



Welcome/Bienvenidos

Letter from the Director/Carta Enviada por el Director



Dear SPIN supporters,

This winter finds us looking back over 2007, assessing where we have been, where we are going, what we have accomplished, and thinking about setting new goals for the future. We held two IEP Trainings in English and one in Spanish, and we held the first Siblings Speaker Presentations, one in Santa Cruz and one in San Benito County. We held the first workshop on Relationships, titled “Keeping Your Relationships Alive and Well While Raising Special Needs Children.” This was a workshop recommended by a SPIN board member and the money was raised at Quiz Nite to see it come to fruition. The 2007 Quiz Nite was a great success, and a big thanks goes out once again to Kalena Allard for making it the best. Remember, the next Quiz Nite is coming up March 8, 2008; our theme is “Gold Rush.” Some people are going to wear their SF 49er T-shirts, others are going to dress up like King Midas, still others are going to wear their Olympic gold medals—You decide. Dress in your best Gold Bling! Call me to make your reservations now at (831) 722-2800.

We held a very successful Learning Disabilities Symposium with many talented speakers and presenters, and a great resource fair. We held for the first time a Spanish-only workshop, titled “No Hechos A Nuestra Imagen,” featuring Efrain Ramirez; it was so successful we held a second one in San Benito County. We held an excellent Mom’s Retreat—with Yoga, massage, great food, a nice walk and more; our moms deserve it, and I wish we could do more. Our Second Annual Family Appreciation Day Carnival was magnificent. Community TV of Santa Cruz County did a great mini-documentary about SPIN, which highlighted that wonderful day. You can see it on TV or the internet, or borrow a copy from our resource library. We held the first-ever disabled youth speak out, titled “Don’t Worry, It’s Going to Be Okay, I’m Living Proof,” where six of our 18-to-22-year-olds spoke about what it was

Estimados partidarios de SPIN,

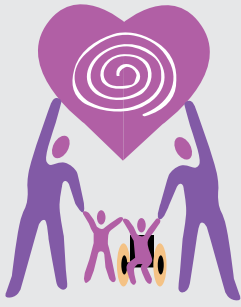
Este invierno nos encuentra mirando hacia atrás al año 2007, valorando donde hemos estado, a donde vamos, lo que hemos logrado, y pensando acerca de nuevas metas para el futuro. Tuvimos dos Entrenamientos de IEP en inglés y uno en español, nosotros tuvimos las primeras Presentaciones de un panel de Hermanos de personas con necesidades especiales, una en Santa Cruz y en una en el Condado de Benito. Tuvimos el primer taller en Relaciones, titulado “Manteniendo Su Relación Viva Y Bien al Criar Niños con Necesidades Especiales.” Esto fue un taller recomendado por un miembro de la mesa directiva de SPIN y el dinero para que esto fuera posible fue recaudado en nuestro evento de recaudación de fondos Quiz Nite. El Quiz Nite del 2007 fue un gran éxito, y una vez mas le damos las gracias a Kalena Allard por hacerlo el mejor. Recuerde, que el próximo Quiz Nite tendrá lugar el 8 de marzo del 2008; nuestro tema será “Fiebre de oro.” Algunas personas llevarán sus camisetas de los SF 49er, otro se vestirán como King Midas, otros llevarán sus medallas de oro Olímpicas—usted decide. ¡Vístase en su mejor Bling de oro! Llámeme para hacer sus reservaciones ahora al (831) 722-2800.

Tuvimos un Simposio sobre los Problemas de Aprendizaje muy exitoso con muchos oradores y presentadores talentosos, y con una gran feria de recursos. Tuvimos por primera vez un taller que solo fue presentado en español, titulado “No Hechos A Nuestra Imagen,” representando por Efraín Ramírez; Fue tan exitoso que tuvimos un segundo en el Condado de San Benito. Tuvimos un Retiro para Mamás excelente- con Yoga, masaje, buena comida, una caminata agradable y mucho más; nuestras mamás lo merecen, y deseo que podamos hacer más. Nuestro segundo Carnaval Anual del Día de la Apreciación de la Familia fue magnífico. La organización televisión de la Comunidad del Condado de Santa Cruz hizo un gran mini-documental acerca de SPIN, destacando ese día maravilloso. Usted lo puede ver en la tele, en Internet o puede pedir prestado una copia

...Nurturing
Special Kids'
Potential



...Nutriendo
el Potencial de
Niños Especiales



Special Parents Information Network

SPIN is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing support, information and training to the families and guardians of children with special needs.

