



# Uniting Parents' Newsletter



## Director's Note

Summer 2006



Dear Families,

Sometimes it seems that Uniting Parents is a well kept secret. I still get goose bumps when I come in contact with families whose child now a young adult has had no orientation or training from other parents or service agencies. These families are out there. Unfortunately, we have added to the mystery because we are a program within a non-profit agency. Therefore, I thought I'd give you a quick review of how we operate to maybe take some of the confusion away.

Our program is awarded a grant from the Department of State Health Services to provide services to 32 counties of the TX Panhandle. Our grant proposal has been successful for the last 15 years. Our host agency is the Coalition of Health Services, Inc. (COHS). The COHS provides Uniting Parents the revenue to operate until the state agency reimburses us for monthly expenses. The COHS sponsors other programs such as CHIP, Health Link, Non-Stop, Title V, and Network Operations. We can be found listed under social services organizations in the yellow pages of the Greater Amarillo phone book. If you are looking for our phone number, that is the best way to find us as we are not listed separately as Uniting Parents in the blue pages because we are not our own agency. Now, that is probably more than you wanted to know but that is how this crazy world of grants works.

I also thought it would be appropriate to give the names of

agencies that can serve our children and youth and that I have found most helpful as I tried to access services for my own children and for other families.

If you know from the onset, that your child will be born with a disability and he/she is under the age of 3. You want to contact Early Childhood Intervention. They will do a free developmental evaluation for your child to see if she/he qualifies for services.

After your child turns 3, if he/she has a syndrome, autism, mental retardation, hearing impairments or speech delays, they are good candidates for evaluations into the schools pre-school program. Services may be delivered in the school setting and some services have been delivered in child care settings. During the early years of education and self exploration, parents should remember to seek out other parents with similar children to learn great insight into their child's development and future. Talk to people who lead you and point you in the right direction. Be cautious around people who are bitter and who host grudges against systems. Sometimes communication is not always the best with parents who have had traumatic experiences with their children.

Relationships are and will always be important in the life of your family not just your child with disabilities.

If your child is school age, and you suspect a delay, the school needs your permission to evaluate for services. If your child qualifies, you will receive a notice for an ARD ( Annual Review and Dismissal) meeting. Here you'll discuss goals developed with you that will enhance your child's development. Another agency, that has lots of services to offer you is TX Panhandle MH/MR. If your

student/child has MH (mental health) or MR (mental retardation) there are some programs very specific to the disability that he/she may qualify for.

Transition is a word you will hear often once your child is in high school. Planning for their future employment, higher education, or even living arrangements need to be taken into consideration. Agencies such as DARS (Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services), PILC (Panhandle Independent Living Center), TX Panhandle MHMR, and ADVO are important agencies to consider.

And, did you remember to place your child on the waiting list for Medicaid Waiver Services! I think I need a case manager! I know this is a lot to digest but some of you are experts. Since Uniting Parents relies on parent involvement, I want to say thank you to those families that have help me and I hope that Uniting Parents has help you. Contact your parent case mangers to update your child's file and learn about any new resource we may have learned about! Enjoy your summer & join us for Wonderland!

Maria

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### Respite Program offers Camp Scholarships:

The Uniting Parents Respite Program has limited scholarships available for Summer Camp for children on our caseload. If you have a camp in mind that you would like to send your child to and need financial assistance contact your case manager for details.

The Respite Programs' Mission is to strengthen the family unit by providing respite and resources, plus allowing the child to be a part of his community not apart from his community.

Respite will help parents:

- Keep their child at home.
- Preserve and strengthen the family.
- Provide care during short-term emergencies.
- Spend time with their other children.
- Rebuild marital relationships.
- Reduce stress.
- DO NOTHING, but rest.
- Have time to attend conferences, meetings, support groups, etc.
- Participate in other activities.

Contact Isabel directly at our Amarillo office or contact your case manager for further details.

### Children with Special Health Care Needs Family and Provider Resource Book

Uniting Parents is pleased to announce the printing of the 4th Edition of the Resource Book for the year 2006. Uniting Parents along with the assistance of the **Region 16 ESC - Special Education Division**, the **Department of State Health Services**, and **Progressive Steps** worked on assembling an easy to read Resource Hand Book that features agencies which may be able to assist your child and family. Please look for an updated version of the handbook at your child's school. Your child's diagnostician should have copies or you may contact your case manager for a copy next school year.

