



www.familysupportctc.org

FSC/TC NEWSFLASH – DECEMBER 2011

There will be no **Family Support Council** meeting in December. The next meeting will be on **Friday, January 13th** at **11:30 AM** at Resource Connection Welcome Center Boardroom, 1100 Circle Drive, Fort Worth, TX 76119. Please RSVP for lunch to kimberly.gilchrist@mhmrctc.org no later than Wednesday, January 11th.

The **Spring 2012 Transition & Disability Resource Expo** will be held on **Saturday, May 5, 2012** at The Resource Connection, 2300 Circle Drive, Fort Worth, TX 76119. For more information, please visit <http://familysupportctc.org>



The next meeting of **The Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Needs Council of Tarrant County** will be on **Thursday, January 5th, 2012** from 8:30 AM to 10:00 AM at Easter Seals, 1424 Hemphill St., Ft. Worth, TX. For more information on the IDD Needs Council, call Beth Cain (817-877-1474) or email

beth.cain@iddcounciltc.org

The Men's Friendship Group will meet on **Thursday, December 8th** from 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM at The Arc of Greater Tarrant County, 1051 Haskell St, Ste 106, Fort Worth, TX 76107. This month, the men will have a Holiday Party, so bring your favorite soft drink and a snack to share, plus a gift to exchange (\$5 spending limit). For more information or to RSVP, please call Brandon Cabral at 817-986-3841.



The Ladies Friendship Group will meet on **Friday, December 16** from 11:30 – 2:00 at The Resource Connection, 1100 Circle Drive, Fort Worth, TX 76119. Join us for Christmas lunch and a gift exchange – bring a \$5 gift for the exchange. No need to bring your lunch for this party ~ food is being donated! For more information or to RSVP, contact Linda Haberthur at 817-

569-5459.

The 7 Core Concepts of a Special Needs Plan – Presented by Special Needs Planning Center and sponsored by The Arc of Greater Tarrant County. This workshop will help parents to better understand the planning which our children will need during all stages of life. We will cover what Social Security is, if your child is eligible and why it is important for our children to obtain these benefits. We will focus on using Special Needs Trusts to protect assets for our children. We will also be reviewing Guardianship, explain how to create a blue print for providing care for the child after the parents are gone and help you understand how planning for your special needs child is different both legally and financially. Join us Saturday, **December 3rd** from **12 – 2 PM** at The Arc of Greater Tarrant County, 1051 Haskell, Suite 106, Fort Worth, TX 76107. With questions or to RSVP contact Don White at (214) 518-5808 or dwhite@thesnpcenter.com

Cook Children's Medical Center's blog [We Do It All For Kids](#) has some fire safety tips for the cold winter months, advice on immunizations, and many other excellent community resources. Check them out at [CCMC: We Do It All For Kids!](#)



Medicare Open Enrollment Events, October 15th - December 7, 2011, Various locations, click [here](#) for details

The Art of Caregiving at Moncrief Cancer Institute, 2nd Saturday of each month, 9:30 am - 11:00 am Moncrief Cancer Institute, 1701 River Run, Ste. 500, Fort Worth, TX, click [here](#) for details

Financial Education Classes, sponsored by Catholic Charities Diocese of Fort Worth, Inc. Various dates, times & locations. click [here](#) for details

Fort Worth Mayor's Committee on Persons with Disabilities Seeks Applicants for Appointment click [here](#) for details

The **ADRC of Tarrant County** helps people who are aging or have a disability, their families and caregivers, in understanding their options and successfully connecting with the services and supports they need. **Call the ADRC of Tarrant County at 1-888-730-ADRC (2372) or visit <http://tarrantcountyadrc.org/>.**

Learn from Home: Long Distance Caregiving – [The Sandwich Generation: Work/Life Balance of](#)



Family Caregivers
Education and Resources

[Child and Elder Caregiving](#) “...Healthy work environments that value people and support personal life and family issues.” --The

Alliance for Work-Life Progress, 2003.



