

# Family Support

INFORMATION AND REFERRALS



## FAMILY SUPPORT NEWS

FALL 2008

### IMAGINE! TO HOST PROVIDER FAIR AND INFORMATION SESSION FEBRUARY 24

On Tuesday, February 24, 2009, Imagine! will be hosting a Provider Fair and Information Session that will bring service providers and families together for an opportunity to share information about service options available to families. The event will take place from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM at Imagine!'s John M. Taylor Conference Center, 1665 Coal Creek Drive in Lafayette.

Imagine! is committed to ensuring that all of the people it serves have access to the information they need to make informed choices based on their needs, goals, and desires. This fair will provide a forum for families to meet one on one with various providers and discover the provider or providers best suited for their particular situation.

In addition to meeting with providers, several breakout information sessions will be available to families to learn more about selected topics including:

- **Transitioning from Early Childhood Services Into School**
- **Transitioning from Family Support Into Adulthood**
- **Navigating the World of Social Security, Medicaid, Medicare, and Other Government Benefits**



*More than 50 service providers are expected to take part in Imagine!'s Provider Fair and Information Session on February 24.*

Imagine!'s 2007 Provider Fair and Information Session proved to be extremely valuable for families and providers alike, and feedback was overwhelmingly positive. As one provider told us, "This was one of the most comfortable and beneficial events I have had the opportunity to attend!" Expectations are high for another successful event.

*If you would like more details on Imagine!'s upcoming Provider Fair and Information Session, please contact Jeff Johnson at (303) 457-5656 or [jjohnson@imaginecolorado.org](mailto:jjohnson@imaginecolorado.org).*

## DISCOVERY CLUB OFFERS FUN FOR PEOPLE OF ALL ABILITIES



Easter Seals of Colorado is again teaming up with Imagine! to host the Discovery Club, which will provide a chance for kids ages 6 to 18 with disabilities to explore and learn, while parents get some time to themselves.

The Discovery Club is held on the second Saturday of each month through May, from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM at Boulder Valley Christian Church.

Kids at the Discovery Club will be able to take part in arts and crafts, sports and games, drama and singing, and group activities. Snacks will be provided, but kids will need to bring their own lunches. There will also be a Friday night session on January 30, from 4:00 to 9:00 PM.

Meanwhile, parents will get some time to meet with their friends, be with their spouses, and have the luxury of time for themselves and for other children.

Professionals and trained volunteers will provide care for kids who need help with mobility, eating, and other special needs, and a nurse is on staff at all times. There is a \$25 registration fee, and the fee for each Saturday is \$20 per person per day, or \$15 per person per day for two or more from the same family.

For more information or to make reservations, contact Jenn Barta at (303) 569-2333 x 312 or [jbarta@eastersealscolorado.org](mailto:jbarta@eastersealscolorado.org)

## BVSD TO HOST TRANSITION TO ADULTHOOD RESOURCE FAIR



If you have a child in middle or high school with a disability and want to know what options you have as he or she transitions into adulthood, Boulder Valley School District (BVSD) is hosting an event just for you.

On Tuesday, February 10,

2009, BVSD will host *From Entitlement to Eligibility: Transition to Adulthood Presentation and Resource Fair* from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at the BVSD Education Center, 6500 Arapahoe in Boulder.

At the fair, you will be able to listen to young adults and their parents talk about what works and what doesn't, and gather information on

employment, housing, finances, and more.

Participating organizations include Imagine!, the Association for Community Living (ACL), Employment Team, Pathways, Bridges, SWAP, EXPAND, F.R.I.E.N.D.S. of Broomfield, and many more.

For more information, contact Anna Stewart, BVSD Parent Liaison, at (303) 245-5918 or [Anna.stewart@bvsd.org](mailto:Anna.stewart@bvsd.org)



# EXCEPTIONAL FAMILIES CONNECTOR

*SUPPORTING FAMILIES OF CHILDREN WITH  
SPECIAL NEEDS*

## Exceptional Families Needs You!

### *Help Us Support Others*

Your experience as a parent and your enthusiasm in reaching out to others are all you need to become a member of the Exceptional Families (EF) Advisory Board.

Through the years, EF has prided itself in offering groups and activities according to what parents want, and supporting members in their creative ideas. If you have an idea that you would like to implement to support others, we can help—and you can help strengthen EF at the same time. In the past, this has included Mom's Nights Out, New Parent Welcome Night, Infant/Toddler Playgroup, NICU Support Group, Parent to Parent Matching, and EF's Holiday Party. We have parents who have helped us with outreach and parents who write articles for our quarterly newsletter. Please join us at our board meetings and share your ideas and talents. Everyone is welcome.

We also need these specific roles:

### **Exceptional Families Coordinator**

Receives a monthly stipend.

The Coordinator is a person whose primary function is to organize, coordinate, represent, and oversee the Exceptional Families organization.

### **Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) Liaison with Local Hospitals**

Receives a monthly stipend.

