



# CRS Parent Connection

Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services

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## Is there an app for that?

Finding useful apps in a crowded marketplace

by Lisa Gibert

Last summer, I went to a workshop about using apps in special education. For an hour and a half I was wowed by a stream of fascinating and useful apps. When the workshop was done, I said to a friend, "I feel like I need to quit my job and devote the next six months to learning about all the apps my daughter needs." I felt a little better when my friend said she was having similar thoughts.

Fortunately, you do not really have to spend days or even hours to find useful apps. There are good resources that can help, and some help with finding funding also. Here is an introduction to a few.

Try starting with free apps or the "lite" version of an app, before spending a lot of money. This way you can find out what works best for your child.

**Bridging Apps**, [bridgingapps.org](http://bridgingapps.org)

On this website, apps are reviewed by therapists and teachers and rated by users. There are detailed descriptions of each app and screen shots also. To search on Bridging Apps,



*Tablet computers make excellent learning tools for children when outfitted with the proper software*

you need to use their INSIGNIO Tool. Click on the "INSIGNIO APP TOOL" button and chose either "APP SEARCH" or "FIND AN APP" from the drop-down menu. "APP SEARCH" lets you to search using keywords. "FIND AN APP" lets you browse the index, where apps are listed under helpful categories. A list of funding sources can be found by clicking on the "PROGRAMS" button and choosing "FUNDING" from the drop-down menu.

**Pinterest**, [pinterest.com/lasenders/](http://pinterest.com/lasenders/)

This Pinterest site was created by a speech therapist. It displays oodles of educational apps organized into categories. Each app is described. Scroll and find many neat categories like "Switch Accessible Apps" and "iPad Accessories."

### Special Needs App Review

[www.friendshipcircle.org/apps](http://www.friendshipcircle.org/apps)

Launched in January by the non-profit Friendship Circle, this site has apps organized into 10 broad categories. It is very user friendly, and apps are reviewed by users. Their blog at [www.friendshipcircle.org/blog](http://www.friendshipcircle.org/blog) has lots of great special needs resources and support for parents and educators.

**WonderBaby**, [www.wonderbaby.org](http://www.wonderbaby.org)

WonderBaby.org is funded by the Perkins School for the Blind. On this website, you can find a great list of fun apps for young children and children with visual impairments. Just click

*Please see Apps, Page 5*

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**Editor:** Susan Colburn  
State Parent Consultant

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Office of Communications  
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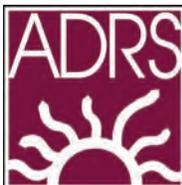
**Contributing writers:**  
Lisa Gibert  
Ryan Godfrey  
Sandra Hazzard  
Sharon Henderson  
Rita Hutcheson-Cobbs

**Address inquiries to:**  
Susan Colburn  
Children's Rehabilitation Service  
602 S. Lawrence St.  
Montgomery, AL 36104  
**Phone:** (800) 846-3697, (334) 293-7041  
**Fax:** (334) 293-7373  
**Email:** susan.colburn@rehab.alabama.gov

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## From the Director's Chair



### Changing faces in CRS district office leadership *Farewell to a combined 91½ years of CRS service*

Since February 2012, CRS has been experiencing significant leadership changes, particularly in our district supervisor positions. For those who don't know, CRS is divided into eight districts including Anniston/Gadsden, Dothan/Andalusia, Huntsville/Muscle Shoals, Mobile/Jackson, Montgomery/Opelika, Tuscaloosa/Selma, Birmingham and Homewood. Each district is under the leadership of a district supervisor who is responsible for overseeing all clinic services, staff, and budget expenditures.

