



NFHF QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

April • May • June

2017

MISSION

To provide the individualized services, information, resources and support needed to positively enhance the independence, productivity and inclusion of persons with disabilities.

VISION

To ensure all individuals with disabilities have the opportunity to attend school, live, work, recreate in their own communities.

NFHF Office:
204 W. 21st Avenue
Covington, LA 70433
(985) 875-0511
(800) 383-8700

Office Hours:
9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Monday - Friday



**QUARTERLY
NEWSLETTER
APRIL to JUNE
2017**

CONTENTS

- 2 Staff & Board
- 3 Executive Director &
Staff Welcome
- 4 Save the Date
Touch a Truck
- 5 Support NFHF
- 6 Bullying No More
Conference
- 7 Workshops Info
- 10 Adult Group Events
- 13 People First LA
- 14 LaCAN
- 15 Community News &
Groups
- 17 Calendar of Events

**JOIN THE
NFHF
MAILING LIST**

CLICK HERE

Opinions contained
herein do not
necessarily
represent those of the
funding source, and no
endorsement should
be inferred.



**NFHF
STAFF MEMBERS**

KATIE CORKERN

Executive Director

Katiecorkern@fhfnorthshore.org

STEPHENIE MILLER

CSHS Parent Liaison

Stephanie.miller@la.gov

LYNNE RENIHAN

Resource Specialist

lynnerenihan@fhfnorthshore.org

GAYNELLE FRANKLIN

Inclusive Education Specialist

gaynellefranklin@fhfnorthshore.org

ASHLEY NIELSEN

Inclusive Education Specialist

ashleynielsen@fhfnorthshore.org

ODESSA HELD

Community Outreach Specialist

Financial Coordinator

odessaheld@fhfnorthshore.org

**NFHF
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

SUE ELLEN STEWART

Chairperson

sestewart@fhfnorthshore.org

SHELLEY MARENGO

Vice Chairperson

shelleymarengo@fhfnorthshore.org

SHARON DELVISCO

Secretary

sharondelvisco@fhfnorthshore.org

JEANNE BOWER

Treasurer

jeannebower@fhfnorthshore.org

JENNIFER BRUNNING

JASON DURHAM

SHANEE HOLMES

Board Members

MICHELLE ANDERSON

CHAD DANENHOWER

NICOLE JUSTICE

BERNADETTE LALA

Advisory Board Members

You are always welcome at NFHF Board Meetings.

Meetings are typically held on the third Thursday of the month.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, May 18th, 2017

at 5:30 pm at the NFHF office.

If you would like to address the board, call Katie Corkern at 985-875-0511.

The work of NFHF, including publication of this newsletter, is funded by Florida Parishes Human Services Authority, Louisiana State Department of Education, Louisiana Department of Health, Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council, and is supported by corporate and individual contributions. Northshore Families Helping Families is a United Way recipient.

Northshore Families Helping Families Welcomes New Executive Director & Staff

Katie Corkern lives with her husband and three sons in Amite, Louisiana. She has spent the past 10 years as a Special Education teacher teaching in various classrooms with children of varying exceptionalities. She has also been an active advocate for individuals with developmental disabilities which lead to her becoming LaCAN's Home and Community Based Supports leader for Region 9 in 2016-17. Her passion for advocating for individuals with disabilities began in her college days and was solidified in the birth of her middle son, Connor.

Connor, who is now 10 years old, was born with multiple disabilities including a rare brain malformation, blind, uncontrollable seizures, he's also nonverbal and strictly fed through a feeding tube; though his diagnoses may seem daunting Connor has an undeniable joy for life and values his role in his community. Katie hopes to use and transform her family's own challenges into the successes of others living the same life through her new position as Executive Director here at Northshore Families Helping Families, and she is eager to make meaningful connections with our families!

