



HOPE.network Newsletter

"A Support Ministry for Families of Extraordinary Kids"

FALL
2011

Welcome to HOPE.network 2011-2012

We, at HOPE.network are excited for the start of our 2011-2012 year of events. For those of you who are new to our ministry, we meet the second and forth Wednesdays of each month from noon to 2 PM.

The first meeting is usually a guest speaker that we have invited to either educate or inspire parents of special needs kids. It can often be a rough and some-

what unknown walk. That is why we are here—to help you with your walk and provide you with resources that will help you and your child.

Our speakers come to us from various agencies and organizations throughout the Central New York area. Topics cover things that you have been eager to learn more about to things that you didn't even know

were available.

Our second meeting is in the format of a luncheon to allow us to have some time to fellowship and then listen to another engaging speaker.

Yet this is only the beginning of what HOPE does. We have other "mini-ministries" that reach out to special children and adults. Just ask!



What's New @ HOPE?

We are excited about a new program we have started at HOPE. We are officially launching our Deaf Ministry—Help to Hear. By reaching out to the local deaf community, we have been providing interpreters each and every Sunday during 9:30 service. We are also going to begin ASL classes for those interested in learning to sign.

If you are an ASL interpreter or would like more information about this ministry, please contact Deborah Scripa at debbiedo@twcny.rr.com.

Legislative Victory for NCLB!



**No Child
LEFT BEHIND**

**Article courtesy of:
www.WrightsLaw.com**

On Tuesday, October 17, we sent an [email alert](#) to subscribers, and asked you to “Tell Your Senator to Vote NO on the Isakson Amendment.”

We explained that “The Isakson amendment would discriminate against children with disabilities by allowing schools to significantly lower the academic expectations for students, based on their scores in state accountability tests. This use of these tests, for this purpose, would apply only to children with disabilities.”

What happened next?

On Wednesday, October 18, a bipartisan coalition of civil rights groups, business associations, education officials, and education advocates refused to support the bill and issued a news re-

lease: Civil Rights Groups, Business Groups, State Education Officials, and Education Advocates on ESEA Proposal: “We Cannot Support the Bill at this Time”

“As representatives of the millions of students with disabilities, low-income students, students of color, English-language learners

and migrant students who are studying in our nation’s schools ... we cannot support the Elementary and Secondary Education Reauthorization Act of 2011 at this time. The bill’s weak accountability system excludes the vast majority of children we represent, and is a major barrier to our organizations’ support.”

On Friday, October 20, the Senate HELP Committee defeated the Isakson amendment by a vote of 14-8. * list of Senators’ votes at the end of this post *

Takeaway: When we take action on issues that will negatively affect our children, we can and do influence decisions made by Congress.

This is one battle in a longer war. We should expect to take action on other issues as the reauthorization of the ESEA / NCLB continues.

Thanks to everyone who took the time to contact their Senators!



Proposed Amendment to IDEA ...



The Secretary proposes to amend regulations under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA or Act). These regulations govern the Assistance to States for the Education of Children with Disabilities program, including the Preschool Grants program. The Secretary seeks public comment on these proposed amendments regarding the use of public benefits

or insurance in which a child participates to provide or pay for services required under Part B of IDEA. Since the Part B regulations were amended in 2006, our experience with implementing the provisions on obtaining parental consent for the use of public benefits or insurance has raised two important issues. First, the current regulations do not require that public agencies inform parents specifically of all of the protections regarding access to public benefits or insurance, including their rights under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and IDEA confidentiality provisions. Second, State educational agencies (SEAs) and local educational

agencies (LEAs) have expressed concerns about the overall costs and administrative burdens imposed by requiring parental consent to access public benefits or insurance, in addition to the parental consent required by FERPA.

Individuals and organizations are encouraged to provide public comment to the U.S. Department of Education on these proposed changes. Complete information and the notice can be found online at: <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2011-09-28/pdf/2011-22784.pdf>

HOPE.network Monthly Prayer and Share

We would like to welcome each and every one of you to our monthly Prayer and Share gathering. We meet the first Wednesday of each month at 9:30 am at Northside.

It is an amazing time for all and is a true blessing as we share our challenges and praises with each

other in a time of prayer and fellowship.

The group varies in size each month yet as Matthew 18:20 tells us, "For where two or three come together in my name, there I am with them."

Won't you come join us?





