



*Goodbye Summer,
Hello Fall!*



Does Your Child Have
Special Health Care Needs?

Do you care for
someone with a disability?

Need help with the
school system?

We're here to help!

- Early Intervention
- Education Issues
- Health Concerns
- Home & Community-Based Supports and Services
- Resources
- And Much More!

*Talk with someone
who gets it...*

Families Helping Families
of Acadiana

100 Benman Road
Lafayette, LA 70506

Toll Free: (855) 984-3458

Fax: (337) 984-3468

www.fhfacadiana.org



PARISHES WE SERVE

Acadia - Evangeline - Iberia - Lafayette - St. Landry - St. Martin - Vermilion

Throughout history, families have been turning to other families that have dealt with similar struggles and it is within our nature to do so. Families Helping Families has been developed to aid families in the search for the support, information, and resources that can help them.

A very powerful bond and commitment exists between families who share like circumstances and travel a similar path.

An informed, educated, and supported family raises a strong, nourished, and capable child with a bright and successful future.

We believe access to this kind of support and resources should be available to everyone who needs it and Families Helping Families is here to help.

[Website](#)

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday
8:00 am - 4:00 pm
Friday
8:00 am - 12:00 pm

Contact Information

100 Benman Road
Lafayette, La. 70506
Phone: 337-984-3458
Fax: 337-984-3468
Email:
info@fhfacadiana.org

WORDS FROM THE DIRECTOR



As we slowly exit the heat of summer and see the first signs of fall, we at Families Helping Families of Acadiana wish everyone a wonderful Autumn. We know how challenging the first few weeks of school can be, and want to remind our families that we are here to help. Please take a look at our recent and upcoming events, and the information provided by our community partners. All of us at FHF Acadiana are here to support you and your family, and I encourage you to reach out to us with any questions or concerns, and let us know how we can help with any disability-related issues. Thank you for being the "Families" in Families Helping Families of Acadiana.

Nicole Flores
Executive Director

2023 CALENDAR OF DISABILITY-RELATED DATES

September, 2023

- Thursday, September 21, 2023
- **World Alzheimer's Day**
- Saturday, September 23, 2023
- **Falls Prevention Awareness Day**

October, 2023

- Sunday, October 01, 2023
- **Down Syndrome Awareness Month - (U.S.)**
- Sunday, October 01, 2023
- **Dwarfism Awareness Month**
- Sunday, October 01, 2023
- **Spina Bifida Awareness Month**
- Sunday, October 01, 2023
- **Selective Mutism Awareness Month**
- Monday, October 02, 2023
- **World Cerebral Palsy Day**
- Wednesday, October 25, 2023
- **Spina Bifida Awareness Day**

November, 2023

- Wednesday, November 01, 2023
- **Alzheimer's Awareness Month :**
- Wednesday, November 01, 2023
- **Epilepsy Awareness Month**

December, 2023

- Sunday, December 03, 2023
- **International Day of Persons with Disabilities**



UPCOMING EVENTS!

SEPTEMBER 2023

LIVE WEBINAR

EARLY STEPS FAMILY ORIENTATION

August 11th | September 15th
10 AM



Gain knowledge of Louisiana's Part C program &
Learn what to expect for your child and family!

Contact: Kristie Curtis, COS Region 4

kcurtis@fhfacadiana.org

(337)984-3458



EarlySteps Family Orientation September 15, 2023

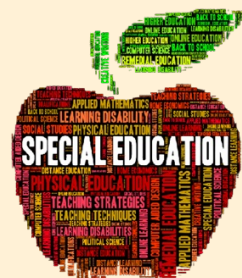
Register

October 2023



Special Education FAQs 3.0 Oct 2, 2023

Register



Special Education Dispute Resolution Options Oct 16, 2023

Register

Parental Rights in Special Education

Parent Rights in Special Education
Oct 30, 2023

[Register](#)

