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## Rowell Family Empowerment of Northern California, Inc.

[Online Newsletter](#)

[Go to → EmpowerYourFamily.org](http://EmpowerYourFamily.org)

**NEWS: This section is applicable to anyone living in the 25 counties in Far Northern California.**



### **Job Opening at RFENC in Redding.**

We're looking for a Spanish Bi-lingual Parent Liaison to join our team! For more info, including a job description, go to our homepage and click 'Job Opportunities' above the blue puzzle piece. You'll find all the info you need!

### **Thank You Ramblers!**

On behalf of Rowell Family Empowerment of Northern California and Successful Living with Autism through Training and Education, we would like to thank the Ramblers Motorcycle Group and all other contributors for their generous donation of time and money. Your contributions make it possible for us to remain operating and to serve as many children struggling with Autism as possible. This is only possible because of thoughtful contributions from people like you. Once again thank you for your generous donation!

Sincerely,

Gina Grecian

Program Manager of Autism Services

### **Family Voices Summit a Success!**

Family Voices had an amazing Summit in Sacramento last month - a big thank you to the sponsors and participants! As promised, materials (including photos) are now available on [FamilyVoicesOfCA.org](http://FamilyVoicesOfCA.org). Available resources listed there include: a Budget Analysis for children and youth with special health care needs (the only of its kind in the state!), PowerPoint presentations from our amazing presenters and more. Sincerely, Tara Robinson of Family Voices

### **Get Your FREE Epilepsy Resource Guide.**

'What is epilepsy and how is it treated?' 'List of useful contacts and resources' 'Connect with parents just like you' - To get your free copy contact Epilepsy Foundation of Northern California at 1-800-632-3532.

### **Give Some Input on CCS.**

Are you a parent with a child receiving CCS services? A youth receiving CCS? If you answered YES to either of these questions, please make the time today to fill out a survey share with other families. It's that simple! This survey is a wonderful opportunity to provide valuable input to the State of California as it evaluates the CCS program and makes decisions about its future.

[Survey in English](#) - [Survey in Spanish](#)

### **What Does Equality Mean to You?**

This month, the National Campaign to Restore Civil Rights launched a nationwide contest entitled 'What Does Equality Mean to You?'. The contest urges young people across the country to enter into dialogue on civil rights. People ages fourteen through eighteen can participate in the contest by submitting an original written or visual entry (a drawing, photograph or cartoon) responding to the following question: "**What does equality mean to you?**". The contest will run until April 12, 2010. For contest details, please visit [RollBackCampaign.org](http://RollBackCampaign.org).



## **Changes in Regional Center Services: Asking your Health Insurance Provider for Coverage.**

Dealing with our child's insurance plan can be very confusing. Do you want to know how to ask for services, what to do if denied, how to file a complaint? [Read this article](#) and get some helpful tips!

## **NAMI Launches New Web site on Transition Age Youth and Young Adults.**

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) has launched [StrengthofUs.org](http://StrengthofUs.org), a new online community where young adults living with mental health concerns can provide mutual support in navigating unique challenges and opportunities during the critical transition years from ages 18 to 25. Developed by young adults, StrengthofUs.org is a user-driven social networking community where members can connect with peers, share personal stories, creativity and helpful resources by writing and responding to blog entries, engaging in discussion groups and sharing videos, photos and other news.



## **Live Seizure Management Series Webinars- May 11 and July 20.**

May 11 will feature John M. Pellock, MD and Kathy O'Hara, RN on the topic of 'What Families & Caregivers Need to Know About Managing Seizures.' July 20 will feature Steven M. Wolf, MD & Patricia E. McGoldrick, CPNP on the topic of 'DIASTAT as Treatment for Acute Seizures.' Register here at [WebEx.com](http://WebEx.com).

## **RFENC Regional Events and Co-Sponsored Events**

### **IEP Prep in Mendocino - April 9.**

The Mendocino County Special Education Community Advisory Committee (CAC) and Rowell Family Empowerment of Northern California will be co-sponsoring an "IEP Prep" Workshop for parents on Friday, April 9th, from 4:00pm-7:00pm at the Anderson Valley Adult School Room 22, located at 12300 Anderson Valley Way, Boonville, CA. The training will be in English with Spanish translation. Participants must RSVP (707-467-5167 ) so materials can be made available. Please indicate whether you need the information in English or Spanish. Persons with disabilities requiring special accommodations for attendance at the meeting should contact the SELPA office (467-5167) at least one business day prior to the meeting date.

