

**“Cookies and Cocoa with Santa”  
for Children with Special Needs and their Families  
Saturday, December 6th  
1:00 – 4:00 p.m.  
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
7000 Creedmoor Road, Raleigh**



Family Support Network of Wake County, an Anonymous Family, Goodwill Community Foundation and the North Raleigh Rotary Club are getting ready for our 12<sup>th</sup> annual holiday event. FSN/WC sponsors this holiday event every year for families who have children with special needs.

We have found in the past that a private event helps alleviate some of the stress around the holidays. It is a time when the entire family—children with special needs, their siblings, and mom and dad —can come to see Santa and have fun.

There will be no need to take your children to the mall and worry that all the stimulation will make them overreact and most of all, no need to worry if the people around you will understand your child.

Families will be able to come and have treats, make crafts, play games, visit with Santa, receive a gift, and have their picture taken with Santa. We will have volunteers available to take children to do crafts and play games, so moms and dads will be able to relax and know that their children are understood and loved by all.

Please join us on Saturday, December 6th from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church for “Cookies and Cocoa with Santa”. See page 3 for a map and directions. The event is free. No reservations are required.



## Support FSN of Wake County

Family Support Network of Wake County (FSN/WC) provides services to many families during the year – from Support Parent Matching, information and resources, social events, support groups, quarterly newsletters, parent list serve to parent information packets and more. All of these services are absolutely free to families. As I am sure you all know, however, these services do have a cost to our program. If you have received services in the past or are a supporter of FSN/WC, would you please find it in your heart to make a tax-deductible donation to our program?

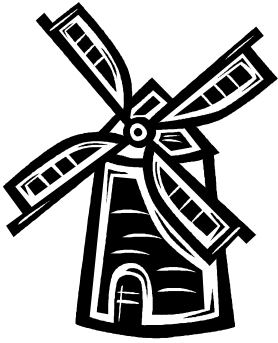
There are several ways to do this. You can send in a one-time donation or pledge to donate \$10, \$15, or more per month. FSN/WC will send you a monthly, addressed, postage-paid envelope for your convenience in remitting your pledge.

Please help us continue to offer all of the things we do to families of children with special needs.

Family Support Network of Wake County  
*Board of Directors*

**Inside this issue:**

Holland Tour Group	2
Thank You's	3
Directions to Cookies & Cocoa	3
AblePlay	4



## Holland Tour Group

Brooks Avenue Church of Christ  
700 Brooks Avenue, Raleigh

Workshop times will be from 7:00—9:00 p.m.

Family Support Network of Wake County is changing the way we have our parent meetings. For the 2008/09 year we will meet quarterly for workshops. The list of topics is below. These meetings will go into more detail and last around 2 hours each. You **must** register for all the meetings. We will **not** be providing childcare this year. To register, please contact Melissa at [melissa@familysupportonline.com](mailto:melissa@familysupportonline.com) or (919) 662-4600 ext. 257. We also have three "Mom's Night Out" activities planned.

### January 20, 2009 Care Notebook (Caging the Paper Tiger)



Parents will learn the importance of and how to keep up with all the paperwork associated with having a child with special needs. Bring your paperwork, IEP's, doctor's reports, etc. and we will make books you will be proud to take home.

### February 17, 2009 Mom's Night Out - 6:30 p.m. at The Olive Garden in Cary Crossroads. You must RSVP to Melissa by February 13, 2009 for this event.



### March 10, 2009 Transition from Early Intervention to Preschool

Presented by the Raleigh CDSA, Wake County Preschool Services, and a parent who has navigated the road to preschool. Everything you need to know about the transition will be presented.

### April 21, 2009 Mom's Night Out - Place/Time/Activity to be determined

### May 19, 2009 ROCK SOUP: Reheated! Parents Making Dreams out of Life's Hard Place - Presented by Sally Sloop

Come listen to the encouraging story of this mother's journey over the past 24 years. You will leave knowing that anything is possible! This presentation has been given at conferences more than 350 times across North Carolina and in 25 different states.

### June 16, 2009 Mom's Night Out - 2nd Annual Picnic Place/Time to be determined



# Thank You

## Goodwill Community Foundation, Inc.

Family Support Network of Wake County is pleased to announce it is the recipient of a grant from **Goodwill Community Foundation, Inc.** This grant enables FSN/WC to continue and grow existing programs and start new ones. We at FSN/WC are very excited about this venture and our partnership with such a wonderful organization!



## Anonymous Family Fund

FSN/WC would like to thank an Anonymous Family for their generous contribution to Cookies and Cocoa for Children with Special Needs and their families.

