIG2-Louisiana State Improvement Grant 2**

A project to host a yearly Leadership Sessions targeting family member and educators that facilitates team-building skills to establish effective partnerships and promote family involvement .

### **PASSED Project**

Problem Solving Through Anger Management, Support Systems, Time, Effort, and Desire. (PASSED) is funded by the Louisiana Children's Trust Fund and the Louisiana Office of Youth Development and uses a program that stresses that although making good decisions can be difficult doing so will help give the youth more opportunity, freedom and self-respect.

### **LaCAN - Louisiana Citizens for Action Now**

Statewide grassroots network of individuals advocating for a system that supports individuals with developmental disabilities living in their own homes rather than having to move to a facility to receive needed services.

### **Family 2 Family Health Information Center - F2FHIC Facilitator**

The overall goal of the project is to improve access to quality care and supports for children with special health care needs in their community by providing information and support.

## **Peer Support**

### **Families Can't Wait...Because Children Can't Wait**

Matches newly identified parents of children with special needs with trained, experienced mentor parents to facilitate one on one emotional support. (Includes our "Teddy Bear Project" outreach to hospitals and regional health care providers.)

### **Community Outreach Specialist**

This specialist offers community awareness and parent support for the EarlySteps program. The specialist is a parent of a child with a disability who is under the age of ten and can offer parent support as well as information and referral.

### **Children's Special Health Services Parent Liaison**

The Parent Liaison is a family member who works with the local CSHS clinics and fosters support, information and referral to families of children receiving CSHS clinic services. The Parent Liaison also provides outreach for CSHS targeting families and providers.

### **Next Chapter Book Club (NCBC)**

NCBC provides people with disabilities regardless of their reading skills the opportunity to read and learn to read, talk about books, and make friends in a fun, community setting.

### **In addition to these programs, the following resources are available at the FHF Resource Center:**

Peer-to-Peer Support; Disability Resource Library (books, audio, DVDs and video tapes); Speakers Bureau on topics related to disabilities; Workshops, Conferences and Presentations on a variety of topics for individuals with disabilities, family members and professionals; and a quarterly Agency Newsletter.



FHF SWLA is funded from a diversified funding base including tax deductible donations, personal contributions, special event fund-raisers, contracts, grants, and contributions from community organizations and the Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council. The philosophy of parent/professional collaboration is inherent in FHF SWLA. FHF SWLA has always, and still shares its expertise with other parents, who wish to enhance their leadership skills, start a group, particular program or center. FHFSWLA does not endorse or promote any legislation, institutions, individuals, methods of treatment or therapy.

**All services are free to families and professionals.**