

# LINKS Mat-Su Parent Resource Center Newsletter

VOL #1 ISSUE #4

## *Letter from the desk of the Executive Director*

In 2011, our sights are set on offering excellent services to parents and families with children who experience disabilities. We plan to expand and fine tune our one-on-one assistance to families who need support at school and other agency meetings. We plan to offer more training opportunities—more than 60 in number—on topics relevant to disabilities and special education, and we plan to reach more families than we ever have and tell them about what we have to offer. We plan to continue to offer our weekly social groups activity and host parent and grandparent support group sessions. And we plan to host a region-wide conference on disabilities and special education in April. So I'd say that we are heading into 2012 with high hopes and expectations.

We have been able to reach this point of enthusiasm and renewed capacity because of the help of our many friends in the community. The Mat-Su United Way and the Mat-Su Health Foundation have been consistent and major supporters of our programs. Recently Bishop's Attic provided financial support to help our social group programs. The State of Alaska Department of Health and Social Services awarded us grant funds for people who suffer from acquired or traumatic brain injury. The State of Alaska Department of Education and the Mat-Su Borough School District have provided tremendous financial and technical assistance, and recently the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs, awarded us a Community Resource Center Grant, which is a major development for us.

We're moving ahead and hope for the best. We wish all of you a Happy New Year. Please stop in and visit.

Eric Wade

### **Inclusive Practice Awards**

*I say let's start the New Year out right by celebrating! One way of celebrating the dedicated service providers we know is by nominating them for special awards. Currently the Governors board is looking for nominations for the Inclusive Practice Awards, they are due January 22, 2012.*

### **Looking forward to opportunities!**

Partners in Policymaking training by Kathy Fitzgerald @ MSSCA starting Saturday, Jan.21- contact MSSC to sign up 352-1200

Key Campaign Feb 22 & 23 in Juneau, if interested, contact Cynthia Norvell @ MSSCA

Key Coalition meeting here @ LINKS Tuesday, Jan. 10 5:15-6:15pm

Social Security @ DVR 9-2pm on Thurs. 12, 2012

### **Disability Rights News**

*Look here to find out what is going on in the state with disability rights work*

[http://www.hss.state.ak.us/gcdse/news/201111\\_disabilityrights.htm](http://www.hss.state.ak.us/gcdse/news/201111_disabilityrights.htm)

### **Center for Human Development**

*Look here for projects and opportunities for people with disabilities and their care providers*

<http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/centerforhumandevelopment/projects/index.cfm>



LINKS has just received a signed book and CD's from "One Word at a Time, A Road Map for Navigating Through Dyslexia and Other Learning Disabilities" by Linda G. Tessler Ph.D. , both are available to borrow. [www.onewordatotime.com](http://www.onewordatotime.com)

People often say that motivation doesn't last. Well, neither does bathing - that's why we recommend it daily. Zig Ziglar

### LINKS Classes

Vision Therapy on the 11<sup>th</sup> from 11-1pm

Resources by Tammy Peria 12-2pm on the 12<sup>th</sup>

Person Centered Planning 12-2pm on the 26<sup>th</sup>

The UW autism class "The State of Autism in 2012" Thursday, Jan. 19 6-7:30pm, teleconference here @ LINKS

Please RSVP 373-3632 or email [chrisinglet@linksprc.org](mailto:chrisinglet@linksprc.org)

### Social Activities

All Bird's Center is offering

Recycle bingo 3-5pm @ Hope January 3,17,24,31

Bowling 3-6pm @ North Bowl January 10<sup>th</sup>

Walking Group 3:30-4:30@ Menard Center January 18<sup>th</sup>

Swimming Group 6:30-7:30pm Wasilla Pool January 25<sup>th</sup>

Contact Beth Earl at Hope @631-3708 or [bearl@hopealaska.org](mailto:bearl@hopealaska.org)

In the depth of winter I finally learned that there was in me an invincible summer. **Albert Camus**

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**[www.linksprc.org](http://www.linksprc.org)**

**LINKS Mat-Parent Resource Center on Facebook**

**LINKSPRC on youtube.com**

A HAPPY  
NEW YEAR