Red de Información para Padres Especiales SPIN es una organización sin fin de lucro dedicada a proveer apoyo, información y entrenamiento para las familias y tutores de niños con necesidades especiales.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS/ MESA DIRECTIVA

- Ken Kulpa, *Chair*
- Amanda Owens, *Vice Chair*
- Margaret (Peg) Gallagher, *Secretary*
- Eileen Fuller Garcia
- John Kaster
- Rhea DeHart
- Kimberly Schehrer
- Anita Wray Pearson

STAFF/PERSONAL

- So. Santa Cruz County:**
- Cece Pinheiro, *Executive Director*
 - Elizabeth Chavez, *Parent Support & Training Coordinator*
 - Sonia Cervantes, *Bilingual Mentor Parent Coordinator*

- No. Santa Cruz County:**
- Sonia Plageman, *Parent support & Training Coordinator*
 - Nancy Winans, *Mentor Parent Coordinator*

- San Benito County:**
- Monica Sandoval, *Parent Support & Training Coordinator*

Letter from the Director/Carta Enviada por el Director

CONTINUED—

like for them to have a disability. We held a full-day training, titled “I have a Child Who....” featuring Shawn Bouchard, Behavior Specialist, and Susan Ramos, Occupational Therapist, and the SPIN staff. It was great and we have requests for us to do the same workshop in Spanish, so if you know any professionals who are willing to present in Spanish, have them call me! Lastly, I won a Community Hero Award from the United Way of Santa Cruz County and I am humbled; it doesn’t get much better than this.

Our board members and dedicated staff are as active as ever and our workshops are overflowing with parents wanting information to help them navigate their way through the world of education. So before I close, I want to include a brief statement about FAPE so we may be reminded that:

All Children with Disabilities Are Entitled to a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE)

When Congress reauthorized IDEA 2004, they maintained the child’s right to a free appropriate public education (FAPE). The law requires the state to have policies and procedures to ensure that a free appropriate public education (FAPE) is available to all children with disabilities.

de nuestra biblioteca de recursos. Tuvimos la primera presentación de un panel de jóvenes con incapacidades, titulado “No se Preocupe Todo Estará Bien. Soy la Prueba Evidente,” donde 6 jóvenes entre las edades de 18-22 años hablaron acerca de sus experiencias de vivir con una incapacidad. Tuvimos un entrenamiento de todo un día, titulado “Tengo un Niño Que...” presentando por Shawn Bouchard, Especialista de Conducta y Susan Ramos, Terapeuta ocupacional y el personal de SPIN. ¡Todo estuvo excelente y tenemos peticiones para que hagamos el mismo taller en español, así que si usted sabe de algún profesional que este dispuesto a presentar en español, dígalos que me contacten! Finalmente, gané un Premio de Héroes de la Comunidad de United Way del Condado de Santa Cruz y estoy sinceramente agradecida; las cosas no podrían estar mejor.

Nuestros miembros de la mesa directiva y el personal dedicado son tan activos como siempre y nuestros talleres se derraman con padres que quieren información que los ayude a navegar el mundo de la educación. Así que antes de cerrar quiero incluir una declaración breve acerca de FAPE, para recordar que:

Todos Los Niños con Incapacidades Tienen derecho a una Educación Pública, Apropiaada y Gratis (FAPE)

Cuándo el Congreso reautorizo IDEA 2004, ellos mantuvieron el derecho del niño a una educación pública, apropiada y Gratis (FAPE). La ley requiere que el estado tenga pólizas y procedimientos que aseguren que una educación pública, apropiada y Gratis (FAPE) este disponible a todos los niños con incapacidades.

