





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](http://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.

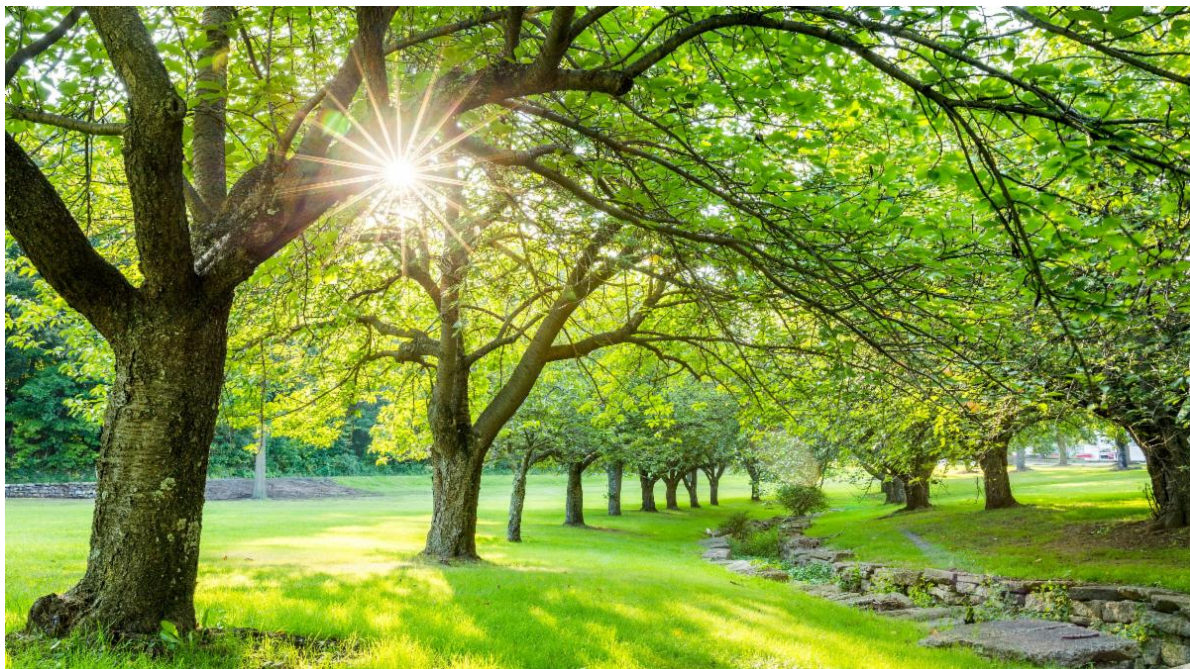
[Website](#)

### 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](mailto:info@fhfacadiana.org)**



**WORDS FROM THE DIRECTOR**

# Happy Summer!

All of us at Families Helping Families of Acadiana are excited to have made it through the turbulent spring season and to move toward the positive summer to come.

Despite the challenges we've faced this spring, the summer warmth reminds us of the boundless possibilities that lie ahead. From our coffee times within the community, education workshops, community input for advocacy efforts and more, we are eager to share the upcoming events we have planned for Region 4 this summer and beyond.



As always, we look forward to continuing to help the Region 4 community and are grateful to join your family in your journey in 2024.

**Nicole Flores**  
Executive Director

## 2024 CALENDAR OF DISABILITY-RELATED DATES

### June

Dravet Syndrome Awareness Month  
Tourette Syndrome Awareness Day  
CDKL5 Awareness Day  
Dravet Syndrome Awareness Day  
National Cleft and Craniofacial Awareness and Prevention Month

### July

National Fragile X Syndrome Awareness Month  
Disability Pride Month  
World Fragile X Syndrome Awareness Day  
American Disability Act (ADA) Day

### September

Deaf Awareness Month  
Muscular Dystrophy Awareness Month  
National Service Dog Month  
Sickle Cell Awareness Month  
Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Month  
Hydrocephalus Awareness Month  
Chiari Malformation Awareness Month  
Craniofacial Acceptance Month



Cortical Visual Impairment (CVI) Awareness Month  
Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Syndrome Awareness Month  
Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy Awareness - World Duchenne Awareness Day  
International Day of Sign Languages

## **October**

Dyslexia Awareness Month  
Down Syndrome Awareness Month  
Dwarfism Awareness Month  
Learning Disabilities Awareness Month  
National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM)  
Spina Bifida Awareness Month  
ADHD Awareness Month  
Dysautonomia Awareness  
Rett Syndrome Awareness Month  
Mental Health Awareness Week  
World Cerebral Palsy Day  
World Mental Health Day  
World Blind Day / World Sight Day  
White Cane Awareness Day  
Invisible Disabilities Week  
World Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus Day

## **November**

Diabetes Awareness Month  
Epilepsy Awareness Month  
22q Awareness Month  
World Diabetes Day  
World Ohtahara Syndrome Awareness Day

## **December**

International Day of People with Disabilities



**UPCOMING EVENTS!**

**JUNE 2024**



## Louisiana's Bullying Law

June 24, 2024

12:00 pm.

