

JANUARY 2010

A Division of The Association For Community Living

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

FOR PEOPLE WITH AUTISM

*Creating Opportunities, Building Relationships, Improving Lives
for children and adults with developmental disabilities since 1952*

www.communityresourcesforautism.org

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Introducing..... An Online Support Forum!

As a part of our efforts to expand the types of services we provide and ways parents can access and share information, Community Resources for People with Autism has developed an online forum for parents, professionals, and community members to exchange information and knowledge.

On this forum, openly discuss specific autism-related topics, ask other parents for advice or suggestions, share your success stories, alert families and professionals of community events, and so much more.

Visit this new online forum at www.CRPAforum.proboards.com

Please understand that this forum is in its beginning stages, so we need your help to get it started!

Inside this month's newsletter:

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...And Much, Much More!

Community Resources' *Annual Family Holiday Party*

Holy Cross Parish Hall in Holyoke, MA was full of cheer, laughter, and excitement as Community Resources for People for Autism's Annual Holiday Party got underway. More than 100 children, parents, family members, and friends gathered together to share holiday cheer and enjoy food, fun and entertainment.

The night began with the mingling of families and fun crafts for the children. Henry the Juggler then performed his amazing show with help from some very eager and talented volunteers from the audience. All were amazed by his performance. The main highlight of the evening was the arrival of Santa as everyone waited in anticipation for him to enter the room. Santa wished every child Happy Holidays and gave each child a gift.

Community Resources would like to thank everyone who helped to make the party a great success and a special thank you to Toys for Tots and Holyoke Pediatrics for their generous donations.

We hope to see everyone again next year!

Happy New Year!




JANUARY 2010


Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
					 New Years Day Office Closed 	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
		<u>Transition Planning 101 Workshop - Berkshires</u>		<u>Insight Into Autism Spectrum Disorders Workshop - Springfield</u>		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
			<u>Strategies for Effective Communication Workshop - Easthampton</u>			<u>Youth Empowerment and Self Advocacy Workshop - Berkshires</u>
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	 Martin Luther King Jr. Day Office Closed 				<u>Legislative Breakfast - Chicopee</u>	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
			<u>Guardianship and Estate/ Financial Planning Workshop - Berkshires</u>			
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COMMUNITY RESOURCES' JANUARY HAPPENINGS

Transition Planning 101 (Part one of a four part Transition series)

Date & Time: Tuesday, January 5 (snow date: Tues. Jan. 12); 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm,
Speaker: Darla Gundler—Federation for Children with Special Needs
Location: Nessacus Middle School, Dalton, MA

Insight Into Autism Spectrum Disorders

Date & Time: Thursday, January 7; 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm; RSVP by Monday, January 4.
Speaker: Jason Litto
Location: SCAN 360; 11 Wilbraham Rd., Springfield, MA

Strategies for Effective Communication

Date & Time: Wednesday, January 13; 6:30 - 8:30 pm; RSVP by Friday, January 8.
Speakers: Laurel Peltier (Educational Advocate); Susan Hackney (Mediator); Jeanne Troxell-Munson
Location: Community Resources for People with Autism

Youth Empowerment and Self Advocacy (Part two of a four part Transition series)

Date & Time: Saturday, January 16 (snow date: Sat., Jan. 23); 10:00 am to 12:00 pm
Speaker: Panel of Speakers
Location: Berkshire Medical Center Auditorium, Pittsfield, MA

Human Service Forum Legislative Reception

Date & Time: Friday, January 22; 8:30 am to 10:00 am
Speaker: Open Forum
Location: Knights of Columbus, Chicopee, MA

Guardianship and Estate/Financial Planning (Part three of a four part Transition series)

Date & Time: Wednesday, January 27 (snow date: Wed., Feb 3); 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm
Speaker: Attorney Ben Smith and Northwestern Financial Advisor Steve Chick
Location: Nessacus Middle School, Dalton, MA

2010 SAVE THE DATE!!!

Strategies for Effective Advocacy

Date & Time: Tuesday, February 9; 6:30 - 8:30 pm; RSVP by Wednesday, February 3.
Speaker: Jeanne Troxell Munson
Location: Community Resources for People with Autism

Transition Fair (Part four of a four part Transition series)

Date & Time: Tuesday, February 23, 2010; 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm
Location: Nessacus Middle School; Dalton, MA