Rise Adventures It's time for [RISE rugby](#) to beat up on the [Dallas Harlequins](#) able body rugby team in the name of charity. We will be holding our annual wheelchair rugby match to benefit [Toys for Tots](#) on Friday Dec. 9th. The game will be held at the Georgia Farrow recreation center in Irving and play begins at 7:00pm. Everyone come out and watch your favorite wheelchair rucker knock the stuffing out of the able bodied guys. And, remember to bring lots of new unwrapped toys for the kids. For more information, visit Rise at <http://www.riseadventures.org/>



Our Special Children



Families Helping Families

Education and support groups for people parenting or caring for a person with a developmental disability.

PARENTS ON CALL

Parents on call are volunteer parents who provide support and information to other parents of children with special needs or disabilities. Deneesa Rasmussen 361-389-5126 Denise Gasmire 817-481-9700 Mary May 817-547-5715 Emma Ramirez-Bell 817-265-6009



OUR SPECIAL CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

Saturday, December 17th , 2011 10:00am till 12noon
University Christian Church, 2720 S. University Drive
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76109

We will celebrate our annual Christmas Party at the same location as last year's event. The University Christian Church (near TCU campus) is graciously hosting our party again. All of our traditional entertainment will be present for this fun get together. There will be clowns, music and caroling, refreshments, balloons, candy, and free toys for all children, The Ballet Folklorico, and, the traditional visit by Mr. & Mrs. Santa Claus.

The Our Special Children's Holiday Celebration is the highlight of the year for most of our families. This is their opportunity to put aside all issues and problems faced throughout 2011 and celebrate their children's lives. We all enjoy dressing up for the occasion and creating wonderful memories with Our Special Children. Do not forget your cameras as you will want to have pictures of this event.

If you haven't registered or signed up yet, please call the Arc office as soon as possible (817) 877-1474. Reservations will be required due to limited capacity. We will need to have an accurate count of all children and ages so we can have enough toys.

The Arc is asking all our families to refrain from approaching other agencies for free toys, due to an agreement we have made with Marine Corps' Toys for Tots program in order to secure their donated toys.

The Arc of GTC needs volunteers to help us coordinate the Holiday Celebration. We could also use more financial sponsors, so if you're aware of a person or organization which would like to make a contribution, let us know so we can contact them.

Information concerning children and youth: Deneesa Rasmussen (361) 389-5126 or Philip Bell (817) 877-1474 - deneesar@yahoo.com philip.bell@arcgtc.org



FEAT-NT Family Fun Day: December 10, 2010 from 2 – 4 PM
Meet Santa! Join us at the FEAT-NT Resource Center and Library, 7286 Glenview Dr, N. Richland Hills, TX 76180 for an afternoon of free family fun. We will have: - PICTURES WITH SANTA - Santa is coming to town and visiting the FEAT

Center. Have your picture made with Santa and get a treat. - BOUNCE HOUSE - - FACE PAINTING - - CHRISTMAS TRAIN - Outdoor Christmas Train for the kids to ride in. - CRAFTS - Make a special craft with your FEAT friends to take home and hang on your tree. We will have several to choose from. - REFRESHMENTS - Gluten and Casein Free Snacks and Drinks will be available for children as well as cookies and coffee for parents. FEAT Center activities offer a chance for families to come together in a safe and welcoming environment. We look forward to seeing you. An RSVP would be appreciated, but is not required to attend. If you are able, please RSVP by emailing events@featnt.org with the number of adults and children attending or by leaving a message at 682-626-5000.