KATIE CORKERN



Executive Director

ASHLEY NIELSEN



Inclusive Education Specialist

Ashley lives with her husband and four children in Covington, Louisiana. Her 13 year old son is on the Autism spectrum and her four year old daughter was born profoundly deaf and uses cochlear implants and American Sign Language. She has advocated for them through Early Steps and the public school system for a combined 14 years. She feels strongly that inclusive education is best for children with disabilities and their peers because it allows them to learn from each other and grow relationships that are not otherwise possible. In addition to being an inclusive education specialist with Northshore Families Helping Families, Ashley is also a member of LaCAN, a Partners in Policymaking 2017 participant and Secretary on the Board of Directors for Hands and Voices, a non-profit

organization that provides mentors, support, and resources to families with deaf and hard of hearing children. She is excited about helping parents in Region 9 learn to advocate for inclusive education for their children effectively.

NFHF
Save the Date



TOUCH A TRUCK



NORTHSHORE FAMILIES HELPING FAMILIES
Providing programs & support to individuals with disabilities to build an inclusive community

SAVE THE DATE
Touch a Truck 2017
Saturday - September 23, 2017

What is it?

A fantastic event where kids of all ages can climb, discover & explore their favorite things on wheels!

Join us for a family friendly event with music, food and fun!

Join our mailing list to get details in the next few weeks!

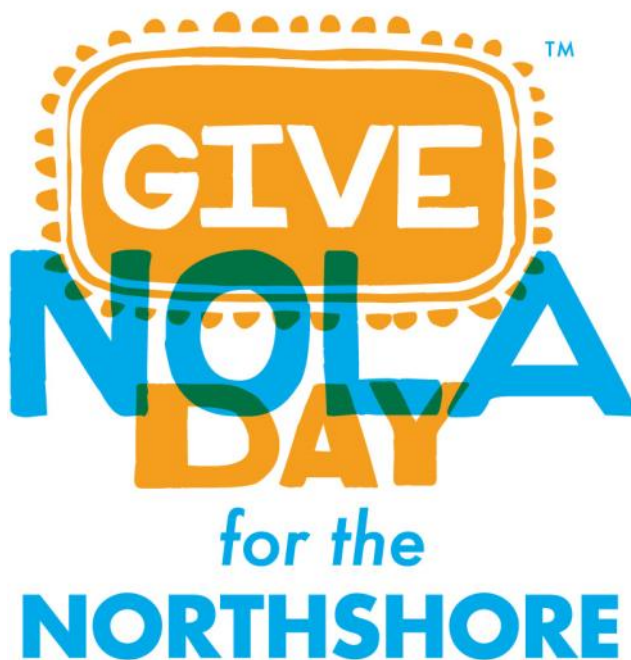
**JOIN THE
NFHF
MAILING LIST
CLICK HERE**

**Support
NFHF**



SAVE THE DATE

MAY 2



What is GiveNOLA Day?

Hosted on Tuesday, May 2nd by the Greater New Orleans Foundation, GiveNOLA Day is the community's one-day, online giving event to inspire people to give generously to the nonprofit organizations that are making our region stronger, creating a thriving community for all.

Every dollar donated from midnight to midnight on May 2nd will be increased with additional "lagniappe" dollars provided by the Greater New Orleans Foundation and our generous GiveNOLA Day sponsors.

GiveNOLA Day is tied to a national event called Give Local America where community foundations across America are asking their communities to give back on May 2, 2017.

How can I participate?

Everybody can participate on GiveNOLA Day!

Individuals can make online donations to participating nonprofits.

The minimum donation is \$10.

YOUR DONATION HELPS NORTHSHORE FAMILIES HELPING FAMILIES TO:

FULFILL OUR MISSION OF PROVIDING RESOURCES TO INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

PRESENT WORKSHOPS & TRAININGS

PROMOTE INCLUSION

SUPPORT EXISTING PROGRAMS & PROVIDE NEW INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS

PROVIDE SUPPORT GROUPS FOR INDIVIDUALS, PARENTS, AND CAREGIVERS

PROVIDE ANNUAL EVENTS, CELEBRATIONS & MORE



Every donation, regardless of amount, helps to make a difference in the life of people in our community

BULLYING NO MORE CONFERENCE



Bullying No More: Protecting Kids From Bullying and High Tech Troubles

Presented by

Dr. Kimberly Mason, Ph.D., LPC-S, NCC

Topics to be addressed include:

