

The CIDSO News

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"A Brighter Tomorrow"

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Future Events

Christmas is coming, and so are two big CIDSO events. The CIDSO Christmas party and CIDSO board elections.



First, the Christmas party. This year's Christmas party will be held on Sunday December 7th from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm at Calvary United Methodist Church. The address is 1700 North Towanda Ave, Normal. The party will offer crafts, Christmas carols, dinner, and a meeting with Santa. CIDSO asks each family to bring a toy for the "Toys for Tots" program. This is a great opportunity to give our children a chance to give back. Each child/family can hand their gift to Santa for donation, and then Santa will give a small gift to the child. The Christmas party offers opportunities to see old friends and to make new ones. It would be greatly appreciated if families would RSVP to the party so that CIDSO can plan properly. With your RSVP we can make sure to have plenty of food, crafts, gift bags and so on. RSVP's can be made via email to Judy Bates. Her address is mudbug1939@netzero.com.

Second, elections. Each year during the Christmas party, a brief meeting is held for the election of officers. CIDSO will have openings on the board, and new faces are welcome. If interested in sharing your talents, please contact Brenda Harms to tell her what you would like to do.

Firstgiving

The Buddy Walk may be a fond memory, but our Firstgiving site is still up and available for donations until December 31, 2008. There is still a chance to help CIDSO raise awareness and promote inclusion. Please feel free to pass this on site to friends and family who may have wanted to donate but forgotten. Donations can be made at firstgiving.com

Items from the news...

- After being invited to Australia to fill a critical need of physicians, one family discovered that Australia has denied citizenship to their family because their 13 year old son Lucas does not meet health requirements. Dr. Moeller's son has Down syndrome. Dr. Bernhard Moeller's application for residency has been rejected by the immigration department because they claim his son would pose a burden on taxpayers for his medical care. Immigration has concerns stating that his existing medical condition was "likely to result in a significant and ongoing cost to the Australian community." This case has provoked many supporters all across Australia who have launched complaints on the internet and on the radio. Currently this is being appealed, and more will be reported as this case unfolds.
- Texas high school seniors elect a special individual for their 2008 homecoming queen. Kristin Pass is an 18 year old senior attending Aledo High School. Kristin is a very popular young lady through out her high school, and had many people pulling for her. What makes Kristin so special? Kristin has Down syndrome. Her mother was present at the edge of the football field when the announcement came. The stadium erupted with cheers. When asked how she felt, Kristin responded "exciting" and "awesome". Mom says she was so thrilled that she took her crown to bed with her. Friends say that Kristin does not care what's on the outside, she is friends with everyone. Best wishes to Kristin and her family on their wonderful accomplishment.

In the works...

Recently talk of a new endeavor that is a joint effort of Marc First, Prairie Light, and the Second Presbyterian Church of Bloomington that may be of interest. As many of you know the Compassion Center that was once housed in the Second Presbyterian Church has been moved into the Home Sweet Home Center. That leaves a big vacant space for the church to fill. Several people have come forward and suggested the space be used for people with disabilities and so the joint effort was formed. Open discussion happened on November 6th, covering the possibilities of use for the space. The current line of thinking is that the space could become a drop off center for families. The center could become a place where adults with disabilities could hang out together, do activities, have computer classes, exercise, have music therapy or art therapy ect. The possibilities are really wide open at the moment but the need family input. If you have any further question please contact Jean Bates or Mary Wright at 452-4949.

Easter Seals Hosts New Parent Breakfast

On November 1st. Easter Seals opened their doors to CIDSO families and hosted a New Parent Breakfast. With over 20 people in attendance, families enjoyed coffee and breakfast prior to a tour of the new facilities. Mr. Kory Kaeb, Director of Clinical Services, discussed services offered by Easter Seals, and fielded parent questions. Easter Seals offers many different services that will be discussed in future issues of the newsletter. Thank you again for taking the time to host this event.

Mr. Kory Kaeb speaks with families.



Top Ten Things to Consider When Buying Toys for Children with Disabilities

Holiday time is exciting for all children, and children with disabilities are no different. There are nearly 6 million children with disabilities who will receive holiday gifts this season. Yet because gift givers are afraid of selecting the “wrong” toy, many children with disabilities find pajamas and sock wrapped up in those brightly-colored boxes. Not the toy of their dreams.

The National Lekotek Center recommends the following Top Ten Things to Consider When Buying Toys for Children with Disabilities.