The Hidden Curriculum

Date & time: Tuesday, March 2; 6:30 - 8:30 pm; RSVP by Friday, February 26.
Speakers: Jason Litto and Jeanne Troxell Munson
Location: Community Resources for People with Autism

*** Attention Parents of School Age Children ***

Parent Education Series

An educational series offered by
Community Resources For People With Autism

Basic Rights (DONE)

Date & Time: Tuesday, October 27; 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm; RSVP by Friday, October 23.
Speaker: Julie Sinclair--Federation for Children with Special Needs
Location: Community Resources for People with Autism

An IEP for My Child (DONE)

Date & Time: Tuesday, November 10; 6:30 - 8:30 pm; RSVP by Friday, November 6.
Speaker: Julie Sinclair--Federation for Children with Special Needs
Location: Community Resources for People with Autism

Strategies for Effective Communication

Date & Time: Wednesday, January 13; 6:30 - 8:30 pm; RSVP by Friday, January 8.
Speakers: Laurel Peltier (Educational Advocate); Susan Hackney (Mediator); Jeanne Troxell Munson
Location: Community Resources for People with Autism

This *interactive* workshop will focus on communication skill building and conflict resolution for parents as members of their child's IEP team through role-playing and one-on-one advice from the panel of speakers.
For more information or to register, please contact Community Resources at (413) 529-2428

Strategies for Effective Advocacy

Date & Time: Tuesday, February 9; 6:30 - 8:30 pm; RSVP by Wednesday, February 3.
Speaker: Jeanne Troxell-Munson
Location: Community Resources for People with Autism

Does your child need a 1:1 paraprofessional, longer day or longer year, social skills training, or a particular related service not currently in your IEP? This workshop will help you learn how to use strategies for effective advocacy to turn your child's needs into appropriate services and supports.
For more information or to register, please contact Community Resources at (413) 529-2428.

The Hidden Curriculum

Date & Time: Tuesday, March 2; 6:30 - 8:30 pm; RSVP by Friday, February 26.
Speakers: Jason Litto and Jeanne Troxell-Munson
Location: Community Resources for People with Autism

This topic introduces you to the importance of the "hidden curriculum"—the unwritten social rules and expectations of behavior that we all know but were never taught—and how a lack of these skills impacts individuals with an autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Individuals who have ASD do not come equipped with the same ability to understand the hidden curriculum. As a result, they break many social and behavioral rules without intent or even knowledge that they are doing so. This, coupled with their difficulty in generalizing information from one situation to another, leads them to making the same mistakes over and over again at a tremendous social cost. This workshop includes strategies and techniques to help children and adults understand social cues and unstated expectations, guidelines for what to do (or what not to do) in specific social situations, and practical tips.

For more information or to register, please contact Community Resources at (413) 529-2428.

For more information or to register, please contact:

Community Resources for People with Autism
Phone: 413-529-2428; Email: greaneyk@theassn.org

The Berkshire Collaborative Presents:

Berkshire Transition Series

Transition Planning 101 (Part one of a four part Transition series)

Date & Time: Tuesday, January 5 (snow date: Tues. Jan. 12); 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm,

Speaker: Darla Gundler—Federation for Children with Special Needs

Location: Nessacus Middle School, Dalton, MA

Deciding how best to use the high school years in order to ensure that the teen emerges at graduation as well prepared as possible to lead a fulfilling, independent life is a complex process crammed into a very short window of opportunity. Transition goals and services should be written into the IEP (Individualized Education Plan) when the student is 15 years old, so discussions should begin by age 14. Darla's expertise can help you and your son/daughter make the best use of the time and resources available. *RSVP by Mon. Dec. 28.*

Youth Empowerment and Self Advocacy (Part two of a four part Transition series)

Date & Time: Saturday, January 16 (snow date: Sat., Jan. 23); 10:00 am to 12:00 pm

Speaker: Panel of Speakers

Location: Berkshire Medical Center Auditorium, Pittsfield, MA

This workshop is designed for young people with developmental challenges and their families to learn the importance and power of their own voices. This workshop will also offer a panel discussion of self advocates from Berkshire County. *RSVP by Monday, Jan. 11.*

Guardianship and Estate/Financial Planning (Part three of a four part Transition series)

Date & Time: Wednesday, January 27 (snow date: Wed., Feb 3); 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm

Speaker: Attorney Ben Smith and Northwestern Financial Advisor Steve Chick

Location: Nessacus Middle School, Dalton, MA

This workshop is to inform parents and caregivers of when guardianship is needed, the different kinds of guardianship, and to explain the process of applying for guardianship for a loved one who may not be able to make decisions for themselves. *RSVP by Tuesday, Jan. 19.*

Transition Fair (Part four of a four part Transition series)

Date & Time: Tuesday, February 23, 2010; 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Location: Nessacus Middle School; Dalton, MA

Meet, greet, and gather information on the topics that are important to your family as your child makes the transition into adulthood. We will have representatives from local support providers on hand to answer your questions about home, work, community, guardianship, and estate planning. We encourage parents and family members who have a child with special needs going into middle school, high school, or turning 22 to attend.

