



# First In Families of North Carolina Annual Report 2009-2010

Helping people with disabilities and their families to **believe** in their dreams, **achieve** their goals and **give back** to others since 1996.

## Executive Message

2010 marks the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the 11<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the US Supreme Court ruling known as "Olmstead". Both of these groundbreaking changes to policy clearly affirm that it is important for people with disabilities to live in communities of their choice. They defend such choice as a right. The year 2010 also marks the 15<sup>th</sup> birthday of the first two First In Families chapters in Wake and Mecklenburg Counties. Meanwhile, 2010 ushers in an unprecedented projected state budget deficit of possibly three billion dollars. **First In Families has relevance for all of these**, exemplifying and supporting the ADA and "Olmstead", and offering relief and hope to those impacted by the deficit and cuts to formal services.

This past year FIF continued to connect the philosophy of community inclusion and choice with the real people living where the tires meet the road. This is where we have always been. We use as little cash as possible in our service to families and individuals. Instead we stretch our dollars raised by whatever means, to obtain help from private businesses and individuals through matching gifts, donations, and in-kind contributions. Furthermore, our Mission drives us to not only help families, but to help them find ways to contribute back to their communities. This year our Time Bank began operating, and is our best example of this reciprocation in action. Please read about Time Banks and our other programs, our successes and our finances in this, our second Annual Report.



Sincerely,

**Erica Ferranti**  
President



**Betsy MacMichael**  
State Director

## First Annual Luncheon

FIFNC's 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Luncheon was held November 4, 2009. Ninety-six people attended and the First In Families Connector Society was launched. A net total of \$4,710 was raised, and an additional \$11,871 pledged.

The founding members of our Connector Society are Trish Farnham, Melanie Mattingly, Ryan Profitt and Jill Rushing. For a complete list of our donors, see page six.

## Our Leadership

**Erica Ferranti**  
**President**  
Raleigh

**Greg McGrew**  
**Vice President**  
Apex

**Robin McDuffie**  
**Treasurer**  
Chapel Hill

**Peggy Balak**  
**Secretary**  
Raleigh

**Mark Bullock**  
Durham

**Pat Reid**  
Statesville

**Karen Harrington**  
Fletcher

**Debby Torres**  
Chapel Hill

**Melinda Kupner**  
Glade Valley

### *Ex-Officio Members:*

**Melanie Mattingly**  
Franklinton

**Gwen McArthur**  
Fayetteville

**Cindy Parkey**  
Raleigh

**Wendy Russell**  
Southern Pines

First In Families of North Carolina is a 501(c)(3) North Carolina not-for-profit corporation founded in 1996, incorporated in 2001 and acknowledged as tax-exempt in 2003

## Our Programs

### Lifetime Connections

Lifetime Connections offers unique supports and future planning services to people with all types of disabilities and their families. We provide an alternative or addition to traditional services, through a comprehensive, membership-based set of services tailored to each individual or family. Core services include personal networks and workshops on wills and estate planning.



The outcome of Lifetime Connections is to provide families with relief and security regarding the future of their loved one, through the knowledge that their family member has a support network in place and they themselves have their legal and financial planning in order. This year, Lifetime Connections grew by six members.

### Networks In Action

Jamey C.'s goal was to find employment and volunteer activities. With aid from her network, Jamey has two jobs and is preparing for several volunteer opportunities. Now Jamey and her network will focus on social opportunities and seek a class or other resources that will help her build her social skills.

Jane D. and her network member Rebecca (in the photo above) are waiting for a bus to take them to Food Lion where they will purchase a snack for the next day's meeting. A short-term goal of Jane's network is for her to learn to ride the bus in Durham. The long-term goal is for her to be able to travel independently to Charlotte, by Amtrak, to visit her sister Rosa.

### FIF Chapters

FIFNC manages three local FIF Chapters: FIF of Gaston & Cleveland Counties, FIF of Johnston County and FIF of Wake County. FIFNC also provides extensive technical assistance to all 11 FIF Chapters covering 42 NC counties.

Technical assistance includes training and assessment based upon Core Indicators for chapter health which measure customer leadership, leveraging of resources, and many other criteria for adherence to the FIF model of customer service and best practice family support.

### A Chapter In Action

Wake FIF received a request for assistance from an Iraqi refugee family. Their story is a sad one of loss of family members and great trauma. All family members are taking English classes, including the child with cognitive delays. First In Families helped with furnishings and rent, and will continue to explore connections this family can make to get settled in their new home.