### The World through the Eyes of Children! Look who graduated!

**Arlie Vincent Mayfield II**  
**Canyon High School Graduate**  
**Age: 18 years**  
**Awards: The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Scholarship to West Texas University**  
**Aspires to be a Forest Ranger**  
**Diagnosis: Autism**



**Steven Paul Husted**  
**Caprock High School Graduate**  
**Receiving Job Training from Department Assistive and Rehabilitation Services**  
**Active in Special Olympics**  
**Volunteers - Washington Ave. Christian Church Outreach**  
**Honorary Member - The Christian Motorcycle Association**  
**Diagnosis - Fragile X Syndrome**



**Victoria Garcia Vara**  
**Randall High School Graduate**  
**Age: 18 years**  
**Receiving services from the Department Assistive and Rehabilitation Services**  
**Aspires to be Interior Designer and Cosmetologist. Current Mary Kay Consultant**  
**Diagnosis: Dyslexia and Learning Disabilities**



**Parents-**  
**Thank you for your submission of pictures and stories. If you'd like yours printed send it to us. We print our newsletter every 3 months and are always looking to highlight our children. Send us a picture, name, and age along with their short story or joke. It'll be fun to see and share!**

## Thank You!!

Uniting Parents wants to give a big **“Thank You”** to everyone who donated items for the LiTE Scholarship Luncheon’s Silent Auction Baskets. Uniting Parents was able to help raise over \$300 towards scholarships. Three baskets were entered into the Silent Auction.

### Amarillo Baskets

Dumas Discount Liquors  
 Howard’s Farmers Market  
 Albertson’s Grocery Stores  
 Private Donors

### Lubbock Office Basket

Gardski's Loft Restaurant  
 Olive Garden Italian Restaurant  
 La Diosa Cellars  
 Llano Estacado Winery  
 Moody Planetarium  
 Ranching Heritage Center  
 South Plains Mall  
 Zookini's Restaurant  
 Lubbock Chamber of Commerce  
 Museum of Texas Tech University  
 Lubbock Convention & Tourism Bureau

**“Thank YOU”** to **Mrs. Canales and her students at Westover Park Jr. High** for making the beautiful potted flowers arrangements to help decorate the tables and Cindy Bradburn from Westover for her Silent Auction basket of Arbon products.

Our **“Thanks”** to **Whistlin’ Dixie Barbeque & Grill** for the delicious peach clobber they provided.

The Uniting Parents’ Lubbock and Plainview offices would also like to give a **“Thank You”** for all the Garage Sale items donated by **Texas Tech University’s “When You Move Out-Don’t Throw it Out”** program sponsored by the **Venter for Campus Life & Housing & Residence Life, Briteway Cleaners and Catholic Family Services’ Resale Center**. Over \$300 was raised to help our clients.



**Thanks to all of YOU!!**

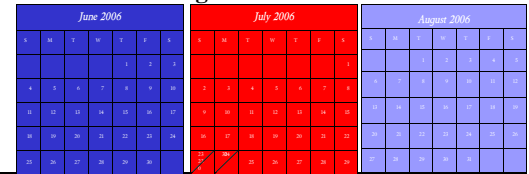
## Uniting Parents’ Networking List



Sherry Robinson /Autism	353-0229	JoAnn Taylor/Spastic Deplegia	934-2402
Betty Allison/ Down Syndrome	373-6363	Alma Galvan/Leukemia**	935-9787
Lynette Mixon/ Marden Walker/ Dandy Walker	353-9599	Peggy Easley/Down Syndrome	249-5190
Maria Garcia/Down Syndrome **	337-1700	Marilyn Williams/Hearing Impaired	352-4124
Roberto Rodriguez/Cerebral Palsy**	655-3300	Lucerzia Coats/RETT’s Syndrome	940-937-6584
Brenda Rodriguez/Cerebral Palsy	655-3300	Dalia Ruiz/Mental Retardation/ Seizure Disorder	535-1583
Neysa Spurrier/Autism/Aspergers/ CD & NACD Curriculum	359-3833	Norma Baeza / Spina Bifida	376-5104
Glendie & Roth Farrar	Ho: 335-0271	Stacey Campbell / Autism / Torticollis / Plagiocephaly	355-1198
ADHD / Tourett’s	Wk: 373-7922	Chris & Terri Hatfield / Bi-Polar Disorders/ Behavior Disorders	584-1668
Amy Chapman / Aspergers	359-4009	Josephine Valadez / Prader Willie Syndrome **	935-8687

These parents are willing to talk to anyone who is interested on the identified disabilities. **\*\*Families that speak Spanish\*\***

*Do you want to assist other parents ? Let us know . We will and your name and number on our networking list.*