On March 1, 2012, CRS bid farewell to Susan Miller, district supervisor for Anniston/Gadsden. Mrs. Miller began her work with CRS as a social worker and retired with 39 years of state service, three and a half with the Department of Human Resources and 35 and a half at ADRS/CRS. She became a Crippled Children Service supervisor in 1991, before CRS underwent its name change to Children's Rehabilitation Service. At that time, rehabilitation services was housed in the Department of Education, and all of the services offered by our current department were in the Rehabilitation and Crippled Children Division. For 23 years as a supervisor and leader, Mrs. Miller was the voice of her district and had a passion for public awareness that led to an award-winning video, "Children and Families: The Very Heart of CRS." If you have not seen it, please ask about it the next time you visit your local CRS office. Also, Susan's love of community was a driving force in bringing the new ADRS facility to Anniston area clients in late 2011.



*Assistant Commissioner Melinda Davis congratulates Susan Miller for 39 years of service at her retirement reception last March*

By the time you read this, CRS will have bidden farewell to Susan Gilley of Dothan/Andalusia following 37 years of dedicated service, all to CRS. Mrs. Gilley began her career in 1976 as a nurse for Crippled Children Service. She became a supervisor in 1991. Mrs. Gilley, like Mrs. Miller, was here when we became CRS and when the division became part of the newly created Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services in 1995. For a total of 37 years, Susan has been a staunch advocate for services for children with special health care needs; not only in her own district, but for children across the state of Alabama. She has continually educated young and older and new and established legislators and community leaders about the services provided in our department, particularly children's services.

*Please see Leadership, Page 10*

# Need a fresh outlook for the New Year?

Sometimes a good quote can offer hope or a fresh perspective, something any parent can use from time to time. At the start of this new year, PACER's parent advocates are passing along a few favorite sayings that have been helpful to them.

As parents of children with disabilities themselves, these quotes have provided words of wisdom and practical help for the advocates. So say a toast to new beginnings, and find your own fresh perspective for 2013.

*“Shoot for the moon. Even if you miss, you’ll land among the stars.”*

While having high expectations for my son and advocating for them in his Individualized Education Program (IEP) did not always ensure that we would “get what we were asking for,” it did greatly increase the chances that we would be closer to the target than we would have been had we not aimed high. — *Barb Ziemke*

*“A boat doesn’t go forward if each one is rowing their own way.”*

I came across this quote when my daughter was having a really difficult year at school. She was failing and didn’t have any friends. I had voiced my concerns to her IEP team many times, but didn’t feel like I was being heard.

I finally requested a team meeting, brought this quote, and included a picture to remind us all of the importance of teamwork. As a result, we were able to work through our differences and come up with workable solutions to help my daughter move forward academically and feel more socially connected. — *Lynn Miland*

*“You cannot hurry the river.”*

This reminds me that I need to enjoy my child and know that everything is not about a projected outcome that is totally dependent on how hard I work at it. — *Virginia Richardson*

*“If all you have is a hammer, everything looks like a nail.”*

We need to have a “toolbox” full of strategies to use when problem-solving, particularly as it relates to children with challenging behaviors. — *Judy Swett*

*“Say what you mean, mean what you say, but don’t say it mean.”*

This reminds me that we can have conviction about something,



but we don’t have to be hurtful to others when sharing it. — *Shannon D’Arpino*

*“He who thinks he knows, doesn’t know. He who knows he doesn’t know, knows.” — Dalai Lama*

Having a child with an emotional or behavioral disorder is challenging because the behavior is not telling us what the child needs. When parents and schools struggle with a child’s negative behaviors, it is important to discover WHY the behavior is happening and teach to that need. The behavior is almost always a manifestation of an unmet need.

I often remind parents and schools to ask the question, “Why *can’t* the child do the preferred behavior, not why *won’t* the child do the preferred behavior?” We need to assume first that we do not know, and then, by not knowing, we will know. — *Renelle Nelson*

*“Say what you mean, mean what you say, and say it as seldom as possible.” — Foster Cline*

As a parent of children with disabilities, I had to learn to parent my children in a much different way than I had expected or planned. This quote helped me remember to limit my number of words but maximize the impact of those (few) words. — *Carolyn Anderson*

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**For more information about Children’s Rehabilitation Service and to stay in touch with Parent Connection, please visit us on the web at [rehab.alabama.gov/CRS](http://rehab.alabama.gov/CRS) and [www.facebook.com/CRS.ParentConnection](http://www.facebook.com/CRS.ParentConnection)**

## Meet Huntsville CRS's new parent consultant, Melissa Foster

Hello. My name is Melissa Foster. A few months ago, I was hired as a parent consultant for Children's Rehabilitation Service in Huntsville. As a mother of a child with special needs, I know how important it is to have someone take the time to listen to your story or share her own. I love the fact that now I get to do that for my job. I get to help other families, whether with finding resources for their child or simply lending an ear to listen.