Types of Bullying/Cyberbullying • Impact of Bullying • Recognizing the Signs

Bullying and Suicide • Laws • Reporting & Responding to Bullying

Bullying & Suicide Prevention • Partnering with Your Child's School

Saturday, May 13, 2017

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Staybridge Suites

140 Holiday Blvd.

Covington, La. 70433

Complimentary Continental Breakfast and Buffet Lunch

[REGISTER NOW!](#)

Dr. Kimberly Mason, PhD, LPC-S, NCC is a core faculty member in the Clinical Mental Health Counseling program at Walden University. She holds a Ph.D. in Counselor Education and Supervision and M.Ed. in Community Agency Counseling from the University of New Orleans (CACREP-Accredited). She specializes in the areas of bullying/cyberbullying, suicide, adolescents' use of social media, Internet safety, restorative justice practices, and addiction. She is a published scholar and frequent presenter at international, national, and local professional conferences in her areas of expertise across the United States. She is the author of "Bullying No More: Understanding and Preventing Bullying" published by Barron's Educational Series, Inc. Dr. Mason maintains a private practice, R3 Counseling & Consulting Services, and has extensive experience working with diverse populations ranging from young children through the elderly on a multitude of mental health, addiction, couples, and interpersonal issues. She is a Licensed Professional Counselor, LPC Board Approved Supervisor, Nationally Certified Counselor, certified in iSafe and NetSmartz Internet Safety, School Conflict Management, Conflict Mediation, Cognitive Behavioral Intervention for Trauma in Schools, and Red Cross Disaster Mental Health Trained.

NFHF WORKSHOPS April to June



Register Online or Contact us for more information



Transitioning From EarlySteps: A Caregivers Guide

Is your child turning 3 in the near future?

Are you aware of the supports available once your child ages out of EarlySteps?

Please join us as we offer information and resources to help you navigate the various options for your child.

JOIN US FOR EARLY STEPS TRANSITION WORKSHOP IN COVINGTON

**Wednesday
May 3, 2017
5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.**

**Pastoral Center
4465 Hwy 190
(Service Road by
Lakeview Hospital)
Covington, LA 70433**

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Find us on Facebook 



NFHF WORKSHOPS April to June



FLORIDA PARISHES HUMAN SERVICES AUTHORITY WORKSHOPS

You're invited to join us for free and informative workshops to learn more about Florida Parishes Human Services Authority

Learn about the services they offer, including:

Developmental Disabilities • Available Services
Waiver Services • Eligibility
How to Apply for Services

Wednesday

April 12, 2017

5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

**Slidell Memorial Hospital
Imaging Center
1495 Gause Blvd.
Slidell, LA 70458**

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Thursday

May 11, 2017

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

**Hood Memorial Hospital
301 Walnut Street
Amite City, LA 70422**

[REGISTER HERE](#)



NFHF WORKSHOPS April to June



SELF-DIRECTION WORKSHOPS

Have you considered self-directing your waiver services, but thought it might be too difficult?

Wondering how self-direction would benefit your family?

Do you know what self-direction really means?

If you have any of these, or other questions about self-direction, you can get answers from someone who is directing their own services.

Workshop participants will hear how a family benefits from Self-Direction and manages the responsibilities.

Self-direction is currently available to New Opportunities Waiver (NOW), Children's Choice Waiver and Residential Options Waiver (ROW) participants.

Choose a Location to Register Now!

Wednesday

May 17th

6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

**Northlake Pastoral
Center**

**4465 Highway 190
East Service Road
Covington, La.**

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Wednesday

May 24th

1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

**Slidell Memorial
Hospital**

• Community Wellness Center •

**501 Robert Blvd.
Slidell, La.**

[REGISTER HERE](#)



**Louisiana Developmental
Disabilities Council**

ADULT GROUP

MEET & GREET EVENTS

April 2017



The purpose of these events is to provide folks who are 16 and older with the opportunity to meet new people, have fun and try new things!

