

## **First In Families of North Carolina Annual Report 2010-11**

First In Families of North Carolina | 3109 University Drive | Durham, NC 27707 | 919-251-8368

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

### **A Letter From Our Board President & State Director**

Several times this year we have responded to the comment: “I know First In Families; they provide STUFF!” One of the many ways we assist families experiencing disabilities is to meet their need for items that help make life less challenging, 543 times to be exact, in fiscal year 2010/11 through the six Chapters and Lifeline Project managed directly by FIFNC.

We also provide technical assistance to another seven chapters across the state (that helped 1,934 more families) to ensure adherence to the FIF model: customer leadership and governance, family and person-centered family support, and use of cash only as a last resort –made possible through the extensive network of business relationships we build.

FIFNC also engages individuals with and without disabilities to assist each other with services and projects through our rapidly growing community Time Bank; this happened 176 times this year.

And finally, FIFNC assists families with the very serious matter of planning for the future when they are no longer able to advocate, serve, help, play with, love and care for their family member with a disability. This we did through Lifetime Connections for 21 member families, and 10 active Personal Networks made of 37 volunteers from the community this past year.

So, sure, FIFNC loves helping with “Stuff,” such as 49 medical devices, 44 iPads and computers, and 24 household modifications this past year. But our impact is much bigger than that. We assist families with whatever it is they need to thrive and participate in their communities, by offering opportunities to give back, networks to provide security and support, links to natural supports, advocacy concerning formal supports, and yes sometimes, the “stuff.” Our Board was also pleased this year to

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have assisted 25 Military families through our programs. Please see more about First In Families in 2010/11 on the following pages!

Sincerely,

Erica and Betsy

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### **Leadership**

Erica Ferranti: President, Raleigh

Greg McGrew: Vice-President, Apex

Peggy Balak: Secretary, Raleigh

Robin McDuffie: Treasurer, Chapel Hill

Mark Bullock

Constance Finch

Melinda Kupner

Melanie Mattingly

Gwen McArthur

Cynthia K. Parkey

Pat Reid

FIFNC & the local chapters have served 23,014 families since 1998.

FIFNC is a 501(c)(3) North Carolina not-for-profit corporation founded in 1996, incorporated in

2001 and acknowledged as tax-exempt in 2003.

FIFNC, 3109 University Dr., Suite 100, Durham, NC 27707

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[www.fifnc.org](http://www.fifnc.org)

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### **Our Programs & Accomplishments**

#### **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 memberships grew by 73% and has 19 active members.

#### **Lifetime Connections in Action**

Brian has a Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) as a result of a recent accident. At this time, Brian was celebrating new marriage and expecting his first child. When Brian joined the FIFNC Lifetime Connections program, his main goal was to develop a network of fathers to help him learn parenting skills to adjust to his TBI and be the best father possible.

A year into the program, Brian has a second baby and his network has helped him moved into a new home, search for employment opportunities, and assisted him with parenting skills.

Brian is eager to have the opportunity to make new friends through Lifetime Connections, enabling him to be a better father, husband, and person.

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### **FIF Chapters & Technical Assistance**

FIFNC added three local FIF Chapters among those the organization directly manages, doubling in size! FIFNC began operating Five County FIF and Central Carolina FIF, and now hosts Durham FIF as well as FIF of Gaston, Cleveland & Lincoln Counties; FIF of Johnston County; and FIF of Wake County.

FIFNC also provides extensive technical assistance to all 13 FIF Chapters covering 45 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.

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### **A Chapter In Action**

Wake FIF Chapter worked with Garner TV and Appliance for a family who had not had a working stove in months. Garner TV and Appliance delivered and set up the oven free of charge which provided First In Families a significant discount towards the cost of meeting the family's need. This is our second partnership with Garner TV and Appliance, who is a tremendous asset to FIF Wake, and we look forward to working with them in the future.

The FIFNC Time Bank connects community members through a system for sharing skills in which no money is exchanged - only time and talents. All services are valued equally, and Time Bank members include people with and without disabilities.

### **FIFNC Time Bank**

The FIFNC Time Bank began operation in June 2010, and welcomed 67 members by the end of FY 2010-11. Of these members, 55% are an either a self-advocate or a family member of an individual with a developmental disability.

Time Bank members spent 226.75 hours of service, and offered 41 different types of services – from pet sitting to piano tuning – available to the community in Durham, Orange, Wake, Person and Chatham counties.

### **FIFNC Time Bank in Action**

Ha, a Time Bank member, earned Time Dollars by offering computer assistance to fellow Time Bank members during a group computer training session. She spent Time Dollars to receive transportation from another Time Bank member who drove her to a doctor appointment.

Ha continues to earn Time Dollars by baking for others and helping with computer support.

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### **Lifeline Project**

Through a combination of state funding, private grants and donations, Lifeline Project assists families in North Carolina counties not served by a local FIF Chapter. In 2010-11, FIFNC staff leveraged 54 cents/grant dollar spent and assisted 59 families in 16 counties across the state.

### **Lifeline Project in Action**

Sidney, a 16-year-old with Autism, decided that he would like to work in the computer graphics or gaming field after his schooling. He researched both fields and discovered that people in those careers use Apple computers. He applied to Lifeline Project for a MacBook so he could begin learning the skills that would lead him to his career. The Lifeline Project coordinator worked with the local Apple store, and they were able to find a refurbished MacBook within the FIF funding limits. Sidney is well on his way to realizing his dream!

