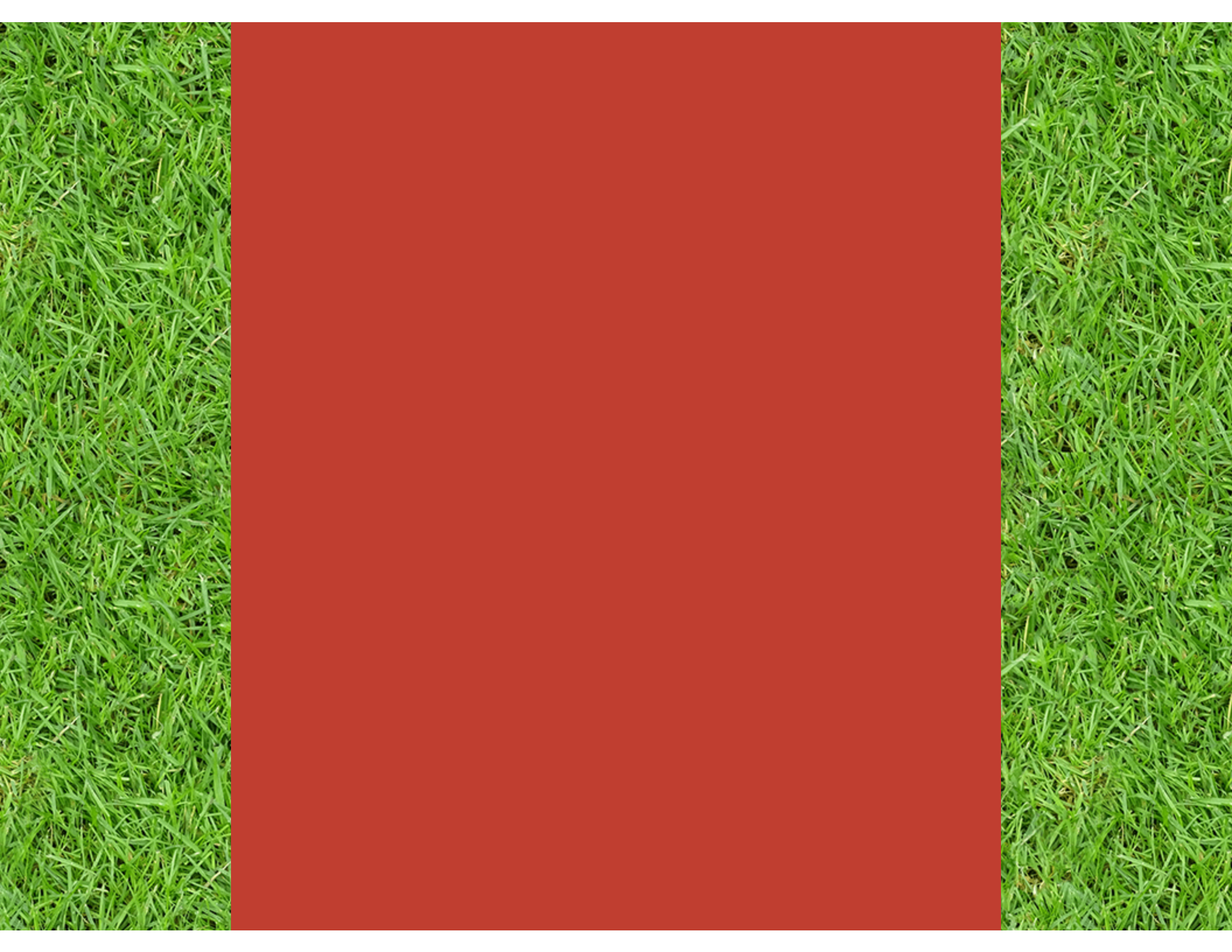


SPRING





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

(337) 984-3458



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](#)



