Project Empower Roundtable May Event

Project Empower announces May meeting focus will be on Sib Shops and Respite programs in Pensacola and the need to establish more.

Click on the link below to hear Destry and Georgana Gordon, Child Find Specialist with FDLRS Emerald Coast discuss Sibshops and Respite in the area.

Every other month Project Empower will offer a Brown Bag Luncheon that highlights different agencies and helps our family members with special needs find hope and empowerment.

Project Empower is looking for family members, and volunteers who are looking to make a difference in people’s lives.

Okaloosa and Walton County Families Needed

We are seeking connections from families, providers, and organizations in North Okaloosa and Walton Counties. Because we believe there are lots of questions out there, we are trying to connect with providers, support groups and churches open to the special needs community, and parents looking for resources.

We understand that questions arise as children with special needs are growing. The EPRC has a team on hand to assist families with children birth to age 26 and beyond.

Our web site already contains many providers and other information on resources and parent


Next Meeting will be
May 14, 2019 Marcus Pointe Baptist Church. 6205 N. W St. Pensacola, FL 32505 Building A, Door 2

Building A, Door 2
11am to 12 pm

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Our Staff:
EPRC is dedicated to the dream of complete community inclusion for individuals with a disability. Please get in touch for any help or questions.
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Positive Autism...

Micah, the Artistic Autistic

What began as a dad’s attempt to give his son confidence in using his voice has turned into a way to raise awareness of the gifts and talents of those with autism. Micah, 17, has been interested in creating art since he was small. His parents encouraged him to develop his talent, and in 2013 he began lessons with an artist near his home in North Santa Rosa County.

Hoping to show the world just what Micah could do, Micah’s dad, Danny, began the YouTube channel in March 2017 as a way to encourage Micah to express himself in other ways. In the beginning, the videos were very short. Micah and his dad would decide on a subject and then film a how-to-draw clip. “Funny Pig” was Micah and his dad’s first attempt. The movie was shot stop-motion style because Micah needed a lot of prompting to tell his story. After a few months and a few more videos, people began commenting with their drawing requests.

Once the channel began to take off, Micah and his dad came up with the idea for a “day in the life” video series. Micah has taken his viewers to places as every day as the grocery store and to more exotic locales like Curacao and Grand Turk. He loves all things Disney, so many of his videos center around that subject. Micah’s dad, Danny, says the video editing side of the channel has been trial and error and a lot of nights watching “how-to” videos on YouTube. The first videos created for the channel were made using iMovie for Mac. He’s now added another video editing program, Filmora, to enhance the videos special effects.

Micah has his very own YouTube studio, complete with green wall for special effects shots and special lighting. Micah enjoys taking his friends with him on his adventures. And he hopes that his videos help people to see the positive side of autism.

(And Autism Acceptance – subsection title not needed) Do you want to know how to draw a funny pig? Or a bird? Would you like to take a ride on a go-kart? Or go to Disney World? You can do all these things with Micah, the Artistic Autistic, on his YouTube channel.

To learn more about Micah and Positive Autism check him out online. His art designs are available on Redbubble, an online storefront.

Click on links below

dailymotion.com/PositiveAutism
youtube.com/c/PositiveAutismTheArtisticAutistic
Twitter @positive_autism
Facebook @DrawingWithMicah
Instagram @positiveautism
Redbubble.com/people/positiveautism

We will be featuring rising stars in our community. We are looking for young people with disabilities who are working to overcome obstacles to give back to their community. If you know of others in the Panhandle you feel are rising stars, please contact us at EPRC.nwfl@gmail.com
 Seeking Your Own Village

A commentary by Jim Howard, EPRC Resource Specialist

You know the saying, "It takes a village to raise a child." So, just where is this village everyone is talking about and how to I get there from here?

Parents of children with disabilities have always been seeking their tribe. Mom seeking moms who understand. Dads seeking his dad tribe of others who get it. Parents looking for other parents Who Get It.

As a father of a child with disabilities and a Social Worker for many years one thing I have learned is that "Miracles Happens" when one parent connects with other parents and they realize, "Yes, thank goodness, they do get it." So no, you’re not loosing your mind, you’re just the parent of a special needs child.

We have seen many parent groups spring up and gain traction over the years. Please remember that other parents were the ones who helped pave the road to special education and disability rights and programs in the state and country. Parents groups have evolved to the online community as well as meeting in person.

In Pensacola, we have Autism Pensacola with their grandparents group. We have Pensacola Exceptional Parent Connection and a few smaller groups specific to the Down Syndrome community. Santa Rosa County has a strong parent groups with Emerald Coast Exceptional Families serving families in South Santa Rosa and Okaloosa. The Milton parent groups started strong but haven’t been meeting much in the north part of the county.

In Okaloosa County we have Emerald Coast Exceptional Families and a few others. We really need to hear from more groups who are out there and assisting parents. Walton County is taking off with a therapy centers for our Autistic population and Vets with horse therapy. Please parent groups, contact us to let other lost parents know you are there.

If you’re looking for a group, or need help starting one, please contact us at EPRC 850-444-8554

Who ever you’re looking for, who ever you find. Moms, Dads, caregivers of all kinds. Connect with others to find a new world of help and understanding.
Electronic connections

Destry LeBrun and Michael Collins discuss how Project Empower and the Empowerment Parent Resource Center offer families many different programs and resources.


Grace Rides, riding center in Walton County

Grace Rides is a thriving therapeutic riding center which has been riding in Okaloosa and Walton counties in North Florida since 2009. We are working together to provide therapeutic riding opportunities to members of our community here in the Florida Panhandle from a new 40 acre farm on a big hill with a beautiful new therapy barn near DeFuniak Springs.

Website www.gracerides.net

Walk the Talk for Epilepsy 2019

Walk the Talk for Epilepsy 2019 is Pensacola’s biggest community event benefitting people with epilepsy, featuring a DJ, raffles, prizes, and much more.

Click here to register now:
https://www.epilepsyfl.com/walkthetalk/

Site offers free stuff for teachers.
Listed are 5 Chrome extensions to help people with disabilities.

Improving Our Services

We need input from YOU, parents, to continue to grow and learn how to best respond to your needs!

Our EPRC team is available to assist parents in linking to agencies, parent groups and community resources as well as a huge network of information. Parents only need to make one call to learn about resources specific to their family.

Each year we ask that parents complete our needs assessment. The information is used to help us develop programs and locate resources that benefit people with disabilities living in our community.

Please take our needs assessment survey!

Click here for needs assessment

https://goo.gl/hAoRsh

Contact Us

Empowerment Parent Resource Center.

Proudly serving Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa and Walton counties.

EPRC
6205 North W st
Pensacola, fl. 32504

Phone 850-444-8554  Email EPRC.NWFL@gmail.com

WWW.ProjectEmpowerNWFL.org
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groups in all four counties. We are reaching out for additional information parents who live in outlying areas of need.

Www.projectempowernwfl.org

Parents can contact us in many ways, including through Facebook, our website, email, and phone. We have professionals available to speak with families seven days a week if needed. We are also available many times after 5 pm to connect with families.

Contact us 850-444-8554

Local, State and Community Links

APD Calendar of events
https://resourcedirectory.apd.myflorida.com/resourcedirectory/EventCalendar.aspx

Florida Navigator for State resources for Persons with Disabilities
https://navigator.apd.myflorida.com/

Child Find Program
http://www.fdlrsemeralccoast.org/departments/child-find

Early Steps Program

Special education and school resources nation wide
Www.parentcenterhub.com

Florida Department of Education website
Www.fldoe.org