I have two beautiful little girls, Savannah, 5, and Olivia, 2. My girls are my world; they are my heart, and I could not imagine my life without them. Olivia is my little miracle. She came into this world 14 weeks early, weighing 2 pounds, 8 ounces. I was having a few contractions in the early morning hours of Oct. 24, 2010, but thought they were Braxton Hicks contractions because I was only 26 weeks pregnant. They came and went a few more times, so I decided to go get checked to ease my mind and everyone else's. My mom and dad stayed with Savannah while my husband drove me to the hospital. I told them we would be back soon, and I kissed Savannah before leaving. I never would have imagined that I would be coming home without Olivia!

I had been betrayed by my own body. I was her mommy, and I was the one who was supposed to keep her safe. Olivia laid in a plastic incubator where machines were breathing for her; she was given drugs continuously just to keep her alive, and there were tubes in every part of her tiny body. I stared at all of her tiny little features and could not believe that just the day before, she was inside me. Now, she was fighting for every breath she took. I promised her I would never leave her side. No matter what, her Mommy would be right there. I just wanted her to know I was there for her and wasn't going anywhere. I prayed and prayed and prayed to God that he would heal her tiny body and give her



*Melissa Foster with her two daughters, Olivia, left, and Savannah*

the strength to fight through everything. I just wanted the doctors to let me bring my baby home.

When Olivia was 10 days old, she had to have surgery to close a hole in her heart because it was draining fluid into her lungs. The next day, I was told Olivia had a bilateral stage 3 brain bleed, and it had saturated the back of her brain, near the brainstem. They couldn't tell me much at the time, except that I needed to prepare myself for the possibility that my daughter would have cerebral palsy. I was devastated. I think I researched every possible thing I could to try to understand what she might go through. The doctors informed me that Olivia was holding fluid on her brain, which I found out was hydrocephalus, and she would need a shunt to keep her brain from swelling. The doctors also told me Olivia did not weigh enough to have that type of surgery, so they were going to try to remove

the fluid from her brain with a needle. Every time they removed some fluid, it would fill right back up. Finally, on Christmas Eve, they took her to surgery to insert a shunt to drain all of the fluid.

After a million ups and downs, I was able to bring her home Jan. 8, 2011. It was the best day of my whole life! She came home on oxygen and remained on that for about three months until she was wire and tube free. Savannah was so excited. She was such a proud big sister. She was so gentle with Olivia and wanted to help Mommy with everything. I am so proud of Savannah. I think watching what her sister has gone through has made her a more thankful child and more understanding of the fact that God makes every child extra special in his or her own way.

I was told mid-January that Olivia was

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*Please see Olivia, Page 7*

# Service dogs an option for assistance to kids

by Sharon M. Henderson

Meet Hannah, a golden retriever with a heart of gold that beats just for kids.

Hannah is a service dog, and one that is specifically trained for children with sensory issues and other special health care needs.

Service dogs for children often visit classrooms and clinics to support the children in their progression toward independence. Guide dogs are the classic example of dogs in service, but in the U.S. the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 defines a service animal as any “guide dog, signal dog, or other animal individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability.”

Service dogs for children often aid in mobility, retrieve dropped items, open doors, turn lights on or off, and serve as therapy animals. Therapeutic service animals are often a very positive and beneficial influence for children.

