

Making Connections that Make a Difference

BY MARY KAY ALTENBURG, PROGRAM DIRECTOR FOR FAMILY TIES OF NEVADA

According to Parent to Parent USA, Parent to Parent programs are a core resource for families with children who have a special health care need, disability, or mental health issue. Through a one to one "match," experienced support parents provide emotional support to families and assist them in finding information and resources. Parent to Parent programs are committed to listening and learning from families and developing an array of services and supports in response to family identified needs.

In May, Family TIES provided a Parent to Parent training workshop in Spanish in Las Vegas, attended by seventeen parents of children with special health care needs. It was an unprecedented event and a resounding success! The exchange between the participants was rich in information, experience and communication. Attendees offered noticeable support to each other on

particular experiences they lived, and the satisfaction was obvious, to see that they could help to reduce the stress of the parents and improve the lives of the families. Given this rich experience, the participants requested more trainings, to give additional parents the support and have the same opportunity they had during the training.

In Nevada, our Parent to Parent network is a growing resource for families. Family TIES has trained over 40 parents statewide since 2010.

We are currently scheduled to host another session in Las Vegas on September 24 in English. For parents requesting a match with a trained parent, we find common characteristics with the families and their kids, to encourage a comfortable relationship, ranging from children the same age, to living in a rural area, or having a similar disability. We find the right connection to create the most supportive match possible!

Help Us Celebrate our 10th Anniversary AND Disability Awareness Month!

HYPNOTIC
Comedy Hypnosis with Dan Kimm

Saturday, October 8th
Doors open at 4pm
Show starts at 5 pm
Tickets \$20 Advance/ \$25 day-of
Pioneer Underground Theater
100 S. Virginia Street
Reno, NV

Call Family TIES at 775-823-9500 for tickets and details.



Para asistencia en Español favor contactar a Yasodara Cabrera, Coordinadora de Recursos. En las Vegas marque al (702) 740-4200 y en Reno (775) 823-9500 Ext. 232.

Legislative Wrap Up 2011 - Legislative Actions Impact Individuals with Disabilities and Children with Special Health Care Needs

Key Bills Signed into Law by the Governor:

AB316 - Prescribe a statewide standard for measuring outcomes and assessing and evaluating persons with autism spectrum disorders through the age of 21 years for the purposes of receiving services through certain public programs; requires the Program to coordinate with other governmental entities to develop policies and programs for the treatment of persons with autism spectrum disorders.

AB345 - Establishes the Autism Treatment Assistance Program within the Aging and Disability Services Division.

AB48 - Children's Mental Health Consortia authorizes consortia to implement the strategic plan and engage in activities to improve the provision of mental health services to children with emotional disturbances and their families. Authorizes consortia to apply for and accept gifts, grants, donations and bequests and enter into activities.

SB149 - Establishes the policy of the State to treat persons with intellectual disabilities with consideration and respect. Establishes a preference for the phrase "persons with intellectual disabilities" and requires the Legislative Counsel to replace references to "persons with mental retardation" with references to "persons with intellectual disabilities".

SB423 - Revises assistance to older persons and persons with physical disabilities.

SB437 - Revises provisions governing assistance to parents and relatives caring for certain persons with intellectual disabilities.

We Offer...

TRAINING

“On behalf of Milagros Escondidos I want to thank Family TIES’ staff for the extraordinary job they are doing reaching out to the Nevada disability community and assisting them to improve their lives and inclusion in our community”.

-NORMA GOMEZ,
EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR OF
MILAGROS
ESCONDIDOS
LAS VEGAS, NV

- ▶ **Be a Peer Mentor:** Join our **FREE** workshop and learn how to effectively provide emotional support to other parents who have children with special health care needs and disabilities.

Las Vegas:

Saturday, September 24 (English)
10:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.
HealthInsight Community Room
6830 W. Oquendo Road
Las Vegas, NV 89118

Registration is required. Please call Lisa Erquiaga, Training Coordinator at 1-866-326-8437, ext. 231 or register online: <http://familytiesnv.org/training/events>

- ▶ **Join our Topical Call:** Learn about Health Care Reform with the presentation, *Let’s Talk Affordable Care Act (ACA) and Health Care Reform for Nevada*, by Marilyn Wills and Sherlene Simpson from the Nevada Office of Consumer Health Assistance, on **Tuesday, August 30, 2011 from 12:00 PM–1:00 PM**. Please register for this event prior to August 30th by calling Lisa Erquiaga at 1-866-326-8437, ext. 231 or register online at www.familytiesnv.org/training/events

INFORMATION

- ▶ **Toll-free parent support and information/referral line 1-866-326-8437** is available to families of children and youth with special health care needs. In partnership with Nevada State Health Division Bureau of Family, Child, and Community Wellness, Family TIES of Nevada offers Family Centered Outreach and Support AND Up-to-date Information on Resources.

www.familytiesnv.org

EMOTIONAL SUPPORT

Family TIES is pleased to welcome Andrea Lalen-Kasten to its team of family leaders! Andrea grew up in the Reno/ Sparks area, is married, and has a 22-month old daughter. We asked Andrea to share her family story:

- ▶ **A Passion for Helping Families:**

“My daughter, Maxine, has a rare medical condition known as anteriorly displaced anus, which currently occurs in approximately 1% of births. Thankfully, with my past experience in case management, I was able to locate resources and medical providers in our community to obtain the information and assistance my family needed. This has been crucial in maintaining her current health with a special diet and how to handle any “flair ups”. My younger brother has pulmonary atresia, along with multisystem organ failure. This has posed many challenges for my parents: financially, medically, as well as emotionally, including caring for an infant undergoing multiple open heart surgeries.

