

Hydro Chat



From The Editor

Wow, well it's been a busy few months. We were fortunate to attend the Hydrocephalus Assoc. Conference held in Baltimore May 26-31. It was our first plane trip with Jeremy and his shunt and he did great!

I was asked, and it was my privilege to help facilitate a session for Mothers of Infants and Young Children - A Time To Connect. This was one of the first sessions that I participated in four years ago when I had the opportunity to go to the conference in Chicago. It was basically setup as a discussion group for everyone to learn from each other, have a shoulder to cry on and some ears to listen. Mark also had the chance to facilitate the same session for the Fathers.

We had a chance to attend many of the sessions with great speakers. Dr. Jack Walker, who trained Dr. Carey was in one of the sessions. The Hydrocephalus Association has now made available online, many of the powerpoint presentations that were given at the conference. I highly recommend that everyone go and check them out. You can find them under the conference link at www.hydroassoc.org

~Paula Keyser
Team Florida Captain

If you have not yet done so, please register for our walkathon in September. We really need everyone's support in our Team Florida Group!

Our Friend's Special Days

Joseph B.	June 5
Andrew F.	June 7
Mikayla H.	June 22
Hayley H.	June 27
Patrick M.	June 17
Steve F.	June 22
Steven C.	July 5
Stephen G.	July 7
Michael R.	July 8
Jeremy K.	July 18
Bradley B.	August 13
Quita F.	September 14
Mary Jane L.	September 15
Kim B.	September 17
Al C.	September 20
Lina C.	September 26
Kim S.	September 27

If your special day is not listed, please contact me: hydrosupport@gmail.com



Our April Picnic

In case you missed it, our support group got together again on Saturday, April 22nd, 2006 at our house. Thanks again to Chris Riccio for making the trip all the way from 'New Jersey'. We had 23 people attend, including two incredible dogs! These were not just any kind of dogs, these were special needs dogs trained by the company 'By Your Side'. You can check them out on the web www.bpawsitive.com/bys.html. They have become incredible companions for two of our dear friends in our group.



About Our Group

We are families brought together by Hydrocephalus. We do not have membership dues, or any guidelines of things you have to do. We just want each other to know that we are not alone. Since our first picnic in April 2004, we have had four gatherings, with a total of 18 families (58 people total) who have met each other and learned. We hope to continue to grow our group larger and larger.

For more information, or if you would like to host a picnic at your house, please contact Paula Keyser (727) 538-9159.

Medicaid Waiver Program



In October 2004, the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) became an agency separate from the Department of Children and Families, specifically tasked with serving the needs of Floridians with developmental disabilities. Prior to that time, it existed as the Developmental Disabilities Program.



The APD works in partnership with local communities and private providers to assist people who have developmental disabilities and their families. APD also provides assistance in identifying the needs of people with developmental disabilities for supports and services.



Through the dedication and leadership of Governor Bush and steadfast commitment from the Florida Legislature, our budget has increased by 144 percent since 1999, and in 2004-2005 served over 33,000 Floridians with developmental disabilities. APD expects to reach approximately 40,000 persons with developmental disabilities this fiscal year.

What is a Developmental Disability? Here are some that are listed on their website. Spina Bifida, Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation, Prada-Will Syndrome.

Now for my two cents. Jeremy was diagnosed with mild Cerebral Palsy and we applied for this waiver in October 2001. We were told there was a waiting list for funding and services of at least three years. About a month ago, we got a letter notifying Jeremy that he had until June 30th to spend \$2,500. We have been able to purchase a wooden playset for our back yard, and several other pieces of equipment to help Jeremy with physical strengthening. They even sent us four cases of pull-ups, wipes and Pediasure. Wow!

If you have not yet applied, or want to find out more information about this program, log on to: <http://apd.myflorida.com/about/> There is a form online that you can fill out to apply for services.



TEAM Hydrocephalus

Sunday, September 3rd, 2006
9:00-1:00pm

Largo Central Park, Largo FL

We need your help to raise awareness and advocating for research for Hydrocephalus. Team Florida is holding its 2nd Annual Walk-Run-Wheel-a-Thon event followed by a friend-making picnic. You can change the reality of living with Hydrocephalus. Dare to dream of a cure. Get out your walking shoes, your chair or your bike and join in the fun.

For more information email Paula Keyser
hydrosupport@gmail.com or call: (727) 538-9159

TEAM FLORIDA REGISTRATION FORM

PLEASE USE A SEPARATE FORM FOR EACH PERSON REGISTERING FOR THIS EVENT.

First Name:		Last Name:	
Gender: (circle one) MALE FEMALE		Birthdate:	
Address:			
City:		State:	Zip:
Home Phone:		Email Address:	
Cell Phone:		Work Phone:	
What T-Shirt Size Do You Wear? (circle one)			
EXTRA SMALL ~ SMALL ~ MEDIUM ~ LARGE ~ EXTRA LARGE ~ XXL			

If you are able to help with the planning of this event, please let me know.

Please mail form back to:
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 Team Florida
 3048 Huntington Drive N.
 Largo, FL 33771
 (727) 538-9159
hydrosupport@gmail.com