



## **Families Helping Families of Southwest Louisiana**

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**Let us be your “one-stop shop” for all things disability related**

*Serving individuals with any type of disability, any age, and their families*

### **How we help:**

#### **Information and Referral**

##### **IMCAL Developmental Disabilities Support and Information**

Our Support and Information Coordinator 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.

##### **Information and Referral**

FHF Staff provides information & referral services related to disability issues. Our quarterly email newsletter and a resource list are available online and can be printed upon request. Information on special education, disability topics, disability resources are provided in person, by phone, online through our website, webinars, and social media.

#### **Education and Training**

##### **Louisiana Department of Education Contract**

Education Support Specialists are available to work with families of students with special education needs in the supported parishes of Beauregard, Calcasieu, Jefferson Davis, and Cameron. We strive to 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, an initiative of the Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council, 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 Leaders provide information and support to individuals wishing to effectively advocate for systems change in the areas of home and community-based services, education, and employment.

##### **Resources, Information, Support to Empower (RISE)**

Our RISE program funded by a grant from the Louisiana Children's Trust Fund helps parents/family members learn to use a variety of tools/skills so they may be able to know what is available before a crisis/issue occurs. Six training sessions targeting resources, education issues, advocacy information, topics related to navigating the disability service system, and one on one support are provided.

## Peer Support

### **EarlySteps Community Outreach Specialist**

Our Community Outreach Specialist (COS) offers community awareness and parent support for the EarlySteps program. The COS is a parent of a child with a disability that has been specifically trained by EarlySteps which offers parent support and provides information and referral.

### **Children's Special Health Services Parent Liaison (CSHS)**

Our CSHS Parent Liaison is a parent of a child with a disability who works with the local CSHS clinics. The Parent Liaison provides support, information and referral to families of children receiving CSHS clinic services and performs outreach & referral to families and community service providers.

### **Next Chapter Book Club**

Next Chapter Book Club 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.

## **FHF SWLA is 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.



FHF SWLA is funded by contracts, grants, fundraisers, tax deductible donations, contributions from civic/community organizations and businesses. FHFSWLA does not endorse or promote any legislation, institutions, and/or individual methods of treatment or therapy.

**All services are free of charge**