November 2023



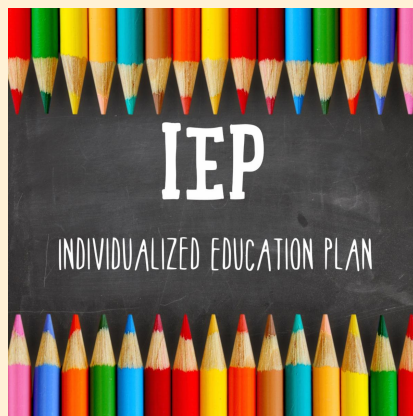
Louisiana's Bullying Law
Nov 6, 2023

[Register](#)



Navigating the IEP - Part 1
Nov 13, 2023

[Register](#)



Navigating the IEP - Part 2
Nov 27, 2023

[Register](#)



If there is a topic that you would like to know more about, please email us with your requests.

[Submit Requests](#)



[Join LaCAN](#)

LaCAN (Louisiana Council's Advocacy Network) furthers the Council's mission by advocating for policies and systems that support inclusion everywhere people

learn, work, live, and play.

LaCAN advocates for service systems that support children and adults with disabilities to live in their own homes and be fully-included and participating members of their local schools and communities.

LaCAN provides information and support to individuals wishing to effectively advocate for systems change in the areas of home and community-based services, education, and employment.

Regional LaCAN teams include individuals with disabilities, their family members, and professionals. These members are notified by email or phone when communication with state agency officials, legislators or the Governor is necessary.

Guiding Principles

- Children, regardless of the severity of their disability, need families and enduring relationships with adults in a nurturing home environment to develop to their fullest potential.
- Adults with developmental disabilities should be afforded the opportunity to make decisions for themselves, live in typical homes and communities, and exercise their full rights and responsibilities as citizens.
- People with developmental disabilities, regardless of the severity of their disability, should have the opportunity and support needed to gain and maintain competitive, integrated, individualized employment.
- All students, with or without disabilities, should be provided the same opportunities to be educated in neighborhood schools as their sisters, brothers, friends, and neighbors.
- All students, with or without disabilities, should be provided with the support to learn together effectively, involving family, school, and community.

Benefits to Membership

You can help improve the systems that serve individuals with developmental disabilities by joining the LaCAN and participating in its advocacy efforts.

There are no dues or fees to join and your activity level is up to you.

Here are just a few of the benefits to joining LaCAN:

- CONNECTION – become a part of a regional team of advocates
- INFORMATION – receive current information on proposed policy changes and how those changes may affect you and others
- TRAINING – learn skills to effectively advocate for systems change
- SUPPORT – receive assistance from a regional LaCAN Leader who will link you with your policymakers and support your advocacy efforts
-

Linking lawmakers, individuals with disabilities, and family members to make positive change in systems serving people with disabilities.



The [Parish Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness](#) (Parish OHSEP), [American Red Cross](#) and select [United Way](#) offices have copies of the Louisiana Emergency Preparedness Guides, available for distribution. The guides were developed by the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) and are intended for the Greater New Orleans, Lafayette & Lake Charles citizens who will use the maps and contra-flow routes to evacuate when disasters threaten the coastal areas.

Each American Red Cross and United Way chapter has specific locations they work with for distribution.

Louisiana Emergency Preparedness Guides



ADVOCACY SPOTLIGHT

We are spotlighting those who embody our mission to assist and strengthen individuals with disabilities and their families each and every day.



St. Landry Abilities

THANK YOU!