**For more information or to register, contact Rhonda Ward at (413) 529-2428 x 117, or wardr@theasn.org

(A collaboration of Community Resources, Central Berkshire Regional School District - SPED PAC, Pittsfield Public School - SPED PAC Berkshire County ARC, United Cerebral Palsy of Berkshire County, Berkshire Family And Individual Resources and the Department of Developmental Services Berkshire Area Office)

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Save The Date!

20th Annual Conference

Tuesday, April 6, 2010

**The Log Cabin Banquet and Meetinghouse
500 Easthampton Road ~ Holyoke, MA**

.....
Announcing This Year's Speakers:

Autism and Asperger's Syndrome Presentations

by:

Brenda Smith Myles, Ph.D.

Integrated Self-Advocacy by:

Valerie Paradiz, LLC



COMMUNITY RESOURCES

FOR PEOPLE WITH AUTISM

Insight Into Autism Spectrum Disorders

Speaker: Jason Litto

An interactive workshop designed to introduce families and caretakers to Autism Spectrum Disorders.

Characteristics and strategies to help individuals are discussed, as well as some of the social and cognitive difficulties that people with Autism experience.

This workshop will also provide an opportunity to meet other parents of children and young adults with an Autism Spectrum Disorder.

We encourage friends, family members, and support persons to attend this valuable workshop.

Date and Time:

Thursday, January 7th, 2010; 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Location:

SC@N 360 Center
11 Wilbraham Road, Springfield, MA

R.S.V.P. by Monday, January 4th, 2010, to Community Resources

Community Resources for People with Autism

116 Pleasant Street; Suite 366
Easthampton, MA 01027

Phone: 413-529-2428
www.communityresourcesforautism.org



*You are invited to a legislative
reception exclusively for
staff, board, family members,
and volunteers of:*



**THE HUMAN SERVICE FORUM
HAMPSHIRE COUNCIL OF SOCIAL AGENCIES, AND
THE FRANKLIN COUNTY RESOURCE NETWORK**

Interactive format

People will be seated by legislative district to maximize their opportunity of speaking with their legislators. There will be a moderator at each table.

High attendance by staff, volunteers, board members, family members and consumers is VERY important with this format.

Coffee * Bagels * Danish * Conversation

Date: Friday, January 22, 2010
Time: 8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
Location: Knights of Columbus-Fairview (“Castle of the Knights”)
1599 Memorial Drive, Chicopee
Fee: \$10.00 per person. Pre-registration required. Additional
\$5.00 fee if registration is received after January 6th.
Questions: Kathleen Dowd, Program Coordinator
Human Service Forum
Phone: 413-693-0214 Fax: 413-788-4130

If there is a major storm a message will be available on the Human Service Forum voicemail at [413-693-0214](tel:413-693-0214) as of 7:00 a.m. on January 22, 2010.

*Pre-registration is important in order to honor seating preferences and to avoid disappointment. ****Registrations will not be accepted at the door.*****

Randall Boys and Girls Club program focuses on kids with disabilities

By SUZANNE McLAUGHLIN
smclaughlin@repub.com

LUDLOW - Many people don't know that the Randall Boys and Girls Club runs a Family Fun Night once a week for families of children with learning disabilities, including children with autism.

The program, which meets Tuesday nights from 5:30 to 7:30, has room for additional children. Children and parents do not have to live in Ludlow to attend, said Andrew Bower, coordinator of the program.

Linda Quenneville, whose 11-year-old twin daughters participate in the program, said the best thing about the program is the warmth and open-mindedness with which children with learning disabilities are accepted.

She said parents who have children with autism are used to having moments in which their family is stared at when a child does something that is considered inappropriate.

Here, she said, an acting out behavior "is no big deal."

"Nobody is judging you," she said.

