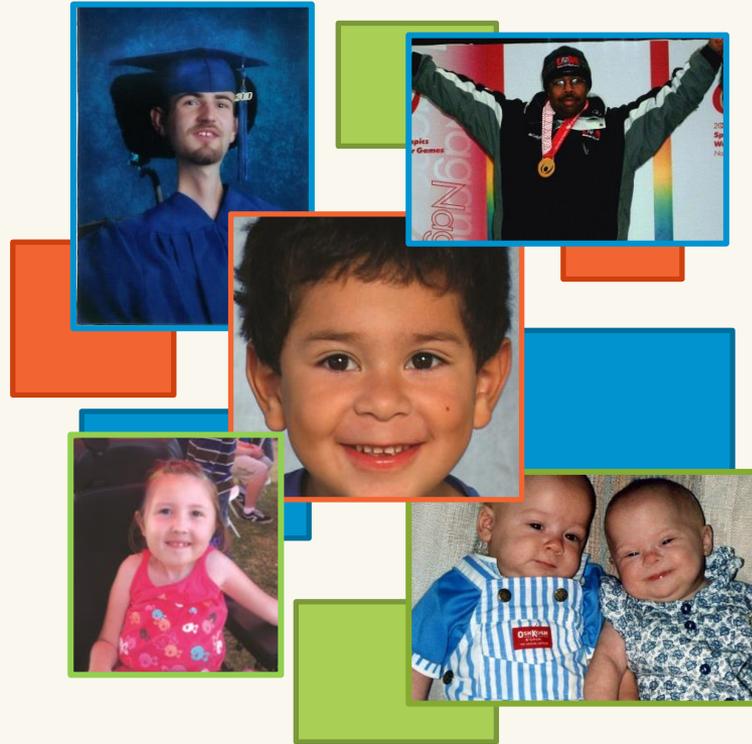




# Raising Special Kids

Families Helping Families



**What is Raising Special Kids?**

# Mission Statement

- To improve the lives of children with disabilities and special health needs by providing parents with information, training and support.
- We do this so parents can become effective advocates and encourage their children to successfully navigate through today's world.



# Supports and Services



**Healthcare**

**Parent to  
Parent**

**Special  
Education**

# Our Services

- We work hard to keep our services at no cost to families
- Available in English and Spanish
- Support families of diverse culture, structure and background



# Comprehensive Family Resource Center



- Serving all of Arizona with staff in Phoenix, Flagstaff and Tucson
- 501(c)(3) Nonprofit organization
- Founded in 1979
- Serve families with children with the full range of disabilities and special health care needs
- Staffed by family members of children with disabilities and special health care needs

# Serving families of children with disabilities and special health care needs



- Parent Training and Information Center for Special Education
- Family-to-Family Health Information Center
- Parent to Parent USA Founding Member

# Parent Training and Information (PTI)

Provide special education training and assistance to families of children with disabilities from birth through twenty six years. Every state has at least one center funded through the U.S. Department of Education under Part D of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

# Special Education Services



As Arizona's Parent and Training Information Center we offer support through workshops and consultations on:

- Identification
- Special Education Eligibility
- Individualized Education Programs (IEPs)
- Transition Processes and Procedures
- Dispute Resolution
- and more ...



# What does it look like?

- A parent calls in with a concern
- A Raising Special Kids Family Support Specialist:
  - Listens and offers technical assistance
  - Recommends training
  - Connects to community resources
  - May offer a 1:1 consultation
  - Can review documentation
  - Assist family with 'next steps'
  - Encourages collaboration
  - Assists with dispute resolution



# Trainings for Education

- IFSP Basics
- AzEIP to Preschool Transition
- IEP Basics
- Parent/Professional Collaboration
- Advanced IEP
- Preschool to Kindergarten Transition
- High School Transition
- Organizing your Records
- Bully-Free Environments
- Positive Behavior Support
- Understanding 504



# Health Care Systems

- Arizona's Family-to-Family Health Information and Education Center
- Member of Family Voices, a national organization focused on children's health issues
- Involving families in health care financing and service delivery systems



# What is “Family Support”?

- Talking with someone who has “been there”
- Information and training
- Problem-solving and advocacy



*We do not provide legal advice.*



# Avenues of Family Support

- Community resources and information
- Parents mentoring parents
- Workshops and trainings



# Community Resources and Information

- Helping families learn how to find services and referring parents to sources of information
- Navigating state systems including health, disability services and special education
- Learning techniques for effective advocacy



# Trainings for Family Support

- Resilient Relationships
- Journey to Adulthood
- Parent and Professional Collaboration
- Positive Behavior Support
- Guardianship
- Getting and Keeping the First Job



# Training Health Care Professionals

## Emphasize the family perspective:

- Family-centered care
- Medical Home
- Delivering the diagnosis
- Cultural competence
- Community resources



