

# Resource Room News

A Publication of The Family Resource Room at  
Kinsmen Children's Centre (306) 655-6871  
Winter Newsletter 2007, Volume 5, Issue 1  
**Partners with Families Helping Children**



## What's New?

**Telemiracle is just around the corner!** Celebrating 31 years this March, Telemiracle raises money to assist people with special needs and those that require assistance accessing medical treatment. All monies raised at Telemiracle are spent on Saskatchewan residents. The telethon will be broadcast live on 9:00p.m. Saturday, March 3 until 5:00p.m. Sunday March 4, 2007 from TCU Place in Saskatoon. You may see the program on the miracle net work of CTV stations. Check your local cable and satellite listings for the channel in your area. Donations can be made on-line via the website at [www.telemiracle.com](http://www.telemiracle.com), or mail a cheque, payable to "Kinsmen Telemiracle" to: Kinsmen Telemiracle, Box 83000, Saskatoon, SK S7K-9S1.

Established in 1971, the Kinsmen Foundation is a volunteer driven organization dedicated to providing special equipment and access to medical assistance to the people of Saskatchewan while improving their quality of life and independence. Equipment provided includes communication aids, technical aids, specialized computers, ultra light wheelchairs, electric scooters, and wheelchair lifts for vans. The Foundation also assists with provincial and inter-provincial travel expenses for individuals receiving medical treatment, assessments and organ transplants. Application forms for assistance can be acquired by contacting the Kinsmen Foundation directly at 652-2161, toll free at: 1-877-777-8979, or by email at [telemiracle@sasktel.net](mailto:telemiracle@sasktel.net). Application forms are also available from the Family Resource Room by calling 655-6871.

**Kinsmen Children's Centre (KCC)** celebrated Psychology month in February. The Alvin Buckwold Child Development Program (ABCDP) has hired Tara Turner, a Métis Psychology PhD student to work as an Aboriginal consultant. Posters have gone up at the centre to enhance cultural awareness and provide information about Aboriginal Psychologists. Staff enjoyed a soup and bannock lunch hosted by the psychology department of KCC and toddler Cree language classes were attended by the ABCDP staff.

**Provincial Early Childhood Intervention Programs (ECIP) celebrate 25 years of serving Saskatchewan families!** ECIPS are a non-profit home based programs for families whose children are developmentally delayed or at risk for delay. ECIP's also facilitate parent-to-parent and family-to-family connections, enhance public awareness of early childhood development and serviced available and collaborate with related professionals and programs. The Provincial ECIP office and Battlefords ECIP are celebrating 25 years of service to Saskatchewan families this year. There is no fee for service. Families can self refer and do not need a doctor's referral to obtain services. For Saskatoon and area you may contact the Alvin Buckwold and Prairie Hills ECIP at 655-1083. The ECIP Provincial Coordinator in Regina may be reached at 789-3637 or call the Family Resource Room for a list of ECIP services available near you at 655-6871.

**A new Learning Disabilities Support Group** is being created. Do you have, or know someone with a learning disability? Do you need support? For more information call Betty and leave a message at : 978-1015.



## “The Tax Man Cometh...”

As reported in a newsletter by the Saskatchewan Association for Community Living (SACL)... a Registered Disability Savings Plan has been proposed by a government panel led by Finance Minister Flaherty. On December 13th, 2006 - Finance Minister Flaherty's Expert Panel on Financial Security for People with Severe Disabilities recommended the creation of a Registered Disability Savings Plan; a matching

Disability Savings Grant and a Canada Disability Bond for low income families. A Registered Disability Savings Plan represents a way for families to provide for the future financial security of their family members with disabilities. It will give families and people with disabilities more control in their lives. In the Panel's words, Canadians with disabilities will be able to better “realize future opportunities and their hopes and dreams.” More than five hundred thousand Canadians with disabilities and their families could benefit.

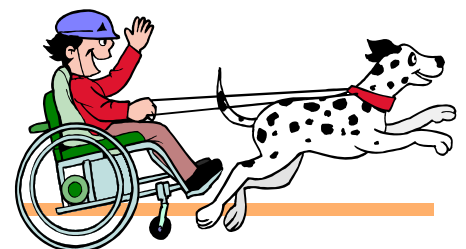
### HIGHLIGHTS

- No restrictions on who can contribute to a plan (families, friends and strangers)
- Lifetime contribution limit of \$200,000
- No annual contribution limit
- Creation of a Disability Savings Bond for low income families of \$1000 per year for 20 years
- Matching grants for family contributions which vary with income
- No holding period for contributions
- No restrictions on what funds can be used for
- Contributions are not taxable when withdrawn
- Tax free rollovers from and to RESPs

For more information and updates, check the PLAN website at <http://www.plan.ca/homepage.php> where there is an on-line petition to sign in support of this very important endeavour. The time to speak up is now!