One of her daughters has autism and one doesn't. She said her girls have friends in the program and have learned to accept children with differences.

"People here have an open-mindedness toward disabilities," she said.

Elizabeth Burrage also has twin girls in the program. "The program reinforces friendships," she said. She said the parents of the children also become friends and share coping strategies and learning strategies which work for their children.

The program includes structured activities and team building activities for parents and children, games such as basketball or tag in the gymnasium, supper, art projects and relaxation activities such as pool.

The program helps children learn how to play with others and how to socialize with others during mealtimes.

Siblings without disabilities are welcome to participate in the program if there is room, Bower said.

Nancy Domenichelli said the six-week sessions, which are offered at no charge to the families, provide a "safe, special place" for children with disabilities to find camaraderie, to socialize and to challenge themselves.

"The children are accepting of each other's needs and they learn to be caring and sensitive to everyone," said Domenichelli, whose son is in the program.

The next session starts in January. To register for the program, contact the Randall Boys and Girls Club at (413) 583-2072.

Online Support Forum

As a part of our efforts to expand the types of services we provide and ways parents can access and share information, Community Resources for People with Autism has developed an online forum for parents, professionals, and community members to exchange information and knowledge.

On this forum, openly discuss specific autism-related topics, ask other parents for advice or suggestions, share your success stories, alert families and professionals of community events, and so much more.

Visit this new online forum at www.CRPAforum.proboards.com

Please understand that this forum is in its beginning stages, so we need your help to get it started!

Parent-To-Parent Connections

As you know, Community Resources for People with Autism has recently experienced several significant changes, including drastic budget cuts and internal restructuring. As a result, we are no longer able to offer the level of support to families that we once offered. Now, more than ever, parents need to use one another's experiences and insight as a new kind of support. Parent-to-parent connections are vital in these times when other assistance is limited.

We are compiling a list of local parents of children with autism spectrum disorders that have been involved with Community Resources in the past and have demonstrated a strong knowledge of autism as well as local resources. We are always looking for new parents to be a part of this list.

By volunteering to be on this list, your contact information will not be public knowledge but will be offered to parents that are specifically seeking a connection with a local parent. If you are interested in being a Parent-To-Parent Volunteer and added to our Parent-To-Parent Connections list, or if have any questions or comments about this program, please contact Beth Crosby at Community Resources: (413) 529-2428 ext. 115 or crosby@theassn.org.

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Update Your Info!

In an effort to make sure we are operating as efficiently as possible, give us a call and update your contact information. The majority of our communications are now happening through email. If we don't have your email address, you won't receive the most current information and might miss out on important events!

Call (413) 529-2428, or email info@communityresourcesforautism.org

Parent Support Groups

New Group Starting

Local mother, Phyllis Keenan, is looking to start up a parent support group that will be held on a week day while children are still in school. Meeting day and location is still to be determined. She is looking for parents who may be interested in joining this group, and your input and suggestions are always welcomed.

For more information or to express interest in this group, contact Phyllis at:
(413) 687-4191 or keenanpf@earthlink.net

The Special Needs Support System

This group is facilitated by Stephanie and Charles McCormick, parents of a special needs child. Support and activities for families who have a child with special needs of any kind. The group meets the first and last Tuesday of every month from 6:00 -7:30 pm at the Tabernacle Baptist Church (603 New Ludlow Road, Chicopee).

They offer parents: topic support meetings, guest speakers, family nights, relaxation ideas, and more.

They offer children: activity time based on learning styles such arts and crafts, puppets, play dough, music therapy, sensory awareness, movies, and more — all with the goal of promoting social and life skills.

For more information and to register,
please contact Stephanie:
specialchildren@yahoo.com
or (413)693-5188.

Parent Support Group in Amherst

This parent support group started with the generous help of several parent volunteers. Starting this fall, groups will meet once per month at the home of Chris and Laurel Peltier. The meeting format will alter from having formal topics to family outings. Childcare will be provided, so be sure to let us know if you will be bringing your child.

For more information or to RSVP, please contact:
Chris and Laurel Peltier at (413) 230-3287, cnlpeltier@aol.com

Saturday, January 16th from 10-noon
Saturday, February 20th from 10-noon
Saturday, March 20th from 10-noon

Saturday, April 17th from 10-noon
Saturday, May 15th from 10-noon
Saturday, June 19th from 10-noon

Research and Studies

Lies and Irony Study

Luke Pinette of Hampshire College is conducting a study of how children's understanding of lies and irony relates to their understanding of other people's beliefs. The study will consist of two sessions of about 15 minutes each playing games with puppets, telling stories, and asking you children questions about these stories. Participants will be paid for their time. The study will run from December 2009 to March of 2010. Please email Luke at lkp06@hampshire.edu, or call him at 413-387-8232.

