Executive Message

2010 marks the 20th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the 11th 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 15th 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 1st 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
Franklin

Gwen McArthur
Fayetteville

Cindy Parkey
Raleigh

Wendy Russell
Southern Pines

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

- Education/Summer Programs: 16%
- Basic Needs, Utilities & Housing, Home Repair: 39%
- Medical & Therapy: 10%
- Transportation: 8%
- Respite, Health & Wellness, Misc.: 27%

Families Served by Race & Ethnicity

- African American: 41%
- Caucasian: 43%
- Other: 1%
- Hispanic: 8%
- Not reported: 7%

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!

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

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 or through www.iGive.com

Please see our website at 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

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<tr>
<th>Trish Farnham</th>
<th>Ryan Profitt</th>
<th>Jill Rushing</th>
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<td>Melanie Mattingly</td>
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Other Donors

$500 & Up:
- Cary Battle
- Brian & Robin Carlton
- Community Foundation of Henderson
- Lamb Foundation
- Ross & Mary MacMichael
- Jim & Fran McDermott
- N.C. Community Foundation
- Provident Benevolent Foundation
- Triangle Community Foundation
- WalMart

Up to $500, cont.:
- Anne Eller
- Albert & Nancy Faber
- Erica Ferranti
- Wendy Ferrara
- Kenneth & Laura Fischler
- Joanna Forrester
- Carlin Frett
- Kara Froberg
- Richard Glenn, Durham’s Garage
- Mary Hales
- John Harris
- Marian Hartman
- Donna Holt
- Gail Horner
- Leanne Hopkins
- Julie & Ronald Johnson
- Judy Julian
- Susan & Jarrod Keen
- Kenly Kiwanis Club
- Kenly United Methodist Men
- Larry King
- Barbara Lackey
- Scott Latus
- Matty Lazo-Chatterton
- Sabreana Lea
- Tom Lenfestey
- Kara Leibel
- Betsy MacMichael
- Pamela & Kirk Mattocks
- Greg McGrew
- Margaret McMichael
- Rhoda Miller
- Locke Millholland
- Andy Cook Mojo
- Maureen Morrell
- Jan Moxley
- Bette & Ken Nelson
- Jeffrey, Linda & John Olafsen
- Anna Paquette

Up to $500, cont.:
- Susan Parish
- Phyllis Parker
- Cindy Parkey
- Nina & Davis Paxton
- Susan Pepper
- Janice Powell
- Dwight & Marie Pruitt
- Pullen Memorial Baptist
- Patsy Raney
- Charlie Raphun
- Debbie Rhodes
- Mark & Stephanie Richardson
- Holly Riddle
- Ruth Ross
- Sen. David Rouzer
- Katherine Savage
- Hugo & Louise Schmidt
- Walt Sheffield
- Vicki Smith
- Libby Stephens
- Laurie Stickney
- Supporters of G-C Fundraisers
- Supporters of Johnston County Fundraisers
- Supporters of Wake County Fundraisers
- Jane Taylor
- Mr. & Mrs. Teaney
- Pat Tedesco
- Maria Tedesco-Spine
- Sylvia & Fred Thompson, F&J Trucking
- Mary Thornbury
- Debby Torres
- Lynell Tucker
- William & Constance Walker
- Bonnie Wheatley
- Janice White
- William Woodbridge

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