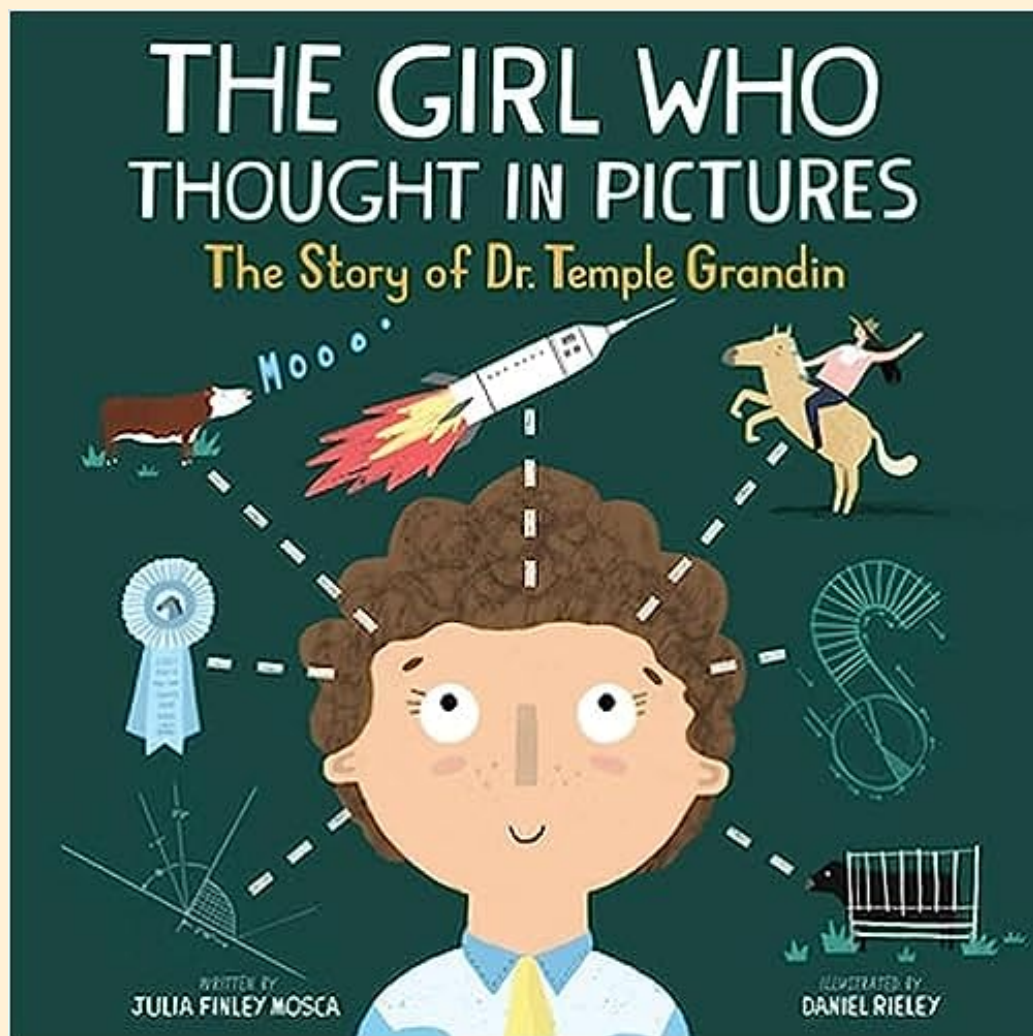


Our staff would like to thank Pizza Hut - Scott location for their generous donation of pizza. Very much appreciated and as always, delicious.



Thank you to Half Shell Oyster House for providing the meal for our LaCAN Community Meeting. Everything was amazing.

LET'S READ TOGETHER



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

October

Susie Dupont

Danielle Ledet

November

Todd Fontenot

Kristie Curtis



Thank you for your hard work and dedication.

**Month of
September**

Nicole Flores

Danielle Ledet

**Month of
November**

Harlon Cowsar, II

Susie Dupont

OFFICE CLOSURES

VETERANS DAY



— Honoring All Who Served —



November 10, 2023



November 23, 2023 - November 24, 2023

PARENT SUPPORT



NEED SOMEONE TO TALK TO?

Every family is different, that is why we offer one-on-one individualized parent support.

These sessions can be held in person, phone or virtually.

Families Helping Families of Acadiana provides a comfortable, nonjudgmental and confidential environment that will allow you to be at ease when confiding with us.

WE'RE HERE TO LISTEN!

Please call our office to schedule an appointment.

Call Us!



GROUP

We provide a holistic, all inclusive support group setting for our families. Multiple topics are discussed and everyone feels a sense of belonging.

All are welcome.

Please continue to check our website and/or all our social media platforms for scheduled dates.