**Join us! Call Kim at (303) 775-0493 or email:  
[exceptionalfamilies@yahoo.com](mailto:exceptionalfamilies@yahoo.com)**



# EXCEPTIONAL FAMILIES CONNECTOR



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Mom's Night Out

January 22nd, 7:00 PM at Mimi's Cafe, 100 E. Flatiron Crossing Drive, Broomfield, CO 80021. Appetizers and non-alcoholic drinks will be provided. Meet other mothers who have similar challenges with raising kids with special needs. Please call Emmy Conroy at (303) 641-6230 to let her know you are coming.



### AD/HD Support Group for Parents

Back for a second year, this informative and supportive group is co-facilitated by Boulder Valley School District (BVSD) school psychologist Dani Rudkin, PsyD, with expertise in AD/HD, and Anna Stewart from the BVSD's Parent Professional Partnership office.

You are welcome to come to one or all sessions, which are held Mondays from 6:00 to 8:00 PM in the Black Diamond Conference Room, BVSD Education Center, 6500 Arapahoe in Boulder. Sessions are scheduled for January 26, March 16, April 20, and May 11.

For more information contact Anna Stewart, BVSD Parent Liaison at (303) 245-5918 or [Anna.stewart@bvsd.org](mailto:Anna.stewart@bvsd.org)



### 4th Annual Splitz Bowling Party

**When:** Saturday, March 7, 2009

10:00 AM to 12:00 PM (please arrive by 10:00 AM)

**Where:** Splitz Bowling Center

10685 Westminster Blvd., Westminster, CO

**Please RSVP** with name, phone number, and shoe size for all attendees to:

[exceptionalfamilies@yahoo.com](mailto:exceptionalfamilies@yahoo.com)

**EF Voicemail:** (303) 441-1555 X 92243

**Bowling, Pizza and Drinks are Completely Free!**

(GFCF food will be available)

**WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!**

## COLORADO LIFE TRAK AIDS RESCUE OF MISSING OR LOST CONSUMERS

The Boulder County Sheriff's Office is sponsoring Colorado Life Trak, a radio transmission system designed to assist law enforcement and rescue agencies in locating lost or missing persons with autism, Down syndrome, Alzheimer's, or other disorders that may prohibit them from communicating personal information such as where

they live or who they are. *This program is designed for children and adults who have the tendency to wander from their homes and who may get lost.*

If a participant becomes lost or missing, the Sheriff's Office and emergency response services can "hone in" on the signal from the personal transmitter, vastly improving the likelihood of

a successful resolution of the search. Colorado Life Trak reports an average recovery time of less than 30 minutes.

Family members or caregivers interested in Colorado Life Trak may contact the Boulder County Sheriff's Office to begin the application process. Visit [www.bouldersheriff.org](http://www.bouldersheriff.org) for more information.



*Colorado Life Trak provides a personal transmitter for people who may wander or get lost.*

## IMAGINE!'S JAN RASMUSSEN JOINS COLORADO AUTISM COMMISSION

This past summer, Colorado Governor Bill Ritter announced the formation of Colorado's Autism Commission. The Commission was created to examine gaps in services and devise a 10-year strategy to serve people with autism spectrum disorders, their caretakers, and their families.

Imagine!'s Family Services Director Jan Rasmussen was named as one of the commissioners, ensuring that individuals on the autism spectrum and their families living in Boulder

and Broomfield counties will be well represented.

The Commission has three committees compiling information that will be utilized to formulate the ten-year strategic plan. The three Committees will examine these questions: where are we now and why it's not sufficient; what other states are doing; and what do we deliver in the end and how do we get there.

Over the next several months the Colorado Autism Commission will be holding public hearings

across the state for the purpose of informing the work of the Commission; eliciting stories of how Colorado's service system has impacted the lives and wellbeing of persons with autism and their families, especially what works and what needs improvement; and promoting the work of the Autism Commission. The first hearing was held in Denver December 10, look for a public hearing in Boulder soon.

For more information on how you can participate in the public hearings, visit:

<http://www.coloradoautismcommission.org/>

**IMAGINE!'S JAN RASMUSSEN WAS NAMED AS ONE OF THE COMMISSIONERS, ENSURING THAT INDIVIDUALS ON THE AUTISM SPECTRUM AND THEIR FAMILIES LIVING IN BOULDER AND BROOMFIELD COUNTIES WILL BE WELL REPRESENTED.**

## NEW FAMILIES MOST IN NEED SURVEY DESIGNED TO BETTER MEET FAMILIES' NEEDS

**THE SURVEY  
OFFERS AN  
OPPORTUNITY TO  
GATHER  
VALUABLE  
INFORMATION  
THAT IMAGINE!  
CAN USE TO  
SUPPORT  
FAMILIES AND  
HELP THEM WITH  
RESOURCES.**

Imagine!'s Family Support team is constantly striving to find better ways to meet the needs of the families it serves. This is why when Imagine! set out to redesign its Families Most in Need (FMIN) survey, it made several changes aimed at improving information gathering and creating better services in response to that information.

The state of Colorado mandates that a FMIN

survey is completed by all families seeking family support grants. The new survey, which will be available in the near future, also offers an opportunity to gather valuable information that Imagine! can use to support families and help them with resources.

