



Welcome/Bienvenidos

Letter from the Director/Carta Enviada por el Director



Dear Friends of SPIN:

As you may or may not know SPIN is one of 14 Family Empowerment Centers (FEC) in the State of California. Currently 75% of our funding comes from a Family Empowerment Center Federal Grant. This Grant comes from the Federal Government to the California Department of Education and then to us. Our charge as a FEC is to assist families of children with disabilities age 3-22 in Santa Cruz and San Benito Counties with information, support and resources; my mandate is also to network, mobilize and organize to help us get more of these centers open in the state. When I started working for SPIN five years ago there were 12 FEC's in the State, now there are 14, we are slowly but surely building up. The Senate Bill 511 that in 2001 established the centers, states there should be 32 centers, a center in every region of California. We are in this for the long haul, no matter how long it takes.

We are overseen and supported by the California Association of Family Empowerment Centers (CAFEC), a stand alone non-profit of which I am a board member. The CAFEC Executive Director, Mary Beth Phillips has been in this position for over 3 years and has brought the centers some much needed new energy, technical assistance and amazing support. Among many other accolades including PhD she is the "Mother" of the 1987 Trustline Registry Legislation that changed the face of childcare in our state and the nation. For more information on this legislation go to <http://trustline.org/Creation.htm>

Mary Beth and two of her "miraculous" friends Joan Luise Hill and Katie Mahon have written a book. The book is called "The Miracle Chase." This book is filled with the true life stories of these three women; the obstacles they face and how they faced them head on and continue to do so. Katie escapes from a serial killer, Mary Beth's 6 month old baby daughter is murderously shaken by a neighbor's babysitter resulting in permanent

Queridos Amigos de SPIN:

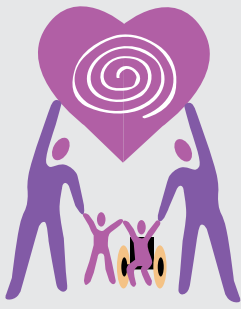
Como puede saber usted o no SPIN es uno de los 14 Centros FEC (Centros para Habilitar a Familias con hijos con discapacidades). Actualmente 75% de nuestra financiación viene de una Beca Federal llamada Family Empowerment Center (Centros para Habilitar a Familias con hijos con discapacidades). Esta Beca viene del Gobierno federal a la Secretaría de Educación de California y después a nosotros. Nuestra obligación como un centro FEC es de ayudar a las familias que tienen niños con incapacidades entre las edades de 3-22 en los condados de Santa Cruz y San Benito con información, apoyo y recursos; mi mandato también es hacer contactos, para movilizar y organizar para ayudar a conseguir que más centros de estos se habrán en el estado. Cuando empecé a trabajar para SPIN hace cinco años había solo 12 centros FEC en el Estado, ahora hay 14, estamos construyendo sin duda pero lentamente. El Senate Bill 511 que en 2001 estableció los centros, establece que debe haber 32 centros, un centro en cada región de California. Estamos en esto por el tirón largo, no importa cuánto tiempo tome.

Somos supervisados y somos apoyados por The California Association of Family Empowerment Centers (la Asociación de California de Centros para Habilitar a Familias con hijos con discapacidades) (CAFEC), una organización sin fines lucrativos independiente de la cual yo soy un miembro de su mesa directiva. La Directora Ejecutiva de CAFEC, Mary Beth Phillips ha estado en esta posición por más de 3 años y ha traído a los centros nueva energía que buena falta nos hacía, ayuda técnica y apoyo asombroso. Entre muchos otros elogios inclusive un doctorado ella es la "Madre" de la Legislación de Registro de Trustline de 1987 que cambió la cara de cuidado de niños en nuestro estado y la nación. Para más información sobre esta legislación visite <http://trustline.org/Creation.htm>

...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

Eileen Fuller, *Chair*
Margaret (Peg) Gallagher
Courtney Leibrock
Carla Miller
Terri Mykland
Melissa Scarpace

STAFF/PERSONAL

So. Santa Cruz County:

Cece Pinheiro, *Executive Director*
Elizabeth Chavez, *Parent Support
& Training Coordinator*
Rosa Martinez, *Bilingual Mentor
Parent Coordinator*

No. Santa Cruz County:

Sonia Plageman, *Parent support &
Training Coordinator*
Nancy Winans, *Mentor Parent
Coordinator*

San Benito County:

Elizabeth Chavez, *Parent
Support & Training Coordinator*

Letter from the Director/Carta Enviada por el Director

CONTINUED—

blindness, Joan's son survives a catastrophic illness, and much more. You need to read this book!

