

The

Navigator

Stone Soup Group

Supporting families who care for children with special needs

Vol. 7
Issue 1

Fall Edition 2019

Meet our new Regional Navigator!

In addition to our regional parent navigators in the Kenai Peninsula and Southeast Alaska, Stone Soup Group has a new Regional Parent Navigator in Fairbanks! Parent Navigators can help with finding support for school, behavior, transitions, give resources & referrals, and more.

**Anna Zierfuss,
Fairbanks**



Anna was raised in Fairbanks and attained her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology at UAF. Anna is the mother of a son with learning disabilities and Inattentive ADHD. She was active in her son's schooling including tutors, special services and his IEP & 504 plans. Anna has volunteered or worked in social services since she was 9 years old when her grandmother brought her as a nursing home visitor. Her knowledge ranges from assisting in care for many disabilities, Seniors and teaching life skills. Anna loves to crochet, read and sing in her downtime and spend time with her son when he is home from college.

Join our Mentor. Advocate. Partner. (MAP) program in Fairbanks

Besides Anna's duties as a Parent Navigator, she will head up the Mentor. Advocate. Partner. (M.A.P.) program in Fairbanks. M.A.P. is an Alaskan support network created to connect families to one another when they are looking for added support. If you want to connect with other families who have children with disabilities, visit www.stonesoupgroup.org for more information.

STAR has a New Name: DDRC!

The STAR program has changed its name to the Developmental Disabilities Resource Connection (DDRC). Our DDRC program is available to individuals of any age with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The DDRC program is the entry point to the state of Alaska's Medicaid waivers, provides short-term support for families to prevent crises, and helps to find wrap-around services for families.

SSG has opened a DDRC office in the Mat-Su! For families living in the Mat-Su region, we now have an office in Wasilla. Thomas Summers is our DDRC navigator in the Mat-Su and he is ready to help.

In this issue:

- Regional Parent Navigators.....pg. 1
- New Board Members.....pg. 2
- A New Home for Benny!.....pg. 2
- Santa Party 2019.....pg. 3
- Parent Conference 2020.....pg. 3
- Trainings & Eventspg. 3
- Thank you! pg. 4





We are so happy for Benny and his family! (originally posted on Facebook by Breanna Brian)

One way Stone Soup Group Can help families that support kids with special needs is by connecting them to valuable resources. This fall, an opportunity to help a service dog find a family who needed him presented itself. We are ecstatic to share this success story from a happy family:

“The last two weeks have been a whirlwind. Tuesday, August 29th, we discovered that an autism service dog needed a forever family who he could help. The dog was trained for meltdowns and elopement. For those who don’t know, meltdowns and elopement are manifestations of my son’s disability. We have struggled with it for years. When this opportunity presented itself, we were speechless. Nothing has come easy for our family. I have spent well over 10 years fighting to make sure my son receives the services necessary for him to live in the community and have a quality of life. The reality of this blessing didn’t set until the weekend we met the service dog and received training on how to handle him.

Tuesday, September 3rd, we welcomed home our new family member, Benny. He is so sweet and has made such an impact on August and our family already! I am beyond grateful for Stone Soup Group and Central Coast Dog Services. These agencies don’t understand how much this means to August. I will forever be indebted to them.”



Benny in his new forever home!



Benny is so loved



Welcome to the family!