### Lifeline Project

Through a combination of private grants and donations, FIFNC assists families in North Carolina counties not served by a local FIF Chapter. In 2009-10, FIFNC received two such grants: The Home Health Foundation of Chapel Hill Endowment Fund of the Triangle Community Foundation awarded funding to assist National Guard & Reserves families in Orange, Chatham & Durham counties; Provident Benevolent Foundation provided funding to assist families in all other areas of the state. FIFNC staff leveraged 44 cents/grant dollar spent and assisted 46 families in 15 counties across the state.

### Lifeline In Action

Through Lifeline, FIFNC assisted Debby Z. with a wheelchair lift for her car. Debby did her part by finding a discounted lift and paying for heavier shocks for her car. Once the lift was installed, Debby could travel independently within the community.



### First In Families Time Bank

First In Families of North Carolina started Time Banking this year as a perfect complement to the core belief that everyone has something of worth to share with others. The FIFNC Time Bank connects community members through a system for sharing skills.

### Time Bank In Action

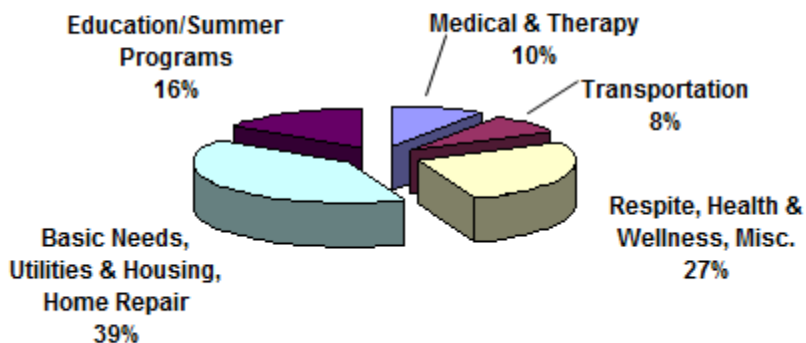
Sharon Y. is a volunteer outreach ambassador for the FIFNC Time Bank. In the photo below, she is participating in the yarn exercise at an orientation meeting. Sharon earns Time Dollars as she



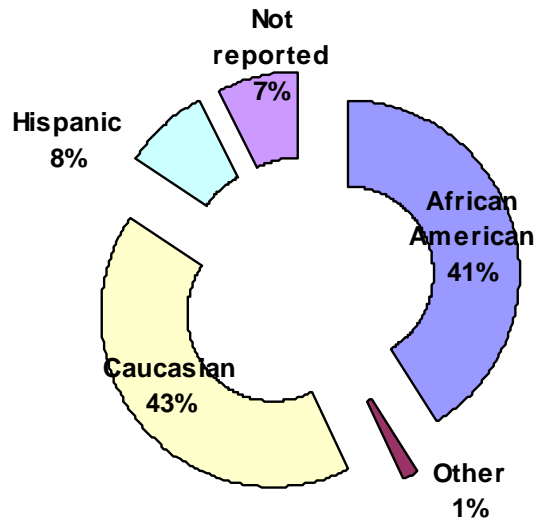
volunteers; then, she spends her Time Dollars when Needham takes her trash & recycling to the curb every week. While the two activities are distinct, the Time Bank values each

## Specifics of Our Services

Requests by Category



Families Served by Race & Ethnicity



*FIFNC & the local Chapters served **2,543 families** in **57 counties** in 2009-10, up from 46 counties in 2008-09*

### Who We Help

#### FIF Chapters

Primarily people with developmental disabilities or traumatic brain injury, of any age, in 42 counties

#### Lifetime Connections

People with any disability, living in the Triangle – Durham, Orange and Wake counties

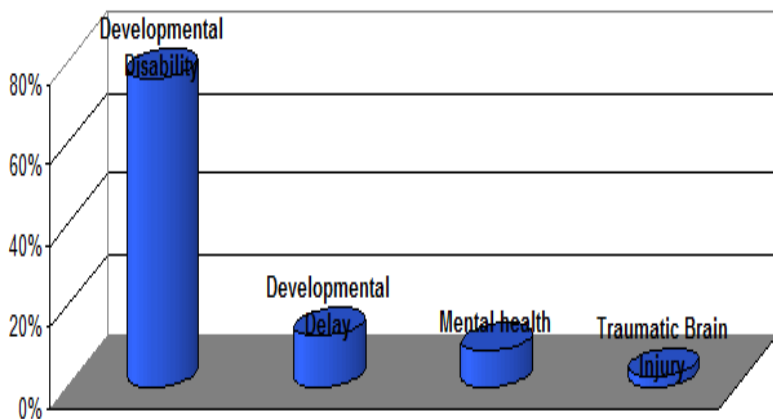
#### Lifeline Project

People experiencing a disability who live in Non-Chapter counties

#### FIFNC Time Bank

People with Developmental Disabilities living in Durham, Orange or Wake Counties – and their neighbors!