So what do these women do? They chase down the Miracles they need, and become the change they want to see in the world, and then write about it. The proceeds from the book go to the Miracle Works Foundation. "The Miracle Works foundation is devoted to improving the future for women and children who are educationally and economically disadvantaged, survivors of domestic and international violence, or victims of child abuse and neglect."

SPIN applied to the foundation and was accepted as a recipient of Miracle Money! & technical support.

The authors held a book reading in Santa Cruz at Bookshop Santa Cruz on January 29, 2011 after leading SPIN's full day Miracle Board retreat, both were a huge success. SPIN is fortunate to have these miracle workers supporting us. They will make their next appearance at SPIN's biggest fundraiser of the year "Quiz Nite" March 12, 2011. Please contact me for information on how you can attend Quiz Nite 2011.

I wholeheartedly thank all of you for your support and thank you _ _ _!

Mary Beth y dos de sus amigas "milagrosas" Joan Luise Hill y Katie Mahon han escrito un libro. El libro se llama "The Miracle Chase" (Persiguiendo un Milagro). Este libro está lleno de historias verdaderas de estas tres mujeres; los obstáculos que encaran y cómo los encararon y como continúan haciéndolo. Katie escapa de un asesino, el bebé de 6 meses de Mary Beth es sacudida terriblemente por la niñera de un vecino que tiene como resultado ceguera permanente, el hijo de Joan sobrevive una enfermedad catastrófica, y mucho más. ¡Debe leer este libro!

¿Entonces qué hacen estas mujeres? Persiguen los Milagros que necesitan, y llegan a ser el cambio que quieren ver en el mundo, y entonces escriben acerca de ello. Las ganancias del libro irán a la fundación Miracle Works (Trabajos Milagrosos). "La Fundación Miracle Works (Trabajos Milagrosos) es dedicada a mejorar el futuro para mujeres y niños que tienen una desventaja educativa y económica, sobrevivientes de violencia doméstica y internacional, o víctimas de abuso infantil y negligencia".

¡SPIN aplicó a la fundación y fue aceptado como un recipiente para recibir Dinero del Milagro y asistencia técnica. Los autores tuvieron una lectura del libro en Bookshop Santa Cruz el 29 de enero de 2011 después de dirigir el retiro Milagroso de la mesa directiva de SPIN, ambos fueron un éxito inmenso. SPIN es afortunado de tener a estas trabajadoras de milagros como un apoyo. Harán su próxima aparición en el evento más grande del año de SPIN para recaudar fondos "Quiz Nite" el 12 de marzo del 2011. Contácteme por favor para información en cómo puede asistir a Quiz Nite 2011. ¡Yo incondicionalmente les doy gracias por su apoyo y gracias _ _ _!

Assisted Living Match

BY: BILL DEDIEGO

I am the parent of a teen age special needs child who functions at around a third grade level. My child is attending a post secondary school in Santa Cruz County and is doing very well. Beyond post secondary school, my vision is for my child to live in a local assisted living home with two or three peers. It is my desire that three or four families will come together to provide and nurture, a safe, loving, and secure environment for our children that would survive us and/or our eventual mortality.

I believe that as parents of special needs children in our county, we are fortunate to have many resources to help us assist our young adults to be all they can be. But in conversing with Agencies and other Parents, one area that appears to be lacking is a network and/or repository of which families might be looking for assisted living matching and the potential associated timing therewith. So, I write now to offer my email to perhaps begin building that repository, which perhaps could then be managed longer term under the incredible organization SPIN (Special Parents Information Network). Thanks for reading,

Email: bdediego@comcast.net

“I am a person first and I have a disability”

POEM BY UNKNOWN AUTHOR

When you deal with me
Treat me just as you would any other person—
with respect and courtesy.
Please look me in the eye,
And speak directly to me, not to my companion.
I am used to living with my disability
But I appreciate your help when I need it.
If I have trouble seeing or hearing or moving easily
Please remember that it is my eyes
Or ears or muscles that do not work
as well as yours.
Beyond that, I have the same
Needs and wants,
Hopes and desires
As you do.
I have problems and fears, just like you
but I also have strengths
that sometimes even I don't recognize.
I need to talk to you about those abilities and I need you to listen.
But most of all, I need you to remember—
I am a person first!

