



Almost since my first day at Challenged Child and Friends, I thought that a piece of the puzzle we were “missing” was our capacity to provide support services for our families. CCAF’s Program Director, Nurses, Therapists and Teachers could each provide useful information to parents and families, but we lacked a staff person whose responsibility it was to identify community resources and assist our families in accessing those resources.

Effectivethe first week in February, that has changed. I am excited to inform you that Lindsey Oliver has joined the CCAF staff as our new Family Services Coordinator, and I am certain that she will quickly become a valuable asset to our staff, children and families. Lindsey will introduce herself, and highlight some of her responsibilities and ideas, elsewhere in this “Book Bag Buzz” and I invite each of you to take the time to get to know her.



Lindsey & her daughter Nora

Welcome, Lindsey. We are excited to have you on the CCAF team.

Dave Earnest
Executive Director

Visit our website at www.challengedchild.org for news, resources and upcoming events at Challenged Child & Friends.



Challenged Child & Friends

serving northeast georgia children since 1985

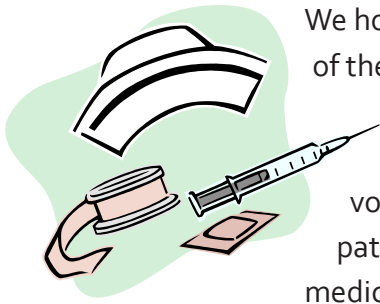
Challenged Child & Friends, Inc.
P.O. Box 5758
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Dates to Remember

- 2/17 & 2/20 CCAF Closed- Holidays
- 2/24 Love from CCAF at First Presbyterian Church
- 3/4 5K & 1 Mile Fun Run/Walk at Riverside Military Academy
- 3/16 Staff Development Day (no school for kids)
- 3/21 & 3/22 School Pictures
- 3/28 Lanier Village Estates Easter Egg Hunt
- 4/2-4/6 Spring Break
- 4/16 Registration for CCAF 2012-2013



Nurses' Notes



We hope that February is going well for everyone. Right now in the center we have cases of the flu, strep throat, stomach viruses and the typical viruses that cause respiratory infections. Please remember to keep your child at home if he or she does not feel well, if there is a temperature of 100 degrees, if there are symptoms of nausea, vomiting or diarrhea, or if the child is acting as if he or she will not be able to participate in daily activities. Before returning to school, children must have taken prescribed medication for at least 24 hours and be fever and symptom-free for 24 hours. State regulations require us to take the children outside to play for 30 minutes when the temperature allows.

Please remember to send coats, hats and gloves.

Please inform the nurses of any pertinent changes to your child's health (medications-even if they are not taken at school, operations, etc.) instead of, or in addition to, the classroom teachers. It helps eliminate some of the confusion if you tell us necessary instructions directly. If your child has taken a new medication, a copy of the doctor's report will be helpful in maintaining updated documentation.

Hello, parents, guardians, and friends of CCAF! I am happy to be the new School Social Worker and Family Services Coordinator. Thank you very much for the warm welcome. It's my job to identify the needs of our parents, to provide resources and referrals, and to develop and initiate parent meetings/workshops/events that meet the needs of the parents, teachers, and staff.

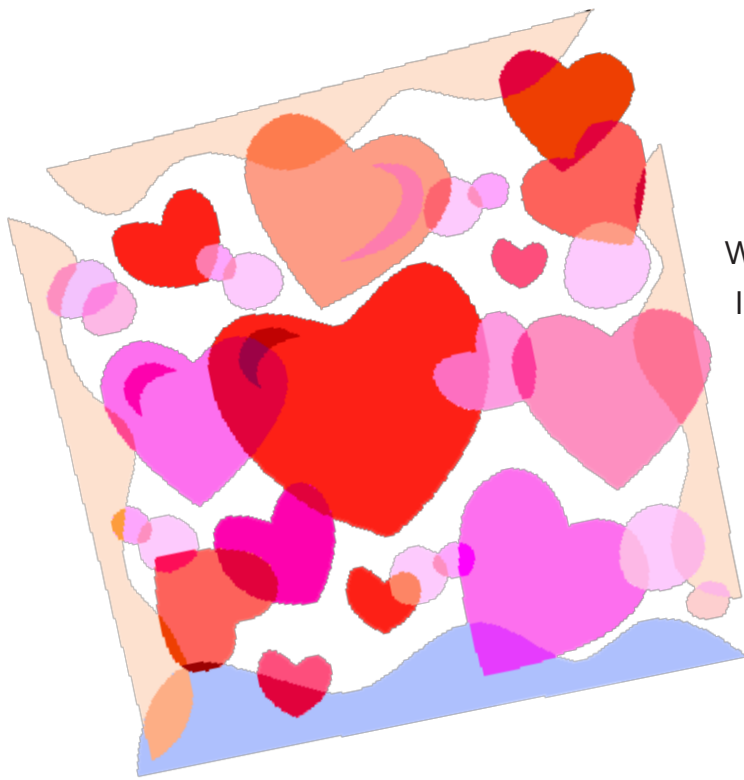
I obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology from North Georgia College and State University and a Master of Science degree in Social Work from the University of Georgia. I have over 10 years experience working with children, at-risk youth, and their families. I have experience providing counseling to families in crisis and serving diverse populations in hospitals, community organizations, and schools. I currently have my certification in School Social Work and am licensed by the state as a Licensed Master Social Worker (LMSW). School Social Work is my passion!