Snuggles for Benny

Board of Directors

President

Bryan Thomas

Treasurer

Anthony Cravalho

Secretary

Laura Tillman

Vice-President

Debbie Brooks

Members

Matthew Findley

Eric Jordan

Benjamin Sutton

Cheri Scott

Contact Us

Main Office

307 E. Northern Lights Blvd.

Ste. 100

Anchorage, AK 99503

Phone (907) 561-3701

Toll Free within Alaska

(877) 786-7327

Fax (907) 561-3702



@stonesoupgroup www.stonesoupgroup.org

Upcoming Training & Events



Stay updated with Stone Soup Group training and events at stonesoupgroup.org

- **Santa Party!***
Saturday, December 7th
10AM-3PM
- **Transition Series*** 11/21 through 3/19/20 5:30-7PM, Thursdays
- **Souper Gaming Night**
Ages 5-13 4 - 5:30 PM, ages 14 and up 6 PM - 8 PM
Fridays, 11/15, 12/20
- **Online Auction**
Jan 27th-Feb 9th 2020
- **Parent Conference 2020*:**
Person Directed Lives
March 27th & 28th
- **Building Strong Parents**
5:30-7PM, 11/20, 12/18, Wednesdays
- **DDRC Lunch and Learn***
There is More Than One Waiver 12-1:30 pm, Tuesday, 12/10

*Register to attend in person, or by distance!

SantaParty 2019!

Santa Party is an opportunity for children with special needs to meet Santa and get a picture taken without the long lines and distractions of the mall. We will provide festive snacks and activities for the whole family! We are now accepting donations for the event; if you would like to contribute to Santa Party, please contact Stone Soup Group. Registration for Santa Party will begin two weeks before the day of the event. Space is limited. We hope to see your family at our Santa Party!



Parent Conference 2020



Mark your calendar! Stone Soup Group's annual Parent Conference *Person Directed Lives: A Shared Vision for the Future*, will focus on what "Person Directed Lives" means for self-advocates, parents, and professionals. Speakers and panelists will investigate how we can collaborate for success.

2020 Auction!

Stone Soup Group will host an online auction this February! We are accepting all donations for the auction. If you are interested in donating goods or services to Stone Soup Group for the auction, please contact Megan Kelley, at (907) 792-3404.

All proceeds from the auction go to provide resources to Alaskan families who are navigating the disability world. Once the auction begins, we will share the link to bid on items on our website and social media. Please share and tell your friends and family to bid, bid, bid!



Thank You To Our Supporters!



*Thank you to those who have donated this year. Please know that your contribution is a vital part of what allows us to support families who care for children with special needs. **We could not do this without you!!!***

Individuals

*Aileen McInnis
Alexandra Fogarty
Alisa Marie Gac-
cione
Anneka Baker
Anne Vasakis
Anthony Cravalho
Arlene Patuc
Benjamin Sutton
Bryan Thomas
Catherine Girard
Cathryn Rasmuson
Christine Michel
Clark Milne
Debbie Brooks
Diana Strozok
Eleanor Riley
Eric Gurley
Eric Jordan
Gail Schubert
Gary Austin
Jerelyn Miyashiro
Jerry Nasenbeny
Joanna Reast
Jesse Smoke
John Finley
Joyce Hankinson
Karen Timmins
Kathleen Douglass*

*Lucius Weeks
Lynn Caswell
Margaret Hunter
Mary Middleton
Megan Kelley
Merideth Parham
Paul Bennetts
Paul Dobbyn
Rosemary M. Craig
Phylicia Christian
Steve Zadra
Susan M Riehl
Tamara Huntington
Tiffany Hawthorne
Willem & Roswitha
Van Hemert*

And, Our Volunteers!

*Liesl Herndon
Miranda Medlin
Brien Menchu
Rebecca Stapleford
Dennis Arashiro
Hans Clark
Credit Union 1 Employees*

Business & Community Partners

Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority
All for Kids
Amazon Smile
ASD Charitable Giving Campaign
ASSETS, INC
Bering Straits Native Corporation
Boeing
BP Childcare Center
CAFA Cybergrant
Carr Foundation
Central Alaska Retired Teachers Association (CARTA)
Cindy & Vics
Conoco Phillips
Costco
Credit Union 1
Facebook
Franz Bakery Foundation
Fred Meyer
GCI
Governor's Council on Disabilities
& Special Education
Great Land Infusion Pharmacy Inc
Independent Pilots Association
Mat-Su Health Foundation
McKinley Services
Municipal Employee Campaign
Providence Medical Staff
Rasmuson Foundation
Schwab Charitable
Special Education Service Agency (SESA)
Southcentral Foundation
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Corp.
The Benevity Community Impact Fund
United Way of Anchorage
Weston Technology Services