Individuals by Disability



## Financial Report

### Income

During the period July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010, FIFNC's total revenue was \$354,056. Sources of this income included grants and donations from the following sources:

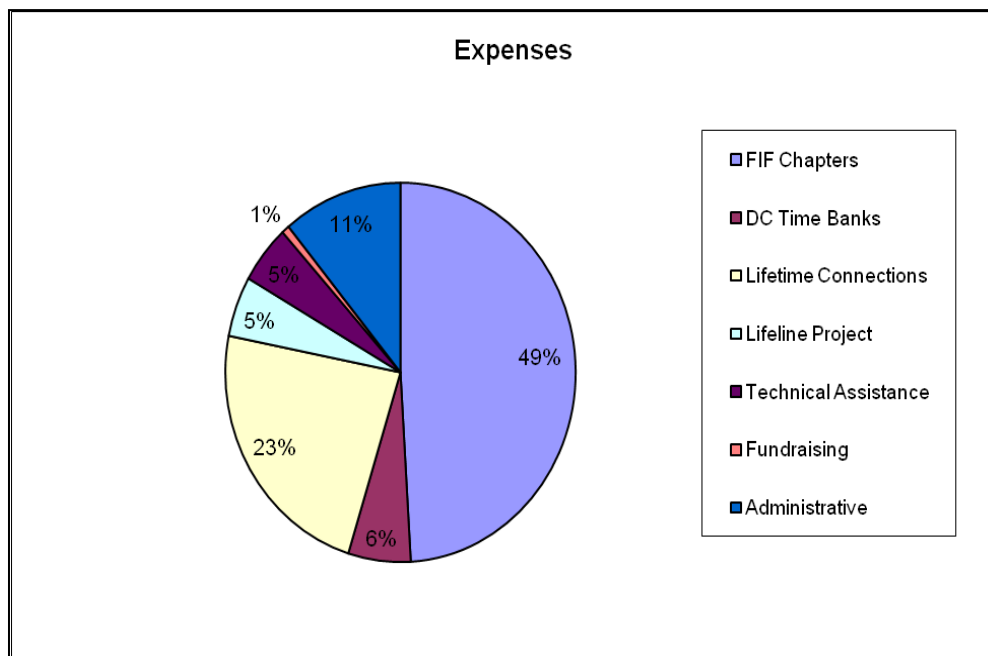
- The NC Division of Mental Health/Developmental Disabilities/Substance Abuse Services
- The US Health Resources and Service Administration
- Wake County Human Services
- The Durham Center
- Five County LME
- Five private NC based Foundations
- Lifetime members of the Lifetime Connections program
- Numerous individual contributors
- Fundraising Events



Through leveraging the dollars provided by the sources listed above, First In Families of North Carolina was able to stretch each dollar by 26 cents in 2009-2010, generating \$61,413.82 worth of in-kind contributions and business donations.

### Expenses

Total for year: \$303,868



**Partnerships:**  
*At the heart of FIFNC's model*

**Personal Testimonies from 2009-10:**

I want to dedicate my time in helping others. I have a lot of contacts in industry, services and many other things I would love to share.

*- Business owner Ryan Profitt, upon joining the Wake FIF Chapter Management team*

I want to say [the FIF Staff] was wonderful, a blessing. She gave me other information to help me as well. Because of her support, care and concern for me and my child, I was able to make it.

Thank you.  
*- Single Parent served by Wake FIF*

This is an AWESOME course for parents who are planning for the future for their special needs child. I attended this 7 session course last year, and found it invaluable to help in organizing and discussing what I need to do now to secure for [my child's] life after I am gone.