Wings of Joy



special needs/ necesidades especiales

New Board Members

BY SPIN STAFF

Anita Wray Pearson is married with three children, one of whom has special needs. She is British and attended medical school in Southampton. She has worked in hospitals in Southampton, Portsmouth, and India. Among her many interests are sailing, tennis, and playing piano.

Anita Wray Pearson es casada con tres hijos, uno de ellos tiene necesidades especiales. Ella es inglesa y asistió a la facultad de medicina en Southampton. Ella ha trabajado en hospitales en Southampton, Portsmouth, y la India. Entre sus muchos intereses se encuentran navegar en barco, el tenis, y tocar el piano.

Kimberly Schehrer is a home-schooling mom with two teenage daughters. She has been on the parent Advisory Committee of Pacific Coast Charter School for two years. She has her Masters in Psychology and has over twenty years' experience working with children and adults with developmental disabilities. She is in the process of starting her own business, teaching independent living skills to young adults eighteen years and older.

Kimberly Schehrer es una mamá que da clases en su casa con dos hijas adolescentes. Ella ha sido miembro de la mesa directiva consultiva de la escuela Pacific Coast Charter durante dos años. Ella tiene su Maestría en Psicología y tiene más de veinte años de experiencia trabajando con niños y adultos con incapacidades de desarrollo Mental. Ella está en el proceso de empezar su propio negocio, enseñando habilidades para la vida independiente a jóvenes adultos de dieciocho años y mayores.

Madelyn McCaul, Board Clerk training
new board member Kimberley Schehrer ▼



Madelyn McCaul, Board Clerk training ▲
Anita Wray Pearson

announcements/ anuncios

SPINNERS

Now is your chance to say THANKS to the wonderful people that help with your children. SPIN is presenting its first ever Community Spinners awards to the incredible professionals who work with and for our children each and every day. The award ceremony will be in August, but now is the time to think about who YOU want to nominate. So put on your thinking caps, make a list-check it twice and look for the OFFICIAL ballot in the Spring/Summer newsletter.

THE LUCKY EIGHT COMMUNITY SPINNER categories are:

SPIN:

- Business
- Disability Services (transportation, medical equipment provider, diaper service)
- Educator (teacher, aide, special ed services)
- Medical professional (doctor, nurse, OT, PT)
- Parent
- Politician
- Recreational Program
- Volunteer

SPINNERS

Ahora es su oportunidad de decir GRACIAS a las personas maravillosas que ayudan con sus niños. SPIN va a presentar por primera vez el premio Community Spinners a los profesionales increíbles que trabajan con y para nuestros niños día con día. La ceremonia para otorgar los premios será en agosto, pero ahora es el tiempo de pensar a quien quiere USTED nominar. Así que póngase su cachucha pensadora, haga una lista y revísela dos veces y busque en el boletín de Primavera/Verano la boleta OFICIAL para hacer sus nominaciones.

LAS AFORTUNADAS OCHO categorías del premio Community Spinners son:

SPIN:

- Negocio
- Servicios de incapacidad (el transporte, proveedor de equipo médico, servicio de pañales)
- Educadores (maestro, ayudante, servicios de educación especial)
- Un profesional médico (doctor, enfermera, terapeuta Ocupacional, terapeuta físico)
- Padre
- Político
- Programa recreativo
- Voluntario

A call for board members

We Want You—

Would you like to give back to the community? Would you like to help families of kids with special needs & help SPIN become a stronger organization? If you want to serve on a dynamic & dedicated Board of Directors, then SPIN would like to talk to you. Please call Cece Pinheiro at 722-2800 for details.—Thank you

NEW! SPIN Online Discussion Group

We will soon have a yahoo group set up so local families, SPIN staff, and those who are supporting special needs children can share information and provide emotional support to others on the list. To participate, you must be in the SPIN database. Go to the yahoo groups page and search for spinsc or go to this webpage: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/spinsc>. Follow the directions to join. Our group email is spinsc@yahoogroups.com