Visit our Website

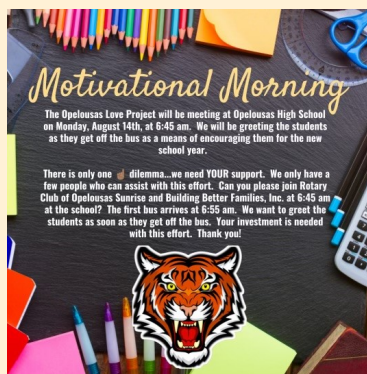


If you are interested in finding out more information about Families Helping Families of Acadiana and the services we provide, please call our office and we will be more than happy to schedule an in person/virtual meeting or call with you!

We are striving to educate EVERYONE in the community about the services we offer, as well as express the importance of inclusion and empowering individuals with disabilities.

IN THE COMMUNITY









Region 4

COMMUNITY

INPUT MEETINGS

AUGUST
2:00-4:00 PM

Families Helping
Families
Of Acadiana
100 Benman Rd

Registration Required

For more information contact Kristie Curtis, LaCAN Leader
Region 4, kurtis@lacanandcoates.org
Office (337) 984-3456, Cell (337) 495-3110

Louisiana Developmental
Disabilities Council

Families
Helping
Families
Of Acadiana

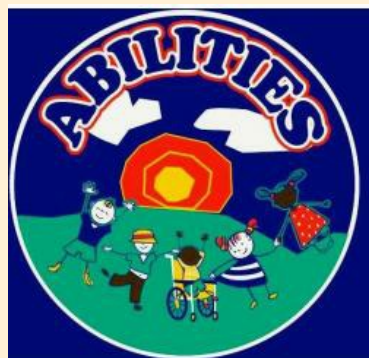
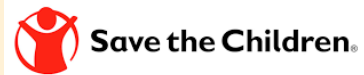
LaCAN







COMMUNITY PARTNERS





PROGRAMS THAT ARE SUPPORTED THROUGH OUR CENTER



F2FHIC

Goodbye
SUMMER
hello
AUTUMN

Meet Our Team
LEARN ABOUT OUR STAFF



Nicole Flores
Executive Director



Annette Fruge'

Director of Family and Community Support
Information & Referral Specialist
Community Resource Specialist
Peer Support Specialist



Todd Fontenot

Financial Manager
Information & Referral Specialist



Nicole Dejean

Special Projects



Kristie Curtis

EarlySteps COS
LaCAN Leader



Danielle Ledet

Education Liaison
Information & Referral Specialist



Brenda Barres

Education Liaison



Susie Dupont

Accounts Manager



Lillian DeJean

Louisiana Youth Leadership
Forum Coordinator



Harlon Cowsar, II

Adult Program Coordinator
Referral Specialist



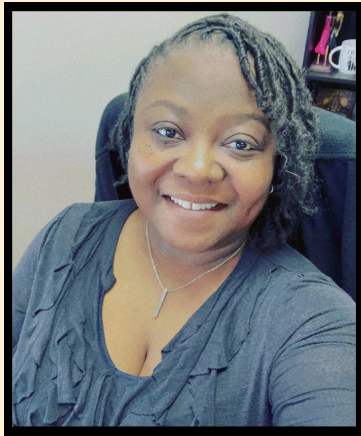
AnnMarie Bihm

Intern

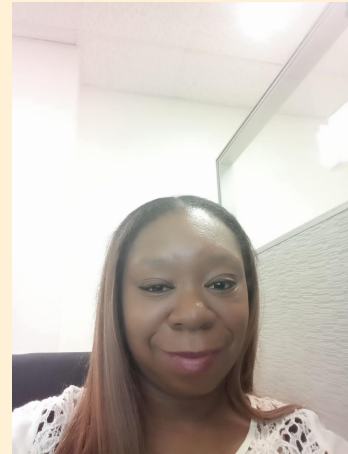
MEET OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Terrell Bergeron
Chair



Kisha Levy
Vice-Chair



Jessica Leday
Secretary



Rebecca Fruge'
Treasurer



Micah Moscovis
Member



Angie LaBorde
Member



Trina Stelly
Member



Alvada Willis
Member



Cherelly L. Williams
Member

*Photo
Coming
Soon!*

Ashley LaBorde
Member



Stacey Lopez
Member

MAKE A DIFFERENCE



The Families Helping Families Network



Please see below to find the FHF Center located in your area of the state.