Service dogs are carefully selected and bred to handle all types of situations and are trained thoroughly for reliable one-on-one service to their owner, catering to his or her specific needs. While it can take up to two years to properly match a child with special needs to a service dog, the wait ensures the



*Hannah, a golden retriever service dog, pictured with Sharon Henderson's two children, Dallas, front, and Garrett*

dogs are properly trained to meet the child's needs.

Not all dogs who enter the vigorous training program will make the cut. Dogs in training must be able to remain calm in any given situation before graduating the program. Their mannerisms, behaviors and abilities are put to the test before they are match with a potential owner.

If you or someone you know could benefit from the assistance of a service animal, contact:

Francis McGowin, director  
Easter Seals K-9 Programs  
5960 East Shirley Lane  
Montgomery, AL 36117  
(334) 395-4489  
dogsoncall.com or k-9s4kids.com

## APPS

*Continued from Page 1*

on the “iPad Apps” button. For information on how to fund an iPad, click on the “Articles” button and choose “iPad Apps” from the drop-down menu.

**UDL Toolkit**, [udltechtoolkit.wikispaces.com](http://udltechtoolkit.wikispaces.com)

UDL (or Universal Design for Learning) refers to school curriculums that are designed

to accommodate ALL students. Technology is making this great concept a reality. The UDL Toolkit website covers lots of useful technologies including, of course, apps. Just click “Apps” on the sidebar menu. Scroll down the list of links, and you will also find articles that you might want to share with your school supporting the use of iPads and other devices in special education.

**Apps for Children with Special Needs**  
[a4cwsn.com](http://a4cwsn.com)

This site provides information about apps for children with special needs. It has videos demonstrating how various products work and a large catalog of apps, many developed for children with autism. This organization also helps parents find funding for iPads.

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Susan Colburn  
Children's Rehabilitation Service  
602 S. Lawrence St.  
Montgomery, AL 36104



# Let's YAC about it!



Rocki Austin, left, shares a humorous story in the form of an icebreaker with State Youth Consultant Miracle Woods before discussing more serious matters at the state YAC meeting held in Montgomery earlier this year

## Embracing the voice within

by Miracle Woods, CRS state youth consultant

Hi there!

I know it becomes kind of annoying when you hear those around you pushing you to the front of the line ... especially when you're not too crazy about the front of the class. I know that there are times when you have no problem speaking up – like when you're hanging with friends, on vacation with your family, or even when someone angers you.

Either way, it's important that you're heard. You are a person too, and because I know that, I want to remind you of what's in store when you make it known that

you're apart of the world and society too: CHANGE.

Change occurs because of your refusal to meet the standard. You don't have to follow the standard, but you can be the one to set it.

There have been times in life where you have done as you were told, spoken as you were instructed, and even lived as you were expected to, but now it's your time to make this world a better place. Take it by storm.

No, I don't mean running for office or flying across the world to see new places today. I mean starting small by letting your parents, teachers, friends, and communities know that you can make a difference. Participate in sports, sing, join the theater club at school ... do whatever it is that you want because you CAN. Take the limits off, and aim high.

I recently read an article where a young woman details the courage it took to join the swim team. I thought it was so awesome because she didn't listen to the word "can't."

She made the decision to stop letting the voice inside her be silenced. She made a decision for **her**, and it allowed her to be strong, confident, and set the example for those around her.

So, my message is this: You don't have to be the best at everything. Just be your best at anything you choose to do. Life is a gumbo of possibilities – find your favorite flavor, and enjoy it! Change starts with you, and when it begins does too. Because of that, the Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) is waiting for you.

*Keep persevering and aim high!*

# Book Review

## *The Down Syndrome Transition Handbook: Charting Your Child's Course to Adulthood*

by Jo Ann Simons

While Down syndrome has its challenges, normalcy is possible.

