

January 2010

Foot Prints Family Focus

An Early Steps of Southwest Florida Family Newsletter



Special points of interest:

- Welcome Trina Puddefoot
- Playgroups are Back in Cape Coral!!

For participating with our Wish List, sending us your Family Story or for any comments or suggestions, please call or write to:

FAMILY RESOURCE SPECIALISTS:

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A new Year is always a New Opportunity! Happy 2010!

2010 is not only a new year, it is also a new opportunity for all of us to start again and dream new dreams!

Welcome Trina Puddefoot!!

2010 brings to us a new Program Director, her name is Trina Puddefoot. She has been working as a Physical Therapist and Early Steps' s Supervisor for 5 years and we would like to introduce her to you:

Trina Puddefoot is a Physical Therapist and has a Master of Science in Pediatric Rehabilitation and is in the process of completing her doctorate in Rehabilitation from the University of Oklahoma. She started working for Early Steps on 2004, two years later she was promoted to become the Direct Service Supervisor, to finally become our Program Director.

Trina is happily married and is the mother of two beautiful children. She loves Tae Kwon Do. She is a wonderful martial artist and as a boss is the most sweet and amazing person.

Trina follows Joan Foss, an Early Intervention Specialist who served as the ES program Director for nine years

We are so happy to have Trina directing our Staff, that' s why we would like to congratulate her and wish her the best!

"Joan' s dedication to children and families was inspirational. She built a great program, my Vision is to continue the work Joan has done. I want to make the program available to more children, making sure that they receive the best information possible. We count on a highly trained staff" Trina said.

It is also time to say Good Bye!



After serving families in Early Intervention Program for more than 17 years, Joan Foss decided to retire from her position as Program Director this year.

Joan has been a great mentor, also a wonderful professional and friend to all who have had the pleasure to be part of her team during all these years!

This is a good opportunity also to express her our gratitude and wish her the best in her new position as an Early Steps Consultant and ITDS provider for Immokalee City!

We are sure Imokalee City families would be highly motivated having such a wonderful teacher helping their families!



Good News for Cape Coral! Our playgroups are back!!

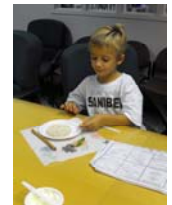
We are so excited to announce that our Playgroups are back in Cape Coral!

They will be running twice a month in two different locations:

Every 2nd Thursday : "Impact" Located in 120 Del Prado Blvd S—Cape Coral, Fl 33990
Every 4th Thursday : "Faith Presbyterian Church" 4544 Coronado Parkway— Cape Coral, Fl 33904

If you are interested about participating in our Playgroups, please contact your Service Coordinator!

We are counting on you!!





HELPING ONE OF THE MOST AMAZING CHARITIES IN THE COUNTRY "SONGS OF LOVE FOUNDATION"

"As each child is unique, so is every "song of love" composition. In 13 years, the Songs of Love Foundation has reached out to over 19,000 children in over 500 hospitals and health care facilities in all 50 states. The songs have often been played to alleviate pain and trauma during painful and scary hospital treatments. The song recipients have played their "songs of love" in all kinds of situations and settings such as car trips to the hospital, show and tell at school, for family and friends in person or on the phone, and even for the doctors and nurses. The children have their "songs of love" always available to them whenever they are feeling down. Songs have also been played at funerals as a memorial to the child's beauty and spirit"

"Songs of Love Foundation" has been working for more than 13 years providing music to our kids with special needs for free! If your child has been honored with a "Song of love" is time to say "Thank you" by voting for them, so they can get more funds to make more "Songs of Love" for the more and more kids with special needs who count on this gift to have a happier life and feed their spirits with love and Hope!

Please visit <http://apps.facebook.com/chasecommunitygiving/charities/224918> to vote! They are counting on you!

For more information please visit www.songslove.org

"Early Steps " PLAYGROUP SCHEDULE JANUARY, FEBRUARY & MARCH 2010"



Collier County

Immokalee

417 N 1st. Street

Tuesday 02/09/10 11:00

Tuesday 03/09/10 11:00

Grace Place

43200 21st Ave SW

Monday 02/08/10 11:00

Monday 03/15/10 11:00

Lee County

Shandler Hall Community Center

419 Florence Ave

Friday 02/05/10 10:30

Friday 03/05/10 10:30

Bonita Springs Library

26876 Pine Avenue

Friday 01/22/10 1:30

Friday 02/26/10 1:30

Cape Coral

Impact-120 Del Prado Blvd S

Thursday 02/11/10 10:00

Thursday 03/11/10 10:00

Faith Presbyterian Church

4544 Coronado Parkway

Thursday 01/28/10 1:30 pm

Thursday 02/25/10 1:30 pm

San Carlos

Karl Drews Community Center 18142 Lee Road

Friday 01/22/10 10:30

Friday 02/26/10 10:30

LEHIGH ACRES

New life Christian Academy

507 Sunshine Blvd

Friday 02/19/10 10:30

Friday 03/19/10 10:30

Hendry / Glades



Labelle Health Department

1140 Pratt Blvd

Friday 02/12/10 10:30

Friday 03/12/10 10:30

Clewiston Library

120 W Osceola Ave

Friday 02/12/10 1:30 pm

Friday 03/12/10 1:30 pm

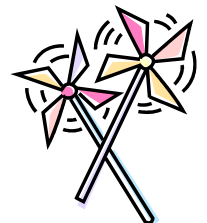
Catholic Charities

4235 Michigan Link Ave

Every Wednesday 9:00 to 10:00

January 20th

Please call to confirm February dates!



