



**Families Helping Families
of Southwest Louisiana, Inc.**
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FHF SWLA Fact Sheet

Celebrating 26 years of service to individuals with disabilities and their families - 1992 - 2018

Our community includes: Allen, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron and Jeff Davis parishes

Our mission is to enable and empower individuals with disabilities and their families by providing information, referral, education, training, peer support, and advocacy skills.

Our vision is that all individuals with disabilities have the opportunity to attend school, live, work, and play in their own community.

Information and Referral

IMCAL Developmental Disabilities Support and Information Coordinator

Trained specialist that is funded by the Developmental Disabilities Division of Imperial Calcasieu Human Services Authority to assist families to find and receive appropriate services and support in their community and facilitate the Family Empowerment Forum each year.

Resource Lending Library

FHF has a large lending library with up to date information about all types of disabilities. The library is filled with books & DVD's on various topics relevant to individuals with disabilities and their families.

Education and Training

Louisiana Department of Education – Education Support Specialists

Conducting ongoing, rigorous, and strategic family outreach in the supported parishes of Beauregard, Calcasieu, Jefferson Davis, and Cameron. Our Education Support Specialists help parents and family members learn to effectively work with the school system to facilitate a free appropriate public education for students with special education needs.

LaCAN – Louisiana Council's Advocacy Network

LaCAN advocates for service systems that support children and adults with disabilities to live in their own homes and be fully-included and participating members of their local schools and communities. LaCAN provides information and support to individuals wishing to effectively advocate for systems change in the areas of home and community-based services, education, and employment

Peer Support

EarlySteps Community Outreach Specialist

The program offers community awareness and parent support for the EarlySteps program. The specialist is a parent of a child with a disability who is under the age of ten and can offer parent support as well as information and referral.

Children's Special Health Services Parent Liaison

The Parent Liaison is a family member who works with the local CSHS clinics and fosters support, information and referral to families of children receiving CSHS clinic services. The Parent Liaison also provides outreach for CSHS targeting families and providers.

Next Chapter Book Club (NCBC)

NCBC provides people with disabilities regardless of their reading skills the opportunity to read and learn to read, talk about books, and make friends in a fun, community setting.

People First SWLA Chapter

People First is run by people with disabilities, for people with disabilities. It is a place where people learn to speak up for themselves about decisions they make and where members can connect with others in their community, across the nation and around the world.

In addition to these programs, the following resources are available at the FHF Resource Center:

Peer-to-Peer Support; Disability Resource Library (books, audio, and DVD); Speakers Bureau on topics related to disabilities; Workshops, Conferences and Presentations on a variety of topics for individuals with disabilities, family members and professionals; and a quarterly email newsletter.



FHF SWLA is funded from a diversified funding base including tax deductible donations, personal contributions, special event fund-raisers, contracts, grants, and contributions from community organizations and the Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council. The philosophy of parent/professional collaboration is inherent in FHF SWLA. FHF SWLA has always, and still shares its expertise with other parents, who wish to enhance their leadership skills, start a group, particular program or center. FHFSWLA does not endorse or promote any legislation, institutions, and/or individuals, methods of treatment or therapy.

All services are free to families and professionals.