To register for our database, check the SPIN website at spinsc.org or contact Elizabeth Chavez at 722-2800 or echavez@spinsc.org. For more info, contact Nancy at 423-7713 or nwinans@spinsc.org

Educational Options for Special Needs Students

SPIN is planning a workshop for families looking for educational options for their children. We plan to have professionals from various public, private, charter, online, and homeschool programs, (as well as from other resources) speak to parents about their options, legal rights, and more. We will also plan to have a 'parents panel' speak about their experiences at the workshop. If you are a professional or educator with a resource to offer, OR if you are a parent of a special needs child (with any disability) who has followed an alternative educational path, please contact Nancy Winans at nwinans@spinsc.org or 423-7713 to offer information or to participate in the workshop. The workshop is being planned for April or early May at the Branciforte Small Schools Site. Details will be posted on the website so be sure to check it out!

Parent Support and Mentor Program:

To get support in parenting your special needs child (any age – any disability) you may choose to do any of the following:

- ▶ Contact the Parent Education Coordinator at 423-7713 or 722-2800
- ▶ Contact Nancy Winans at 423-7713 and request a mentor or 'buddy parent'. You will be paired with a parent who has parented a child with a similar disability, so that you may receive informational and emotional support.
- ▶ Come to the SPIN All Disabilities Support Group for an introduction to SPIN and/or to meet other parents who are parenting special needs children. Or work with Nancy to create a new support group! MEETING DATES: Jan. 9th and Feb. 6th and the first Wednesday of each month through June (NOTE: check the website to confirm meeting dates!) We meet from 7:00-8:30 at Dominican Hospital Education Building.
- ▶ Join our new Yahoo Online Discussion Group (see above)

Please remember to check out the SPIN website:
www.spinsc.org for the latest on activities, events, support groups, and more!

Contacte a una de las coordinadoras de Educación de SPIN:

So. County: Llame a Elizabeth Chavez al 722-2800

No. County: Llame a Sonia Plageman al 423-7713

(Consiga información y ayuda con servicios de incapacidad, IEP, Recursos, Abogacía, etc.)

Solicite un padre mentor:

(Anglohablantes) Llamen a Nancy Winans, Coordinadora del Programa de Mentores al 423-7713

(Hispanohablantes) Llamen a Sonia Cervantes, Coordinadora del Programa de Mentores al 722-2800

(Para información y apoyo emocional)

Un padre mentor es un apoyo emocional para usted, que tratara de ayudarle, con el reto de criar un hijo con alguna discapacidad. ¡Tenemos mentores para la mayoría de las discapacidades!

¡Únase o ayúdenos a comenzar un grupo de apoyo!

¡Llame a Nancy Winans al 423-7713 para más información acerca de grupos para padres de niños con AD/HD, el Espectro de Autismo, Desorden Bipolar, Condiciones Crónicas médicas, Retraso Mental, Síndrome de Down, Problemas Auditivos, Problemas de Aprendizaje, Incapacidad Física, Síndrome de Tourette, y más! Los Hispanohablantes llamen a Elizabeth Chavez al 722-2800.

¡Recuerde visitar el sitio Web de SPIN: www.spinsc.org para lo último en actividades, talleres, grupos de apoyo, y más!



Michelle Kern, Lillian Pinheiro, Cece Pinheiro & Pat Golditch at the 2007 Community Hero Awards.

more announcements/ mas anuncios

*Alone we can
do so little.*

*Together we can
do so much.*

HELEN KELLER

New San Benito Phone Number

Please note that our San Benito office has a new phone number (831) 630-6358. Thank you

Nuevo numero Telefónico en San Benito

POR FAVOR ANOTE QUE NUESTRA OFICINA EN SAN BENITO TIENE UN NUEVO NUMERO TELEFÓNICO (831) 630-6358. GRACIAS

PVUSD/SELPA Needs”Surrogates”

The PVUSD Special Education department is looking for adults who can donate 7-10 hours a year serving as an educational rights holder or “surrogate.” An educational rights holder will receive FREE training (1-2 hours) before acting as a surrogate. Topics covered will concern Special Education laws & Individual Education Plans (IEPs). Please call Mary Ann Sheehy @ 786-2100 Ext. 2809. Thanks!