“Soy una persona primero y tengo una discapacidad”

POEMA POR UN AUTOR DESCONOCIDO

Cuando me tratas,
trátame así como tratarías a cualquier otra persona—
con respeto y cortesía.
Por favor mírame a los ojos,
y habla directamente conmigo,
no a mi compañero.
Estoy acostumbrado a vivir con mi discapacidad
mas aprecio tu ayuda cuando lo necesito.
Si tengo problemas en ver u oír o moverme fácilmente,
por favor acuérdate que son mis ojos
u oídos o músculos que no trabajan
tan bien como los tuyos.
Más allá de eso, tengo las mismas
necesidades y deseos,
esperanzas y faltas como tú.
Tengo problemas y temores, así como tú,
pero también tengo fuerzas
que a veces ni reconozco yo.
Necesito hablar contigo sobre estas capacidades
y necesito que escuches.
Pero, más que nada, necesito que te acuerdes—
¡Primero, soy una persona!

announcements/ anuncios

*Alone we can
do so little.*

*Together we can
do so much.*

HELEN KELLER

*Solos podemos
hacer poco.*

*Juntos podemos
hacer mucho.*

HELEN KELLER

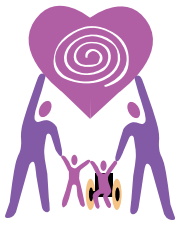


SPIN is awarded the Family Friendly Employer Award 2010 from United Way and the Santa Cruz County Breastfeeding Coalition.

We Want You— A CALL FOR BOARD MEMBERS

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 more details.

Welcome to new Board member Terri Mykland, stay tuned for more information about Terri Mykland in our next newsletter.



Special Parents
Information Network
PRESENTS

11th Annual

QUIZ NITE 2011

**Saturday,
March 12, 2011
5:00 PM – 10:00 PM
at Holy Cross Church
in Santa Cruz**

Come out and spend a fabulous evening enjoying the amazing culinary offerings of **Jake Gandolfo**. Bid on auction items and compete in a trivia game with our great MC **Lex Van Den Berghe**

Appetizers, Buffet Dinner,
Dessert, and Wine

\$80 per person
Reservations required

For Tickets and Information
(831)722-2800 (831)234-0990
or cpinheiro@spinsc.org

SPONSORED BY S.P.I.N.
A RESOURCE FOR FAMILIES OF
CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES
www.spinsc.org



Lex Van Den Berghe



MasterChef Jake Gandolfo

Invites Special Needs Children (any type of disability, ages 3-22+) Families, Friends, & Community



STARS *gala*

Special Talent Arts Recreation & Sharing

Three ways to register or volunteer:

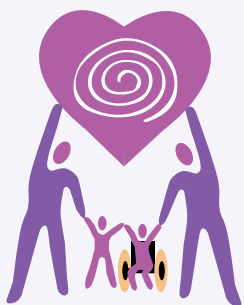
1. Call SPIN at 423-7713 (Sonia or Nancy)
2. Visit us online at: www.spinsc.org to download form
3. Mail completed form to SPIN at P.O. Box 2367, Santa Cruz, CA, 95063-2367

Email us questions or forms at: splageman@spinsc.org or nwinans@spinsc.org

Tentative Deadline to pre-register is March 30th

Space is limited so register early!

To make this event a success, we need your help!



Saturday, April 9th from 1:00 - 4:00 pm
New Brighton Middle School Performing Arts Center
250 Washburn Avenue, Capitola

Come celebrate our children's unique talents, interests, and activities in a Hollywood Gala style family event featuring—

Open House/ Art Show/ Sharing/ Talent show with

RECEPTION/SHARING: Enjoy music and refreshments while children showcase whatever they want to share about themselves including:

- Collections - cars, dinosaurs, stuffed animals, pokemon cards, etc.
- Art of any type - hand crafts, paintings, photos, sewing, etc.
- Science projects, or various projects - stories, poems, maps, posters, models, legos, etc.
- Photos, albums, scrapbooks or displays - "what I love to do" or "my favorite things, places"
- Demos - "how to" finger knit, plant seeds, draw a bird, do x tables, tie a shoe, etc.

