

Family Support

INFORMATION AND REFERRALS



FAMILY SUPPORT NEWS

WINTER 2008

MARCH IS TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY AWARENESS MONTH

March of 2008 has been designated as National Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Awareness Month. The designation was created to help the public learn more about brain injury and to improve the lives of those individuals living with brain injury, as well as their family and caregivers.

Traumatic brain injuries contribute to a substantial number of deaths and permanent disabilities each year. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control estimates that at least 5.3 million Americans—about 2% of the U.S. population—currently have a long-term or lifelong need for help to perform daily living activities due to TBI. Each year in this country, at least 1.4 million persons sustain a TBI. Lifetime costs of TBI totaled \$60 billion in 2000—including direct medical care costs and indirect costs such as lost productivity.

The Colorado Department of Health contracts with Imagine! to provide care coordination for the Children's Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Trust Fund for children ages birth to 21.

For a period of 12 months, families will receive care coordination services that will help them direct funds and determine what services will be most effective for their family member. The TBI Trust Fund gives families access to \$2,000 to use in approved services essential to the treatment of the TBI.

If you think your family member or someone you know may be eligible for this program, you can apply at the Brain Injury Association of Colorado's website: www.biaincolorado.org.

**The Exceptional Families
Bowling Party is Feb. 23.
Details on page 4!**

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FAMILY SERVICES TO DEBUT NEW WEBSITE



As any family who has a child with a developmental delay or disability can tell you, navigating the human services system can be extremely frustrating. Imagine!'s Family Services department, which includes the Family support team, is constantly

striving to develop new and innovative ways to assist families and eliminate some of that frustration.

That is why we will be debuting our new, user-friendly website on March 1.

The site has new and updated content and features and is easy to navigate. Additionally, you can access the site without going through Imagine!'s main website, a nice feature for those who are already using Imagine!'s Family

Services and don't need to navigate through the Imagine! site.

Contact information is available on every page of the new site, so please don't hesitate to contact a member of the Family Support team if you have any questions or concerns about the new site.

Look for more details, including the URL, soon.

DISCOVERY CLUB OFFERS FUN FOR PEOPLE OF ALL ABILITIES

Easter Seals of Colorado has created a new program called The Discovery Club, which will provide a chance for kids with disabilities to explore and learn, while parents get some time to themselves.

The Discovery Club will be 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.

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 Nancy Hanson at (303) 233-1666, x 237 or nhanson@eastersealscolorado.org.





EXCEPTIONAL FAMILIES CONNECTOR

*SUPPORTING FAMILIES OF CHILDREN WITH
SPECIAL NEEDS*

HAPPY NEW YEAR, EXCEPTIONAL FAMILIES!



As we greet 2008, we are so thankful for such a wonderful 2007! If you were able to attend our bowling party, summer picnic, or fall festival you saw more than 100 people smiling, laughing, and having fun together (not to mention the fabulous food at the summer picnic). We plan to host the same three events again this year, as well as our regular support groups. The wonderful thing about our organization is that we are always trying to evolve to meet the needs of our parents. If you have a need that we are not meeting, please let us know. We want to be there for you!



In order to make sure we are meeting the needs of our parents, we are looking for new board members to come and share their ideas about the needs of our families and possibly move into some leadership roles. If you are interested in joining us for any of our events or have any questions about our support services, don't hesitate to contact us at exceptionalfamilies@yahoo.com or (303) 441-1555, X92243.

The Exceptional Families Website is Here!

Check out www.ExceptionalFamilies.org



EF Monthly Events:

- Board Meeting first Tuesday of every month
- NICU Support Group -
 - ◊ Boulder Community Hospital
 - ◊ Longmont United Hospital (seeking leader)
 - ◊ Exempla Hospital (seeking leader)
- Spanish Speaking Families Support Group meets first Friday of every month
- GFCF Support Group



EXCEPTIONAL FAMILIES CONNECTOR



Pizza and
soda will be
served!



GFCF food will
also be
available!

**Exceptional Families
3rd Annual Bowling Party
Saturday, February 23
10 AM – 1 PM
Splitz Bowling Center
*10685 Westminster Boulevard, Broomfield***

Please RSVP with name, phone number, and family shoe sizes to:

EXCEPTIONALFAMILIES@YAHOO.COM

(303) 441-1555 X 92243

Goal: Parents with children who have special needs in Boulder and Broomfield counties will have access to a network of parents and resources that will provide support by sharing personal experiences and information.

www.ExceptionalFamilies.org

YOU ARE INVITED TO TAKE PART IN AN AUTISM STUDY

Do you know a child who may be eligible to participate in an autism clinical research trial?

Childrens Hospital is conducting a clinical research study here in our community to evaluate an investigational medication for Autism Spectrum Disorder. The study will evaluate whether the investigational medication

is more effective than a placebo in reducing serious behavioral problems associated with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Eligible participants will be children and adolescents between the ages of six and 17 who have been diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder with tantrums, aggression, self-injuring

behavior, or a combination of these issues. If you would like more information, including the full eligibility criteria, please contact Lisa Anderson at (720) 777-4162.

Qualified participants receive free study-related medical care and comprehensive evaluations, as well as careful monitoring throughout the study period.

**CHILDRENS
HOSPITAL IS
CONDUCTING A
RESEARCH STUDY
TO EVALUATE AN
INVESTIGATIONAL
MEDICATION FOR
AUTISM.**

APPLICATIONS FOR FAMILY SUPPORT LOANS DUE MARCH 1

The Family Support Loan Fund is a low interest loan available through the State of Colorado Division for Developmental Disabilities. This loan is to provide access to short-term low interest rate loans in order to obtain family support services, which help to maintain a dependent family member with a developmental disability in the home. Items this loan may NOT cover are regular everyday costs that are necessary for supporting any typical family.