The Clubhouse for Special Needs, Bedford, Texas is having their Christmas Break for teens and young adults with mild to moderate, intellectual and physical challenges. There will be friends, fun, field trips and more. Contact Darlene for more information: 817-285-0885. Email: director@theclubhouse.org



Treehouse Thursdays - A Special Gathering for Special Parents Only: A support group in Azle, for parents of special needs children! Hosted by Rise for Special Children, www.riseforspecialchildren.com. Location: First Baptist Church of Azle, 1016 Boyd RD, Azle, TX 76020 Time: 6.30pm-8.00pm (Brown Bag Dinner) For more information call Petra at 940-293-7388

STUDIO MOVIE GRILL SPECIAL NEEDS SCREENING

EAT · DRINK · MOVIES

THE MUPPETS

For families raising children with special needs, Variety the Children's Charity of Texas is pleased to sponsor a private screening of *The Muppets* as part of the SMG 2011 Special Needs Screening Series!

SATURDAY DECEMBER 3RD AT 11AM

Screenings will be hosted at each of the following locations:

Arlington
225 Merchants Row
Arlington, TX 76018

Dallas at Royal Ln.
11300 N. Central Expy.
Dallas, TX 75243

Lewisville
1600 S. Stemmons Fwy.
Lewisville, TX 75067

Plano
4721 W. Park Blvd.
Plano, TX 75093

Houston Copperfield
8580 Hwy. 6 North
Houston, TX 77095

Houston CityCentre
805 Town & Country Ln.
Houston, TX 77024

Special needs children and their siblings are free. Adult's are regular ticket pricing. Tickets available at Box Office only. Seating is based on a first come first served basis.



For more info on Variety, please visit varietytexas.org or call 214.346.0920.



The Arc of Northeast Tarrant County

1806 Haltom Road ▪ Haltom City, Texas 76117 ▪ 817-834-7700 ▪ www.arcnetc.org



INCLUDING SAMUEL – FILM SCREENING & DISCUSSION

Hosted by The Arc of Northeast Tarrant County & Special Populations Group of the Meadow Creek PTA in recognition of Inclusive Schools Week - Tuesday, December 6, 2011 ▪ 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM Meadow Creek Elementary Cafeteria | 3001 Harwood Road | Bedford, Texas 76021

Join us for an evening filled with hope, inspiration, and discovery. “*Including Samuel* is deeply personal. It deals not only with inclusion in school and the community but with the challenges of successfully including a child with severe disabilities in family life.” - Boston Globe

To RSVP contact Shannon Rosson: Jsrosson@prodigy.net

FRIDAY WITH FRIENDS & SALT HOLIDAY PARTY

Friday – December 9, 2011 from 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM ▪ (For persons who have a disability age 14 & older) Don Pablo's ▪ 5121 Rufe Snow ▪ North Richland Hills, Texas 76180

We will be enjoying dinner together followed by a \$10 gift exchange. Please bring enough money to order from the Don Pablo's menu: <http://www.donpablos.com/pdfs/DPMenu.pdf>

To participate in the gift exchange (optional), bring a \$10, wrapped, unisex gift. Please contact Wendy to RSVP. **RSVP's ARE REQUIRED.** RSVP deadline: December 2, 2011. wwarcnetc@gmail.com or (817) 834-7700

FAMILY CONNECTIONS...

PARTNERSHIP IN EDUCATION, ADVOCACY, & SUPPORT (PEAS) MEETUP GROUP

Family Connections – PEAS (Partnership in Education, Advocacy and Support) is a cross-disability Meetup group for families of children, regardless of age who have a disability.

The Family Connections PEAS Meetup group provides...

- Parent-to-parent support & networking
- Social opportunities
- Friday Coffee Talk – Monthly informational meetings

Friday Coffee Talk - Student Introduction Portfolios

Presenter: Kelly Mastin, mom of three children, 2 living life with a disability label

Save the Date! January 13, 2012 from 9:00 – 11:00

The Arc of Northeast Tarrant County – The “Arc House”- 1806 Haltom Road • Haltom City, Texas 76117

As a key member of your child's IEP team, you are required to communicate with many people throughout the school community. How we describe our children to others shapes their perceptions and values concerning our children as contributing members of the school community. Come learn how to describe your child; and how to create a student introduction portfolio in order to assist others in getting to know your child for who he or she is rather than just their disability label.

