

YOUTH TRANSITION NEWSLETTER

Spring 2015

SUPPORT GROUPS

The Youth Transition Specialist and the District 186 Parent Mentor, Ms. Mary Wyman, continue to host the Support Groups for Teens/Young Adults and Parent 2 Parent (P2P), which are sponsored jointly by SCIL and District 186. With input from parents, SCIL and District 186 are here to address topics that are of interest to every teen/young adult with disabilities and their parents in Springfield and area wide school districts. Future topics will be determined by those teens/young adults and parents who attended the previous month's meetings.

The Teen/Young Adult Support group continues to be for any teen/young adult with a disability between the ages of 14-21. P2P will be part of this support group meeting and is for any parent who has a student with a disability in Springfield and surrounding area school districts. These meetings are a good way to socialize, develop new friendships, share stories and connect with others. Meetings are for any teens/young adults and parents; family members interested in learning more are always welcome to attend. Child care will be provided from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. but you must register your child for child care services. Please watch your mail for announcements of the topics for future support group meetings.

All meetings will be conducted at Lawrence Adult Education Center located at 101 E. Laurel St. from 6:00 to 7:30 on the second Tuesday of the month, unless otherwise announced.

Please contact Carolyn Thorpe, SCIL Youth Transition Specialist, at 523-2587 v/tty, or Mary Wyman, District 186 Parent Mentor, at 525-3060, at least two days in advance before attending any meetings so adequate refreshments can be provided. The next meetings are scheduled for **April 14, 2015 and May 12, 2015**. Support group meetings will not meet during the months of June, July or August but will resume in September 2015. If you have any questions, please contact Carolyn at 523-2587 v/tty. I look forward to welcoming returning and new parents and teens to this group!

SCIL will be closed on May 25, 2015 for Memorial Day

SPRINGFIELD PARENTS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Springfield Parents for Students with Disabilities (SPSD) was established in the Spring of 2007. SPSPD was founded by a group parents, with children with special needs, who were in search of how their children could receive the appropriate instruction and accommodations in school based on their child's unique needs. SPSPD offers support and information to other parents regarding special education, community resources and a variety of topics related to raising a child with special needs. The goals of SPSPD is for parents of special needs children to assist and guide other parents of students with special needs regarding their child's educational and transitional services, foster cooperative relationships with area schools and become a resource for the community. SPSPD is not a disability specific group and welcomes families from public and private schools.

SPSPD activities include monthly meetings, which provide an opportunity for parents to connect with other parents, share their concerns and seek feedback from other parents who may have had similar concerns and find out how these concerns were resolved. SPSPD works closely with Springfield Public Schools in collaborating and hosting an annual winter conference titled, "Disabilities to Possibilities." These conferences are well attended and feature several sessions where parents can listen and learn new information regarding a specific topic related to children with disabilities.

SPSPD is looking to recruit new parents to join this team of other parents who are wanting to continue their efforts in building cooperative and meaningful relationships with their school district. New parents will be asked for their feedback and assistance in developing future conferences and to attend meetings.

SPSPD meetings are conducted on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at Lawrence Education Center located at 101 E. Laurel St, in Springfield from 5:00 to 6:00 pm. After these meetings, the Parent 2 Parent Support Group, which is co-hosted by SCIL, is conducted from 6:00 to 7:30 pm. Presentations are made by various speakers in different fields of study related to children with disabilities.

Future meetings are scheduled for April 14, 2014 and May 12, 2014. Meetings will not be conducted during June, July or August but will resume again in September 2015 for the 2015-2016 school year. For more information on SPSPD, please contact Ms. Katie Pavelko at 217/891-8292 or Ms. Mary Wyman at 217/899-2867. Childcare is provided at these meetings but pre-registration is required. You can also follow SPSPD on Facebook at Springfield Parents for Students with Disabilities and on Twitter at SPSPD186. SPSPD would like to hear from you.

"Before anything else, preparation is the key to success."
~ Alexander Graham Bell

FREE AMPLIFIED PHONES FROM THE ILLINOIS TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACCESS CORPORATION (ITAC)

Illinois law requires all landline and most Cable and VoIP phone companies to provide telephone access for people who are Hard of Hearing, Late Deafened, Deaf, Deaf-Blind or Speech Disabled. ITAC is the not-for-profit corporation established to provide a Free Equipment Program and Illinois Relay on behalf of these phone companies. To qualify, you must be a legal resident of Illinois, have a working landline phone in your home and have your application signed by a medical professional stating you or someone in your home is unable to use a standard phone. For more information, visit www.itactty.org or call Carolyn at 523-2587 v/tty to receive an application.

SANGAMON COUNTY CAREER FAIR

The Sangamon County Career Fair, scheduled for April 23, 2015 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Route 66 Hotel and Conference Center, is geared for students with disabilities who attend one of the local high schools in Springfield or surrounding communities. This career fair is designed to increase awareness of career possibilities and engage those students who are preparing to exit high school and move into post-secondary training opportunities. The event will include opportunities to meet with employers, college representatives and social service vendors and presentations about employment opportunities and moving on to higher education, including a mock interview. Teachers will accompany their students to this event. Parents are also invited and encouraged to attend this annual event.

FAMILY MATTERS WEBINARS AND TELECONFERENCES

Family Matters Parent and Information Training Center (FMPTIC), located in Effingham, IL offers a multitude of webinars and teleconferences free of charge. In-person workshops are still conducted around the state, including central Illinois; however, previously if parents, guardians or caregivers could not attend a scheduled workshop, one would have to wait until there is a similar workshop offered again. That is no longer the case. Several one-hour webinars and/or teleconferences on topics related to special education services are conducted usually before noon, wherever you are, so it's easy to listen to a conference using your computer speakers or speaker phone. Power point handouts are e-mailed to you usually the day before the webinar, which enables you to skim the content on the topic that will be discussed and to possibly formulate questions about the topic. For more information and to be included on their quarterly newsletter, contact FMPTIC at www.fmptic.org or contact them toll-free at 1-866-436-7842.



**SPRINGFIELD CENTER FOR
Independent Living**

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To reduce costs, SCIL would like to send all newsletters via e-mail. Please e-mail me at cthorne@scil.org if you would like to receive this newsletter via e-mail.



Inside this Newsletter:

- Support Groups
- Springfield Parents for Students with Disabilities
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If you have any questions or need this newsletter in an alternative format - Braille, large print, or audio-cassette - please call Carolyn at 523-2587 v/tty.

SCIL provides the following services:

Independent Living Skills Training
Personal Assistant Services
Volunteer Opportunities
Information & Referral
Employment Resources
Reintegration Services
Access Coordination
Youth Transition
Support Groups
Peer Counseling
& Advocacy

SCIL does not discriminate against anyone on the basis of disability, race, age, sex, religion, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, or veteran status.