

RESOURCES FOR PARENTS

The WISD PAC provides this list of resources for your use, but does not endorse any organization or website.

WASHTENAW COUNTY AREA FAMILY SUPPORT

Meetings and resources provide opportunities for support, problem solving, and parent/professional interaction, as well as information on conferences, workshops and topics of interest to attendees. Some groups are chapters of a state and/or national organization. Parents and/or professionals might wish to consider starting new groups to meet the needs of individuals with disabilities, families, and the community. The following are some of the support groups, meeting dates and times, and contact people in the Washtenaw County area. If your group would like to be added to this list, or if you are currently listed and have an update, please contact Family Support at the Washtenaw Intermediate School District at (734) 994-8100, x 1514 or email: familysupport@washtenawisd.org

A2FACES (Ann Arbor Families for Autistic Children's Education and Support)

This group advocates to obtain the most appropriate education-based on best practices-for Ann Arbor school-aged children with Autism Spectrum Disorder. There are no regular meetings, but the group has an active email list and community. For more information email Barb Byers at: babmay11@provide.net

Ann Arbor Center for Independent Living

A nonprofit organization dedicated to the success of children, youth and adults with disabilities at home, at work and in the community. The organization offers many programs including Peer Support Groups. For more information: (734)971-0277 Website: <http://www.annarborcil.org>

Attention Deficit Disorder

Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (CHADD) is a national non-profit organization providing education, advocacy and support for individuals with AD/HD. For a local CHADD group in your community visit their website: www.chadd.org

Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder- Ann Arbor

This group is an Ann Arbor Area support group for parents of children and teens with ADD/ADHD and adults with ADD/ADHD. Their mission is to provide local resources, education, and support to their members. For more information please email Kim Garver at kagarver@gmail.com or go to their web site: <http://www.meetup.com/AnnArbor-ADHD-ADD-Support/>

Autism Collaborative Center-EMU

This group offers many programs for families including **ASD ParentSHARE**" FREE support groups just for moms and dads raising children on the spectrum. Let's talk! Daytime and evening groups available for your convenience, take the time - MAKE the time to do something for yourself. FREE childcare available on site, please RSVP to reserve your ParentSHARE. Also, Sibling Support Activities & Events will provide a special experience and common understanding among siblings of individuals with Autism. The **KIDPOWER** program, will help siblings ages 7 - 12 and their friends to see the positive potential of their unique families, how to re-frame their experiences and change their communities. Also a part of the KIDPOWER model - Childcare for the sib on the spectrum on site and networking and respite opportunities for parents and caregivers – a program the entire family can look forward to! For more information: Phone (734)487-2890, Email autismcenter@emich.edu , Web site <http://www.emich.edu/acc>

Autism Connections-Judson Center

This group offers many programs including Family Support Groups for parents and family members of children on the autism spectrum who want to connect with other parents/family members in a safe and confidential environment. Each month will include a different topic. This is a **FREE** group. No childcare available at this time. Days: 2nd Tuesdays from 1-2:30PM and Evenings: Wednesday from 6:30-8PM (call for dates) at 3840 Packard Road, Suite 170, Ann Arbor, MI 48108. For more information: (734)528-1692, x23201 or email: autismconnectionswashtenaw@judsoncenter.org Web site: <http://www.judsoncenter.org/template.php?pid=8>

Common Chords

This group of young teens through adults meets for "fun with music" and activities surrounding "the arts". Sponsored through 4-H, it meets every Monday usually at Pittsfield Elementary School, 2543 Pittsfield, Ann Arbor 48108. For more information contact Marjorie Wright at (734)971-6677 or Sue Carr at (734)483-0559.

Down Syndrome Support Team (DSST)

The DSST is a group of families that have come together to guide and support one another, to share knowledge and experiences, to get communities involved, to help provide awareness and to build lasting friendships. This group meets on various days and times of the month and at various locations. Be sure to check their web site: www.downsyndromest.com for the calendar of events. For more information contact Elaine Luther at (734)944-1595 or email: downsyndromest@yahoo.com.

