

## Joshua Center Newsletter

End of August 2010

[www.joshuacenter.com](http://www.joshuacenter.com) 7611 State Line Road, Suite 142, KCMO 64114 816-763-7605

**In this Issue:** Joshua Center Walk/Run, Project Outreach, Social Skills, Lego Club, United Way Support, Pork Out, October Conference, IEP and 504 Plans

## Joshua Center First Walk/Run - September 18th

Please join us for our first Walk/Run on September 18<sup>th</sup> at Waterfall Park Trails behind Bass pro Shops in Independence, MO (off of I-70 & 291 Hwy). Registration is \$25/person. Schedule: 8am registration, 8:30am run start and 9:30am the walk starts. Participants may also park in the Bass Pro Shops parking lot. You can register at [https://joshuacenter.com/walk\\_run.htm](https://joshuacenter.com/walk_run.htm).

## Project Outreach

Last week every pediatric group received Joshua Center brochures. This week every School Counselor, Social Worker, Process Coordinator and Autism Specialist in the Kansas City Metro area should receive a letter and brochures from the Joshua Center. They will receive information on a password protected site on the Joshua Center website to communicate with Mike Sumler, our therapist. As most of you know, Mike is the expert on these neurological disorders. They will be able to ask him questions, share concerns and receive support. The Joshua Center plans to include an area for resources and articles. It takes a Village to raise our kids and it is our hope your child will be more successful with this support. Thank you to Melissa Miler and Maribeth Kammert for all of your hard work making this project a reality.

If you would like to check whether your doctor or school was included in this project please contact Becky at [becky@joshuacenter.com](mailto:becky@joshuacenter.com).

## Social Skills Classes for Pre-K - 12<sup>th</sup>

Currently, classes are available at Joshua Center and Blue Springs. The Pre-K/K class at the Joshua Center meets the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays from 3-4pm. All the other classes meet either the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays or the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays at a specific time. Call the Joshua Center to check for your child's time. Some of the topics we will address this school year are: Making Friends, Bullying, Communication Skills, "Me First", Manners, Money Smarts, Making Choices, Dealing with Being Left Out and Conversation Starters. We appreciate it when parents email us about a specific concern. Your child's success is our main objective. We will often "read" a child at a class and develop new strategies to help that child be successful. Once again, classes will be developed in other areas when we receive enough registrations for those areas, so if you are interested please register your child so we can add him or her to the list. If you are a parent, have teaching experience and would be interested in helping with classes contact Becky at [becky@joshuacenter.com](mailto:becky@joshuacenter.com).

## **Lego Club K-2<sup>nd</sup> Grade - Tuesdays - 4:30-5:30pm**

Register at <http://www.joshuacenter.com/skills.htm> for Lego Club (social skills) classes. We have a new group starting September 7<sup>th</sup> for younger kids.

## **Lego Club 4<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> Grade - Fridays - 5:00-6:00pm**

Register at <http://www.joshuacenter.com/skills.htm> for Lego Club (social skills) classes. We have a few openings for this class that has been meeting for several months.

## **Support the Joshua Center through United Way**

The Joshua Center is eligible through **DONOR CHOICE** to receive funding from **United Way**. This campaign is going on **NOW**. Thanks to all of you who have supported the Joshua Center through United Way over the years. You have really made a tremendous impact on the children we serve. To support the Joshua Center you must request a **Donor Option Choice Card** from your United Way Coordinator. Our code number is 021. In May of 2011 we will receive a letter from United Way with a list of Campaign 2010 Donors.

## **"Pork Out" - October 2<sup>nd</sup>**

You can register for this wonderful event held at the Airline History Museum. You can register at [http://www.joshuacenter.com/pork\\_reg.htm](http://www.joshuacenter.com/pork_reg.htm), become a table sponsor or purchase individual tickets **OR** email Becky at [becky@joshuacenter.com](mailto:becky@joshuacenter.com) or call the Joshua Center (8a6-763-7605) for tickets. This is an adult event due to alcohol being served. This year we have a very "special guest", lots of entertainment, professional dancers, airline tours, lots of great BBQ and an incredible band. We hope to see everyone.