*Playgroups are inclusive, designed for
Caregivers and Children from Birth to five! There's a playgroup waiting for you and your family!!*

If you are interested about participating please contact your Service Coordinator!



2010 Convention—Save the Date!

The most important Convention for individuals with Down Syndrome and their families would be Next:

July 16—18, 2010
 Disney's Coronado Springs Resort
 Walt Disney World, Fl

Make your Hotel Reservation Now!
 Call (407) 939-1020
 Monday—Friday 8:30 to 6:00 pm
 Weekends—9 to 5 pm

For more information visit : www.ndsccenter.org



Did you know that you can go to www.centerforautism.com and get free resources about training and education for parents of kids with autism? You can also download Audio Presentations, please visit :

CARD AUDIO PRESENTATIONS

http://www.centerforautism.com/Resources/Autism_Presentations.asp

The Center for Autism & Related Disorders was established in 1990 by Doreen Granpeesheh. Dr. Granpeesheh studied autism treatment for 12 year under the direction of renowned autism treatment scientist Dr. Ivar Lovaas at the University of California, Los Angeles.



United Way 211
Helping Lee and Hendry/
Glades County!

211 is a United Way program that provides free information and referral to human/social service agencies within Lee, Hendry, and Glades Counties. Clients can call and receive information and referrals appropriate to their needs.

United Way 211 exists to help people navigate their way through the maze of human and social services by providing adequate resources for the client's situation.

This efficient process promotes prevention and self-sufficiency by giving the clients easy Access to services they normally would not be aware of.

United way 211 is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. This continuous coverage is made possible through a partnership with ACT-Abuse, Counseling & Treatment. English and Spanish Languages are available.

Remember! If you need help finding services or resources in the Community and you live in Lee, Hendry or Glades Counties: Dial 211 from your home phone or dial (239) 433-3900 for Lee County and Hendry/Glades (863) 675-838 from a cell phone or pay phone!



HENDRY AND GLADES!

If you live in Hendry or Glades and you are the mom of a baby under 1 year old or are currently pregnant, this party has been created especially for you !

Come and join to us and participate in our Baby Showers for the Community. We are going to have presentations, prizes and lot of fun for you and your baby!

CLEWISTON HEALTH DEPARTMENT Auditorium

1100 S Olympia St. Clewiston, Fl 33440
 THURSDAY, JANUARY 28TH 11am to 1pm

DALLAS B TOWNSEND AGRICULTURAL CENTER

1085 Pratt Blvd, Labelle, Fl 33935
 TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23RD 11am to 1pm



Early Steps of SW FL

8961 Daniels Center Dr Suite 401

Fort Myers, FL 33912

Phone : 239 433 6700

Fax : 239 433 6707

Toll Free : 866 547 2793

<http://www.hpcswf.com>



Know our Staff!



"Carmen Andres " Service Coordinator

She was born in Lima - Peru, and has lived in Fort Myers, FL for seven years.

Carmen has a Bachelor in Psychology and was recently certified as an Infant and Toddler Developmental Specialist. Carmen is bilingual and has been working at Early Steps for over 2 years since February 2008. She Works for East Fort Myers and serves hispanic families in Cape Coral. *"This job is the most rewarding and*

I feel proud and happy about helping families in the special assignment of having a child with special needs" , she said.

In Order to Lead You Have to Serve

By Lizzy Barrows

Wikipedia describes the definition of leadership as the "process of social influence in which one person can enlist the aid and support of other in the accomplishment of a common task". An effective leader is defined "as an individual with the capacity to consistently succeed in a given condition and be recognized as meeting the expectations of an organization or society"

Being a leader in the Florida Youth Council gives me the opportunity to influence society and everyone I meet. Society can judge individuals with disabilities by stereotyping us as all being unable to function and be leaders in the world today.

A quote of leadership that is important to me "In order to lead you have to serve" To me this means serving people no matter what the situation is; this can include helping people in need and people less fortunate than me, feeding the hungry, teaching someone values, and always remembering we are all the same no matter what our disability is. As a leader in my church I serve on Sundays as a teacher's aide in middle and sometimes elementary classes. Serving makes me a better and stronger leader because I understand people's needs.

Being a leader does not mean you stop learning, it means you continue to learn something everyday that you can live out through your life and hopefully influence others.

Lizzie Barrows is a Leader from "The Florida Youth Council", a group of youth (age 13-17) and emerging leaders (age 18-30) with disabilities or special health care needs that live in Florida. The FYC is all about getting youth and emerging leaders involved in self-advocacy, peer mentoring and other activities that will improve the quality of life for youth and emerging leaders with disabilities in Florida. The program empowers youth and emerging leaders to decide what issues are important to their generation, to express those issues in their state and local communities, and to develop strategies to solve them.