To register or questions: www.fhfnorthshore.org info@fhfnorthshore.org 985-875-0511



April 5th (Wednesday) @ 1:00 pm Book Club @ St. John's Coffee Shop
@ 535 E Boston St in Covington



April 11th (Tuesday) @ 6:00 pm Dinner Club @
TBA



April 12th (Wednesday) @ 1:00 pm Book Club @ St. John's Coffee Shop
@ 535 E Boston St in Covington



April 15th (Saturday) @ 8:30 am Breakfast and a Flick at Movie Tavern 201 N Hwy. 190 in Covington. Details about movie coming soon, check Northshore Families Helping Families Facebook page for updates! Tickets are \$8.25 per person, breakfast items range in price from \$5 to \$7 and beverages cost \$3 to \$5 with refills. You can purchase tickets in advance online for \$9.75 (subject to change by theater) at <http://www.movietavern.com/locations/northshore/>



April 19th (Wednesday) @ 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm for People First Meeting Northshore Chapter at the Arc of GNO Northshore Community Center @ 106 E 25th Avenue in Covington. Come learn about self-advocacy, rights and responsibilities. People First of Northshore co-leaders are Scott Smith and



April 19th (Wednesday) @ 1:00 pm Book Club @ St. John's Coffee Shop
@ 535 E Boston St in Covington

April 26th (Wednesday) @ 1:00 pm Book Club @ St. John's Coffee Shop
@ 535 E Boston St in Covington



ADULT GROUP

MEET & GREET EVENTS

May 2017



The purpose of these events is to provide folks who are 16 and older with the opportunity to meet new people, have fun and try new things!

To register or questions: www.fhfnorthshore.org info@fhfnorthshore.org 985-875-0511



May 3rd (Wednesday) @ 1:00 pm Book Club @ St. John's Coffee Shop
@ 535 E Boston St in Covington



May 9th (Tuesday) @ 6:00 pm Dinner Club @
TBA



May 10th (Wednesday) @ 1:00 pm Book Club @ St. John's Coffee Shop
@ 535 E Boston St in Covington



May 17th (Wednesday) @ 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm for People First Meeting Northshore Chapter at the Arc of GNO Northshore Community Center @ 106 E 25th Avenue in Covington. Come learn about self-advocacy, rights and responsibilities. People First of Northshore co-leaders are Scott Smith and Perry Evans. Advisors are Sharon Delvisco and Dawn Culbreath.



May 17th (Wednesday) @ 1:00 pm Book Club @ St. John's Coffee Shop
@ 535 E Boston St in Covington



May 20th (Saturday) @ 8:30 am Breakfast and a Flick at Movie Tavern 201 N Hwy. 190 in Covington. Details about movie coming soon, check Northshore Families Helping Families Facebook page for updates! Tickets are \$8.25 per person, breakfast items range in price from \$5 to \$7 and beverages cost \$3 to \$5 with refills. You can purchase tickets in advance online for \$9.75 (subject to change by theater) at <http://www.movietavern.com/locations/northshore/>



May 24th and May 31st (Wednesday) @ 1:00 pm
Book Club @ St. John's Coffee Shop @ 535 E Boston St in Covington

ADULT GROUP

MEET & GREET EVENTS

June 2017



The purpose of these events is to provide folks who are 16 and older with the opportunity to meet new people, have fun and try new things!

To register or questions: www.fhfnorthshore.org info@fhfnorthshore.org 985-875-0511



June 7th(Wednesday) @ 1:00 pm **Book Club** @ St. John's Coffee Shop
@ 535 E Boston St in Covington



June 13th (Tuesday) @ 6:00 pm **Dinner Club** @
TBA



June 14th (Wednesday) @ 1:00 pm **Book Club** @ St. John's Coffee Shop
@ 535 E Boston St in Covington



June 17th (Saturday) @ 8:30 am **Breakfast and a Flick** at Movie Tavern 201 N Hwy. 190 in Covington.
Details about movie coming soon, check Northshore Families Helping Families Facebook page for updates! Tickets are \$8.25 per person, breakfast items range in price from \$5 to \$7 and beverages cost \$3 to \$5 with refills. You can purchase tickets in advance online for \$9.75 (subject to change by theater) at <http://www.movietavern.com/locations/northshore/>



June 21st (Wednesday) @ 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm for **People First Meeting Northshore Chapter** at the Arc of GNO Northshore Community Center @ 106 E 25th Avenue in Covington. Come learn about self-advocacy, rights and responsibilities. People First of Northshore co-leaders are Scott Smith and Perry Evans. Advisors are Sharon Delvisco and Dawn Culbreath.