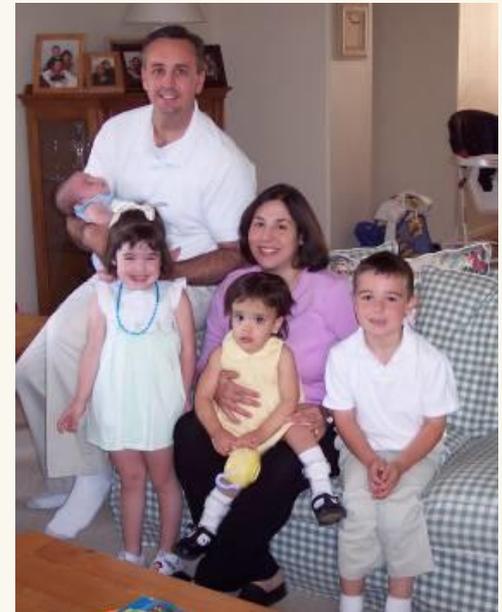
Staff presentations & parent panels

Parent Leader “family faculty” host  
medical residents in their homes

# Parent to Parent Program



- Upon request, Parent Leaders and Pilot Parents of Southern Arizona provide Parent to Parent Mentoring.
- Upon request, Parent Leaders are matched with families facing a new concern (e.g.: new diagnosis, medical and therapy options).
- Offer support and guidance
- Provide opportunities to share personal experiences and the perspective of a family who has faced similar issues



# Impact of Parent to Parent Support

- Increases families' ability to cope
- Supports families in problem solving
- Develops awareness of community support

**98% of parents have reported that Parent to Parent support is helpful to them.**



# Professionals We Serve

- Doctors and health care staff
- Medical and dental students
- Social services staff
- Educators
- Pre-service teachers
- School administrators
- State agency staff



# Parent Leadership Development



- Parent Leaders are trained in
  - Confidentiality
  - Accountability
  - Professionalism
  - Ethics
  - Building from strengths
  - Telling their story

# Parent Leader Activities



- Opportunities for Parent Leaders:
  - Parent Mentoring (P2P)
  - Parent Panels (Universities, hospitals, colleges)
  - Community Outreach Events
  - Advisory Groups, Councils, and Committees
  - Legislative Advocacy
  - Policy Development and Review
  - Public Speaking, Media Interviews
  - Training Curriculum and Materials Preparation

# How Can Raising Special Kids Serve You?



- Resource for parents
  - Information
    - Health Care Systems
    - Special Education
    - Parent to Parent
  - Training
    - Parent Role in Special Education
    - Parent Rights *and* Responsibilities



# How to Refer a Family to Raising Special Kids



- Obtain consent from the family to be referred
- Contact Raising Special Kids (phone, e-mail, fax, or letter) and send copy of referral form signed by family with their information
- Raising Special Kids staff contacts the family member within 48 hours with appropriate support, training, and information
- If a Parent to Parent connection is desired, staff arranges the match and follows up with both parties after the connection
- Referral forms are available on our website [www.raisingpecialkids.org](http://www.raisingpecialkids.org) or by calling our office 602-242-4366 or 800-237-3007

# How Else Can Raising Special Kids Serve You?



**You Tell Us**

**Q & A**

# Resources for Parents



- **Raising Special Kids** (800) 237-3007 or (520) 441-4007  
[www.raisingpecialkids.org](http://www.raisingpecialkids.org)
- **Pilot Parent of Southern Arizona**  
<http://www.pilotparents.org/ppsa/>
- **Arizona Center for Disability Law**  
(602) 274-6287 [www.acdl.com](http://www.acdl.com)

# Resources for Parents



- **PACER CENTER** [www.pacer.org](http://www.pacer.org)
- **NICHCY** (National Information Center for children & Youth with Disabilities)  
[www.nichcy.org](http://www.nichcy.org)
- **Technical Assistance ALLIANCE** for parent centers [www.taalliance.org](http://www.taalliance.org)
- **CADRE** (Consortium for Appropriate Dispute Resolution in Special Education)  
<http://www.directionservice.org/cadre/>

**YOU** can help  
Raising Special Kids serve  
thousands more Arizona families  
*AND IT WON'T COST YOU A DIME*



- Donations to Raising Special Kids qualify for state tax credits.
- Donors who itemize on their Arizona tax return can claim a personal tax credit up to \$400 per couple (\$200 as an individual).
- **This is not just another deduction—it's a tax credit that reduces the amount you owe the state... dollar for dollar.**
- Your donation to Raising Special Kids may also be deductible on your federal tax return—even though you get it all back as a state tax credit.
- To learn more, log on to [www.raisingpecialkids.org](http://www.raisingpecialkids.org)



# Thank You!



Phone #: 520-441-4007

[www.raisingpecialkids.org](http://www.raisingpecialkids.org)

Thank you for completing the  
evaluation form

Presenter: Jeanne Hollabaugh

Topic: What is Raising Special Kids?

Raising Special Kids is **Going Green!**

Please return materials for recycling if you will  
not need them 😊