

Joshua Center Story

A Mother's Promise

A child with special needs changes your life forever. Those of us parenting a child with Tourette Syndrome share a common bond for the rest of our lives. We must all believe that through our successes and our mistakes we can change the world for our children and grandchildren. My dream is that through the Joshua Child and Family Development Center the world will become a better place for everyone living and dealing with Tourette Syndrome. The Center is dedicated to serving the whole family. We are committed to developing and sharing programs to meet the many needs of these individuals. Experts in all fields have come together to make these programs possible. To all our children we say "thanks" for making this a reality. To my son, Josh and my daughter, Sarah I say, "thanks" for teaching me how to help others." Together we must all share our joys, our trials, and our tears to make this world a place where Tourette Syndrome becomes an understood household word. No child or parent should have to experience what we have as a family and I intend to spend the rest of my life researching, developing, and sharing programs that will make a difference.

*Becky Ottinger,
Founding Director, November 5, 1996*

The Joshua Child and Family Development Center was founded in 1996 to improve the lives of children and families living with Tourette Syndrome, Obsessive Compulsive Disorder, and ADHD. In recent years we have expanded our focus to include Asperger Syndrome. Our staff therapist, Mike Sumler, observes children in the classroom, sharing information with the parents, doctor and school staff. Individual and family therapy helps the child be successful. We believe it takes a village to raise these children – the doctor, counselor, teacher and families working together to make it possible for these children to succeed. We are still the lone eagle – the only clinic in the country providing this support.

Programs include:

- Individual and Family Counseling
- Observations of students in school setting
- Assist with IEP and 504 Plans
- Social Skills
- Annual American Camping Association accredited camp program at the Rotary Youth Club Camp
- Parent Support Group
- Monthly e-newsletter
- Staff Development workshops for educators and mental health professionals



**THOSE
DARN
INFLEXIBLE
KIDS!**

Staff Development Program

*Understanding
Neurological Disorders
and
Strategies to Deal
with Them*

**Joshua Child and Family
Development Center
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Overview

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. All participants will receive certificates of attendance.

Program Objectives

Participants will learn how to:

- Recognize symptoms associated with the neurological disorders of Tourette Syndrome, Asperger Syndrome, Obsessive Compulsive Disorder and ADHD and how they impact learning and family life
- Develop a framework for understanding the behaviors of children with neurological disorders and apply effective intervention strategies
- Identify teacher and auxiliary staff characteristics that lead to success
- Identify appropriate accommodations and strategies to help the child succeed at school and in extracurricular activities

Publications

Books authored by the speakers are available for purchase at the program.

- Tictionary
- Individual Home Plan
- Individual Classroom Plan

Program Speakers

Jack Southwick, M.S.W., is a renowned author and expert on the behaviors associated with neurological disorders. Jack has over fifteen years experience working with children with neurological disorders. He is the author of Individual Home Plan and Individual Classroom Plan and co-author of Asperger Syndrome and Difficult Moments.

Mike Sumler, LMFT, has worked almost exclusively with families with these disorders since February 2003. He has the unique ability to help the client access their own strengths and achieve success appropriate to their developmental level as well as educate the family to achieve the best parenting results possible. Counseling services offer a variety of treatment options.

Becky Ottinger, B.A., Ed. is the Executive Director of the Joshua Center. Becky taught for ten years before quitting to start the Joshua Center. Becky served on the National Tourette Syndrome Association Board of Directors for two years. She developed an annual American Camping Association accredited camp program for children with neurological disorders, held at the Rotary Youth Camp in Lee's Summit, MO. Becky has observed over 500 students in their classrooms, helping teachers develop strategies for the children to be successful. In her book, Tictionary, she addresses almost 500 topics entered around neurological disorders.



Mission Statement

The Joshua Child and Family Development Center provides programs designed to improve the lives of individuals and families living with Tourette Syndrome, Attention Deficit Disorder, Obsessive Compulsive Disorder, and Asperger Syndrome through clinical, education, social and research programs.

Program Fee

A one day (9am-3pm) staff development program is available for \$1,500, plus travel expenses if applicable. Contact the Joshua Center to schedule a staff development program at 816.763.7605.

School

Name

Address

City

State

Zip

Phone

Email

Method of Payment

Visa

MasterCard

American Express

Check (payable to Joshua Center)

Purchase Order

Credit Card #

Exp. date

Code on back