## Complete Payroll Services, Inc.

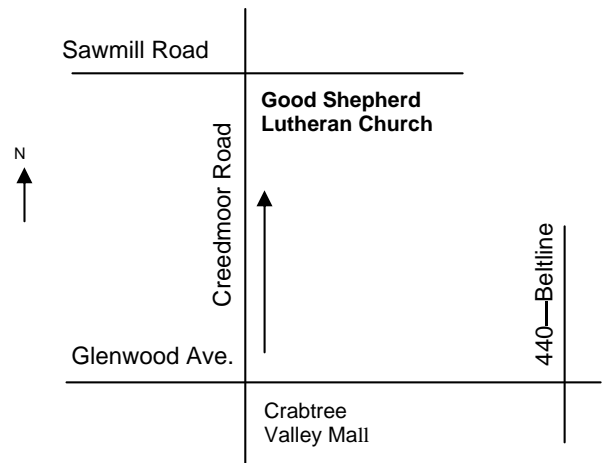
FSN/WC would like to thank **Complete Payroll Services, Inc.** for their generous donation of services!!

## 20th Annual Leo M. Croghan Conference on Developmental Disabilities

Monday, December 8, 2008  
 Sheraton Imperial Hotel  
 Research Triangle Park  
 For more information contact Wake AHEC at  
 (919) 350-8547 or  
<http://www.croghanconference.org/>

## Directions to Cookies and Cocoa

From Glenwood Ave. (Rt. 70) - turn north onto Creedmoor Road (Rt. 50 North) at Crabtree Valley Mall. Travel approximately 2.5 miles. Good Shepherd is on the right at the intersection of Creedmoor and Sawmill Roads. (Map is not to scale).



## Community Events/Support Groups/Parent Meetings

Please visit our website at [www.familysupportonline.com](http://www.familysupportonline.com) for weekly updated calendar listings

### Family Support Network of Wake County Board of Directors

#### MISSION STATEMENT

**SUPPORTING, EDUCATING, AND INFORMING FAMILIES OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS**

Debby Brooks.....	Board Chair, Parent	Emily Knuckley .....	Parent
Arlene Redgate .....	Vice Chair, Professional	Jessica Meymandi.....	Parent
Renee Floyd.....	Treasurer, Parent	Cindy Prince.....	Professional
Nancy Ranta .....	Secretary, Parent	Jennifer Runyon.....	Professional
Carla Bass.....	Parent/Professional	René Morrison .....	Program Director, Parent
Danielle Cooper.....	Professional	Melissa Gass .....	Program Coordinator
Dr. Donathan Hudgins..	Professional	Jodi Kopala .....	Program Assistant
AJ Jourdan.....	Parent		

# AblePlay Makes Holiday Shopping a Sure Thing

*AblePlay ([www.ableplay.org](http://www.ableplay.org)) is a one-of-a-kind website with free, independent research, ratings and reviews on play products for children with special needs.*

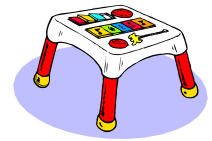
Don't all parents want to avoid the overwhelming task of searching through the over-stacked aisles of toy or department stores or scrolling through countless web searches in pursuit of the perfect match for their child this holiday season? An innovative resource at [www.ableplay.org](http://www.ableplay.org) is available to help ensure success (and convenience) for millions of parents, grandparents and others who have one simple wish – to see a big smile on the face of the special child for whom they're purchasing that ideal toy.

The expert AblePlay evaluators have credentials in special education, early childhood education and related therapeutic specialties. The AblePlay rating seal provides an at-a-glance understanding of a toy's appropriateness for children with physical, sensory, communicative and/or cognitive disabilities. Through the website, consumers can purchase toys online directly from manufacturers after reading the comprehensive AblePlay product reviews.

AblePlay is the latest initiative from the nonprofit National Lekotek Center, the leading authority on play for children with disabilities. For more information go to [www.ableplay.org](http://www.ableplay.org) or [www.lekotek.org](http://www.lekotek.org)



The National Lekotek Center, a division of Anixter Center, is a non-profit organization with a national network of affiliates dedicated to making play and learning accessible for children with disabilities and provides supportive services for their families. For additional information on toys, play and technology for children with disabilities, please visit us at [www.ableplay.org](http://www.ableplay.org) or [www.lekotek.org](http://www.lekotek.org).



P.O. Box 5567  
Cary, NC 27512-5567  
(919) 662-4600 x257

NONPROFIT ORG. U.S. POSTAGE PAID RALEIGH, NC PERMIT NO. 1032
--

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED