

~A Special Letter for Special Friends~



Family Support Network
Special Services for Special Families

Meet the Paz Family.



When he was 6 years old, Jesus suffered a heart attack while riding a bicycle, sending him spiraling into an accident that would change the course of his life and his family's forever. The doctors attributed his heart attack to a genetic defect and doubted whether Jesus would survive the accidents' most immediate injuries. However, Jesus persevered. A few months later, Jesus returned home with cerebral palsy, a G-tube, and a myriad of pressing medical issues. He was placed in a wheelchair—indefinitely dependent on external care.

Now, at the age of 14, Jesus continues to battle his medical diagnoses with the support of his mother, father, sister, brothers, and FSN parent mentor, Sara Lopez. With the help of Sara, Mrs. Paz has received emotional support, guidance with an IEP, and access to community resources. Mrs. Paz regularly attends a support group for families who have children with special needs and openly shares her experiences with other parents. Sara describes Jesus's parents and siblings as relentlessly caring. Each week, Mrs. Paz spends hours walking and traveling on public transportation in order to make all of Jesus's medical appointments. Jesus's father, sister, and brothers also take turns watching and caring for Jesus. Mrs. Paz shared with FSN: "It's a blessing to have a large family who each helps take care of Jesus and to be able to share him with the entire family."



Your "One-Stop Shop" for FSN News

Carousel of Possible Dreams-- Calling all riders!

Ride the King Arthur's Carousel at Disneyland and raise funds for FSN on Nov. 9! The Carousel of Possible Dreams provides an opportunity for nonprofits throughout Orange County to raise money for their programs and services. Last year, Alyson and her son (pictured) raised \$1,435 for FSN. Contact Caroline at carolinep@familysupportnetworkca.org by Sept. 15 if you would like to participate.



Disneyland Resort's "An Evening of Family Fun"

The Disneyland Resort's Million Dollar Dazzle campaign came to an end on Aug. 26 as they gave away their last \$60,000 grant. Disneyland Resort invited four of our families that night to Disneyland and California Adventure for dinner, a viewing of the new *Frozen* show, and an evening in the amusement parks. FSN

is incredibly grateful this year to have been one of the seventeen Million Dollar Dazzle grant recipients.

Santa Clara de Asis Church Donates 45 Backpacks

This past August, Santa Clara de Asis Catholic Church helped children with special needs and children "at-risk" prepare for school by donating 45 brand-new Trailmaker backpacks to FSN. Our backpack recipients included one mother of three, who has two children in special education and one at the Regional Center of Orange County, as well as several "at-risk" families in our Wraparound program.



Our VANS Donations are "Off the Wall"

Within the last year, we have received over 300 shoes, socks, T-shirts, and handbags from the VANS off Harbor Blvd. in Fullerton. We save our cherished VANS donations for families in the greatest need such as our

latest recipient, a mother with three young boys who is currently living out of a motel. FSN surprised the mother, who came into the office only expecting to receive food and diapers, with three pairs of new shoes for her children. The mother shared that her kids had been desperately in need of shoes, and was incredibly appreciative of this gift from VANS.

Festival of Children Foundation's Opening Night

FSN recently had the pleasure of attending the opening night for the Festival of Children at South Coast Plaza. FSN board and staff members had the chance to hang a lock for FSN in honor of the night's theme, "Love In Any Language." Be sure to stop by our FSN booth in front of Bloomingdale's at South Coast Plaza on Sept. 17-18 & 24-25! There will be kid-friendly goodies!



Anaheim Housing and Community Resource Fair

FSN is out and about in the community! FSN recently participated in ResCare's community fair at the Anaheim Downtown Community Center, and will attend the Early Start Vendor Fair at the Santa Ana Elks Lodge on Oct. 13. Come out to see us, and remember to like us on Facebook or follow us on Twitter!

Fathers' & Mothers' Support Groups Begin

Welcome back to our fathers' and mothers' support groups! If you are a father with an open dependency case, consider joining us at the FSN office on Thursdays at 6 p.m. If you are a mother with a mother with an open dependency case, consider joining us at the FSN office on Mondays at 6 p.m. One parent shared: "It helps me because I can see that I'm not the only man going through this, and that I can make changes for my family." RSVP to Trinidad or Maria at (714) 447-3301 to attend.



Don't Forget about our Regular Support Groups!

In addition to our fathers' and mothers' support groups, consider joining one of our four weekly support groups for nonspecific diagnoses! On the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 10 a.m., the group meets at Cinnamon Productions in Ladera Ranch. On the 3rd Wednesday, they hold a "faith-based" support group at San Francisco

Solano Catholic Church in Rancho Santa Margarita in the parish lounge. On the 4th Wednesday, they meet at Corner Bakery and Café on Main Street, just up from CHOC. The Spanish Speaking support group meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month at CHOC in the clinic conference rooms. RSVP to Mo or Sara at (714) 447-3301 to attend.

Upcoming Events Fall 2016

- Developmental Screening at Ponderosa Family Resource Center.....Sept. 9*
- Moms' Support Group Begins.....Sept. 12*
- Deadline for Carousel of Possible Dreams Rider Sign Up.....Sept. 15*
- FSN Booth at South Coast Plaza for Festival of Children...Sept. 17-18 & 24-25*
- Developmental Screening at Viejo Elementary.....Sept. 23*
- Early Start Vendor Fair at Santa Ana Elks Lodge.....Oct. 13*
- Developmental Screening at Santa Ana Child Development Center.....Oct. 7*
- Developmental Screening at Magnolia Park Family Resource Center....Oct. 21*
- Carousel of Possible Dreams.....Nov. 9*

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