### **Surrogate Parent Training - April 26.**

Would you like to be a Surrogate Parent? A Surrogate Parent is an adult who is willing to go to IEP meetings for students who do not have parents that can attend. The Shasta SELPA office, in conjunction with RFENC will offer training to adults who would like to act as surrogate (stand-in) parents for students whose parents no longer retain educational rights. For more info, including the flyer and how to register, visit the [Shasta County SELPA website](#).

**Week of the Young Child Events: RFENC and First 5 Shasta County partner to offer these fun and stimulating events!**

### **Let's Make Something! - April 10 and 16.**

ArtBrain, a program with Rowell Family Empowerment, is planning an opportunity for all children of varying socio-economies and intellectual and physical abilities to experience process-oriented, open-ended, and meaningful art while collaborating with artists of many mediums, other children, and the community. At Library Park in Redding on 4/10 from 2-8pm and then at 3308 Main Street in Cottonwood from 3-7pm on 4/16. Call Corina for more info at (530) 227-6699.



### **The BIG RACE 2010 - April 17.**

Get ready... Get set... GO! Plan to have your youngster, ages 2-5, be in the Big Race this year. It's lots of fun and children with disabilities are encouraged. Each year this is a huge event during the Week of the Young Child and Rowell Family Empowerment is playing a major part in it. To get a better idea of what the Big Race consists of see the video of [last year's race on YouTube](#). Be sure to [register your child](#) for this event.

## Community Events:

April 2 is World Autism Awareness Day and the month of April is Autism Awareness Month!

### Autism Awareness Faire - April 2.

Happening at the Downtown City Plaza in Chico this event will take place from 2-7pm at 400 Main Street. There will be food, music, vendors and more. The awareness walk will begin at 6pm. Come and learn about services and resources available in Northern California for individuals, providers, and families dealing with autism in the North State. Questions? Call Rachel Wood, Autism LifeSpan Resource Director, at 897-0900.



### Autism Awareness Event - April 21.

From 11am-2pm Carolin Corum author, will be signing her book, *Buried Treasure; Finding Hope and Understanding in Autism*, at Bibles Books & More at 2244 Hilltop Dr. in Redding. RFENC will be there from 11am-1 pm. Come on by!

### Autism Awareness Fair in Yuba City - April 24.

Family S.O.U.P and Yuba City Unified School District are sponsoring this event to take place at Butte Vista School in the Multi-purpose Room at 2195 Blevin Road from 10am-2pm. Over 30 local agencies that provide services will be available to speak about a variety of topics. Please plan to attend if you or someone you know could benefit. For more info call 751-1925.

### Champion of the Year Nominations, due April 2.

The Sixth Annual Circle of Champions Award Luncheon will be held on Saturday, May 15, 2010 from 11:30am to 1:30pm at the Elk's Club in Red Bluff. The luncheon will honor members of the Tehama County community who have made a positive impact on the lives of people with Developmental Disabilities. If you know of someone who deserves to be honored by their peers and by the community, please nominate them for this award. The deadline for nominations is April 2, 2010. Nomination forms are available from Laurie Schlottman at Puckett Residential Services, Inc. (528-2130) or Judy Ferrell at North Valley Services (529-2100).

### Prader-Willi Syndrome Workshop - April 2.

Put on by Far Northern Regional Center, consider this a request to save the date, and to be at the Red Bluff Community Center from 8:30am - 12 noon. The keynote speaker will be Theresa McGrath of the Prader-Willi Syndrome Foundation of California. There will also be a special panel of local experts for a question & answer session. Title 17 CEU's offered. Look for a registration form mid-February from Far Northern. If you have any questions contact Kay Cullis at 222-8795 x3386.

### Artist's Reception - April 6.

Meet Chico artist TJ Bryant at a reception in his honor from 3-4pm at the High Chaparral Gallery (1900 Churn Creek Road, 3rd floor) in Redding. The theme is *Carnivores and Reptiles* and the medium is paint and ceramics. Come show your support for TJ Bryant!



### State-wide IMPACT Spring Symposium - April 10.

For friends and families of children who are deaf or hard of hearing, this will take place from 9:30-4pm at Exceptional Parents Unlimited in Fresno. Cost is \$25 or \$40 per couple. Lunch will be included. For more info call Darla at (559) 229-2000 x208 or register online at [ImpactFamilies.org](http://ImpactFamilies.org).