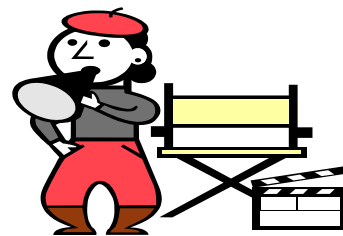
**Disability Tax Credit / Child Disability Tax Benefit:** Are you getting the full benefit from your tax deductions? If you have a child with special needs you may be eligible for Child Disability Benefit payments. For more information and forms contact your health care provider, the Family Resource Room at: **655-6871**, or go to the Canada Revenue Agency website where you can download forms and information. <http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/formspubs/menu-e.html> or call toll free: Canada Revenue Agency at 1-800-387-1193.

**As reported in the Star Phoenix,** a \$500.00 child fitness tax credit came into effect January 01, 2007. Parents of children under the age of 16 enrolled in an ongoing organized sports program of at least one session per week, for a duration of at least eight weeks, are entitled to a tax deduction. Costs that may be deductible include: membership fees paid at facilities and community centers, fees charged for teams or programs at schools, camps with a physical activity theme, and fees for training or coaching courses. Equipment costs are not included in the suggested criteria. Parents of children with disabilities may get an extra deduction regardless of the extent to which the child can participate for equipment, transportation and attendant care. This tax benefit would also be for children with disabilities up to age 21 years for a maximum of \$1000.00.



## Conference Announcements...

### The Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB) Insight 2007 Conference Friday March 16, 2007.



What is Insight? Insight is a full-day conference for parents and professionals who are involved with children who have vision loss in Saskatchewan. This year's theme is "Fostering Independence- For All Ages". Insight 2007 will be held on Friday, March 16th at the Saskatoon Public School Division Office. Concurrent sessions for youth and children 5 years of age and older will be facilitated by CNIB. A pre-conference Technology Workshop will be held on March 15th at no charge. To register for these free pre-conference workshops call toll free: 1-877-274-0044 or email: [carrie@aroga.com](mailto:carrie@aroga.com). Registration fees for Insight are \$30 per parent or \$50 per couple, \$60 for all others, and \$15 per child or youth. Lunch is included. For more information contact Rosanne Parks at 306-659-7095 or email: [rparks@scs.sk.ca](mailto:rparks@scs.sk.ca).

### Participation: Where It's AT Assistive Technology for Children & Youth Conference April 19 and 20, 2007.

The conference will be at the Travel Lodge Hotel in Saskatoon. Supporting participation of students with high needs in classroom activities and social communicative competency in the classroom are the major areas covered at this conference. Susie Blackstien-Adler from Bloorview Kids Rehab from Toronto, Ontario and our own Stacey Harpell (former speech pathologist at KCC) will be presenting. Application forms are available from the Family Resource Room or for more information contact: Events of Distinction at 306-651-3118 or email at [eofd@sasktel.net](mailto:eofd@sasktel.net). The registration deadline is April 13, 2007.

### BRAIN GYM® Experience the Unlimited Potential Possible By "Learning Through Movement"

Brain Gym is a practical and dynamic system that uses simple movements to enhance the function of the brain and entire nervous system. Participants in the course experience whole brain integration through whole body movement and discover permanent tools to reduce stress and improve performance in all areas of life. Brain Gym has applications for students, teachers, parents, artists, athletes, healthcare practitioners and business professionals.

**1) One-Day Introductory Workshop** 9:30 am – 4:30 pm, Saturday, April 21, 2007 Aurora Energy Centre, Saskatoon: \$115 plus gst (\$121.90). Registration deadline is April 11, 2007.

**2) Brain Gym 101** 9:00 am – 5:30 pm, May 4 – 6, 2007 Aurora Energy Centre, Saskatoon. \$400 & gst (\$424.00). Registration deadline is April 24, 2007. Fee includes Brain Gym® Manual, and the book Brain Gym, Teacher's Edition, plus one year membership in Brain Gym® International/Educational Kinesiology Foundation Instructor Iyla L. Ottoson, B.A., B.Ed. Licensed Brain Gym® Instructor/Consultant. For more information visit the website at: [www.braingym.org](http://www.braingym.org).