For more information or to RSVP, call (817) 834-7700, Email arcnetc@att.net or visit the PEAS group at: <http://www.meetup.com/PEAS-ArcNETC/>.

SAVE THE DATE: Mr. Samuel Trimiari, SSA Public Affair Specialist, will be making a presentation about Social Security Administration on Tuesday, **January 17, 2012** from **9:00 AM – 12:00 PM** at Resource Connection, **2300 Circle Drive, Fort Worth, TX**. The training will include information and handouts on Social Security Administration Programs, Plan for Achieving Self Support (PASS), and Impairment Related Work Expense (IRWE). RSVP: If you would like to attend this free presentation, please e-mail: Gena.Swett@dars.state.tx.us

December 1 we commemorate [World AIDS Day](#). This has been a year of reflection as we marked the [30th anniversary](#) of the first reported cases of AIDS on June 5, 1981. AIDS is still here, and it affects all of us in the [U.S.](#) and around the world. AIDS has been, and continues to be, an important issue for the disability community, which has worked diligently to end stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS and ensure that they have access to job skills training, employment services, housing and other supportive services.



Pre-cut, bagged, pre-washed produce has increased in popularity over the last few years. The convenience of ready-to-eat bagged produce has allowed consumers with hectic lifestyles to add healthy leafy greens, fruits, and other vegetables to their diet easily. Recent recalls of ready-to-eat bagged produce have raised questions on how to handle it safely at home. Read more at FoodSafety.gov.

New Medicaid Resource Available from The Arc



The Arc is excited to announce a valuable new resource available at www.thearc.org to help guide people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families through the complexities of Medicaid benefits, services and supports. [The Medicaid Reference Desk](#) offers detailed, state-by-state information about Medicaid benefits, a glossary of terms, answers to frequently asked questions, person-centered planning resources and a blog from The Arc's training specialist about issues related to Medicaid, self-advocacy and person-centered planning.

Medicaid is the largest source of financing for disabilities services in the United States. For people with disabilities and for those who provide their care, Medicaid serves as a valuable safety net. Often the only source of financial assistance for health care, Medicaid plays a critical role for people with disabilities in providing coverage and access to care. Medicaid is, however, extremely complicated. At least half of the funds for Medicaid programs come from the Federal government with the remainder coming from state funds. Federal law contains detailed requirements and limitations on eligibility, services, and financing. But, state law varies widely. This project was made possible by a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Developmental Disabilities (Grant No. 90 DN0215). We encourage you to explore the Medicaid Reference Desk via the Resources section of www.thearc.org or www.thedesk.info.

COMING UP IN DECEMBER AT SNAP...

DATE		TIME	ACTIVITY & LOCATION
Thursday	Dec 1	RSVP Deadline	RSVP Deadline for SNAP Holiday Party on Dec 8th. See details below.
Thursday	Dec 1	5:00pm	<p>NTX SNAP Members and families are invited to a special tour of the Journey to Bethlehem at Church at the Cross</p> <p>3000 William D. Tate Ave, Grapevine, TX 76051</p> <p>No cost! No waiting in lines!</p> <p>Contact Paula Baker by Nov 27th</p> <p>C 817-832-6683</p> <p>E Prbaker56@aol.com</p>
<p>Journey to Bethlehem is a fun-filled family adventure that puts you right in the middle of the Christmas story! On this unique outdoor presentation, you'll encounter Roman soldiers on horseback, wise men and their camels, and you'll marvel at the sights and sounds of the bustling marketplace in Bethlehem, plus other surprises along the way! The Journey ends at the manger moments after the baby Jesus has been born. Guides take groups of 25 - 30 people at a time through the tour. Enjoy music, live entertainment, and games for the kids INDOORS while you wait to be taken on the Journey. At the end of the Journey, enjoy hot chocolate in the reception tent.</p> <p>Journey to Bethlehem is for people of all ages and is a family-friendly event. You will need to be able to walk a quarter mile outdoors.</p> <p>*For directions check out their website at: www.catcfamily.com/journey</p>			
Monday	Dec 5	6:30pm – 8:30pm	<p>SNAP J.O.B.S. (Just Our Business Support) Club</p> <p>JOBS Club is for SNAP members interested in being the best employee they can be! Both those currently employed and those desiring employment are welcome.</p> <p>Small Conference Room & SNAP Board Room 901 Clinic Dr, Euless, TX 76039</p> <p>Contact Paula Baker</p> <p>C 817-832-6683</p> <p>E Prbaker56@aol.com</p>
Thursday	Dec 8	6:30pm – 9:00pm	<p>SNAP Holiday Party</p> <p>Knights of Columbus 1319 Brown Trail, Bedford, TX 76022</p> <p>Enjoy a night of Fun! Food! Music! Dancing!</p> <p>Admission Fee: \$5.00 plus a six pack of your favorite drink.</p> <p>RSVP REQUIRED:</p> <p>RSVP to Regina Kropf by December 1, 2011</p> <p>Contact: Regina Kropf 817-946-4109 Regk25@aol.com</p> <p>NOTE: Please refrain from individual gift exchanges at the party. Thank you.</p>