Hope Club Corner



“Yet God has made everything beautiful for its own time. He has planted eternity in the human heart, but even so, people cannot see the whole scope of God’s work from beginning to end.”

*Ecclesiastes 3:11
NLV*

A day spent at the zoo marked the end of our HOPE.Club summer outings. Thankfully – we have lots of fun packed into the 2011/12 year ahead! With all that is offered, there is bound to be something for everyone.

What is HOPE.Club?

HOPE.Club is organized to provide recreational and social opportunities for people ages 18 and over who are chal-

lenged by developmental disabilities.

When?

Meetings are held twice a month on Fridays from 3:30 – 5:30 pm at Northside Baptist Church, 7965 Oswego Road in Liverpool.

Upcoming Events:

10/28– Pumpkins with Personality (Rms. 6/7)
11/11– Open Mike- bring your guitar,

favorite poem, sing a song, perform dance, etc.

12/9– Annual Christmas Auction - participate in a real live auction and take home Christmas gifts for giving to others, (no money needed).

Look for more events in future newsletters!

HOPE's Journey

A Message from Lory and Carissa

Eight years ago HOPE.network held its first meeting here at Northside. Now we have countless families involved in the ministry, and God continues to add to our group. This past year has been an exciting one and we look forward to all that God has in store for 2011-2012.

Last year we held an 8 week sign language class, a very successful “Baby Shower for Jesus” to benefit New Hope Family Services, and provided a day of pampering, called “Hands of Hope” for our special moms. In the spring we hosted a church wide parenting workshop, “The Nurtured Heart,” and “Talk Tools,” a 3 day training for speech and language professionals.

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Speakers presented to our group on topics which ranged from “A Parent’s Perspective on Raising a Child with Autism” to the life and story of one of our HOPE.club members, Kayla McKeon. Also, we had fun at our annual Family and Friends Picnic, located at Onondaga Lake Park this year. Thank you to all who participated!

Recently, I (Carissa) came across a book, *The Volunteer Revolution*, and as I look forward to this new year in ministry, it causes me to wonder what would happen if all the people in the church would “volunteer” to do something for someone else. HOPE.network, for example, has many volunteer opportunities- and all it takes is a working knowledge of God’s word and a caring, compassionate heart. We need people to work one-on-one with our kids in Sunday School and Awana. We need someone to fill the position of Lead Teacher for the 11am Special Sunday School Class. We need Childcare providers during our Wednesday afternoon meetings from 12pm-2pm, so that moms can get support from other moms in a support group setting. We need supporters in our Therapeutic Movement Classes and mentors in HOPE.club, a social group for older teens and adults with disabilities. In coming months, there will also be several special events where we could use a “helping hand.”

In his book, *The Volunteer Revolution*, Bill Hybels is quoted saying; “Imagine what would happen if people – by the masses – took up serving towels, draped them over their arms and willingly (even joyfully!) served other people in their everyday lives. Such attitudes and actions would change our world. I believe a volunteer revolution can happen and that the church should lead the way. In my view people are never closer to living out the teachings of Christ than when they are adding value to someone else’s life. And people far from God are rarely more impacted than when they see 21st –century Christ followers behaving as Christ behaved.

So how does this impact the body of Christ at Northside Baptist Church? We have a vision! As God adds to the church and HOPE.network’s ministry increases, we will need more people willing to give a few hours of their time to care for our extraordinary children. It is our desire that you join us in the fun. So if the Lord is calling you to become involved in the lives of these families, be sure not to miss the blessing and join us as we take this **journey** in ministry with the Lord! To God be the glory!





A Support Group for Families of Extraordinary Kids

“For I know the plans I have for you”
declares the Lord ... “

Jeremiah 29:11

HOPE.network Leadership Team

Lory Matthews Director

Carissa Lago Associate Director/HOPE Club Coordinator

Jodi McDonald Public Relations & Parent Advocacy

Cindy Burghardt Promotions and Outreach

Janice Wyatt Performing Arts

Margaret Phillips Secretary

Susan Church Special Events

Lori Sill Hospitality

Deborah Scripa Assoc. Promotions & Deaf Interpreter

Mary Ann Calzada Assoc. Promotions & Outreach

Dale O'Neill Historian

&

Beth Dominic Prayer Ministry



HOPE.network is a faith-based ministry of Northside Baptist Church

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