*- Parent served through Lifetime Connections*



*First In Families of Wake County  
Cornhole Tournament Fundraiser*

**5 Ways YOU Can Make a Difference!**

1. Become a Management Team member at a local Chapter or apply to join the FIFNC Board
2. Become involved in Lifetime Connections for less than two hours per month – Call us to learn how to join a personal network
3. Offer your talents and skills in fundraising, corporate sponsorship help or as a member of our Time Bank
4. Let us recycle your old electronics to raise funds for our initiative
5. Donate online at [www.fifnc.org](http://www.fifnc.org) or through [www.iGive.com](http://www.iGive.com)

*Please see our website at [www.fifnc.org](http://www.fifnc.org) to donate to FIFNC, or to find out how you can become involved in our work in North Carolina*

## FIFNC Donors 2009-2010

FIFNC Connector Society Founding Members		
Trish Farnham	Ryan Proffitt	
Melanie Mattingly	Jill Rushing	
Other Donors		
<b>\$500 &amp; Up:</b>	<b>Up to \$500, cont.</b>	<b>Up to \$500, cont.</b>
Cary Battle	Anne Eller	Susan Parish
Brian & Robin Carlton	Albert & Nancy Faber	Phyllis Parker
Community Foundation of Henderson	Erica Ferranti	Cindy Parkey
Lamb Foundation	Wendy Ferrara	Nina & Davis Paxton
Ross & Mary MacMichael	Kenneth & Laura Fischler	Susan Pepper
Jim & Fran McDermott	Joanna Forrester	Janice Powell
N.C. Community Foundation	Carlin Frett	Dwight & Marie Pruitt
Provident Benevolent Foundation	Kara Froberg	Pullen Memorial Baptist
Triangle Community Foundation	Richard Glenn, Durham's Garage	Patsy Raney
WalMart	Mary Hales	Charlie Raphun
<b>Up to \$500:</b>	John Harris	Debbie Rhodes
Donald & Frances Alquire	Marian Hartman	Mark & Stephanie Richardson
Amazon Shoppers for FIFNC	Donna Holt	Holly Riddle
Caroline Ambrose	Gail Horner	Ruth Ross
Judith Ambrose	Leanne Hopkins	Sen. David Rouzer
The Arc of North Carolina	Julie & Ronald Johnson	Katherine Savage
Kathleen & Oscar Aylor	Judy Julian	Hugo & Louise Schmidt
Peggy Balak	Susan & Jarrod Keen	Walt Sheffield
Marty Barber	Kenly Kiwanis Club	Vicki Smith
William & Natalie Barbour	Kenly United Methodist Men	Libby Stephens
Bianco Painting	Larry King	Laurie Stickney
Cassandra Bowman	Barbara Lackey	Supporters of G-C Fundraisers
Lisa & Ernest Brame	Scott Latus	Supporters of Johnston County Fundraisers
Dennis & Kelly Calegar	Matty Lazo-Chatterton	Supporters of Wake County Fundraisers
Dan & Emily Carlton	Sabrena Lea	Jane Taylor
Karen Carlton	Tom Lenfestey	Mr. & Mrs. Teaney
Pat Cipperly	Kara Leibel	Pat Tedesco
Mr. & Mrs. Cole	Betsy MacMichael	Maria Tedesco-Spine
Joy Croom	Pamela & Kirk Mattocks	Sylvia & Fred Thompson, F&J Trucking
Karen Crumbliss	Greg McGrew	Mary Thornbury
Paul Dean	Margaret McMichael	Debbly Torres
Pam Deardorff	Rhoda Miller	Lynell Tucker
Tom Desmond	Locke Millholland	William & Constance Walker
Joseph Dew & Myra Teasley	Andy Cook Mojo	Bonnie Wheatley
David & Teresa Dewitt	Maureen Morrell	Janice White
Cathi Drinkard	Jan Moxley	William Woodbridge
Lawson & Suzanne Drinkard	Bette & Ken Nelson	
Stephen & Bettina Eckel	Jeffrey, Linda & John Olafsen	
	Anna Paquette	

## Condolences

FIFNC expresses our condolences to the family of Mr. Charles Heinmiller who passed away last year. Our sincerest gratitude goes out to the family, who asked that donations be made in Mr. Heinmiller's memory to our CK Parkey Fund, established to help families with future planning expenses. The Fund grew by \$940 due to their generosity.

**To help First In Families or for more information, contact us at: (919) 251-8368 x100 or [betsym@fifnc.org](mailto:betsym@fifnc.org)**