Inviting All SNAP Members...



Fun! Food! Music! Dancing!

A good time is coming, I wish it were here,
The very best time in the whole of the year;
I'm counting each day on my fingers and thumbs,
the days that must pass before the SNAP Holiday Party comes!

Join Your Friends at the SNAP Holiday Party!

Date: December 8, 2011

Time: 6:30pm - 9:00pm

Where: Knights of Columbus
1319 Brown Trail, Bedford, TX 76022

Admission Fee: \$5.00 plus 6 cans of your favorite soda.
Purchase \$1 Raffle Tickets at the door for a Gift Basket drawing.
Pay your \$25 dues for 2012 at the party and receive 2 free Raffle
Tickets!

RSVP REQUIRED!

Admission is limited to the first 100 people that reserve their spot!
Don't get turned away!
Make your reservation today!



RSVP to Regina Kropf by December 1, 2011

Contact: Regina Kropf

817-946-4109

Regk25@aol.com

NOTE: Please refrain from individual gift exchanges at the party.
Thank you.

<p>Sunday</p> 	<p>Dec 11</p>	<p>1:10pm (Time subject to change. Please arrive 20 minutes early and meet at the Food Court.)</p>	<p>SNAP Movie – Happy Feet Two Tinseltown Movies 911 W Highway 114, Grapevine, TX 76051 (Hwy 114 @ Wm D. Tate) RSVP to Regina Kropf by Friday Morning Contact: Regina Kropf 817-946-4109 Regk25@aol.com</p>
<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>Dec 28</p>	<p>RSVP Deadline</p>	<p>RSVP Deadline for SNAP Men’s Club on Dec 30th. See details below.</p>
<p>Saturday</p> 	<p>Dec 30</p>	<p>TBA</p>	<p>SNAP Men’s Club – TBA Food and drinks provided. Cost: \$10.00 at the door. Contact Roger Marshall by Dec 28th C 817-798-1745 text or call (Be sure to leave your name!) E ram747@verizon.net</p>
<p>ALL OTHER DECEMBER SNAP ACTIVITIES ARE CANCELLED. See you in January 2012!</p>			

If you are not receiving this newsletter through e-mail, please send us your FULL NAME as it appears on the mailing label and e-mail address to kimberly.gilchrist@mhmrtc.org with “Requesting FCS NewsFlash” in the subject line. This will help us cut our postage costs. Thanks!!!!!!!!!!!! The NEWSFLASH is brought to you by the Family Support Council & MHMRTC, MR/IDD Services. Your help in alerting us to community information is greatly appreciated. Please forward to Kim Gilchrist @ kimberly.gilchrist@mhmrtc.org or call 817-569-5491. If you have received this mailing and would prefer not to be on our e-mailing list, please send back a reply with REMOVE in the subject line. Para mas informacion en espanol, por favor llamar a Ruth Valdez al (817) 569-4014.