I would like to invite you to attend a parent meeting on Tuesday, February 28 from 7:15-8:00am or on Thursday, March 1 from 6:00-7:00pm to learn more about Family Services at CCAF. We will be discussing the Parent Teacher Connection (PTC), support groups, family counseling services, and potential educational events. We would love your input on how the Family Services department can serve you best.

I look forward to getting to know you and your family very soon. If there is anything I can do to assist you now or in the future, please don't hesitate to let me know. You can reach me at loliver@challengedchild.org or by phone at 770.535.8372 ext. 104. Hable conmigo en Español, si prefiere.

Lindsey Oliver, LMSW

Registration for the 2012-2013 school year will be the week of April 16. Registration information and paperwork will go home the week of March 26th.



LOVE FROM CHALLENGED CHILD & FRIENDS

What is Love from Challenged Child & Friends?

In past years, each classroom has performed a song to showcase all their talents. This year we will be having a dance, like a preschool prom! We will have a dancefloor, a DJ playing music, photographer, and refreshments. We hope you and your children will join us.

Friday, February 24th
6-8pm at
First Presbyterian Church
800 South Enota Drive
Gainesville, 30501

Be sure you sign up to bring refreshments. Each class has been assigned a different refreshment item. Sign up sheets are posted on your child's classroom door.

2012 Georgia "Across the Spectrum"

Autism/ Asperger Conference

Wednesday and Thursday, February 29- March 1

Featuring speaker Dr. Temple Gradin and her mother Eustacia Cutler and many smaller sessions on a variety of topics.

To register or get more information please visit

www.georgiaautismconferences.com



The Marcus Center (in collaboration with the Georgia Department of Education and Parent to Parent) is hosting a FREE webinar training titled, "Families Learning the Basics About Autism, What To Do and How To Help Their Child" about the basics of autism and evidenced-based treatment to support a child's behavioral needs especially in the home and in the community. Please contact Lindsey Oliver at loliver@challengedchild.org or by phone at 770.535.8372 ext. 104 for more information.



SAVE THE DATE!

Lanier Village Easter Hunt will be Wednesday, March 28th at Lanier Village Estates. We will be sending out more information as the date approaches.





CHALLENGED Child AND friends 20th Anniversary 5K

Please join us on Sunday, March 4th
at Riverside Military Academy
Registration begins at 1:00pm
1 Mile Fun Run/Walk 2:00pm
5K 2:30pm

This year we will have a "Kid's Korner" with
all kinds of fun activities for the little ones.

Register just yourself or
get a team together.

Register at www.challengedchild.org or pick up registration
forms at the front desk.

Meet Oinker!!



Have you met Oinker? She's our new piggy
bank friend at the front desk she loves to
eat change. All her little ones are in a race
to see which classroom can raise the most
money. Check out her babies as they race to
see which classes will get parties at the end
of the year! The race is happening outside
our new social worker's office. 1st place class

gets an ice cream party, 2nd place gets a cupcake party and third gets a
cookie party.

Put those coins in a plastic bag with your child's classroom letter, then
bring them in to Challenged Child and Friends. Say "hey" to Oinker as
you pass by too!

Want a quick way to find out what is happening at CCAF?



VISIT OUR WEBSITE!

www.challengedchild.org

TWEET!



Follow CCAF on Twitter and "Like" Challenged Child & Friends on
Facebook! View photos of events, get the latest information on volun-
teer opportunities and see all the great work we do here!



Values:
Caring
Committed
Advocates
For Children
and Families

MISSION

*Mission: To serve children with disabilities
and their typical peers through state-of-the-
art educational, therapeutic, nursing and
family counseling services in an integrated
environment.*

VISION

*Challenged Child and Friends will become
Georgia's nationally recognized, accredited
early intervention center where children with
disabilities and their families, along with
their typical peers, will achieve their full po-
tential. We will share our model of excellence
to make a difference in the lives of children
and families in our region, state, and nation.*

Challenged Child and Friends [CCAF]
provides information from other
publications and various sources to help
families with resources.

Some center or agency events may include
vendors or representatives promoting
products or services, which may include
proceeds from sales designated as a
donation to CCAF. The inclusion of a
product display or product sale or a printed
resource or a service description does not
imply endorsement or specific knowledge
of the content, qualifications, quality or
implied benefits or results.

Our goal is to provide information and
options for consumers, staff, volunteers or
supporters.

Book Bag Buzz Editor: Robyn Shoaf,
robyn@challengedchild.org
Parent contributions to Book Bag Buzz are
welcome and are printed as space permits.