

# Collaborative Connections

## “A World of Possibilities”

These are the words Nancy Iannone uses to describe the outlook for her daughter, two year old Gabriella. Gabriella has been in the New Jersey Early Intervention System since she was one month old and receives Early Intervention services in Gloucester County.

Gabriella was diagnosed with Down Syndrome in vitro. Her family, which includes Dad, Vincent and sisters, Samantha, Maria and Elena, were recognized by the Gloucester County

Special Services School District EIP for their dedication to the Early Intervention System.

All of her therapists are very proud of Gabriella and know



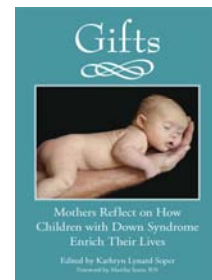
that her family's commitment to Early Intervention has helped her improve her skills and will enable her to develop her abilities in all areas of life.

Nancy is one of over 60 mothers who have shared their stories in a new book, “Gifts: Mothers Reflect on How Children with Down Syndrome Enrich Their Lives”, published by Woodbine House. Nancy has documented her experience in Chapter 30 titled, “The Gift of Delight.” Information about the book, photos and other news can be found at <http://giftsds.segullah.org>.

Nancy's inspirational story ends with this message: “My baby is

not a diagnosis, not a list of her potential woes. She is a beautiful person, full of laughter and grins. There is a world of possibilities laid before her....”

Excerpts courtesy of Gloucester County Special Services School District EI Program Spring/Summer Newsletter.



## “Board Bits”



On Wednesday, June 20 the Board of Trustees of the SNJREIC held its Annual Service Award Dinner and Board Meeting at Deerwood Country Club in Westampton, NJ. The award serves as an opportunity to celebrate the achievement and leadership

qualities of individuals in the field of early intervention. Recipients of the 2007 awards were : **Lynne Potter**, Speech and Language Pathologist, St. John of God Community Services; **Kathleen Hogan**, Special Educator, Shirley Eves Center; **Trish Schlarp**,

Unit Coordinator, Cape May Special Child Health Services. **Jane Femia-Baider**, Director of Our Lady of Lourdes Child Development Program received the first Outstanding Leadership Award. A complete list of the nominees can be found

on page four of our newsletter.

The evening was the final meeting for three board members, Annette Ristoro, Jeanne Kernoschack and Martha Mourovic. We thank them for their dedication and service!



## SnapShots from the Region



Ava Friddell enjoying the cool water at an EI Playgroup

Photo courtesy of Marie Cancilleri-SJHC EI

*We worry about what a child will become tomorrow, yet we forget that he is someone today. ~Stacia Tauscher*

## Letter's From the Region

Dear Ms. Harrison,

We are writing to let you know how pleased we have been with the early intervention services that our son received here in Salem County.

When our son was 2 1/2 years old, we just weren't happy with the progress of his speech. I phoned early intervention in Salem County and was surprised yet thrilled that I did not need a doctor's referral for our son to be tested. The timing of everything went very quickly from the testing to the first time he received therapy. The speech therapist, Lori Sullivan, was fantastic. Sue Stavros who was our coordinator was a great sounding board for me. When I wanted it to be considered that our son be seen more than once a week, Sue quickly coordinated another person to come see our child. This was Sue Petrucelli who was a teacher who worked on language. She was great too.

In about 6 weeks time our son's vocabulary increased by about 125 words. Everyone in our family couldn't get over it. Even after he turned 3 we received a follow-up call from Sue Stavros checking in. Yet again she amazed me with her care and concern. His private speech therapist has given him the summer off, and he may or may not need to restart therapy in early September. Please feel free to contact us as we love to tell our success story with early intervention of Salem County!

Sincerely,

Martha and Chris Champigny

*(The Champigny Family submitted this letter to Terry Harrison, Part C Coordinator for the New Jersey Early Intervention System.)*



## Who's Who in EI.

### Welcome Back!

The SNJREIC is very pleased to announce that *Mrs. Rachel Ledden-Albadine* has joined the SNJREIC staff as the new *Training & Technical Assistance Coordinator*. As many of you know, Rachel is not new to the region. She was employed with SNJREIC from 1998 through 2005. During that time she held the positions of Autism Resource Parent, Family Support Coordinator and Lead Family Support Coordinator. She is very passionate about early intervention and is an asset for our region. The Training and Technical Assistance Coordinator position works in collaboration with state and regional staff, Early Intervention Provider agencies, Service Coordinators and families to design, coordinate, conduct and evaluate training and technical assistance opportunities to uphold the policies and procedures of the New Jersey Early Intervention System. Welcome Home, Rachel!