Family Support Network of Michigan

The Family Support Network of Michigan (FSN) is organized into local chapters in which trained "support parents" recognize the concerns of the families in their communities. They provide information and referrals to families, enabling them to access community resources to enrich the lives of children with special needs. FSN is funded through the Michigan Department of Community Health. Contact the FSN Family Phone Line at (800)359-3722. or web site:

http://www.michigan.gov/mdch/0,1607,7-132-2942_4911_35698-56603--,00.html

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD)

A support group for parents raising children with FASD is held the 3rd Thursday of each month at the Home of New Vision, 3800 Packard Rd., Ann Arbor. The room is on the 2nd floor next to Suite 210 labeled "Private". Please contact Linda Rowse at 734-668-8449 or email: Linda@washtenawfasd.com or Shirley Chung (MSW candidate) at (734)975-1602 for more details. Web site: <http://www.washtenawfasd.com>

Fetal Alcohol Syndrome/Fetal Alcohol Effect Support Group

This support group was formed in 1992, and is made up of mostly adoptive families with adult children; however, birth families and families of children at any age are welcome. Child care is not available. The group meets the 4th Wednesday of each month, except November, from 7-9pm at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Education Center, Classroom #5, 5305 E. Huron River Dr. For additional information please contact Betsy [at betsysoden@juno.com](mailto:betsysoden@juno.com)

Friends of the Developmentally Disabled

The Friends of the Developmentally Disabled provides information and support to families and other interested parties. Meetings are once a month except for July, August, and December. Topics include services for adults with disabilities and their families, respite care, guardianship, benefits, and other local, state, and federal issues. For meeting notices and newsletters, contact Jill Barker at (734)996-5561 [or jillrbarker@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jillrbarker@sbcglobal.net) Web site: http://_theddnewsblog.blogspot.com/

Grandparents As Parents (GAP)

GAP offers care giving grandparents (and other relatives) the opportunity to share common experiences, to better understand their grandchildren's special needs, and to access resources and information from community professionals. The program provides support groups, educational workshops, counseling, children's groups, and family activities. Any grandparent or custodial relative in Washtenaw County with parental responsibilities for raising a minor child is eligible for service. For more information, contact Washtenaw County Catholic Social Services-Older Adult Services at (734)712-3625 or web site:

<http://sites.google.com/site/gapcss>

Helping Hands Respite

This group offers occasional FREE respite nights for parents of children with special needs and their siblings. They have activities, games, a snack, and a movie at Grace Ann Arbor. Web site: <http://graceannarbor.com/#/our-causes/local>. For more information email HHandsA2@gmail.com or call Sarah Reeves at (517)204-2709. Pre-registration required.

Hero Source

This web site offers online tools and resources for parents of children with special needs. Website: www.herosource.com

Intentional Communities of Washtenaw (ICW)

ICW is a group of parents, families and friends who want to improve the quality of life for adults with developmental disabilities by providing housing, employment and social opportunities. Based on a model of "community interdependence," ICW promotes development of individual strengths and gifts while respecting personal needs and preferences. The group usually meets on the first Tuesday of the month at the WISD Teaching and Learning Center at 7:00p.m. during the school year. Website:

<http://www.intentcom.org>

Learning Disability Association of Michigan (LDAM) Washtenaw County Chapter

The Washtenaw County chapter of LDAM's goal is to provide parents with information, hope, and encouragement, guiding them through the challenges of learning disabilities. Services provided include senior awards program, transition conference, and our website provides contact and reference information on Ann Arbor area tutors. For more information please visit our website: <http://www.ldaofmichigan.org/chapters.htm> or contact Madelon Possley at madelonp@comcast.net or via telephone at (734)302-1110

The Leo Club

This group meets once or twice yearly to share information on camps, workshops, and provide support to visually impaired parents and students. Speakers are often invited to attend meetings. For more information call Kathy Christensen at (734)994-8100, x1527.