Applications must be returned to Imagine! for eligibility verification by March 1, 2008.

Imagine! will forward applications to the State of Colorado Division for Developmental Disabilities.

Maximum loan amount:
\$8,000.00

Maximum repayment time:
60 months (5 years)

Interest rate for 2007-2008:
4.7%

As in previous years, there is no prioritization or preference given to applications based upon date received. All applications received are shuffled together and randomly assigned numbers. Loan applications will be processed and credit checks completed. All

applicants will receive written notification of their approval or non-approval from the Division for Developmental Disabilities by the end of March.

The State cannot fund all of the applications for loans that are received due to limited money available.

To Request a Loan Application and Brochure:

Please call Gail at (303) 604-5420 or email at gscott@imaginecolorado.org.



LOOK FOR “RESULTS MATTER FAMILY OUTCOMES SURVEY” IN YOUR MAILBOX SOON



The Colorado Division for Developmental Disabilities' Early Childhood Connections (ECC) program and the Colorado Department of Education are planning the annual distribution of the "Results Matter Family Outcomes Survey" to families receiving early intervention services for early spring.

Imagine! strongly encourages you to help ECC serve you better by completing and returning these surveys. The surveys are designed to let ECC know how well the early intervention system helps families know their rights, communicate their children's strengths and needs, and help children develop and learn.

This knowledge will help ECC determine the types of supports that are available or not available to families in communities across the state, such as medical supports, child care supports, and other family supports. The results will be used to report on how well the dollars are being spent and to develop new strategies for services.

COORDINATING COUNCIL PROVIDES GUIDANCE FOR IMAGINE!'S EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM

**IMAGINE!'S
FAMILY SUPPORT
DEPARTMENT
WOULD LIKE TO
INVITE FAMILIES
TO ATTEND OUR
LOCAL
INTERAGENCY
COORDINATING
COUNCIL
MEETINGS.**

Imagine!'s Family Support Department would like to invite families to attend our Local Interagency Coordinating Council meetings. The purpose of the council is to provide guidance and advice for Imagine's!

Early Intervention program. We would like to encourage Imagine! families with young children (ages 0 to 3) to attend.

We meet every other month for two hours on a Thursday

from 1:30-3:30 PM. Our next meeting will be April 24.

If you are interested in attending, please contact Joan Holtz at (303) 457-5650 or jholtz@imaginecolorado.org.

IMAGINE! OFFERS FREE BEHAVIORAL SEMINAR

**THIS
INTRODUCTORY
SEMINAR USES
NON-TECHNICAL
LANGUAGE TO
HELP EDUCATE
THE GENERAL
POPULATION
ABOUT POSITIVE
BEHAVIORAL
APPROACHES.**

In the next few months, Imagine! will be offering a free seminar entitled "Building Cooperative Behavior" designed to describe the principles of behavior, the pitfalls and dangers of using coercive tactics, and eight procedures useful in building cooperative

relationships.

This introductory seminar uses non-technical language to help educate the general population about positive behavioral approaches. The one-time seminars are scheduled for Tuesday, February 26, Wednesday, March 19, and Wednesday,

April 16, from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM at Imagine!'s Dixon Street building.

To RSVP, call Jeff Kupfer at (303) 604-5434. Contact Dr. Kupfer about additional seminars on topics including replacement behavior training and analysis of functional relations.

IMAGINE!'S HOLIDAY GIFT PROGRAM BRIGHTENS THE HOLIDAYS FOR CONSUMERS AND FAMILIES

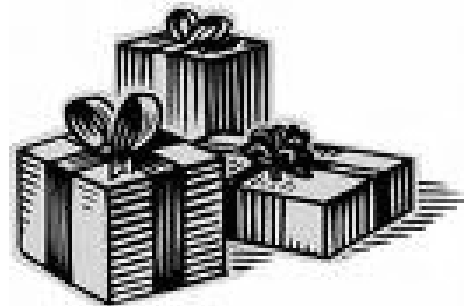
277 Imagine! consumers and 148 family members received an extra dose of holiday cheer this past holiday from gifts of toys, food, and clothes, thanks to the efforts of so many during Imagine!'s Holiday Gift Program.

Gift donations were provided by:

- **Imagine! Employees**
- **Imagine! Foundation Board of Directors**
- **Imagine! Board of Directors**
- **Imagine! Family Support Council**
- **Stephen and Shari Tebo's Collection From Their Holiday Party**
- **Flatirons Practice Management**
- **Nativity of Our Lord, Broomfield**
- **Broomfield FISH**
- **Sister Carmen Center**
- **St. Vrain Holiday Basket Program**
- **Tri-City Elks**
- **Bal-Swan Children's Center**
- **Many Anonymous Donors**
- **Weslyn Austin of Association for Community Living**
- **Seagate Technologies**
- **Boulder Valley Christian Church**

In addition to the donations listed above, the hard working gift giving team registered even more

consumers in other gift programs in the area, including 96 consumers and family members with the St. Vrain Holiday Basket program, 21 consumers and siblings with the Sister Carmen Center Holiday Program, and 50 consumers and siblings with Broomfield FISH. These programs also furnished gifts and food baskets.



Susan Gabriel, who provided her guidance and considerable expertise for this year's program, asked us to thank Gail Scott, Cheryl Sabo, and ALL the people who helped in any way with the Holiday Gift Program this year. Well, Susan, we want to thank *you* for a job well done!

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

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

**Imagine! Offers
Free Behavioral
Training**

Read More Inside.

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