We are accepting donations for the Silent and Live auctions. You can bring items to the Joshua Center or call to arrange for pick-up. If you would like to donate or design a centerpiece with a country theme to go on 1 of 43 tables that would be great! We are using fall colors.

## **When "Stop it!" Doesn't Work - Conference**

**When "Stop It!" Doesn't Work: School strategies for children with Neurological Disorders (Tourette Syndrome, Obsessive Compulsive Disorder, Asperger's and ADHD)**

Parents and teachers often describe children with neurological disorders as impulsive, immature, inattentive, disorganized and craving predictability. While bright, the children often appear to be clueless about everyday situations, conversations, and social conventions. Common behavior management techniques usually do not work with neurological disorders and require different treatments. Each participant receives conference materials and a certificate of attendance.

**Joshua Center Online University – Free Training offered!**

Are you looking for training for yourself, other staff, paraprofessionals or parents? Joshua Center University offers online training that is web-based and available at any time from any computer with internet access.

The following courses are offered:

- Understanding Asperger Syndrome
- Tourette Syndrome and Other Neurological Disorders
- Individual Classroom Plans

Additionally, Joshua Center's partner, SchoolDistrictU, offers online courses written for schools on a variety of topics (see enclosed course list). Course pricing ranges from \$10 to \$40 per person, per course. A drawing will be held at the conference for free courses. In addition, SchoolDistrictU is currently offering three courses on Bullying free of charge for a limited time to all attendees. All conference attendees will also receive a coupon good for 50% off any training purchases made within 90 days of the conference. Purchase online at any time or – bring your purchase order to the conference! Follow this link <http://www.joshuacenter.com/conference.htm> to register for the conference for teachers, parents and mental health professionals featuring Mike Sumler and Becky Ottinger. If you are new to the Joshua Center this is a great way to get the best information. It is also a wonderful opportunity to educate family.

## What is the difference between an IEP and a 504?

Both an Individualized Education Program (IEP) and a 504 plan can be used to provide special education services and accommodations to students in public and private school settings. The difference between the two is an often asked question and can be difficult to succinctly explain, but we begin by looking at the legislation that governs each. A 504 plan comes from Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities. IEPs are governed by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). IDEA has been amended a number of times, most recently in 2004. An important thing to remember is the IDEA is legislation specifically enacted to address special education while Section 504 is not a special education law, but rather a civil rights law. Some, but by no means all, of the major differences between IDEA and 504 are as follows:

- **Eligibility** - Because IDEA was specifically adopted as special education legislation, it only covers special education services. Section 504 on the other hand is not a special education law and does not have a special education requirement. This, in past years, has led to increased use of Section 504 for many physical and mental impairments that have not been traditionally recognized as qualifying for special education services. This is also why 504 plans are most often used for students in need of only accommodations and not specialized instruction.
- **Evaluation** – Under IDEA, parental consent is always required prior to any type of student evaluation. Although a school district may still extend this courtesy to its parents, Section 504 does not require parental consent prior to evaluating students, only notice. A different evaluation team is also used depending on whether or not a student qualifies for services under IDEA.
- **Services** – IDEA mandates that IEPs include very specific provisions; such as the student's needs, services to be provided, and goals. A 504 plan only necessitates a written education plan.
- **Procedural Safeguards** – IDEA requires notice and consent, records access, and requires parental input in evaluation, IEP and placement. Section 504 has informal notice requirement, no explicit consent requirement or records access.
- **Funding** – Under IDEA schools receive a mixture of state and federal funds for each student served. Under Section 504 no federal funds are received. Because special education issues can be complicated and confusing, you should first consult the parents' rights handbook that each district has and must provide its parents upon request when questions arise.