SLIDE SHOW: email us an image for our 'Welcome SPIN Families and Friends' slide show

SHOW TIME: Cheer on our children (with a support 'buddy' if they like) as they:

- Perform (sing, dance, play music, recite a poem, do a skit, whistle, tell jokes, etc.)
- Demonstrate a skill (hop, count by 2, do aikido or gymnastic moves, card or magic tricks, etc.)

Please fill out the form below to pre-register your child and/or to volunteer:

Child's name _____ Parent name _____

Email _____ Phone _____ Cell _____

Child's age _____ Buddy's name: (if your child will need help onstage) _____

Yes, I'd like to help with the event! (Please circle any that apply):

organizing
set-up

publicity
sign-making

make decorations
clean-up

refreshments
other

I'd like to make a donation of \$ _____

I'd like to donate these items: (please circle)

decorations

costumes

supplies

food/drinks

other _____

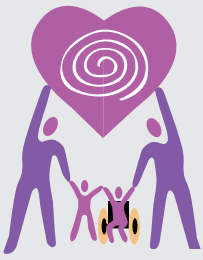
NOTE: After completed form is received, registered participants will be contacted with more details

Donors/Donantes

Adrienne Machado
Bill James Stamos & Rebecca Jean Daniel
Cece Pinheiro
Christopher & Peggy Perri
Connie Cunningham
Crossfit Santa Cruz Central
Darlene Wilcox
Debbie A. Kinslow
Deborah Wechsler
Douglas & Diane Severin- in memory of Sayo
Ed & Pat Golditch
Eileen A. Fuller
Elaine R. Johnson
Eugene & Joan Hill
Gap Inc.
Jacob T. Young
Jamie Shook on behalf of Patricia White & John Kaster
Jean Marie Peterson
John & Angela Aitken
John & Lisa French
John & Margaret Rose Gallagher
Joseph & Tara McCullough
Laura Davis
Lean Gale
Lisa Peterson
Luane Beck & Kim Clark
Madelyn McCaul
Mary Kathryn Machado

Nancy & Ross Miller
Nancy L. Miller- in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Dana H. Lee
Patricia Brown/Santa Cruz Projects
Reed K. Kuratomi, D.D.S.
Robyn D. Slater & Mark Rosenberg
Ronald Pomerantz & Jane Weed-Pomerantz
Russel & Brenda Miller
Shadowbrook Restaurant
Steven Greenburg, Special Education Law
Thomas R and Linda H Wallraff Rev Trust





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

San Benito Co Office
321 San Felipe Road, Suite 12
Hollister, CA 95023
Phone: (831) 722-2800

MARK YOUR CALENDAR— Upcoming News

Workshops & Events—

1. Learn How California Rural Legal Assistance (CRLA) can assist families of children with Special Needs

March 29th, 2011
In Watsonville

2. Learning Disability Simulation Workshop

Coming in May 2011
In Santa Cruz

3. Human Race 2011

Saturday, May 7th, 2011
In Santa Cruz

Support Group Meetings—

1. SPIN All Disabilities Parent Support Group

Will now meet at a new place and time
Meets the 3rd Sunday of the month
From 2:00-4:00pm
At Sutter Maternity and Surgery Center,
2900 Chanticleer Ave. Santa Cruz

Join the group for special speakers and topics, as well as receive informational and emotional support from other parents

Call Nancy at 423-7713 or email nwinans@spinsc.org to RSVP or for more info. 423-7713 or email nwinans@spinsc.org to RSVP

2. Autism/ Asperger Support Group

Meetings will be held the third Tuesday of each month at 7:30pm at the Porter Memorial Library in Soquel, 3050 Porter Street.

For more information or to be placed on the email list, contact cecilyruttenberg@gmail.com

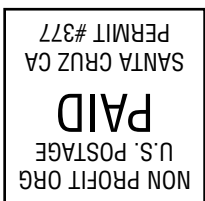
3. Grupo de Apoyo de Síndrome Down

Se reúne el primer sábado de cada mes
Empezando a las 10am
En el Parque Marinovich, 118 2nd Street,
Watsonville

Llame al (831) 722-2800 para más información.

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

Current Resident or



Special Parents Information Network (SPIN)
P.O Box 2367
Santa Cruz, Ca 95063
Email:info@spinsc.org
Website: www.spinsc.org