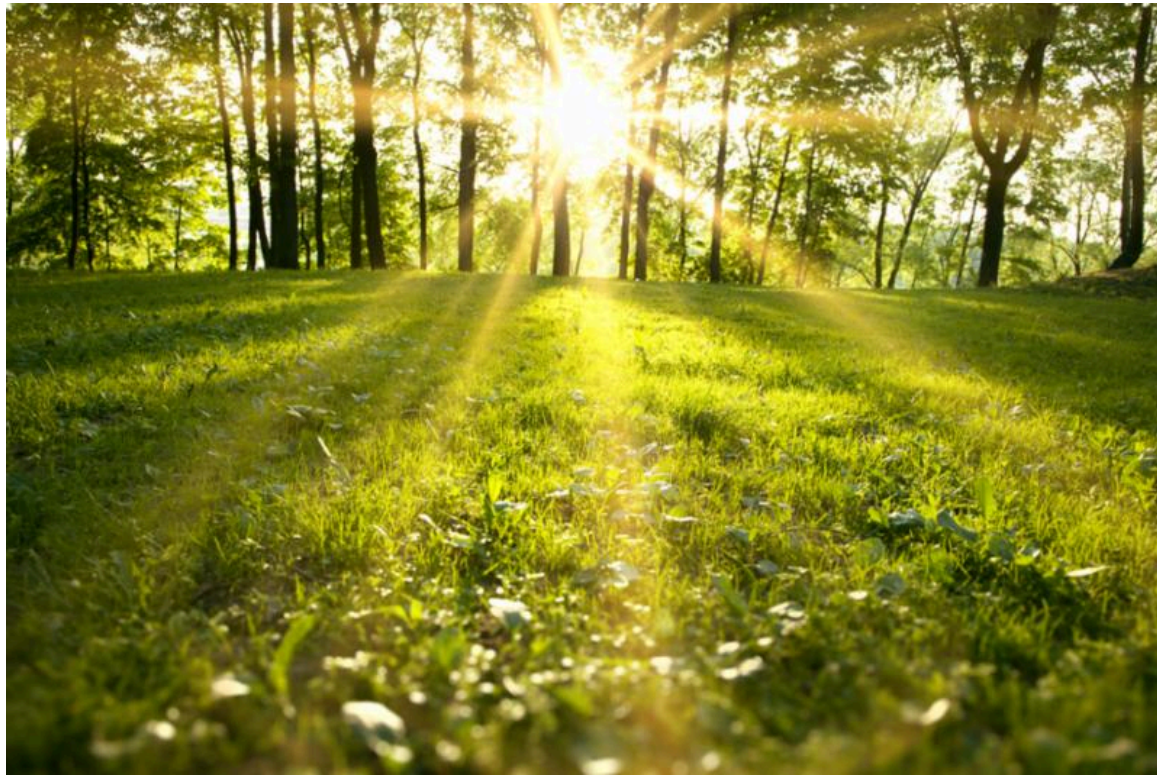
**IT'S WHO WE ARE.
IT'S WHAT WE DO.**

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

Embracing the Sunshine

Happy Spring to all of our families! We are excited to welcome the positive energy of the season, which brings new opportunities to connect, grow, and embrace the possibilities ahead.

As the sun shines brighter and the days grow longer, we at Families Helping Families of Acadiana are thrilled to bring you our Spring Newsletter.

Despite the challenges we've faced this winter, the warmth of spring reminds us of the boundless possibilities that lie ahead.

We look forward to continuing to help the families in Region 4 throughout 2025 and beyond.

Nicole Flores
Executive Director



THANK YOU!
thank you!



Our staff would like to thank the New Orleans Saints for allowing us to participate in the 50/50 Raffle for the Saints first home game of the season. Our participation resulted in a generous donation for our organization.



William C. Schumacher
FAMILY FOUNDATION

Our staff would like to thank the William C. Schumacher Family Foundation for the generous grant they bestowed upon our agency to assist in outreach activities throughout our region.

2024 CALENDAR OF DISABILITY-RELATED DATES

UPCOMING EVENTS!

April 2025

IEPs VS 504 Plans



Have you ever wondered what is the difference between the 504 and the IEP?
Well, this training will clarify these differences.
Join us for this interactive training.

April 23, 2025

10:00 am.

[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



**Please continue to check your email and/or the FHF
Facebook page for upcoming dates and locations.**

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.

Email



EMPLOYEE BIRTHDAYS!!!

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

Month of June

Brenda Bares



Thank you for your hard
work and dedication.

Month of June

Annette Fruge'

OFFICE CLOSURES



May 26, 2025

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](#)

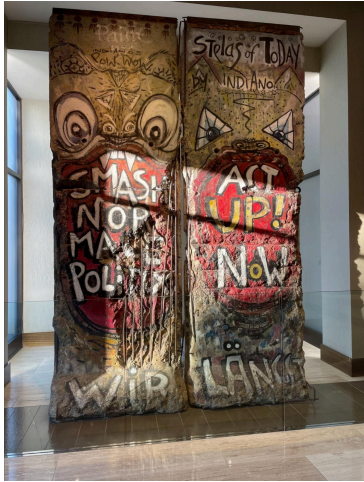
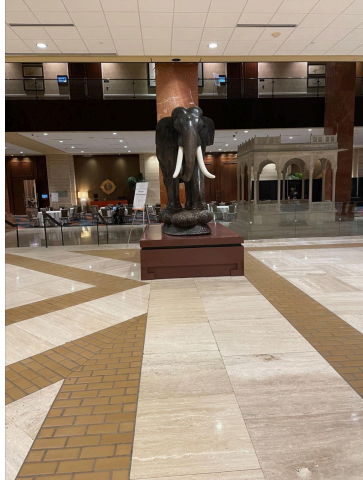