### Shriners Hospital Screening Clinic - April 10.

It's that time again for Shriners Annual Screening Clinic for Children. This clinic is where they screen children for problems that the Shriners Hospital in Sacramento can treat. FREE! 9am-1pm at the Chico Masonic Family Center, 1110 W. East Avenue. No appointment needed. Just show up. Contact Brad Azevedo in Chico for more info: (530) 879-9199.

### Transitions from School to Work - April 13.

A presentation about "Transitions from School to Work" for special needs individuals will be presented by Robert Brown at the Citizens Advisory Committee meeting, April 13, 2010 at the SCOE offices at 1644 Magnolia St. in the upstairs Boardroom. This is an opportunity for people with special needs and their families to learn from, and give feedback to, the State Council on Developmental Disabilities through a representative of the Area II Board on Developmental Disabilities.

### **Expert on Down Syndrome to Speak - April 22 and 23.**

From Rocklin & Roseville Today; (SACRAMENTO, Calif.) - George Capone, a nationally known expert in the care of individuals with Down syndrome, on April 22 and 23 will give two free lectures, one for families and caregivers, the other for health-care professionals, in a collaboration between the UC Davis Department of Pediatrics and the Down Syndrome Information Alliance, a Sacramento-based advocacy organization for people with Down syndrome and their families. [Read more...](#)

### **First Annual Butte County NAMI Walk - April 24.**

Come help raise money to offer free education, support, and advocacy for people who have a mental illness and their families. Find out about service available in your community at the Resource Fair immediately following the walk. The walk will be at 10am, with registration at 9am in Chico's Downtown Plaza. For more info or to register see [NAMIButteCounty.org](http://NAMIButteCounty.org).

### **The Horse Boy - April 29.**

Join FOCUS Film Festival, for a screening of The Horse Boy, at the Big Room at Sierra Nevada, April 29, 2010, 6:30 PM to 9:00 PM. The Horse Boy follows one Texas couple and their autistic son as they trek on horseback through Outer Mongolia in an attempt to treat his condition with shamanic healing. The film is part adventure story, part insight into shamanic healing and part intimate look into the autistic mind. Purchase tickets at the door or in advance at all Little Red Hen stores in Chico. General admission \$10 or \$6 students. For more information call Mary Ann, 222-4791 or visit [www.farnorthernrc.org/FOCUSFilmFestival](http://www.farnorthernrc.org/FOCUSFilmFestival)



### **Minds Matter! - May 12.**

The Mental Wellness Resource Fair is happening from 11am-2pm at the Shasta County Veterans Hall at 1605 Yuba Street in Redding. Free admission and there will be food, raffle prizes, information booths and more! For more info call (530) 225-5985 or visit [ShastaHHSA.net](http://ShastaHHSA.net).

### **DownStream Fly Fishing Day - May 22.**

Students with Down Syndrome ages 7-35 who live in Yuba County can come out and have fun learning to fly fish at Splat Hill, 851 Marysville Road, in Browns Valley. Try your hand at activities such as casting, fly tying, fishing, and even get served lunch. There will be 2 volunteers for every student and no experience is necessary. For more info on volunteering, participating, or donating please contact Ryan Miller at (530) 913-8312 or [rhmillier@gmail.com](mailto:rhmillier@gmail.com).



### **Camp Grizzly - Aug 1.**

Deaf, hard of hearing, or KODA (Kids of Deaf Adults) youth between ages 7 and 14 will have a wonderful time and every camper will be challenged to achieve. Applications and more info can be had at [NorCal's website](#).

### **Don't Forget About RFENC's Event Calendar.**

Find dates and times of our recurring training and support groups by going to our Online Calendar, available on [RFENC's website](#). We routinely offer training on topics such as the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Medical Information Binder, and IEP Preparation, to name a few. There is a special IEP Preparation Training for parents of children birth-5! And we offer several ongoing support groups. Need info about what exactly the training entails? See the Workshops page on our website.

### **Make a Donation!**

[Go to → Donations](#)

RFENC is able to provide services to children with disabilities and their families because of State & Federal grants and private donations from people just like yourself. Won't you help us? You can make a donation with your credit card securely through PayPal (via our website) or make checks payable to *RFENC, 962 Maraglia Street, Redding, CA 96002*