## 21 Down Buddy Walk

### *A Down Syndrome Awareness Group*



The Ninth Annual 21 Down Buddy Walk will take place on **Saturday, September 15th** on the Ocean City Boardwalk Music Pier. Registration begins at 10:30 am. The one mile walk begins at 12:30 pm. Initiated in

1990, 21 Down is a non-profit organization serving the families, educators and health care professionals of Atlantic, Cape May and Southern Ocean Counties. Proceeds will benefit local and national programs.

Come out and enjoy free food, entertainment and 2 hours of free rides for children who raise \$30 or more in sponsors! For more information call Jen 609-646-6842 or Debbie 609-965-1335.

**Save the Date!!**



### SNJREIC Second Annual Holiday Auction & Family Fun Night!

Friday, November 16, 2007

6:30 pm

Garden State Discovery Museum  
Cherry Hill, NJ

Shop, Play and Support the Early Intervention Families in our region!

For more information about sponsorship or volunteer opportunities, contact the Family Support Team at the SNJREIC.

### Free Parent Series on Behavioral Teaching and Educational Rights

Presented by COSAC

(Center for Outreach and Services for the Autism Community)

The Parent Series is a free, 18 hour course focusing on teaching a behavioral approach to parenting. Topics include assessing and changing behavior, teaching new skills, tracking progress and educational rights. Parents, family members and caregivers of individuals with autism are encouraged to attend.

**October 16, 23, 30**

**November 6 and 13, 2007**

**6pm - 9 pm**

Bankbridge Development Center  
Gloucester County Special Services School District  
Sewell, NJ 08080

Online Registration: [www.njcosac.org](http://www.njcosac.org)

For more information

Barbara Wells 609-883-8100 ext 45

## 2007 Annual Service Award Nominees

**Karen Hobbs - Kingsway Learning Center**  
Nominated by: Midge Arasz

**Sue Petrucelli - Salem County Special Services School District**  
Nominated by: Kathleen A. McCarthy

**Colleen Gangemi -Kingsway Learning Center**  
Nominated by: Deena O' Connor

**Sara Kucharski - Southern New Jersey Perinatal Cooperative**  
Nominated by: Leslie Breslau

**Kristen Deopp - Cumberland County Special Child Health Services**  
Nominated by: Lisa Cuff and Elizabeth Thomas

**Marilyn Gil - Cumberland County Special Child Health Services**  
Nominated by: Ronny T. Byers

**Jane Femia-Baider - Our Lady of Lourdes**  
Nominated by: Jennifer Sammons, Sharon Lockett, Mary Ann McCormick, Rose Mendez, Mary Ann Stojansul, Jenny Boyce, Amanda Bramble, Holly Nickerson, Lourdes Snader, Barbara Flewelling

**Martha Mourovic - Shirley Eves**  
Nominated by: Pat Demarest

**Trish Schlarp - Cape May County Special Child Health Services**  
Nominated by: Martha Mourovic

**Kathleen Hogan - Shirley Eves**  
Nominated by: Martha Mourovic

**Cathy Fraser - Gloucester County Special Services School District**  
Nominated by: Christina Christy and Claudette DeLaurentis

**Lynne Potter - St. John of God Community Services**  
Nominated by: Denise Murray

**Sharon Jurman - Bancroft Neurohealth**  
Nominated by: Jenny Boyce

**Debbie Landes - Kingsway Learning Center**  
Nominated by: Jenny Boyce

## 2007-2008 SNJREIC

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### SNJREIC Staff

Serving Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem counties

Jennifer Buzby, Executive Director

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Susan Rodgers, SPOE Administrative Assistant

### Next Issue November 2007:

- Meet the members of the Board of Trustees!
- Transition to Preschool
- Who's Who in EI
- And so much more!!!



# ***FAMILY FUN NIGHT & HOLIDAY AUCTION***

***COME SUPPORT THE ORGANIZATION  
THAT SUPPORTS OUR KIDS***

*Get your holiday  
shopping done at  
one time!*