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### **Specific of Services:**

#### **Our Services at a Glance**

FIFNC & the Chapters it directly manages served 692 families in FY 2010-2011. The average income of the families served last year is \$15,828, 78% of the federal poverty level for a family of 3.5 (our average family size last year).

#### **Who We Serve:**

##### **FIF Chapters & Lifeline Project**

Primarily people with developmental disabilities or traumatic brain injury, of any age, in 69 counties.

##### **Lifetime Connections**

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

##### **FIFNC Time Bank**

People with and without Developmental Disabilities living in Durham, Orange, Wake, Person & Chatham counties.

##### **Requests Met Through Chapters & Lifeline Project by Category**

Medical therapy and Equipment: 11.48%

Health/Wellness, Home Repair & Respite: 13.63%

Transportation: 8.16%

Basic Needs, Utilities & Housing: 36.46%

Education & Summer Programs: 27.26%

##### **Race/Ethnicity of Families Served**

African American: 40%

Asian: 0%

Caucasian: 30%

Hispanic: 15%



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Native American: 0%

Unreported: 15%

### **FIFNC Time Bank Members**

Members without I/DD Ties: 45%

Members with I/DD Ties: 55%

Time Dollars earned by People with I/DD: 110

Time Dollars earned by People without I/DD: 192

### **Lifetime Connections Members**

16-25 years old: 52%

26 years old and older: 19%\*

TBI: 29%\*

\*excluding people with TBI

### **Financial Report**

**Income:** During the period July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011, FIFNC's total revenue was \$965,111. 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 Mental Health

Orange-Person-Chatham Area Program

Pathways LME

Wake County Community Foundation

Johnston County Community Foundation

Home Health Foundation of Chapel Hill Endowment of the Triangle Community Foundation

Lifetime members of the Lifetime Connections program

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Numerous individual contributors

Fundraising Events

Through leveraging the dollars provided by our public funders and foundations, First In Families of North Carolina was able to stretch each dollar by 30 cents in 2010-2011, generating \$149,978.12 worth of in-kind contributions and donations from individuals and businesses.

**Expenses:** Total for year: \$871,665

Direct Support of Families & Individuals with Disabilities through our Programs:

\$748,966

Fundraising: \$2,012

Management & Administration: \$120,687

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### Partnerships

Partnerships are at the heart of our work. We strive to partner with local businesses to receive items at the lowest cost possible to better stretch our dollars and serve more families.

Thank You to FIFNC Business Partners in 2010-11!

Advanced Seating & Mobility	Hatchbacks Shoes
Apple Store - Raleigh	Hayes Homebuilders
Atlantic Construction Services	Healthcare Equipment
Bargain Box	Heavner Furniture Market
Basic Needs Ministries	High Touch-High Tech
Beacon Prosthetics & Orthotics	Irlen Clinic of NC
Big Lots of Smithfield	James Garrity
BuyBuyBaby	JAS
Carolina Partners LLC	Joey Driver
Edwin Chapin	Joyner Realty Company
Clayton Steak House	Kenly Area Ministries
Cranberry Tree Farm	Kenly Automotive Parts
Duke Brace Shop	Kenly United Methodist Church
Environmental Heating and Air, Inc	Kohl's
Family Dollar Store - Gaston	Laurel Ridge Physical Therapy & Assoc.
Frankie Lemmon School	Leonard Truck Accessories
Garner TV & Appliance	LewisWell Drilling Inc.
Generations Adult Day Program	Linda Construction Company
Genesis Christian PreSchool Center	Lowe's - Garner
Go Realty & Karen Barbour	Lowe's - Smithfield
Grace Community Church Chapel Hill	Marbles Kids Museum
Habitat ReStore Warehouse in Raleigh	Mattress Warehouse
Hairport International	Gena McLamb
Joshua Harris	MedMall.net
Harrison Automotive, Inc.	Mike's Appliance and Repair

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Mirror Images	School Specialty
Moody Reality	Shelby Children's Clinic
Jeff Moore	Shell Island Resort
Ninth Street Bakery	Sheryl Pittman
NC Baptist Men's Association	Stalls Medical INC
Neuse Lumber	SWOOP
North Haven Church	Target - Garner
North Shelby School	Target - Durham
Pediatric Therapy Associates	Teaming for Technology
Piggly Wiggly of Princeton	Temple Baptist Church
Pinnacle	The Arc of Durham County
Precious Children's Depot	The Arc of Gaston County
Precision TuneUp of Cary	The Arc of Orange County
Price Heating & Air	Total Rehabilitation
Project Enlightenment	United Way of the Greater Triangle
Reins from Above	Walmart - Garner
Roberson Plumbing	Walmart - Goldsboro
Rock It Learning	Walmart - Smithfield
Roses	Westpoint Construction
Ryano Heating &AC	White Plains Children's Center
Salvation Army - Durham	Window World
Salvation Army - Smithfield	Yard Worx

### Donors

FIFNC expresses heartfelt thanks to our 29 new and loyal donors, 311 individual contributors of items for families, and our FIFNC Connector Society Members! We also thank the anonymous donors who assist us in various ways throughout the year.

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### **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. Volunteer with 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. 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)

“I am a single mother with no family around. I work full-time. The assistance I received from FIF allowed my daughter to participate in a summer program that I was not able to afford. This assistance allows for my daughter to be active socially & physically with her peers which makes her very happy! When my child is happy, I am happy!” -Parent from Orange County, Central Carolina FIF Chapter