Imagine!'s Family Support team will use the data from the survey to increase accountability and ensure families and children with

the most needs don't fall through the cracks. Imagine! is working closely with the State and with our Family Support Council to ensure the survey is understandable and family friendly.

In order to be considered for a grant in the future, families must fill out the survey completely. For more information, contact Gail Scott at [gscott@imaginecolorado.org](mailto:gscott@imaginecolorado.org) or (303) 604-5420.

## COLORADO DS/ASD DUAL DIAGNOSIS EDUCATION AND SUPPORT INITIATIVE KICK OFF SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 28

A group, temporarily named the Colorado Down Syndrome/Autism Spectrum Disorder (DS/ASD) Dual Diagnosis Education and Support Initiative, is being created to reach out to parents, caregivers, and professionals who have a child or adult in their lives (or professional practice) with DS/ASD, and/or complex, concerning, or confusing behaviors.

The three organizations collaborating on this much-needed initiative are the Autism Society of Colorado, the Denver Adult Down Syndrome Clinic, and Mile High Down Syndrome Association. Others already lending their enthusiastic support include dynamic experts in the field from the National Down Syndrome Congress, the

Children's Hospital, and JFK Partners.

Initial plans are being made to offer a "Kick Off" educational and planning event, so mark your calendar now for **Wednesday, January 28, 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM.**

For more information, contact Robin Zaborek at [robinz@mhdsa.org](mailto:robinz@mhdsa.org) or (303) 756-9979.



# FAMILY SUPPORT STAFF UPDATE

Family Support has hired Kaite Haaland as their newest Family Support Coordinator. Kaite has worked for more than ten years in human services, including working with children and adults with developmental disabilities and brain injuries.

Some of Kaite's specific roles will include assessing children for Medicaid Waiver waitlists including C-HCBS, CES, and Children's Autism Waiver. Additionally she will manage the case load for the Autism Waiver.

Below is a list of all Family Support staff members and their contact information.

## Jan Rasmussen

[janr@imaginecolorado.org](mailto:janr@imaginecolorado.org) or (303) 926-6439

*Family Services Director*

## Sandy Crowell

[scrowell@imaginecolorado.org](mailto:scrowell@imaginecolorado.org) or (720) 274-2248

*Family Support Program Manager*

## Kaite Haaland

[khaaland@imaginecolorado.org](mailto:khaaland@imaginecolorado.org) or (303) 457-5672

*Family Support Coordinator*

*Intake for Children's Medicaid Waiver waitlists*

*Case Management for Children's Autism Waiver*

## Jeff Johnson

[jjohnson@imaginecolorado.org](mailto:jjohnson@imaginecolorado.org) or (303) 457-5656

*Family Support Coordinator*

*Autism Specialist*

*ASD & CES Community Connector*

*Medicaid Specialist*

## Alissa Karges

[akarges@imaginecolorado.org](mailto:akarges@imaginecolorado.org) or (303) 457-5641

*Family Support Navigator (Bilingual Spanish & English)*

*Resources, referrals, and information*

*Great starting point for your questions*

## Gail Scott

[gscott@imaginecolorado.org](mailto:gscott@imaginecolorado.org) or (303) 604-5420

*Data Specialist*

*Grant questions*

*Other FSSP paperwork questions*

## Mikii Schoech

[mschoech@imaginecolorado.org](mailto:mschoech@imaginecolorado.org) or (303) 926-6475

*TBI Care Coordinator*

*TBI Trust Fund for Children*

*Eligibility for children 3-14*

## Cari Timm

[ctimm@imaginecolorado.org](mailto:ctimm@imaginecolorado.org) or (303) 457-5659

*HCBS Coordinator*

*Case management for Children's HCBS Waiver*

## Lucy Williams

[llwilliams@imaginecolorado.org](mailto:llwilliams@imaginecolorado.org) or (303) 926-6444

*ASD Coordinator*

*ASD program*

### Family Support News

is the newsletter of Imagine!'s

Family Support Department

1400 Dixon Street

Lafayette, CO 80026-2790

Phone: (303) 665-7789

Fax: (303) 665-2648

[www.imaginecolorado.org](http://www.imaginecolorado.org)

Jan Rasmussen, Family Services Director

**THE MISSION OF IMAGINE! IS TO CREATE AND OFFER INNOVATIVE SUPPORTS TO PEOPLE OF ALL AGES WITH COGNITIVE, DEVELOPMENTAL, PHYSICAL, AND HEALTH RELATED NEEDS SO THEY MAY LIVE FULFILLING LIVES OF INDEPENDENCE AND QUALITY IN THEIR HOMES AND COMMUNITIES.**

**Imagine!**  
1400 Dixon Street  
Lafayette, CO 80026-2790

**CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED**

Family Support Staff  
Update.

**Inside on Page 7.**

NONPROFIT ORG.

U.S. POSTAGE

**PAID**  
BOULDER, CO  
PERMIT NO. 926

Watch me  
achieve.



# Family Support

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BELIEVING IN THE POTENTIAL OF ALL  
**Imagine!**  
*Innovative Resources For Cognitive and Physical Challenges*

[www.imaginecolorado.org](http://www.imaginecolorado.org)