Manchester Positive Accommodations Stimulate Success (P.A.S.S.)

Manchester P.A.S.S. meets with individual parents and students on a request basis to assist families to advocate for students with special needs. The goal is to help students achieve their potential in the school setting. Many resource materials are available. Call Shannon Fleck at (734)428-7814.

Milan Adoptive Mom's Group

This group welcomes adoptive parent's of children of all ages to meet in a casual setting to discuss the joys and challenges of raising an adopted child. Meetings are from 7-9pm on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at the Original Gravity in Milan. Please call Theresa Light at (734)732-6238 for more information.

Mom's Making A Difference

The "Mom's Making a Difference" coffee is for mothers (and/or grandmothers) of a child with a disability. We share a casual, confidential time to talk among ourselves about the special stresses and issues of parenting a family with a special needs son or daughter, as well as how we can take care of ourselves, work effectively with all the people our kids need to help them be successful, and make a difference for our kids and others like them. Meetings are every other Saturday, from 8:00-10:00a.m. at Keystone Community Church in Saline, 3375 Saline-Waterworks Road, 1/2 mile west of Saline-Ann Arbor Road. If you have any questions please email or call Kathleen Whiteman kathleenmc@gmail.com, (734)944-1828. Come and learn from other moms, share your stories, experience the support of others who truly understand your challenges, and take some time for yourself that will help you be stronger for the others in your life who depend on you.

Parent Advisory Committee for Special Education-Ann Arbor

This group's mission is to positively impact the education of all students with an emphasis on those with special needs in the Ann Arbor School District by representing parents of students needing or receiving special education services, advocating improvements, acting as a resource for our constituents, staff, administration, creating opportunities for education, reporting regularly, facilitating communication, clarifying process, and creating an actual link between our constituents and the administrators responsible for all aspects of special education in the Ann Arbor district. Meetings are open to the public and are usually held the first Monday evening of the month, 7-9:30pm, at Tappan Middle School Media Center; 2251 E. Stadium Blvd.; Ann Arbor, 48104. Please visit the Ann Arbor PAC website at <http://instruction.aaps.k12.mi.us/aapac/>. There is a public email list for anyone interested in joining called A2PAC at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/A2PAC/>.

Parent Advisory Committee (PAC)-Washtenaw Intermediate School District (WISD)

This group's mission is dedicated to ensuring student success by strengthening the capacities of our local schools, families and communities through education, collaboration, use of best practices, technology and a wide variety of strategies. The PAC is made up of parents from public school agencies in the WISD whose children have special needs. The PAC meets monthly, usually on the third Tuesday, September-June (no meeting in December) at the WISD Teaching and Learning Center from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Meetings are open to all parents and persons interested in special education. For further information contact Fran Egeler, Co-Chair (734)426-1957, email.egeler@charter.net or contact Lisa Rentschler, Co-Chair 734-476-6073, email rentschlercm@comcast.net. Visit our website <http://www.washtenawisd.org/departments/special-education/parent-advisory-committee>. There is also a Google listserv you can join at <http://groups.google.com/group/wcsei>

Parent's Night Out

This group provides FREE respite for families who have children with special needs. On the first Friday night of every month during Oct. - June, children are cared for by responsible volunteers to allow parents a "night out." Our evenings go from 6-9 p.m. and include activities such as open gym play, craft, music, and movie time. Snack is also provided. Children of all ability levels are accepted. Siblings are welcomed and encouraged to come. Pre-registration is required and space is limited each month to the first 25 signed up. This program is sponsored by the Special Needs Ministry at St. Luke Lutheran Church located at 4205 Washtenaw Ave, Ann Arbor. VOLUNTEERS are always needed and welcomed. To get your name on our e-mail list or for more information please contact: Pam Kamrath (734) 474-0573 or e-mail specialneeds@stlukeaa.org

Parents Who Care - Helping Children and Schools Succeed

This informational group meets in Saline and invites all parents of children with special needs and those interested in special education to attend. They are a parent/caregiver group dedicated to helping children and schools succeed. Mission statement: We, the parents of children with special needs, believe that by sharing of ourselves and working closely with the school system, we can obtain success for our children in school and life. Together we can support each other, which in turn will help us support our children. For more information contact Lisa Rentschler (734)476-6073, Email: RentschlerCM@comcast.net for meeting dates and times.