### Autism Today: Keys to the Treasure Chest Series

Learn how to share information about Autism Spectrum Disorder with the person who has it and with others who need to know. Expand your tool kit of strategies and receive practical ideas for working with children on the autism spectrum in both general and special education classrooms. For more information or to register online visit: [www.AutismEvents.com](http://www.AutismEvents.com) or call toll free: 1-866-838-3687. Registration forms that you may fax or mail in are available in Family Resource room.

## More news...

**Autism Services** has acquired some new resources for parents in their lending library. They are also organizing a support group for parents who have a child with the Autism diagnosis. If you are interested in participating in this Autism support group or Asperger's Parent Group contact: Mary Darbellay at 665-7013 ext. 6 or email: [marydarbellay@autismservices.ca](mailto:marydarbellay@autismservices.ca) by March 15, 2007.

**Autism Services** is holding their 9th annual Spring Gala fundraising event at 6:00p.m. Saturday April 28, 2007. The evening will include a champagne reception, silent auction, dinner, and a performance by Amanda Martinez. For more information call Sharon at 373-5527 or email: [sceslak@shaw.ca](mailto:sceslak@shaw.ca)

**The Radius Community Centre for Education and Employment Training** in partnership with other community agencies, has received funding for an individualized family support service. The service is for working families who have a son or daughter with disabilities. Radius will recruit and train the individual for this part time job opportunity. The Youth Companion Program will address the support needs, interests, and choices of youth ages 13-22 years of age. The intent of the program is to ensure that the parents can remain in the workforce and contribute to the financial well being of their families. Contact Danielle White for more information at: 665-0362 or email at: [ycp.radius@sasktel.net](mailto:ycp.radius@sasktel.net).

**Radius** is once again taking their Brain Walk programs to the schools for grades K-6 to teach about the brain and how to protect oneself from suffering from acquired brain injury. The walk consists of ten hands on participation stations for students to learn about the brain and will continue from January on into February and March 2007.

Mark your calendar for March 29, 2007 as the tentative date for a gala evening performance of the play "The Little Tents" by Nutana Collegiate Drama students. The play is about the human relationships involved when Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder plays a role in one's life. The troupe will be performing the play followed by a discussion group at the end for schools across the province on order to educate youth about FASD and how to prevent it. Contact Mark for more information at 665-0362.

**Epilepsy Saskatoon** will be hosting a fundraising dinner and silent auction on March 8, 2007 at the Odeon Event Centre. The auction will start at 5:00p.m with the dinner to follow. There also be a raffle for two return tickets anywhere West Jet flies in Canada.

A workshop about Epilepsy and Employment will be held at Kinsmen Children's Centre on March 24, 2007 starting at 09:00a.m. Child care will be available and lunch will be served. Another educational event called "Brain Blast" will be on Sunday March 25, 2007. Please call the office at 665-1939 for more information.

The **Cerebral Palsy Association** is running their Pay Me to Pedal Program to raise funds for the organization. Please call 955-7272 for more information or to book a Pay Me to Pedal event at your school or workplace.

The **FASD Support Network of Saskatchewan** has many training opportunities for those who wish to learn about and work with individuals that have FASD. **1)** March 19-20, 2007 in Yorkton is the next workshop. **2)** The 2nd Annual Conference on FASD will be on March 7-10 in B.C. **3)** Positive Approaches to Solving Behavior Challenges will be explored at this seminar from March 26-29, 2007 held at the Saskatoon Inn. Contact the network at 975-0884 or toll free at 1-866-673-9276 for registration. **4)** A workshop on Supporting and Treating Youth & Adults with FASD and Executive Function Deficits will take place on March 26- 29, 2007. Contact Bonnie at 766-6700 for more information. **5)** An Employment Conference about Preparing Individuals with High Functioning Autism and Asperger's Disorder for the World of Work is on April 26 & 27, 2007. The principles and vocational strategies here can be adapted for individuals with other disabilities such as FASD. Contact 569-0858 or visit the website for more information.

[www.autismresourcecentre.com/conference](http://www.autismresourcecentre.com/conference).

## Laughter is Good for You!

**Q: What do you get if you cross a sheep dog with a rose?**

**A: A collie-flower!**

(whoa ...that's ruff!)