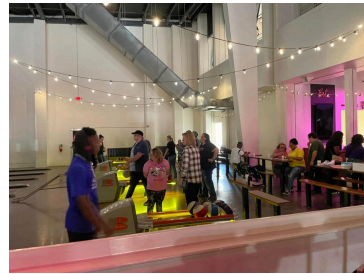
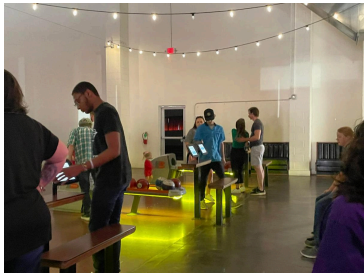
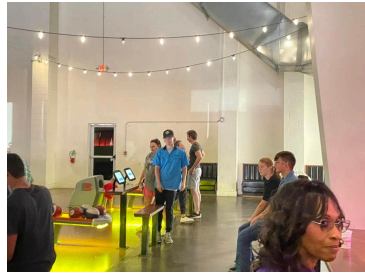
If you are interested in finding out more information about Families Helping Families of Acadiana and the services we provide, please call our office and we will be more than happy to schedule an in person/virtual meeting or call with you!

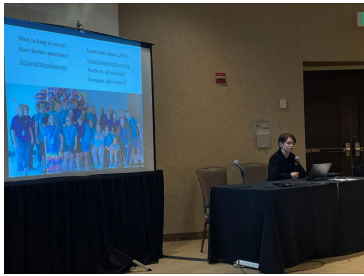
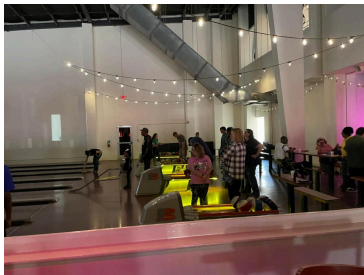
We are striving to educate EVERYONE in the community about the services we offer, as well as express the importance of inclusion and empowering individuals with disabilities.

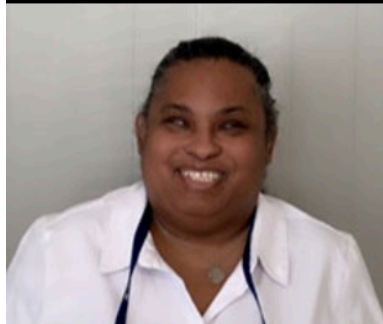
IN THE COMMUNITY













COMMUNITY PARTNERS

MacaroniKID®
BY CertifiKID



232 HELP



PEDIA^{TRUST}
Day Care for Medically Fragile Children



SECOND
HARVEST
FOOD BANK
FEEDING SOUTH LOUISIANA



Affiliated Blind
of Louisiana
TRAINING CENTER



Nurse-Family
Partnership
Helping First-Time Parents Succeed



PROGRAMS THAT ARE SUPPORTED THROUGH OUR CENTER



PARENT TO PARENT
USA



LOUISIANA YOUTH
LEADERSHIP
FORUM



F2FHIC

Meet Our Team

LEARN ABOUT OUR STAFF



Nicole Flores
Executive Director



Annette Fruge'
Director of Family and Community Support



Todd Fontenot
Financial Manager

Peer Support Specialist
Information & Referral Specialist
Community Resource Specialist



Susie Dupont
Accounts Manager



Nicole Dejean
Special Projects

Information & Referral Specialist



Brenda Bares
Education Liaison



Kristie Curtis
EarlySteps COS
LaCAN Leader



Danielle Ledet

Education Liaison
Information & Referral Specialist



Harlon Cowsar, II

Adult Program Coordinator
Referral Specialist



AnnMarie Bihm

Outreach Prep Specialist
Education Liaison Aide



Lillian DeJean

Louisiana Youth Leadership
Forum Coordinator

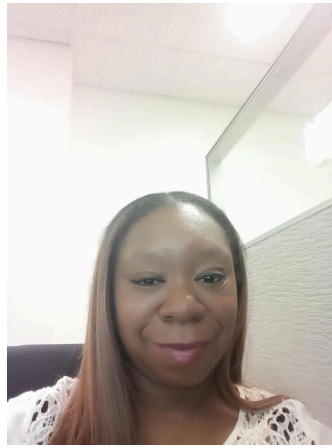
MEET OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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Chair



Kisha Levy
Vice-Chair



Jessica Leday
Secretary



Rebecca Fruge'
Treasurer



Denise Auzenne
Member



Cherelle L. Williams
Member



Angie LaBorde
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
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,**

**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.**
**Region 9 - serving Livingston, St.
Helena, St. Tammany,**



**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**

**Tangipahoa, Washington
108 Highland Park Plaza
Covington, LA 70433
985-875-0511 or 1-800-383-8700
985-875-9979 Fax
www.fhfnorthshore.org**

**Families Helping Families of Greater New Orleans (FHF of GNO)
Region 1 and 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.fhfogno.org**



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

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