The Families Helping Families Networks are individual, non-profit, family-driven resource centers.

They are a group of families, who, through their own experiences, promote advocacy and are committed to reaching other families who have members with disabilities.

The term "disability" includes physical, mental, emotional, behavioral, and/or academic needs.

The FHF Centers are directed and staffed by parents, self-advocates, or family members of individuals with disabilities. The Centers provide education and trainings, peer support, and information and referrals as part of their free services.

**Families Helping Families of
Southeast Louisiana, Inc.**
**Region 1 - serving Orleans,
Plaquemines, St. Bernard**
**2401 Westbend Parkway, Suite
3090**
New Orleans, LA 70114
504-943-0343 or 1-877-243-7352
504-940-3242 Fax
www.fhfsela.org

**Bayou Land Families Helping
Families, Inc.**
**Region 3 - serving Assumption,
Lafourche, St. Charles, St. James,
St. John, St. Mary, Terrebonne**
286 Highway 3185
Thibodaux, LA 70301
985-447-4461 or 1-800-331-5570
985-447-7988 Fax
www.blfhf.org

**Families Helping Families of
Southwest Louisiana, Inc.**
**Region 5 - serving Allen,
Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron,
and Jefferson Davis**
324 West Hale Street
Lake Charles, LA 70601
337-436-2570 or 1-800-894-6558
337-436-2578 Fax
www.fhfswla.org

**Families Helping Families Region
7**
**Region 7 - serving Bienville,
Bossier, Caddo, Claiborne, Desoto,
Lincoln, Red River, Natchitoches,
Sabine, and Webster**
215 Bobbie St., Ste. 100
Bossier City, LA 71112
318-226-4541 or 1-877-226-4541
318-742-7260 Fax
www.fhfregion7.com

**Northshore Families Helping
Families, Inc.**

**Families Helping Families of
Greater Baton Rouge, Inc.**
**Region 2 - serving East and West
Baton Rouge, East and West
Feliciana, Iberville, Pointe Coupee,
and Ascension**
2356 Drusilla Lane
Baton Rouge, LA 70809
225-216-7474 or 1-866-216-7474
225-216-7977 Fax
www.fhfgbr.org

**Families Helping Families of
Acadiana, Inc.**
**Region 4 - serving Acadia,
Evangeline, Iberia, Lafayette, St.
Landry, St. Martin, and Vermilion**
100 Benman Road
Lafayette, LA 70506
337-984-3458 or 1-855-984-3458
337-984-3468 Fax
www.fhfacadiana.org

**Families Helping Families at the
Crossroads of La., Inc.**
**Region 6 - serving Avoyelles,
Concordia, Catahoula, Grant,
LaSalle, Rapides, Vernon and
Winn**
2840 Military Hwy., Suite A
Pineville, LA 71360
318-641-7373 or 1-800-259-7200
318-640-4299 Fax
www.familieshelpingfamilies.net

**Families Helping Families of
Northeast Louisiana, Inc.**
**Region 8 - serving parishes of
Caldwell, East Carroll, Franklin,
Jackson, Lincoln, Madison,
Morehouse, Ouachita, Richland,
Tensas, Union, and West Carroll**
5200 Northeast Road
Monroe, LA 71203
318-361-0487 or 1-888-300-1320
318-361-0417 Fax
www.fhfnela.org

**Families Helping Families of
Greater New Orleans (FHF of**

**Region 9 - serving Livingston, St.
Helena, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa,
Washington
108 Highland Park Plaza
Covington, LA 70433
985-875-0511 or 1-800-383-8700
985-875-9979 Fax
www.fhfnorthshore.org**

**GNO)
Region 10 - serving Jefferson
Parish and the State of Louisiana
700 Hickory Ave
Harahan, LA 70123
504-888-9111 or 1-800-766-7736
504-353-2350 Fax
www.fhfofgno.org**



Families Helping Families of Acadiana | 100 Benman Road, Lafayette, LA 70506

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