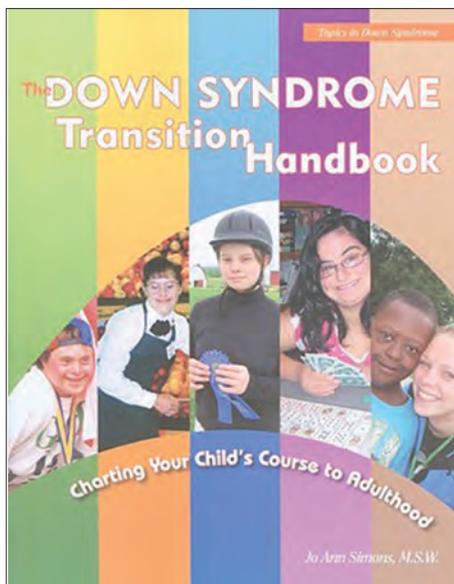
"The Down Syndrome Transition Handbook" provides a wealth of information for parents of children with Down syndrome who wish to help their children live more independently. The information provided is presented in an

This book and others like it are available for loan in the parent resource centers at CRS offices around the state.

understandable and sequential format, and the in-depth and insightful guide provides a better understanding of

the challenges persons with Down syndrome face daily.

Though primarily written for individuals with Down syndrome, the included information is valuable for any child with a disability currently planning for his or her adult life. As the mother of an adult with Down syndrome, the author provides an excellent first-hand account of her experience. She also provides information from a professional's perspective as she was the executive director of the Arc of East Middlesex,



Mass., for 15 years and currently conducts various disability transition workshops.

This book has been praised for its frankness and really is filled with straight talk and real examples. Every aspect of transition is covered, starting with planning for transition and IEP goals that help. Adult living options, employment, community life, guardianship, health care,

relationships, adult services, and finances are all explained in detail; and, there is helpful advice on every subject, too. For instance, the chapter covering housing options includes advice about roommates and discussions on independence and how turnover in support personnel can affect an individual's quality of life.

This book is not just a practical guide. It is also a philosophical guide. Throughout, the author shows that adults with disabilities continue to grow and learn and that they deserve the opportunity to try new things, develop new skills, make new friends, and make choices about how they live.

Transition involves making a lot of decisions, and being informed will help you make better ones. If this book is not in your local CRS Resource Center or your local library does not have a copy, I would highly recommend that they add it to their collection. Another option is to borrow the book from another library using your library's interlibrary loan service. There is sometimes an additional charge for this service.

## OLIVIA

*Continued from Page 4*

most likely deaf.

I was beyond crushed – I was heartbroken.

I couldn't believe it – "After all she's been through, now this?"

Through it all, I knew I had to stay strong for Olivia, and I did what I had to get her every bit of help I could find. I was contacted by Alabama's Early Intervention System (EI) and found out that Olivia definitely qualified to receive their services just from her diagnosis of hydrocephalus. They made appointments to perform an assessment to determine what Olivia's delays may be, and we went from there. Since the initial assessment, Olivia has had speech therapy,

occupational therapy, and physical therapy, and in my opinion, we have the best there is to offer.

Olivia has made such huge improvements since receiving help and support from EI and CRS. They have given me such great advice and interesting ideas to get Olivia moving and keep her growing. Early intervention is a collaborative effort among the therapist, the child, and most importantly, the parent. I have always told myself that I am and always will be Olivia's number one advocate, but it helps tremendously to have such great therapists always having our backs. Olivia's therapists have always ensured I play a key role in all of her therapies, and I am so glad they have.

Olivia has had many ups and downs through all of this, including a few more unexpected surgeries and seizures, but she always bounces right back. We still see all three of her EI therapists. Olivia has amazed them all, and especially me. I was told she would be deaf, but she is saying new words all the time, despite her hearing loss. I was told she would never be able to walk or throw a ball, and now I can't keep up with her. She is all over the place! Early Intervention and CRS have been such an amazing part of my and Olivia's life.

I simply cannot thank every member of our team enough for what each has done for Livi.

# Taking the fear out of feeding tubes, one 'Tubie Friend' at a time

by *Cristin Smock*

Having a friend that is "just like me" can make all the difference to a child who lives with the medical challenges of having a feeding tube. A friend that provides comfort, love, snuggles, and joy during every facet of their day. This is what Tubie Friends™ is successfully doing for children throughout the United States and spreading throughout other countries.