Congratulations



Jay, Allie, and Mary Balzer celebrating Allie's Graduation December 2007

*Solos podemos
hacer poco.*

*Juntos podemos
hacer mucho.*

HELEN KELLER

ACADEMY FOR INDEPENDENCE

*“Learning is Synonymous
with Living”*

KIMBERLY SCHEHRER, MA
Executive Director

*An Independent Living Skills Program for Teens and Adults with
Developmental or Learning Disabilities in Santa Cruz, Salinas
and the Monterey Peninsula.*

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e-mail: kimberly_afi@sbcglobal.net*

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Caralyn L. Steinberg

Cecilia Pinheiro

Craig Geddes

Dan & Rebecca Haifley

Deborah Sweeney- *in honor of SPIN
Parents*

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Gabrielle Nicander

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County

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Dorothy & Doug Patrick*

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R-H Santa Cruz Youth Foundation

Rhea DeHart- *in memory of Jeb & Thad
Mathew DeHart*

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Rick & Mimi Harron

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Ken & Chloe Kulpa*

Rudolph F. Monte Foundation

Sally Green

Shawn Bouchard

Shirley & Paul Buell

Steven Greenburg, Special Education Law

Surf City Santa Cruz Kiwanis Foundation

The Criswell Family

Thomas & Anne Stickel- *in memory of
Clayton, Emily Schwalen & Lee Schwalen*

Wendy Laird- *in honor of Chloe Kulpa*

Volunteers/Voluntarios

Ashlyn Schehrer

Becka Lister

Janee Moore

Karime Cervantes

Vanessa Chavez



Buying or Selling Real Estate? Financing a Home?

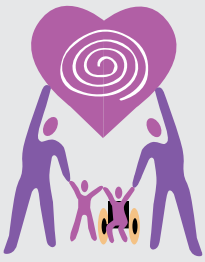
Refer **LandByTheSea.com**

Mention SPIN before the close of escrow & Ken Kulpa
will donate up to \$5,000 in your name to SPIN!

Call Ken Kulpa for details (831) 684-2000

www.

LandByTheSea.com



**Special Parents
Information Network**

Mailing address/Domicilio
P.O. Box 2367
Santa Cruz, Ca 95063
Email: info@spinsc.org

So. Santa Cruz Co Office
294 Green Valley Rd. Ste. 313
Watsonville, Ca 95076
Phone: (831)722-2800
Fax: (831)722-2580

No. Santa Cruz Co Office
740 Front Street, Suite 175
Santa Cruz, Ca 95060
Phone (831)423-7713

San Benito Co Office
P.O. Box 2367
Santa Cruz, Ca 95063
Phone: (831)638-1967

MARK YOUR CALENDAR—

Up-coming SPIN Events and Workshops

WORKSHOPS—

March 8th 2008

Quiz Nite

March 27th 2008

Special Needs Law

April 2008

IFSP Training

**SPIN recommends
seeing the play—**

DEAD MAN WALKING

Feb.8th-24th, 2008

Sundays 3pm

Cabrillo College Main Stage
6500 Soquel Drive, Aptos

MARCH 8TH, 2008

“QUIZ NITE”
FUNDRAISER DINNER

Featuring LEX VAN DEN BERGHE from Survivor,
as quiz-master. Theme for the night is
“Gold Rush”

SPIN is a member of “CAFEC” – The California Association of FamilyEmpowerment Centers on Disability – www.cafec.org



Special Parents Information Network (SPIN)

P.O. Box 2367
Santa Cruz, Ca 95063
Email: info@spinsc.org
Website: www.spinsc.org

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