



## 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**

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**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**  
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*Resource Specialist*  
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**NFHF  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- SUE ELLEN STEWART**  
*Chairperson*  
[sestewart@fhfnorthshore.org](mailto:sestewart@fhfnorthshore.org)
- SHELLEY MARENGO**  
*Vice Chairperson*  
[shelleymarengo@fhfnorthshore.org](mailto:shelleymarengo@fhfnorthshore.org)
- SHARON DELVISCO**  
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- JEANNE BOWER**  
*Treasurer*  
[jeannebower@fhfnorthshore.org](mailto: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.

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



## 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 NORTHSORE 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.**

**Wednesday**

**May 24th**

**1:00 pm to 3:00 pm**

**Slidell Memorial Hospital**

**• Community Wellness Center •  
501 Robert Blvd.  
Slidell, La.**

**REGISTER HERE**

**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](http://www.fhfnorthshore.org) [info@fhfnorthshore.org](mailto: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 25<sup>th</sup> 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



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To register or questions: [www.fhfnorthshore.org](http://www.fhfnorthshore.org) [info@fhfnorthshore.org](mailto: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 25<sup>th</sup> 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

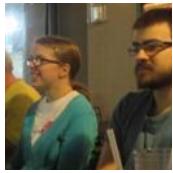


*The purpose of these events is to provide folks who are 16 and older with the opportunity to meet new people, have fun and try new things!*

*To register or questions: [www.fhfnorthshore.org](http://www.fhfnorthshore.org) [info@fhfnorthshore.org](mailto: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 25<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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 25<sup>th</sup> Street in Covington.

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

# Community News & Groups



**Karen Artus**

[kartus@lacanadvocates.org](mailto: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**

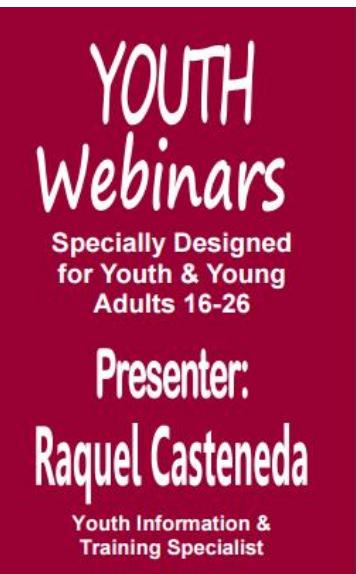
# Community News & Groups



[www.fhfnorthshore.org](http://www.fhfnorthshore.org)

[info@fhfnorthshore.org](mailto: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](http://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](#)

amazon smile

# 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 Work- shop 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](http://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	

Find us on Facebook