June 21st and June 28th (Wednesday) @ 1:00 pm **Book Club** @ St. John's Coffee Shop
@ 535 E Boston St in Covington

Community News & Groups



People First of Louisiana:

- Is a self-advocacy group run by people with disabilities, for people with disabilities;
- Where people learn to speak up for themselves about decisions they make;
- Members can connect with others in their community, across the nation and around the world;
- Members learn about their rights and responsibilities as citizens of the United States of America.

Mission Statement:

People First of Louisiana supports people with disabilities to empower themselves in becoming effective decision makers, to gain more independence, and enjoy life as equal citizens of the United States of America.

Vision:

People with disabilities build personal visions that are reached through respect, equality and many different experiences that lead to choices and life decisions. People with disabilities support one another to control their own lives, understand and speak up for their rights and live up to their responsibilities.

Disability is Natural:

"Disability is a natural part of the human experience and in no way, diminishes the right of individuals to live independently; enjoy self-determination; make choices; contribute to society; pursue meaningful careers; and enjoy full inclusion and integration in the economic, political, social, cultural, and educational mainstream of American society."

If you would like more information or to join People First, visit www.peoplefirstla.org

Attend a meeting to find out more about us!

The People First of Louisiana Northshore Chapter meets monthly (third Wednesday)
at 1 pm at 106 E 25th Street in Covington.

Scott Smith, Perry Evans, Jeff Arseneaux are co-leaders of Northshore Chapter please
email us at region9.peoplefirstla@gmail.com for more information.

Community News & Groups

Northshore



DISABILITY RIGHTS DAY

VISIT LEGISLATORS. RALLY TOGETHER. ADVOCATE FOR CHANGE.



CLICK ON IMAGE TO REGISTER NOW



#DRD2017



Karen Artus

kartus@lacanadvocates.org

Region 9 LaCAN Leader (Education Focus)

What can your Region 9 LaCAN Leader do to help you?

- ⇒ Provide information and support in your advocacy efforts for systems change.
- ⇒ Answer your questions about content or actions needed for the latest advocacy alert
- ⇒ Assist with activities such as writing your legislator, scheduling a legislative visit, or preparing public testimony



Action Alert #13

**Contact Appropriations Committee and Attend Public
Testimony Day for Funding of DD Services**

DISABILITY RIGHTS DAY

VISIT LEGISLATORS. RALLY TOGETHER. ADVOCATE FOR CHANGE.