Tubie Friends™ adapts stuffed animals to have a real feeding tube placed into their stomach, intestines, or in through the nose depending on the style of feeding tube the child has. They do their best to match the animal friend's medical apparatus to the recipient, providing familiarity and a feeling of acceptance. Not only do they make these realistic tube fed stuffed animals, but they are also adding such things as Trachs, Port-o-Caths (needle access kits), PICC lines, nasal cannulas and more. All feeding tube supplies have been generously donated by Kimberly-Clark, and fellow families who tube feed.

This non-profit organization was started by a group of moms whose children are currently using feeding tubes as their primary source of nutrition. As one stated, "We've seen what a comfort a Tubie Friend™ can be during a hospital stay, procedure or just when they need a friend." Tubie Friends™ are donated to local hospitals, including Seattle Children's Hospital, and clinics that deal with children and gastroenterology situations. They are also shipped to children throughout the world whose parents request one through their online application. In addition to bringing comfort to the child, these Tubie Friends™ can also be used as a teaching tool for family, friends and caregivers.

These wonderful friends are great visual aids and allow understanding through play therapy. "Tubie Friends has not only brought JOY into our home with the boys, but they are wonderful teaching tools as well. I was able



to show my three- and five-year-old cousins how a feeding worked. How awesome to be able to satisfy the curiosity of a child, all while keeping your kids from feeling like they are on display!" said Kristine Simpkins, mother of twin 16-month-old boys who both have had feeding tubes since shortly after birth.

For a lot of these children, they may never encounter another individual with a feeding tube, resulting in feeling alone and different. Tubie Friends™ provides that level of sameness since they have a friend by their side through everything. They love on their Tubie Friends™, sleep with them, take them to their doctor's appointments, dress them and play with them. Tubie Friends™ are also right by a child's side through medical procedures, surgeries, and uncomfortable situations.

Five-year-old Olivia Dassaro underwent surgery to change her feeding tube to a different style on June 1, 2012. Olivia's new Tubie Friend arrived just in the nick of time, on the morning of her procedure! When she went back into the room for the procedure, Olivia said she needed to have her Tubie Friend, Teddy, with her as a reference for the surgeon. She told him she needed the Tubie Friend in the room so, "You make sure you

do it in the right spot!" The first thing she did when coming to from the anesthesia, was to grab her bear and look down at her tummy to make sure that her tube matched the bear's! Olivia's mom, Danielle Dassaro, sums it all up nicely. "This was the first time she did not wake up in a panic screaming and yelling and panicking to the point where it either throws her into a seizure and/or respiratory distress. She simply smiled (still quite loopy from the meds of course) and stayed calm the whole time. It goes to show a little comfort, love and faith, even in the form of a teddy bear, can go a long way."

Behind the scenes of Tubie Friends™ is a team of dedicated volunteers who help raise awareness, funds and create the actual Tubie Friends. Many of the volunteers are parents who have children who are tube fed or are very close to someone who is tube fed. The volunteers, called Tubie Friends Surgeons, are currently in a variety of locations throughout the United States and have helped Tubie Friends™ to provide over 1500 Tubie Friends™ to children in their first year of operation!

Tubie Friends volunteers have put their hearts and souls into every stuffed animal that they have sent to hospitals or their new homes. They operate solely on donations and a volunteer basis only. Please help them continue to work towards their goal of getting a Tubie Friend into the hands of every child with a feeding tube throughout the world, and help spread awareness about tube feeding and Tubie Friends™.

For more information on how to get a Tubie Friend for your child or to make a monetary or medical supply donation, please visit [www.tubiefriends.com](http://www.tubiefriends.com), [www.facebook.com/tubiefriends](http://www.facebook.com/tubiefriends) or email them at [tubiefriends@gmail.com](mailto:tubiefriends@gmail.com). All medical supplies have to be unused!