Optimal Outcome Study

Deborah Fein, PhD, and colleagues at the University of Connecticut , Department of Psychology, are following a number of children with histories of autism who have achieved a variety of outcomes. We are looking for children who currently have, or have a history of an autism spectrum disorder diagnosis. We are testing children between 8 and 22 years who have a third grade reading level or above. We are also looking for children with typical developmental histories, to serve as comparison groups. The children will not hear any details of their own history or diagnoses.

Participation involves two sessions of neuropsychological testing, which can be done in your home, (or travel expenses to UConn will be reimbursed) and an optional MRI in Hartford. Families will be compensated \$100 for the testing and \$100 for the MRI, and will receive results of the neuropsychological testing in a report from a licensed psychologist. For further information, please contact Molly Helt at molly.helt@aol.com.

Evaluation of Infants at Risk for Autism

Do you have a Child with Autism (ASD) AND Are you Pregnant? OR
Do you have a NEWBORN Less Than 4 Months Old?

If so, you may be eligible to join our research study on the early signs of Autism. This study will monitor the development of infants at risk for ASD during 7 follow up visits from 2 weeks to 30 months of age, involving: exams and assessments.

The study is being conducted by: Martha Herbert, MD, PhD and Margaret Bauman, MD of the The TRANSCEND Research Program(www.transcendresearch.org) and the LADDERS Clinic (www.ladders.org) at the Massachusetts General Hospital.

There is no charge for study evaluations and compensation for time is provided. For more information, please contact us at mghsiblins@partners.org or at 781-860-1760

.... More →

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Research and Studies (continued)

Social Pragmatic Skills - Study for 10-11 year olds

Boston College and Northeastern University Researchers
Seeking 10–11 Year Olds Needing to develop proficiency in Social Pragmatic Language Skills(Including those with Asperger Syndrome, High Functioning Autism, Learning Disabilities, PDD-NOS)

What will my child receive for instruction?

Your child will receive Social Pragmatics skills instruction in a small group setting.

Research Project to Validate An Innovative Social Pragmatic Language Skills Curriculum

- Previously tested pragmatic skills instructional model & curriculum
- Group instruction and learning activities
- Has been validated with children (7-9 yr. olds)
- 12-14 clinic sessions to be held January – May 2010
- Tuition-free
- Parent involvement required
- 90min. Saturday morning clinic sessions will be held in The Fenway (Boston) area

For further information and/or to apply, please contact:

Tel: 617.552.6209 or Email: adept@bc.edu

Understanding and Addressing Sleep Problems in Young Children

Dr. Gregory Hanley and his doctoral students at Western New England College are looking to start a series of studies to better understand how to best help families address sleep problems and promote healthy sleep in young children. We are committed to conducting this work in the Springfield community.

Our goal is to help families determine and understand factors that may contribute to their child's sleep problems, identify acceptable strategies with the families to address the sleep problems, and design individualized treatments to achieve age-appropriate amounts of sleep. Participation in the research studies is voluntary and will involve parents consenting to home visits at night and the use of different measurement systems to assess sleep-wake patterns by children in their homes (e.g., voice recorders). Services related to addressing sleep problems will be provided to participating families free of charge. Families who are interested in participating will be interviewed prior to selection. Families who are not initially selected due to our limited personnel and resources will nonetheless be offered a free seminar on sleep problems (*title: Understanding and Addressing Sleep Difficulties of Children and Young Adults With and Without Disabilities*) provided by Dr. Hanley at Western New England College sometime in late winter.

Families who are seeking help for their child's sleep problems and are potentially interested in this opportunity should contact Sandy Jin at sjin@wnec.edu or (909) 837-8140.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES' MENTOR MATCH PROGRAM

Community Resources for People with Autism works with local colleges to connect students studying education, psychology and other human service fields with local families with children with autism. The goal of the Mentor Match program is for students entering the human services field to gain experience working with children with autism and to get a closer look at what it's like to live with a child with autism. Student volunteers (mentors) are committed to 50 hours of volunteer work over the course of two semesters. This averages out to approximately 1.5 hours per week. Mentors will go in the family's home and work directly with parents and their child on current goals and will help with daily activities. The Mentor Match program is not a childcare program and student mentors are not to be left alone with the child. This program is designed to be a partnership between parents and mentor and a positive experience for everyone involved. This program is valuable for both the mentor as a learning experience as well as for the parents who will have an extra set of hands for 50 hours.