## Workshops & Events -Mark Your Calendar!!

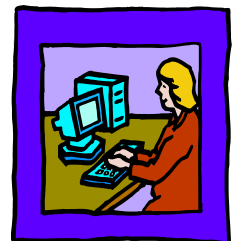
- Jun. 29 - "Co-Teaching and Other Inclusion Issues" is a two day workshop at Region 16 on 5800 Bell Street in Amarillo from 8am till 4pm. Speakers will be Mary Bush and Delores Scott. For more information call, Gene Ann Grant at (502) 677-5191.
- Jul. 17 - "Academy for Teachers of Young Children" is a three day conference in Odessa, Texas. For more information call, Phyllis Kinnison at (806) 794-4304.
- Jul. 21 - "National Down Syndrome Congress - Parent Group Leadership Seminar" in Atlanta, Georgia. For more information call, Gail Lowe at (502) 339-8690.
- Aug. 3 - "Community Voices Seminar" at Region 16 on 5800 Bell Street in Amarillo from 9am till 4pm. Speaker will be Brad Thompson, Director of the Hali Project. For more information call, Gene Ann Grant at (502) 677-5191.
- Aug. 3 - "Wrights law Pre-Conference Seminar - Special Education Law and Advocacy Program" at St. Edward's University in Austin, Texas. For more information call, (866) 896-6001
- Aug. 4 - "2nd Annual Texas Parent to Parent Conference" is a two-day conference at St. Edward's University in Austin, Texas. For more information call, (866) 896-6001. Limited Child Care and Parent Stipends available.
- Aug. 8 - "Child Abuse Prevention Training" workshop at Region 16 on 5800 Bell Street in Amarillo from 3:30pm till 4pm. Speaker will be Jan Stemple. For more information call, Patty Humphrey at (502) 677-5340.
- Aug. 25 - "Texas Educativa 18th Annual Conference" is a two-day conference in Austin, Texas. Limited scholarships available. For more information, call, (210) 785-8657.

## Volunteers Wanted:

*Volunteers needed!! Uniting Parents is in need of volunteers to help with up & coming events. If you are looking for a way to help in your community, that is both fulfilling to you and those you help, we are the program for you. Help is needed in the Amarillo, Dumas, Lubbock, Plainview, and Tulia offices. Please call our Amarillo office.*

## Web Sites of Interest:

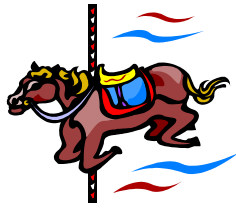
- Children with Special Health Care Needs <http://www.tdh.state.tx.us/cshcn/>
- Social Security Administration: [www.ssa.gov/](http://www.ssa.gov/)
- Department of State Health Services: [www.dshs.state.tx.us/](http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/)
- Texas Department of Health and Human Services: [www.hhsc.state.tx.us/](http://www.hhsc.state.tx.us/)
- Texas Education Agency: [www.tea.state.tx.us/](http://www.tea.state.tx.us/)



**View our newsletter on our web page. The Coalition of Health Service, Inc./Uniting Parents web address is [www.cohs.net/up.htm](http://www.cohs.net/up.htm). Find a link to our newsletter. Workshops, support groups, and other activities will be posted on this site.**

Summer time is a great time to have your children well child check-ups and immunizations brought up to date to get them ready for the next school year. The check-ups included are physical, dental, vision & hearing. If you have any questions on your Medicaid or CHIP call (806) 337-1700 or (888) 892-2273 and ask for the Outreach Counselor in your area.

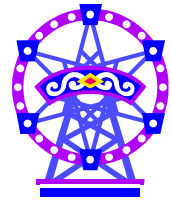




# Uniting Parents

a program of the

Coalition of Health Services, Inc.



## Wonderland Family Fun Day!!

**Where: Thompson Park - Area 12 in  
Amarillo**

**When: Saturday, July 15, 2006**

**Registration: 4pm–5pm Purchase of Tickets  
for Hand Stamps**

**Entry: 5pm-10pm Wonderland Rides  
& Putt-Putt Golf**

**Hand stamps: \$10.00 per person**

*Please join us at Thompson Park in Area 12 for refreshments and to purchase tickets. Please RSVP the number in your group to Anna Shores at 337-1700 or 1-888-892-2273 ext 210 by July 12, 2006.*

**Administrative Office :**  
**Coalition of Health Services, Inc.**  
**301 S. Polk, Suite 740**  
**Amarillo, TX. 79101**

<b>Amarillo Office Numbers:</b>	
Office Number:	1-806-337-1700
Fax Number:	1-806-337-1702
Toll Free Number:	1-888-892-2273
Web Address::	www.cohs.net/up.htm

<b>Amarillo Office:</b>	
Program Director:	ext.
<b>Maria Garcia, M. Ed.</b>	212
Administrative Assistant:	
<b>Anna Shores</b>	210
Parent Case Managers:	
<b>Juanita Keadle</b>	215
<b>Alma Benavides</b>	214
<b>Isabel Camarillo</b>	213

<b>Dumas Office:</b>	
Parent Case Manager:	<b>Josephine Valadez</b>
Ph: 806-935-8687	Fax: 806-935-8687
Toll Free: 800-442-7893	

<b>Plainview Office:</b>	
Parent Case Manager:	<b>Olga Ybarra</b>
Ph.: 806-293-5667	Fax: 806-293-3213
Parent Case Manager:	<b>Belia Alvarez</b>
Ph: 806-288-9068	Fax: 806-288-9069

<b>Lubbock Office:</b>	
Parent Case Manager:	<b>Earlene Bustillos</b>
Ph.: 806-785-5818	Fax: 806-687-0249

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 Amarillo, Texas 79101  
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