*Reprinted with permission from Complex Child E-Magazine*



*Family members, conference attendees, and conference speakers take a group photo following the Family Voices session of the EI conference in Mobile*

## Family Leadership Training at EI conference

As you probably know, Family Voices of Alabama is home to the federally funded, Family-to-Family Health Information Center (F2F HIC) in the state. Just like in every other state across the country, the F2F HIC is in a non-profit, family-staffed organization that helps families of children and youth with special health care needs (CYSHCN) and the professionals who serve them. Because the health care needs of CYSHCN are chronic and complex, parents and caregivers are often challenged with finding the resources to provide and finance health care for their children. F2F HICs are uniquely able to help families because they are staffed by parents and family members of CYSHCN themselves who have first-hand experience navigating the maze of services and programs for CYSHCN. Staff at F2F HICs understand the

issues that families face, provide advice, offer a multitude of resources, and tap into a network of other families and professionals for support and information.

Our F2F HIC has placed a special emphasis on encouraging families to develop leadership skills. We hope that families who have access to information and resources will be strong partners when working with the many service providers who are working with their children.

Our most recent Family Leadership Training took place in Mobile in December 2012, in partnership with the Early Intervention and Preschool Conference. Sharleen Smith, Sheryl Matney, Betsy Prince and Susan Colburn were presenters during the half-day workshop, which focused on providing a framework for families to “tell their story.” At the end of the

training, the participants were asked to sign a pledge banner to demonstrate their promise to “do their part.” (Visit our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/FamilyVoicesofAlabama](http://www.facebook.com/FamilyVoicesofAlabama), to see pictures of these promises, which were posted after the conference.)

Also during the training, the participants created their own “story book” to share with policy makers. The anticipated outcome was to enlist 40 new family advocates in the advocacy movement to continue to enhance services and supports for children with special needs and their families and to issue a charge to become involved and advocate for their children with developmental disabilities as well as their family needs. A total of 40 family members from across the state of Alabama were invited to attend the luncheon.

**For information about Family Voices, please contact the Alabama state coordinators, Susan Colburn, 334-293-7041, [susan.colburn@rehab.alabama.gov](mailto:susan.colburn@rehab.alabama.gov) or Jerry Oveson, 251-438-1609, [oveson@bellsouth.net](mailto:oveson@bellsouth.net).**

## STAND AND DELIVER

*ADRS Physical Therapist Billy Ronillo looks on as parent Heather Wilson speaks at the closing session at ADRS's 2013 Medical Aspects of Disability Conference in Birmingham earlier this year.*

*Heather shared her experience as a parent of a child with a disability and how proper seating and positioning have positively impacted the health of her daughter.*

*The wheelchair presentation she opened focused on why custom seating is needed and how to obtain a custom wheelchair and featured hands-on demonstrations of different wheelchairs and accessories.*



## LEADERSHIP

*Continued from Page 2*

In May, we will say goodbye to the third district supervisor in 15 months when Rosemary Gregg of Huntsville/Muscle Shoals CRS retires. Mrs. Gregg started her tenure with CRS as a nutritionist in October 1993. She became a supervisor in March 1998. Mrs. Gregg participated in the ADRS Leadership Training Institute, graduating in 2000.

She assisted in overseeing the building

and move of the Huntsville CRS office to a state-of-the-art facility which opened in 2006.

Mrs. Gregg has been very active in the Alabama Rehabilitation Association's Children and Youth Division and has done much to provide additional services for children with disabilities. After 19 years of service to CRS, Rosemary will continue her involvement in ARA, where she is assisting with the implementation of a travel stipend

for youth to attend the Alabama Governor's Youth Leadership Forum held each summer on the campus of Troy University.

35½ years + 37 years + 19 years = 91½ years of service to CRS and children with special health care needs in the state of Alabama! These supervisors' presence within the districts and in this state program will be missed.

Thanks to all three for almost a century of knowledge, experience, and leadership!