[Register](#)

# JULY 2024



## **Top Tips for Effective IEP Meetings**

**July 8, 2024**

**12:00 pm.**

[Register](#)



**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

**Special  
Education FAQ  
1.0**

**July 15, 2024**

**Special  
Education FAQ  
2.0**

**July 22, 2024**

**Special  
Education FAQ  
3.0**

**July 29, 2024**

**12:00 pm.**

[Register](#)

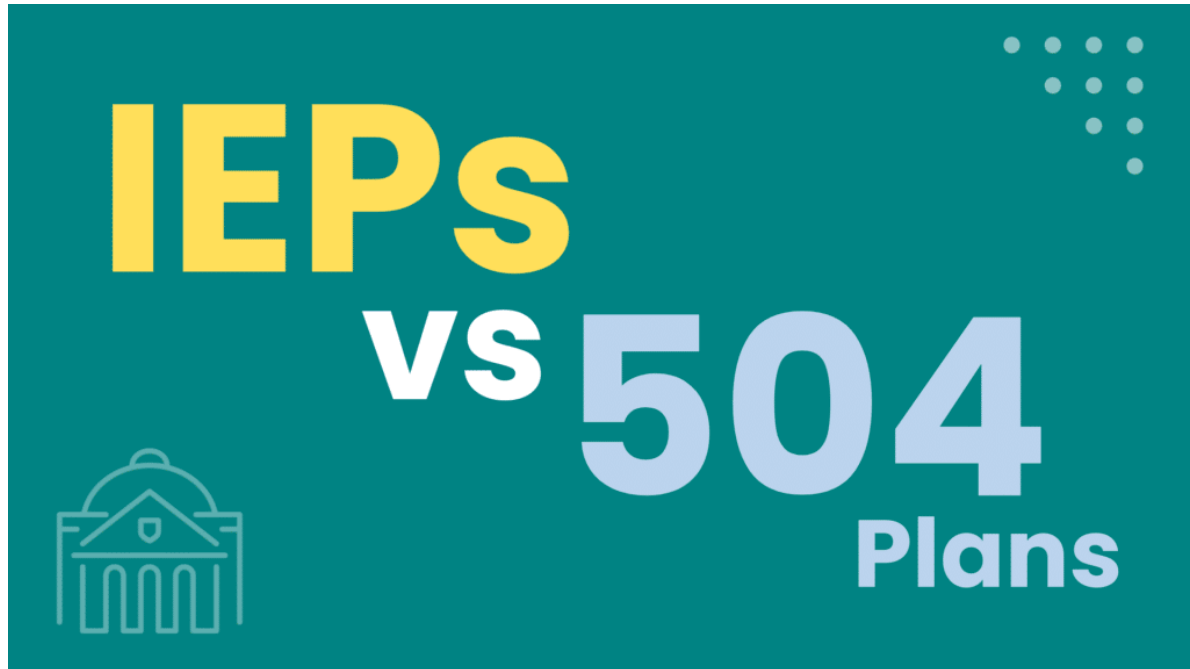
**12:00 pm.**

[Register](#)

**12:00 pm.**

[Register](#)

**AUGUST 2024**



**The Basics of Educational Plans**

**IEPs vs 504 Plans**

**August 7, 2024**

**12:00 pm.**

[Register](#)





Our mission is to assist and strengthen individuals with disabilities and their families through a coordinated network of resources, services and supports.

FHF of Acadiana is located in Lafayette, La. and we cover Region 4, offering Peer Support, Information and Referral, Advocacy, Education and Training.

We understand that it may be difficult for many families to come to our office.

So, we are coming to you!

We travel to each parish in Region 4. While there we visit and enjoy local coffee shops. But, most of all, we get a chance to sit and talk to YOU.