1. **Multisensory Appeal:** Does the toy respond with lights, sounds, or movement? Are there contrasting colors? Does it have a scent? Is there texture?
2. **Method of Activation:** Will the toy provide a challenge without frustration? What is the force required to activate? What are the number and complexity of steps required to activate?
3. **Where will the toy be used:** Can the toy be used in a variety of positions such as side-lying or on wheelchair tray? Will the toy be easy to store? Is there space in the home?
4. **Opportunities for Success:** Can play be open-ended with no definite right or wrong way? Is it adaptable to the child’s individual style, ability and pace?
5. **Current popularity:** Is it a toy most any child would like? Does it tie in with other activities like T.V., movies, books, clothing, etc?
6. **Self-expression:** Does the toy allow for creativity, uniqueness, and choice-making? Will it give the child experience with a variety of media?
7. **Adjustability:** Does it have adjustable height, sound volume, speed, level of difficulty?
8. **Child’s Individual Characteristics:** Does the toy provide activities that reflect both developmental and chronological ages? Does it reflect the child’s interest and age?
9. **Safety and Durability:** Consider the child’s size and strength in relation to the toy’s durability. Is the toy and its parts sized appropriately? Does the toy have moisture resistance? Can it be cleaned and washed?
10. **Potential for Interaction:** Will the child be an active participant during use? Will the toy encourage social engagement with others?

“With thousands of toys on the market, it is hard for parents to know which types of toys are good matches for their children,” says Beth Boosalis Davis, Executive Director of the National Lekotek Center. “We have received thousands of requests from parents asking us to help them identify those toys that will bring success rather than a sense of frustration to their children. This Top Ten List should give parents and their family members more confidence when they go to the stores to make their toy purchases.” The National Lekotek Center leads the way for accessible play for children with disabilities and their families through a nationwide non-profit network of 62 play centers, toy lending libraries and computer play programs. For more information, call the Lekotek toy Resource Helpline: 800-366-PLAY



The View from My Shoes Continued from the October Newsletter

The "Terrible Twos". Mom and Dad just don't get it. I know when I need a nap and, really, having someone point it out is a little annoying. Speech delay, they call it. I am having some trouble making words, they are in here, I just can't get them out. So using ASL (American Sign Language) might be the plan.

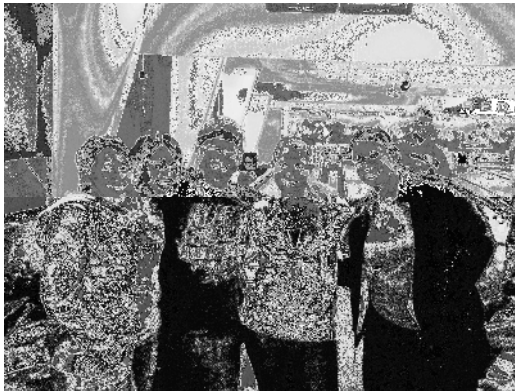
One of my cousins is a bossy girl, but fun as long as we do it her way. She has a name for Grandpa. I'll try to call him Paw Paw too.

I have this feeling I may not be able to see as clearly as others. I sit close to the TV, but so does my cousin. I'm just not sure. Mom took me to a doctor. After that we picked out these things I am suppose to wear off my ears and across my eyes. I gave that a few seconds last night, but off they went.

Dora was asking about clues when I found I could see better with my glasses on. I'm glad Mom has been so persistent. I sit in that special place on Grandma, wear my glasses, and we explore with Dora. Did you know I love ice cream? Just checking. The desert is in full bloom. We are here visiting Paw Paw and Grandma. I love the pool, but mostly like it when we walk in the desert. There are tons of flowers and animals just out there in the middle of nowhere. Yesterday I spotted a large bird as he came down from the sky to catch something hidden. It was a little unsettling to see him eat some helpless creature, but Paw Paw said that is nature's way. Survival of the fittest and all. My third birthday was very fun. I was a little ill at ease opening presents while my cousin had to watch. So I shared with her and we were all happy together. I overheard my Dad saying I have a generous streak, not really, I am just gifted. I can tell if those around me need something. Now if I could get Paw Paw out so the old guy could understand me. Oh, I need to go. This potty training is hard work. To be continued...

CEC Bowling...

As Fall slips into winter there tend to be fewer and fewer activities to get us out of the house. Take heart, the CEC is going strong and Bowling is on the agenda. Upon entering the bowling alley, it's easy to see who's having the most fun. Hi fives, laughter, slips and falls...all add to the CEC hosted social event. As with any good time, the more



From left to right are Danielle Luebke, Kayla Hembroth, Corey, Casey Schave, and A.J. Darnell.



the merrier. This bowling event is open to high school aged kids thru adults, and offers exercise, social skills opportunities, and tons of fun! This months bowling date i November 18th at the ISU Bowling and Billiards center from 7-8:30pm. Come on out and show off your skills.

Mark the Date:

November 8:

NADS Conference in Rosemont, IL
8:00 am to 4:30 pm

November 18:

*CEC Bowling at ISU
7-8:30 pm

December 7:

CIDSO Christmas party and elections.

(Please RSVP to Brenda or Jean to reserve your spot. There will be no snacks, but CIDSO will cover the costs of bowling.)

Disclaimer Policy

The editor of this newsletter writes as a non-professional. CIDSO does not promote any therapy, treatment, institution or professional system, etc. Please discuss specific concerns with your health care professional.