# Spring Flowers word Search Puzzle



H F M H R U M I N O H M R J M H A L L T  
 W A G E R A N I U M A A V L A Y I S I W  
 U Q W I J O P P M R O R P I E A S I D H  
 P Q X T K A A O I M H B N L N C E R O S  
 I V R J H N S G R A C E J A O I R I F M  
 L X Y B S O O M I D D C Y C M N F J F B  
 N L R Y A L R N I R W L G M E T C Z A V  
 R I E H D E O N A N I O X W N H D J D N  
 P T K B G G P G C L E K N J A Y P P O P  
 S I M E E E G X E C O Z M S P I R E A J  
 O U L B T U Q W O Z H S O W D R O S E D  
 U T C U A S L R J L I H A I L O N G A M  
 F A N O T Y N B O S O N H Q R B B P O L  
 C I G O R F U R N S M C N J O J D S W X  
 A P J A L C I U Q J R N N I J R B R Q Y  
 H I D O N P K Z U O U N T W A P B Q Z A  
 L S W N M A C C I Y P W P J T N K O O E  
 O E E Q I K A E L N K M Q W G I G B E S  
 R A E L A Z A A G L D O G W O O D N Y T  
 S N E I T A P M I J T M M E L H Y O M A

- |            |          |           |          |          |
|------------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|
| Azalea     | Daffodil | Hyacinth  | Lily     | Poppy    |
| Anemone    | Dogwood  | Impatiens | Marigold | Rose     |
| Begonia    | Fresia   | Iris      | Magnolia | Snowdrop |
| Bluebell   | Gardenia | Jasmine   | Orchid   | Spirea   |
| Cornflower | Geranium | Jonquil   | Pansy    | Tulip    |
| Crocus     | Hawthorn | Lilac     | Petunia  | Zinnia   |

Check out other great crafts online at [3abn.org/kids.cfm](http://3abn.org/kids.cfm)

### Answer Key

(Over, Down, Direction)  
 Azalea (7,19,W), Anemone (15,9,N), Begonia (4,11,NE), Bluebell (8,13,NW), Cornflower (10,10,SW), Crocus (6,15,NW), Daffodil (19,8,N), Dogwood (11,19,E), Fresia (17,6,N), Gardenia (8,9,NE), Geranium (3,2,E), Hawthorn (1,1,SE), Hyacinth (1,6,1,5), Impatiens (9,20,W), Iris (18,5,N), Jasmine (5,3,SE), Jonquil (9,12,S), Lilac (14,2,S), Lily (10,9,NE), Marigold (1,2,1,5W), Magnolia (20,12,W), Orchid (10,16,NE), Pansy (8,3,SW), Petunia (7,9,SW), Poppy (20,9,W), Rose (16,11,E), Snowdrop (14,10,NW), Spirea (14,10,E), Tulip (5,13,NW), Zinnia (10,11,SE)



## CRS Parent Connection

Children's Rehabilitation Service  
Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services  
602 S. Lawrence St.  
Montgomery, AL 36104

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## Check Out What's Ahead ...

### April 6, 2013

#### **Alabama Angels Pageant**

**Description:** Anyone newborn to 105 with a special need is welcome to participate in this unique and fun experience as we celebrate the beauty within. The noncompetitive pageant will award all participants with a crown, sash, goodie bag, and T-shirt.

**Information:** Renee Lantz, (334) 300-9238, or email [alabamaangels@hotmail.com](mailto:alabamaangels@hotmail.com)

### April 8-9, 2013

#### **Third Annual Partners in Care Summit**

**Description:** Family Voices of Alabama and the Family to Family Health Information Center project will host the third annual Partners in Care Summit at the Montgomery Marriott Prattville Hotel and Conference Center at Capitol Hill in Prattville.

**Information:** Trish Switzer, 1-877-771-3862

### June 19 - 21, 2013

#### **The Alabama APSE and ACDD Conference**

**Description:** The 2013 AL-APSE and ACDD Conference – "Catch the Wave...Surf Towards Employment!" – will be held at the Montgomery Renaissance Hotel and Spa in Montgomery. Registration information is available online at: <http://conta.cc/VeMEje>

*Local PAC meetings: Check your local CRS office for dates and times of meetings in your area.*