



Organization of Special Needs Families
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 ORGANIZATION
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www.osfamilies.org

***** NEW DATE *****

4th Annual "Multi-Cultural Night" Fundraiser

Sunday, November 19th

5:30pm – 9pm

Quinlan Community Center

10185 N. Stelling Road, Cupertino

♥ Wine Social ♥ Dinner ♥

♥ Multi-Cultural Performances ♥ Auction ♥



'TIS THE SEASON...

Christmas & Volunteer Appreciation Party

Saturday, December 9th

5:30pm at Cupertino Senior Center

21251 Stevens Creek Blvd., Cupertino



Bring a favorite dish to share for the potluck dinner.
 Watch for event flyers and email announcements containing
 further details.

Register online for upcoming HEALTHY START Parent Workshops!

(Free child care and refreshments provided. Please visit OSF web site for workshop details.)

Chinese Church In Christ (CCIC)
920 Sierra Vista Avenue, Mountain View
Saturday Evenings, 7pm-9pm

November 11

"Reveal the mystery of Autism, the assessment and intervention for children with Autism"

November 18

"Discover the treasure of using American Sign Language with Hearing Infants and Children"

December 2

"SMILE Tooth is possible, Dental Hygiene challenges for children with special needs"

Chinese Church In Christ (CCIC)
1490 Saratoga Avenue, San Jose
Sunday Afternoons, 12:30pm-2:30pm

November 13

"Early Signs of Autism Identified in Infants"

November 20

"Supports for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders in Home and School Settings"

November 27

"Functional Behavior Intervention"

December 4

"Occupational Therapy"

Organization of Special Needs Families (OSF)

Newsletter ~ November 2006

Dear friends and families,

A couple of years ago, new to OSF, my husband and I attended its 2nd annual fundraiser dinner. My husband, who long ago had volunteered for and sat on the board of the local chapter of a nation-wide non-profit group, was amazed at the number of volunteers who staffed and coordinated the event. He thought that event was one of the most organized and well-orchestrated fundraiser dinner he had ever attended. He also marveled at the overwhelming level of support that OSF received from benefactors and community, especially when OSF was such a new organization.

Let's all continue this awesome support. You can help by sponsoring or attending this year's fundraiser dinner on November 19th. You can also lend your support with a monetary donation. Volunteering your time, effort, and talent is a precious gift that is welcome and treasured too. Read on for Samantha Wong's poignant story on volunteering for OSF. You'll find her story touching like I do.

~ Shirley ~

Volunteer Newsletter Editor

Teen Volunteer Samantha Wong – In her own words



My name is Samantha Wong, and I'm a junior at Monta Vista High. I volunteer at the Saturday Enrichment Program. I learned of OSF through my mom, who is friends with some of the supervisors at OSF. I started volunteering at OSF during 8th grade. However, I did not really start to go regularly until the start of my 10th grade. The first few times I went to OSF, I found it to be very challenging because our autistic children can be difficult for me to handle and the tasks are sometimes very tedious. As I learn to be more effective though, I started to appreciate my work with our OSF kids. I feel rewarded to see the children progress through our programs through the years.

One day I was watching over a child named Mary (not her real name). I've only had Mary one or twice in the past, and she was always a very difficult girl to handle because she threw tantrums unexpectedly. I always thought that was the way she was and there wasn't much anything of us can do to help her. Fortunately, that day, one of the adult supervisors came over and helped me; she taught me how Mary liked to hold hands and how she liked people to rub her back. When I started comforting her in this way, I was able to relax Mary and have her cooperate with me more. I was so amazed by the changes that Mary went through; I have not heard her throw a tantrum in a while.

Mary made me realize just how frustrating it must be for autistic children: to not be able to have others understand you. Mary has her likes and dislikes, but none of us really knew what she wants. As a result, Mary is reduced to throwing a tantrum whenever she doesn't like something. But with patience and proper trial-and-error to understand her better, she can really blossom.

I feel very fortunate to be a part of OSF. This experience helped me to truly appreciate what a hard life it must be for autistic children and how I can contribute in a small way to help them and hopefully for them to feel good.

City of Cupertino Sponsors Special Festival

What an astoundingly supportive and caring community we live in! The Cupertino City Counsel has approved over \$6,000 to sponsor the 3rd Annual Cupertino Special Festival.

This extraordinary festival brings together community and families with special-needs, celebrating love, friendship, and inclusiveness as one. Highlights of the festival include a conference on Autism, a youth candlelight celebration, and lots of fun activities for all.

Mark your calendars! This very special and unique event is planned for May 18-19, 2007. The conference and all celebrations and festivities will be held at the Cupertino Civic Center and the adjacent library field.

Say Boo!

Saturday afternoon before Halloween, many of eighty pumpkins donated by the Cupertino Rotary Club were transformed into frightful jack-o-lanterns. Kids, parents, and volunteers all had fun coming up with spooky designs. The Rotarians treated everyone with yummy ice cream afterwards.



Thank you, Cupertino Rotary Club! You are the best!