

FAMILIES HELPING FAMILIES OF ACADIANA



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](#)



SHRUTI DESIGNS EXCLUSIVE



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



Office Hours

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

Contact Information

100 Benman Road
Lafayette, La. 70506

Friday
8:00 am - 12:00 pm

Phone: 337-984-3458
Fax: 337-984-3468
Email:
info@fhfacadiana.org

WORDS FROM THE DIRECTOR



As the vibrant colors of summer surround us, we hope this newsletter finds you and your loved ones in good health and high spirits. It's our pleasure to reach out to our incredible community of families with children with disabilities and share some exciting updates, activities, and resources tailored to make this summer an unforgettable experience for all.

First and foremost, we want to applaud your strength, resilience, and unwavering love. Your dedication to creating a nurturing and inclusive environment for your children is an inspiration to us all. Together, let's celebrate the unique journey you and your loved ones embark upon and make this summer a time filled with joy, growth, and unforgettable memories.

Summer brings an array of opportunities to explore and embrace the great outdoors. From sensory-friendly beach days to nature walks accessible for all, we encourage you to immerse yourselves in the beauty of the season and create precious memories together.

In our commitment to providing ongoing support, look out for our upcoming virtual workshops and webinars where experts will share valuable insights on topics ranging from self-care strategies to educational advocacy. We believe in empowering parents and caregivers with knowledge, ensuring you have the tools to navigate any challenges that may arise.

Lastly, we encourage you to take a moment to celebrate your own achievements and practice self-care during this summer break. Remember, your well-being is just as important as the care you provide. Whether it's enjoying a quiet moment in the sunshine or exploring a new hobby, make time for yourself and recharge your spirit.

As we embark on this summer journey together, let us remember that we are a strong community bound by compassion and understanding. We are here to support one another, celebrate achievements, and share in the joy of watching our children thrive.

Wishing you a summer filled with warmth, laughter, and unforgettable experiences.

Nicole Flores

2023 CALENDAR OF DISABILITY-RELATED DATES

July, 2023

- Sunday, July 16, 2023
- **Disability (ADA) Awareness Day**

September, 2023

- Friday, September 01, 2023
- **Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Month - (U.S.)**
- Friday, September 01, 2023
- **World Alzheimer's Disease Month**
- Monday, September 04, 2023
- **World Cerebral Palsy Day**
- 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!

JULY 2023

Parental Rights in Special Education

July 10, 2023
10:00 AM

Whether you're new to special education or have been involved for a while, this workshop is for you. This presentation provides families with an introduction to their rights and responsibilities as parents of children with special needs under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Parents begin to identify dreams and goals for their children, understand laws and learn advocacy strategies that will help them help their children reach those goals.

[Register](#)

Free Webinar

IEPs and Behavior and Discipline - Oh My!



THE TITLE COVERS IT ALL!



**TUESDAY,
25TH JUL 2023
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM**

Presenters:
Sharon Blackmon, FHF of GNO;
Brenda Bares, FHF of Acadiana

Register:
<https://tinyurl.com/OhMyJuly25>

IEPs and Behavior and Discipline - Oh My!

July 25, 2023

Register

AUGUST 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




What is Early Steps?

Knowledge is power!



Join Our Webinar | **August 16th
10 am**

Join us for a free informational webinar! Learn more about Early Steps: Louisiana's Part C Early Intervention System.

Contact: kourtis@fhfacadiana.org (337) 984-3458




EarlySteps Family Orientation
August 11, 2023

[Register](#)

What is EarlySteps?
August 16, 2023

[Register](#)

SEPTEMBER 2023

**Early Steps:
IFSP 101**



**Join Our
Webinar**

**Sept. 13th
10 am**

Join us for tips on making the most of your child's Individual Family Service Plan.

Contact: kcurtis@fhfacadiana.org (337) 984-3458



EarlySteps: IFSP 101
September 13, 2023

[Register](#)

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](#)



LaCAN Legislative updates:

1. **Recurring Funding for FHF Regional Resource Centers:**
2. HB 1 included an amendment that added the \$500,000. There was a last minute reduction to LDH's budget of \$100 million, however there was

wording in the budget stating that "there shall be no reduction to waiver services or disability services". Senate Health and Welfare will meet on June 20th at 9am to discuss this decrease. The Governor has stated that he may use his veto power to restore all or some of the LDH budget.