Rest and Refresh-Serving Families with Special Needs

This group of qualified volunteers provides respite care for parents/families of a child with special needs. To be sure the group can meet the family's needs, an application process is necessary. The child with special needs and siblings are welcome. Services are free and provided at the Chelsea Free Methodist Church, Activity Center, 500 Washington St. (400 Building) Chelsea, Michigan on the 3rd Saturday of every month from 5-9pm. For more information please contact Deb Stewart at (734)433-1312 or [email das91458@yahoo.com](mailto:das91458@yahoo.com)

Transition to Adulthood Information Meetings

Meetings are on an individual basis. Designed to educate students and families regarding the changes in supports from school to adult services, and also assist students in making a seamless transition into adulthood. For more information call Rani Dronamraju at (734)222-3540.

Visual Impairments Support Group

This group meets once or twice yearly to share information on camps, workshops, and provide support to visually impaired parents and students. Speakers are often invited to attend meetings. For more information call Kathy Christensen at (734)994-8100, x1527.

Ypsilanti Special Kids

We are an online and in person special needs information, education and support network of families residing in and around the Ypsilanti area. For more information visit our website: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ypsilantispecialkids>

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

ArborWeb City Guide for disability resources: <http://www.arborweb.com/cg/t0109.html>

Bridges4kids is a non-profit parent organization providing a comprehensive system of information and referral for parents of children with special needs from birth through transition to adult life. Web site: <http://www.bridges4kids.org>

MedlinePlus-Health Topics Read about symptoms, causes, treatment and prevention for over 900 diseases, illnesses, health conditions and wellness issues. MedlinePlus health topics are regularly reviewed, and links are updated daily. Web site: <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/healthtopics.html>

Michigan Alliance for Families provides information, support, and education for families who have children (birth through 26 years of age) who receive (or may be eligible to receive) special education services. We also provide learning opportunities including workshops, and live and on-demand webinars. Web site: www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org

Michigan Mental Health Networker-Washtenaw County Here you will find resources for Washtenaw County including Self Help and Support Groups, Child & Adolescent Services, and Mental Health Treatment Services. Web site: <http://www.mhweb.org/>

Michigan Special Education Mediation Program helps parents, educators, and service providers develop productive relationships for resolving issues related to early intervention and special education. (800)873-7658 or Web site: <http://msemc.cenmi.org>

Student Advocacy Center of Michigan

The Student Advocacy Center located at 2765 Boardwalk Avenue, Ann Arbor, Michigan works in partnership with families and schools to promote educational practices that result in success for students, as well as to challenge those exclusionary policies that may have a harmful impact on students and families. This organization provides non-legal advocacy to students (and their parents) who are eligible for general and special public education programs. For more information visit their website at www.studentadvocacycenter.org or email contact@studentadvocacycenter.org.

Washtenaw Association for Community Advocacy provides leadership and advocacy training for people with disabilities and parents of young children with disabilities; training and consultation to agencies and professionals regarding Social Security, Medicaid, ADA, community organizing, and other issues. (734)662-1256 Web site: <http://www.acawashtenaw.org>

Wrightslaw provides information about special education law, education law, and advocacy for children with disabilities. Web site: <http://www.wrightslaw.com> Check out their many resources on MI Yellow Pages for Kids: <http://www.yellowpagesforkids.com/help/mi.htm>