**COME HAVE COFFEE WITH US!**

## REGION 4



ACADIA

EVANGELINE

IBERIA

LAFAYETTE

ST. LANDRY

ST. MARTIN

VERMILION

# EVANGELINE PARISH



## Are you coming to my event?

### LOCATION

119 S. Coreil St. , Ville Platte, LA

### DATE AND TIME

7/16/24

9 am - 11:00 am

**Come have coffee with us!**

**RSVP**

---

# IBERIA PARISH





**Are you coming to my event?**

**LOCATION**

16 N. Lewis St., New Iberia, LA

**DATE AND TIME**

8/6/24

9 am - 11:00 am

**Come have coffee with us!**

**RSVP**

---

**LAFAYETTE PARISH**



**Are you coming to my event?**

**LOCATION**

518 S. Pierce St. #100, Lafayette, LA

**DATE AND TIME**

9/17/24

9 am - 11:00 am

**Come have coffee with us!**

RSVP

# REQUEST A *Training*



**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.



**Region 4**

**COMMUNITY**

**INPUT**

**MEETINGS**

**3 OPTIONS!!**

- July 11th 6pm Virtually
- July 17th 6pm Virtually
- July 30th 11am In-Person

**Registration Required.**

For more information contact:  
 Kristie Curtis, LaCAN Leader Region 4,  
[kcurtis@lacanadvocates.org](mailto:kcurtis@lacanadvocates.org), Cell (337) 492-3110



Louisiana Developmental  
Disabilities Council




It's that time of year again!!

☐ **COMMUNITY INPUT!!** ☐

There are 3 options for you to attend and let your voice be heard!  
 This is YOUR OPPORTUNITY to share your concerns, issues, and experiences



with LaCAN and the Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council for consideration for their 2025 Legislative Advocacy agenda!

July 11th, 6pm, Virtually <https://tinyurl.com/CommunityInputVirtual1>

July 17th, 6pm, Virtually <https://tinyurl.com/CommunityInputVirtual2>

July 30th, 11am, In-Person <https://tinyurl.com/R4CommunityInput2024>

☐ Huge THANK YOU to Acadiana Area Human Services District for providing us with Auditorium 4 for our in-person meeting!☐

### **REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED!**

Please contact Kristie Curtis, Region 4 LaCAN Leader, with any questions or if you need more information!

Email



EMPLOYEE BIRTHDAYS!!!

**July**  
**Lillian DeJean**



Thank you for your hard work and dedication.

**Month of August**

**Nicole DeJean**

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**Month of September**

**Nicole Flores**  
**Danielle Ledet**

# OFFICE CLOSURES



**Thursday**  
**July 4, 2024**

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**Monday**  
**September 2, 2024**





# 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!**

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## **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**

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**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



**232 HELP**



## PROGRAMS THAT ARE SUPPORTED THROUGH OUR CENTER





PARENT TO PARENT  
USA



Louisiana  
**FAMILY to  
FAMILY**  
Health Information Center

F2FHIC



**ACADIANA**  
PARENT CONNECTIONS

LOUISIANA **YOUTH  
LEADERSHIP  
FORUM**



**LaDDC**

**DEPARTMENT of  
EDUCATION**  
Louisiana Believes



*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



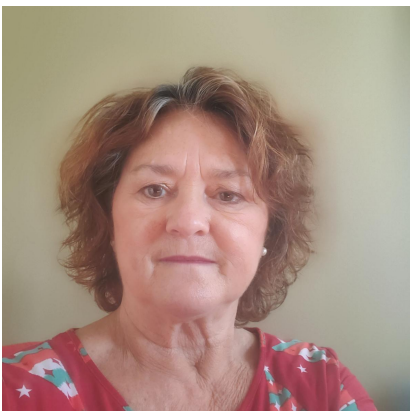
**Danielle Ledet**

Education Liaison  
Information & Referral Specialist



**Brenda Bares**

Education Liaison



**Susie Dupont**



**Lillian DeJean**

Accounts Manager

Louisiana Youth Leadership  
Forum Coordinator

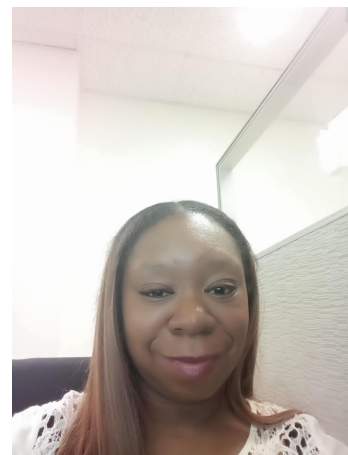


**Harlon Cowsar, II**  
Adult Program Coordinator  
Referral Specialist



**AnnMarie Bihm**  
Outreach Prep Specialist  
Education Liaison Aide

# MEET OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS





**Terrell Bergeron**  
Chair



**Kisha Levy**  
Vice-Chair



**Jessica Leday**  
Secretary



**Rebecca Fruge'**  
Treasurer

**Alvada Willis**  
Member

**Angie LaBorde**  
Member

*Photo  
Coming  
Soon!*

**Ashley LaBorde**  
Member



**Cherelly L.  
Williams**  
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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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 US

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