



Center for Autism and Related Disabilities at the University of South Florida (CARD-USF)

Florida's First Choice for Autism Support

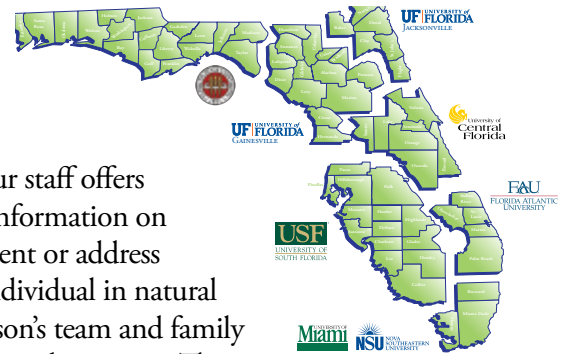
Did You Know...

- 1 out of 150 children is diagnosed with autism?
- 1 out of 94 boys is diagnosed with autism?
- Every 20 minutes a child is diagnosed with autism?
- Autism is the fastest growing developmental disability in the U.S. today?

CARD-USF provides communities, organizations, agencies, service providers and families with the knowledge and skills to support children and adults with autism and related disabilities. We also work with early intervention, schools, employers, and colleges and universities.

Our Work

- **Participate in state level Autism efforts** to impact policy and services.
- **Engage in individual consultations.** Our staff offers families and professionals strategies or information on best practices to increase skill development or address behavioral concerns by observing the individual in natural settings, and collaborating with the person's team and family members to suggest appropriate services and supports. These consultations require a time commitment from all involved.
- **Organize and conduct regional and statewide training events.** Each year, regional workshops are organized on topics of great interest to families and school personnel.
- **Organize and conduct training events.** CARD-USF partners with community providers such as FDLRS, FIN, FND, NAMI and others to offer information on relevant topics for families and professionals.
- **Maintain an active website.** Families and professionals often access the web to gather information. Our website links to information and resources about autism and related disabilities, provides a list of training events, and other valuable information. The website is updated on a regular basis.
- **Develop and disseminate materials.** Some of these materials are available online; others are available on CDs, videotape or in writing.
- **Develop and distribute a newsletter** two times a year. The newsletter is available in our 14-county region of Florida.





how we're ORGANIZED

CARD-USF Staff

CARD-USF is housed within the Division of Applied Research & Educational Support (DARES) at the Department of Child & Family Studies (CFS), a department of the USF Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute. DARES is also home to a variety of research, training, technical assistance, and policy projects and programs that affect the range and quality of supports and services available to enhance the lifestyles of individuals with disabilities, persons who may be at risk, and their families.



Lise Fox, Ph.D.
DARES Division Director



Karen Berkman, Ph.D.
CARD-USF Director

Money raised here stays here! Here's what your donations supported in your community:

Autism and Co-Existing Mental Health Disorders Conference

Nationally-respected clinicians and researchers presented information about mental health issues that are associated with an autism spectrum disorder, as well as, outlining the existing evidence-based interventions. We were pleased to have this opportunity to educate the community about the issues that families face each day.



Autism Community Leadership Award

The recipients of the 3rd Annual Community Leadership Award demonstrated a commitment to promoting positive attitudes and perceptions of autism through community education, programs and awareness. This year's recipients were recognized by their peers, families and friends at A Celebration of Partnerships, which took place in Tampa to honor the City of Tampa Parks and Recreation Department.



a look at our NUMBERS Q1-2008

Total Current Registry

Autism Spectrum Disorder	2118
Related Disabilities	43
Total Registered Individuals	2161

Registry by Age:

0 - 3 years	58
3 - 5 years	188
5 - 16 years	1348
16 - 21 years	335
Over 21 years	232
Total	2161

Registry by County:

Charlotte	59	Hillsborough	689
Collier	98	Lee	172
Desoto	4	Manatee	99
Glades	2	Pasco	242
Hardee	7	Pinellas	424
Hendry	10	Polk	209
Highlands	48	Sarasota	98

Training or Group Discussions

Total number of trainings/discussions:	33
Total number of individuals present:	998



Fun and Friends

A collaborative project with the City of Tampa Parks and Recreation Department offering natural opportunities to facilitate and practice social skills development and promoting fun and friends through shared experiences.

Individual and Direct Family Assistance

Total number of people on the registry or their families receiving individual assistance at least once during the 3rd Quarter of FY 2007-2008:	375
Total individual assistance contacts delivered:	1,588
Total number of individuals served:	2,749
Total number of consultations::	638
Total number of individuals served:	914

Public B...

Total num...	
Total num...	

Join CARD-USF in its mission to support families and professionals to become educated, networked, and coordinated to create a welcoming community for ALL people. Call 813-974-2532 or e-mail card-usf@fmhi.usf.edu



Spring Egg Hunt

Over 300 individuals attended CARD's Spring Egg Hunt at Freedom Playground in Tampa. The event attracted a wide range of children and families of different cultures, background, and abilities.