SAVE the DATE

Wednesday, April 26th - LA State Capitol

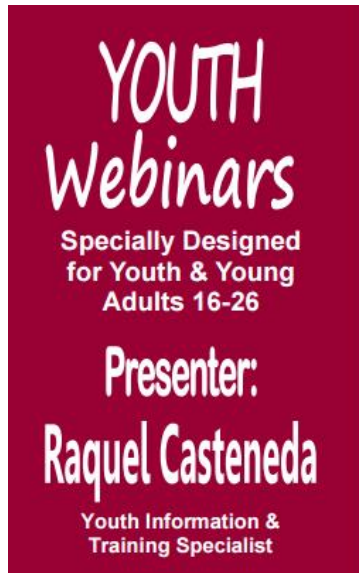
Community News & Groups



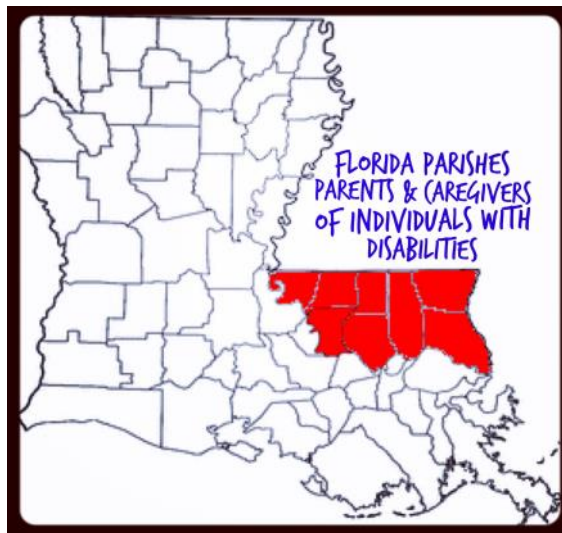
www.fhfnorthshore.org

info@fhfnorthshore.org

985-875-0511



Families Helping Families of Jefferson invites you to free webinars created for Youth and Young Adults 16-26



Florida Parishes Parents & Caregivers are Connecting on new FB Group Page Offering Information and Support.

Northshore Parent Easter Egg Hunt



Saturday, April 15th • 10:00 am to 12:00 pm
Paul D. Cordes Park • Mandeville, La. 70448

Aged Hunts • Snacks • Craft Area
Easter Bunny Picture Taking Station
Join Us!



Airport rehearsal program allows persons with special needs & their families a chance to practice air travel process without having to purchase tickets. Learn more at www.thearc.org/wingsforautism

Community News & Groups



ADVOCATE FOR YOUR CHILD WITH SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS!

(Click image to read full article)



Advocating for Your Child

Advocating is doing whatever is necessary to make sure your child/youth gets what he or she needs...and what you need as a family to support and care for your child/youth. When you have a child/youth with special health care needs, advocacy may be more challenging. Your child/youth's health and quality of life may be at greater risk because of a chronic illness, condition, or disability. With so much at stake, families and children themselves need to develop skills and knowledge to become effective advocates.



ACT 303

Petition for High School Diploma (Act 303)

Act 303 authorizes a person who is no longer enrolled in a public school but was identified as a student with a disability and who previously failed to receive a high school diploma or was denied graduation solely for failing to meet the state high school graduation exit examination requirements, to petition his or her city, parish, or other local public school board to receive a high school diploma.

The deadline to petition for the individuals diploma is
December 21, 2017!

If you need assistance, or if you are interested in joining NFHF and Annie Cummer in helping get the word out on the Northshore contact us at
985-875-0511

April 2017



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

April is AUTISM Awareness Month!						1 SOAR Autism Walk
2	3	4	5 Early Steps Workshop in Livingston Adult Group Book Club	6	7	8
9	10	11 Dinner Club @ TBA	12 FPHSA Work- shop in Slidell Adult Group Book Club	13	14	15 Breakfast & a Flick @ Movie Tavern in Covington
16	17	18	19 People First Northshore Adult Group Book Club	20	21	22
23	24	25	26 Disability Rights Day Adult Group Book Club	27	28	29
30						

Shop at AmazonSmile

and Amazon will make
a donation to:

**Northshore Families
Helping Families**

Get started

amazonsmile

May 2017



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 GiveNOLA Day	3 Early Steps Workshop in Covington Adult Group	4	5	6
7	8	9 Dinner Club @ TBA	10 FPHSA Workshop in Amite Adult Group Book Club	11	12	13 Bullying Conference
14	15	16	17 People First Northshore Adult Group Book Club Self-Direction Workshop in Covington	18 NFHF Board Meeting	19	20 Breakfast & a Flick @ Movie Tavern in Covington
21	22	23	24 Adult Group Book Club Self-Direction Workshop in Slidell	25	26	27
28	29	30	31 Adult Group Book Club			



Did you know you can support NFHF while you search?

Visit www.goodsearch.com and select Northshore Families Helping Families

June 2017



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7 Adult Group Book Club	8	9	10
11	12	13 Dinner Club @ TBA	14 Adult Group Book Club	15 NFHF Board Meeting	16	17 Breakfast & a Flick @ Movie Tavern in Covington
18	19	20	21 People First Northshore Adult Group Book Club	22	23	24
25	26	27	28 Adult Group Book Club	29	30	