We are currently looking for families who are interested in having a student mentor for their child.

Please fill out the application form and return it to:

Community Resources
116 Pleasant Street, Suite 366
Easthampton, MA 01027

You will be placed on a waiting list and as students come along, your family will be considered based on the student's experience, geography and other academic needs.

If you have any questions or would like more information on the program, please contact Beth Crosby at (413) 529-2428 ext 115 or crosby@theasn.org



Parent's Name _____ Date _____

Child's Name _____ Child's Date of Birth _____

Child's Diagnosis _____

Address _____

Phone Number (Home) _____ Phone Number (Cell) _____

Email Address _____

Tell us a little about your child (likes, dislikes, level of need):



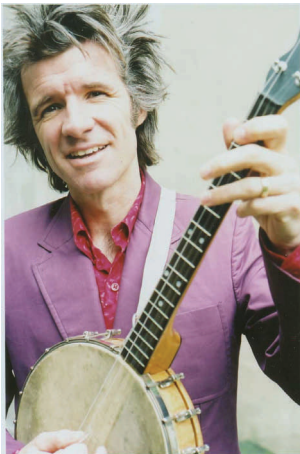
Become Part Of Whole Children's First Ever Inclusive Community Chorus and Sing In Concert With Dan Zanes!

Dear friends and families,

We are thrilled to announce the formation of the first-ever **Whole Children Inclusive Community Choir**, a chorus made up of kids with and without disabilities.

The chorus is forming soon and will rehearse this winter and spring, working up to **a concert in the late spring with Dan Zanes!**

Sing with Dan Zanes!



We are still in the planning stages for the concert date, but we want to offer spots to our Whole Children kids first before opening it to the public. If you are interested in having your child (ages 8 and up, younger kids with permission from the choir director) be a part of this exciting venture, please email Kim Holden at kim@wholechildren.org, or call Whole Children at 585-8010. Please feel free to share this email with other families who might be interested.

This is an exciting and HUGE undertaking!

We need help with planning and organizing this event. Do you have time, skill, or just a willingness to help?

We need help:

- recruiting choir members
- helping with rehearsals
- promoting the concert
- organizing the concert day

If you can help with any part of this, please email Carrie McGee at carie@wholechildren.org, or call Whole Children at 413-585-8010.

Attend your next IEP meeting informed, educated, and empowered.



A concise guide to special education, eligibility, regulations, the IEP, and more!

\$20 (plus \$2 shipping and handling)

***Quantity discount: 5 or more \$15 each plus \$6 s/h (based on 5)
(Call for s/h charges for larger orders)***

~ Loan Program available to families ~

Ring of Rights ~ Order Form

Make checks payable to:

Community Resources for People with Autism
116 Pleasant Street; Suite 366
Easthampton, MA 01027

Name:

Street:

City, ST, Zip:

Phone:

Email:

Quantity:

Amount Paid:

Northampton Community Music Center Open House

The Northampton Community Music Center will host a Music Therapy Open House on Friday, January 22, 2010 at 4 PM. Those who are interested in either private or group music therapy are welcome to attend and should call NCMC at 413-585-0001 and request preliminary information about the program. Music Therapist Michael Williams-Russell will be on hand at the Open House to meet

4-H Group Starting

I just wanted to let everyone know that I am starting a gardening 4-h club for ages 5-12 in Leverett. We have a beautiful spot to use. We have a farmer who has animals to see/pet/etc. and a pasture that we can plant on our own plants in. Please let me know if any of you want to participate with your children and best days and times for meeting together. Children with special needs are welcome with support. (I have 2 boys with autism and 1 with ADHD interested right now.) If you need help finding support, let me know.

For more information or to express interest, please contact Phyllis Keenan at: (413) 687-4191 or keenanpf@earthlink.net

Do You Have Something To Share?

Community Resources would love to hear your story.

- ♦ **If you have a story you're like to see featured in our newsletter, we'd love to hear it!**
- ♦ **If you would like to advertise a workshop, research study, community activity, or other information,**

**please contact Beth Crosby at
(413) 529-2428 ext. 115 or crosbye@theassn.org**