Growing up with this experience, as well as having a child of my own with special health care needs, has fueled my passion to help others. Since obtaining my position as the Resource Coordinator with Family TIES of Nevada, I have not only located resources for my own daughter, but have been able to provide information to my parents on youth transition for my brother, who is now learning how to navigate through the process of growing from a young man to an adult with special health care needs. I am so proud to be a member of the Family TIES team, helping families who are facing the many challenges that come with having a child or family member with special health care needs”.

ANDREA LALEN-KASTEN, RESOURCE COORDINATOR FOR FAMILY TIES OF NEVADA

Highlights of Success!!

► Family TIES receives Family-to-Family Health Information Center Continuation Grant

For seven years Family TIES has operated the Nevada Family-to-Family Health Information Center and in May was awarded a Continuation Grant from the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureau, Division of Services for Children with Special Needs. This critical funding will allow our organization to continue to provide information, education, training, outreach and peer support to families of children and youth with special health care needs and the professionals who serve them.

► Family TIES is the Family Voices State Affiliate for Nevada

Family TIES has been working with **FAMILY VOICES**[®] ... keeping families at the center of children's health care for many years and in August received the State Affiliate Designation. Family TIES will join this network of family organizations and leaders throughout the country that is part of a national movement to improve services and outcomes for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs and their families.

► Youth Transition Jamboree—A Success!

Family TIES's 2nd Youth Transition Summit—*Youth Transition Jamboree*, held in Las Vegas on March 17 & 18 was a huge success as family members, youth, and professionals gathered together to learn more about employment, education, and health care support for youth with special health care needs and disabilities. Family TIES would like to extend heartfelt appreciation to the sponsors, speakers, exhibitors, and volunteers for making the conference possible.

From Youth Consultant to Youth Transition VISTA

BY OWEN ERQUIAGA

I have been involved in youth leadership since the age of eighteen after attending an Independent Living conference in 2006 and meeting other young adults with disabilities in the disability rights movement. They inspired me to educate other youth on disability issues and get involved in the legislative process.

As a member of the Partners in Policymaking graduating class of 2007 I learned about resources for self-advocates. It was my goal to organize a youth leadership forum, so I began collecting resources and contacting youth in my community, as well as legislators on the state and local levels. Youth leadership became my passion.

As a youth consultant with Family TIES of Nevada I assisted youth in transition to adulthood, primarily in the area of moving from pediatric to adult healthcare. Without adequate healthcare, youth might not be well enough to attend school, or seek employment, or be well enough to leave home and live independently. I have made presentations at various conferences across the state sharing information on youth leadership incentives around the country. It is my dream to start a youth leadership group in Nevada so youth in Nevada can meet others, learn about issues, and live empowered lives.

This spring, I accepted a Youth Transition VISTA position. I want to get the message directly to youth that independence is an important part of life, with or without disabilities. I feel strongly about this project, because I am going through this transition myself. My time as a VISTA has been wonderful: speaking to People First chapters, meeting community members, and assisting youth with gaining life skills. I am eager to teach rising advocates and support current advocates, to maintain their independence.

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"..the parents I work with have been empowered by attending the Parent-to-Parent trainings... You have done SO MUCH to help East Valley Family Services!!! Thank you..."

MAYRA BURNHAM
FAMILY SUPPORT SPECIALIST
EAST VALLEY FAMILY SERVICES
LAS VEGAS NV



Family TIES of Nevada is a member of Parent to Parent USA.



N. Nevada Office:

3100 Mill Street, #117
Reno, NV 89502
775.823.9500 phone
775.323.2205 fax
866.326.8437 toll free

S. Nevada Office:

6830 W. Oquendo Road, #102
Las Vegas, NV 89118
702.740.4200 phone
702.948.0308 fax

Para asistencia en Español favor contactar a Yasodara Cabrera, Coordinadora de Recursos. En las Vegas marque al (702) 740-4200 y en Reno (775) 823-9500 Ext. 232.

www.familytiesnv.org

volunteer...

to be a support parent, serve on our Board of Directors, or organize a fundraising event.

assist...

with contacting families when we have Action Alerts.

contribute...

by making a financial contribution. Visit our home page at www.familytiesnv.org and click on the "Make a Donation" button.



Become a friend on facebook:
<http://www.facebook.com/familytiesnv>

Celebrate 10 years of Community Service with...

HYPNOTIC Comedy Hypnosis with Dan Kimm

Presented by Reno-Tahoe Comedy

Join Family TIES in celebrating our 10 year Anniversary AND Disability Awareness Month with a Special One-of-a-Kind Performance

HYPNOTIC is a mesmerizing, laugh-a-minute show that not only busts the myths surrounding hypnosis but also showcases the hidden talents of the volunteers' subconscious mind. Dan Kimm, the featured hypnotist who has appeared in showrooms, classrooms, and boardrooms throughout the area, transforms audience members into entertaining stars of the show.

WHERE: Pioneer Underground Theatre, 100 S. Virginia Street, Reno, NV (below the Pioneer Center)

WHEN: Saturday, October 8, 2011
Doors Open at 4:00 PM, show starts at 5:00 PM

TICKETS: \$20 Advance, \$25 day of the show

With each ticket purchased you will be entered to win an exciting Door Prize! Tickets can be purchased on-line at www.renotahoecomedy.com, or in-person at the Pioneer Box Office and Family TIES Reno office. Call 775-823-9500 for more information.

SEE YOU AT THE SHOW!