3. **Fund New and Existing postsecondary inclusive education programs for students with I/DD:**
4. HB 550 by Rep. Zeringue included \$1 million SGF for postsecondary inclusive education programs. Currently Awaiting the Governors approval.
5. **Amend Open Meetings Law to Allow for Virtual Representation and Participation in Public Meetings:**
6. SB 201 by Senator Hewitt amends Louisiana's Open Meetings Law to allow for remote operations. Currently waiting the governors approval. Once signed into law by the Governor, this will allow individuals and their designated caretakers to participate in disability related meeting remotely.
7. **Education Savings Accounts:** HB 9 and HB 98 are both related to the education savings accounts and school choice. Neither bill made it out of Senate Committee.

LaCAN Member meetings:

LaCAN Legislative Session Wrap-Up
June 27, 2023 at 6pm (virtual)

[Register](#)

LaCAN Community Input Meetings
End of July-Mid August (TBD)

[Join LaCAN](#)



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.



SERVE . COMPASSION . COMMUNITY



List of Camps

LET'S READ TOGETHER

Book Club



June



Brenda Bares

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

July



Nicole DeJean



**Month of
June**

**Annette Fruge'
7 Yrs.**

**Thank you for your
hard work and
dedication.**

OFFICE CLOSURES



July 4, 2023



PARENT

Every family is different, that is why, we offer one-on-one individualized parent support. These sessions can be held in person or virtually.

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

Please call our office to schedule an appointment.

Call Us!

GROUP

We provide an 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



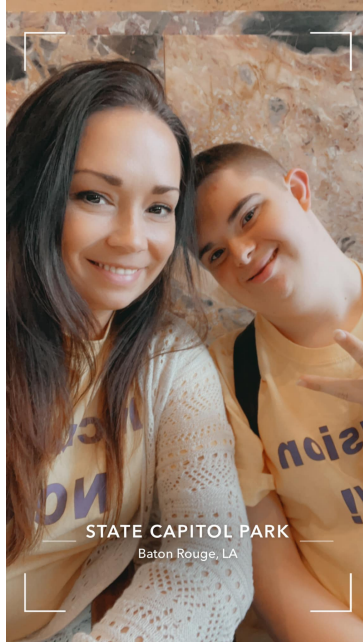
If you are interested in finding out more information about Families Helping Families of Acadiana and the services we provide, please call our office and we will be more than happy to schedule an in person/virtual meeting or call with you!

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







COMMUNITY PARTNERS





Affiliated Blind
of Louisiana
TRAINING CENTER



PROGRAMS THAT ARE SUPPORTED THROUGH OUR CENTER



[Read Article](#)



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



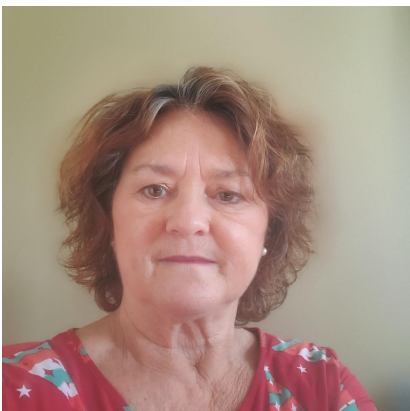
Danielle Ledet

Education Liaison
Information & Referral Specialist



Brenda Barres

Education Liaison



Susie Dupont



Lillian DeJean

Accounts Manager

Louisiana Youth Leadership
Forum Coordinator



Harlon Cowsar, II
Adult Program Coordinator
Referral Specialist



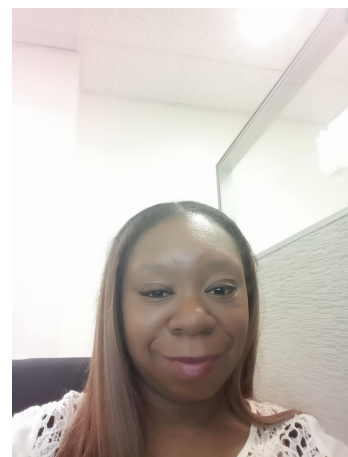
AnnMarie Bihm
Intern

MEET OUR OF BOARD DIRECTORS



*Photo
Coming
Soon!*

Kisha Levy
Vice-Chair



Terrell Bergeron
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



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**

**Families Helping Families of
Greater Baton Rouge, Inc.
Region 2 - serving East and West
Baton Rouge, East and West**

**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.fhfsvla.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.fhfreion7.com**

**Northshore Families Helping
Families, Inc.
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**

**Feliciania, 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
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.fhfofigno.org**



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

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