CARD staff

created pre-activities and visuals and posted these on the CARD website to support the success of individuals with autism participating in a familiar Spring activity.



Hispanic Reunion

The First CARD-USF Hispanic Gathering provided a venue that allowed Spanish speaking families who are CARD-USF constituents to meet each other and spend a few hours sharing

common experiences and interests. Through this event, the participants shared a sense of belonging and participated in an educational atmosphere where they shared the concerns of raising a child with autism, highlighting diversity aspects of having a different language, culture and family support. Adults and children engaged in learning, activities, and fun games while also enjoying delicious Hispanic dishes that everybody brought to share in this fun, family afternoon.

Literacy for ALL: Autism, Literacy and Learning Workshop

A collaborative project with the Junior League of Tampa and the USF Department of Communication Disorders presented evidence-based practices that have been shown to be effective with individuals with autism spectrum disorders and demonstrated ideas and strategies that families took home and put into practice. Fifty families joined CARD in building reading skills and lifetime love of reading.



Visual Strategies "Make and Tech" Workshop

CARD presented hands-on demonstrations of evidence-based visual strategies for working with individuals with autism spectrum disorders, as well as, showcased local and state organizations that offer a variety of technological solutions to augment and assist communication. All of this was accomplished with a great degree of success measured by the participation of numerous collaborative partners, the number of attendees (263 families and professionals) and the satisfaction surveys completed by participants. If success is measured by leaving them wanting more, then we exceeded all expectations as comments ranged from, "when are you doing this again?" to "this should be an annual event!"



Kaleisia Family Development Project

In honor of the generous community spirit of Kim Pham and Lan Ha, the owners of Kaleisia Tea Lounge, CARD created the Kaleisia Family Development Project. The Kaleisia Project was established to provide funding for autism-specific training and educational development of families and individuals with autism spectrum disorders. Families and individuals can request stipends to attend trainings, educational programs, conferences and workshops.



Artist in Residence and Adult Retreat

A variety of programs and opportunities are offered specifically geared to support adults as they transition from school into post-secondary, employment or volunteer settings.

In collaboration with VSA Arts of Florida, a group of budding artists participated in a series of art workshops to develop their talents with an artist in residence. An adult retreat took place on the campus of USF to explore career and college opportunities, as well as, provide the opportunity to build friendships and social skills.



Education

Number of presentations: 8

Number of individuals present: 733



CARD Products & Visual Supports

CARD provides state of the art resources and information to Florida's families and professionals.

CARD Community Connections

This newsletter distributed two times a year and is available in our 14-county region of Florida.



What is CARD-USF? (video)

This brief video is an overview description of the support and assistance available through CARD-USF. http://card-usf.fmhi.usf.edu/video/card_web.wmv

Reunion Hispana (14 MB Video)

Recientemente, CARD USF auspiciÃ³ su primera reuniÃ³n Hispana para los constituyentes de CARD y sus familias. Les invitamos a ver algunas fotos en esta presentaciÃ³n que hemos preparado de este dÃ­a especial. <http://card-usf.fmhi.usf.edu/video/July%205th%20version%20two.wmv>

Walking the Walk

"Walking the Walk" is a brief multimedia presentation that illustrates one family's strategies for supporting their son in neighborhood and community settings. Photographs and perceptions illustrate the family's steps in creating positive support for their own family and others.. <http://card-usf.fmhi.usf.edu/walk/index.html>

Believe in One, Believe in All

This tutorial illustrates the experiences of a student with autism included in a third grade classroom, along with the reactions, feelings, and beliefs of his support team members and peers. <http://card-usf.fmhi.usf.edu/mathew.asp>

We're All Friends in Different Ways

This presentation captures pictures and video from the 2007 Autism Awareness Month contest for teachers and classrooms. Meet the winning teachers and their students! <http://learningcurve.fmhi.usf.edu/video/We're%20All%20Friends%20video.wmv>

Visual Supports: Choosing the Right Tool for the Job

This tutorial provides a basic overview to the considerations and decisions that must be made when deciding to create a visual support such as a personal schedule, a calendar or a social script for your child. Learn the foundations for constructing a visual support that will suit your child's needs and learning style. <http://card-usf.fmhi.usf.edu/video.asp>

In addition to CARD's trainings, direct assistance, technical assistance and project development, CARD-USF is a resource both to families and professionals locally, and also around the world through our website.

CARD Web Resources

<http://card-usf.fmhi.usf.edu>



Please visit CARD's website for resources, links, online training modules, plus community activities and materials and resources in Spanish. From May 2006 - June 2007, there were 62,377 downloads, and 708,349 hits worldwide last year from the CARD website.

In addition to the main CARD website, CARD has created another site for specifically for educators:

The CARD Learning Curve

This online resource provides interesting and interactive stories, ideas, resources and materials for teachers of students with autism or a related disability.

<http://learningcurve.fmhi.usf.edu/index.asp>



Your donation matters in Southwest Florida to families living with autism. Please consider us in your giving plans. Give to CARD and give to the future.

**Center for Autism and Related Disabilities
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