

WASHTENAW COUNTY AREA FAMILY SUPPORT GROUPS

Meetings provide opportunities for support, problem solving, and parent/professional interaction, as well as information on conferences, workshops and topics of interest to attendees. Some groups are chapters of a state and/or national organization. Parents and/or professionals might wish to consider starting new groups to meet the needs of individuals with disabilities, families, and the community. The following are some of the support groups, meeting dates and times, and contact people in the Washtenaw County area. If your group would like to be added to this list, or if you are currently listed and have an update, please contact Family Support at the Washtenaw Intermediate School District at (734) 994-8100, x 1514 or email: familysupport@wash.k12.mi.us

A2FACES (Ann Arbor Families for Autistic Children's Education and Support)

This group advocates to obtain the most appropriate education-based on best practices-for Ann Arbor school-aged children with Autism Spectrum Disorder. There are no regular meetings, but the group has an active email list and community. For more information contact Barb Byers at (734)827-0814 or email: babmay11@provide.net.

Ann Arbor Center for Independent Living

This group offers many programs including Peer Support Groups. For more information: (734) 971-0277 or web site: http://www.aacil.org/wwd_counseling_supportgroups.shtml

Attention Deficit Disorder

CHADD's (Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder) goal is to improve the lives of people with ADHD through education, advocacy, and support. For information call the Michigan CHADD hot line: (313)438-3763 or contact their web site: www.chadd.org

Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder-Ann Arbor

This group meets on the last Tuesday of each month at 7-9pm. For more information: Email Kim Garver (kagarver@gmail.com), Vivianne Schnitzer (vsh@umich.edu), Olga Gallego (ogallego@umich.edu).

Attention Deficit Disorder and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder-Parents Supporting Parents

This group meets the 3rd Wednesday of every month from 6:30 to 8 p.m. from the fall of the year to May at Chelsea Pediatric Center, 1513 S. Main St. in Chelsea, MI. For more information contact Pat Hepburn at (734)475-9175 or email: pat_hepburn@ihacares.com or visit their web site: <http://ihacares.com>

Autism Collaborative Center-EMU

This group offers many programs for families including ASD ParentSHARE" FREE support groups just for moms and dads raising children on the spectrum. Let's talk! Daytime and evening groups available for your convenience, take the time - MAKE the time to do something for yourself. FREE childcare available on site, please RSVP to reserve your ParentSHARE. Also, Sibling Support Activities & Events will provide a special experience and common understanding among siblings of individuals with Autism. The KIDPOWER program, will help siblings ages 7 - 12 and their friends to see the positive potential of their unique families, how to re-frame their experiences and change their communities. Also a part of the KIDPOWER model - Childcare for the sib on the spectrum on site and networking and respite opportunities for parents and caregivers – a program the entire family can look forward to! For more information: Phone (734)485-2890, Email autismcenter@emich.edu , Web site <http://www.emich.edu/acc>

Autism Connections-Judson Center

This group offers many programs including Family Support Groups for parents and family members of children on the autism spectrum who want to connect with other parents/family members in a safe and confidential environment. Each month will include a different topic. This is a FREE group. No childcare available at this time. Days: 2nd Tuesdays from 1-2:30PM and Evenings: Wednesday from 6:30-8PM (call for dates) at 4925 Packard Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48108. For more information: (734)528-1692, x23201 or email: autismconnectionswashtenaw@judsoncenter.org Web site: <http://www.judsoncenter.org/template.php?pid=8>

Autism Society of Washtenaw County

This group generally meets the second Thursday of the month, during the school year, at the WISD Teaching and Learning Center from 7 to 9 pm. For more information contact Co-Presidents Barb Byers at (734) 827-0814 email: babmay11@provide.net or Cathi Spino at (734)827-2956 email: spino@umich.edu

Common Chords

This group of young teens through adults meets for "fun with music" and activities surrounding "the arts". Sponsored through 4-H, it meets every Monday usually at Pittsfield Elementary School, 2543 Pittsfield, Ann Arbor 48108. For more information contact Marjorie Wright at (734)971-6677 or Sue Carr at (734)483-0559.

Down Syndrome Support Group

These meetings are held monthly in a private home. At each meeting there is time provided for interaction among parents, and sometimes professional speakers are invited. Families are welcome. For more information contact Debita Graham at (734)996-0770 or debita@umich.edu.

Down Syndrome Support Team (DSST)

The DSST is a group of families that have come together to guide and support one another, to share knowledge and experiences, to get communities involved, to help provide awareness and to build lasting friendships. This group meets on various days and times of the month and at various locations. Be sure to check their web site: www.downsyndromest.com for the calendar of events. For more information contact Elaine Luther at (734)944-1595 or email: downsyndromest@yahoo.com.

Fetal Alcohol Syndrome/Fetal Alcohol Effect Support Group

This support group was formed in 1990. It meets monthly for information and support. For information on future meetings, time and place call Betsy or Vern Soden at (734)662-2906.

Families of Children with Cerebral Palsy

This group is open to parents of children with cerebral palsy from birth through school-age. Call Shelli Kritzman at (734)449-5480 for more information or email mkritzman@mpcphysics.com

Family Support Network of Michigan

The Family Support Network of Michigan (FSN) is organized into local chapters in which trained "support parents" recognize the concerns of the families in their communities. They provide information and referrals to families, enabling them to access community resources to enrich the lives of children with special needs. FSN is funded through the Michigan Department of Community Health. Contact the FSN Family Phone Line at 1-800-359-3722. or web site: http://www.michigan.gov/mdch/0,1607,7-132-2942_4911_35698-56603--,00.html

Friends of the Developmentally Disabled

The Friends of the Developmentally Disabled provides information and support to families and other interested parties. Meetings are once a month except for July, August, and December. Topics include services for adults with disabilities and their families, respite care, guardianship, benefits, and other local, state, and federal issues. For meeting notices and newsletters, contact Jill Barker at (734)996-5561 or jillrbarker@sbcglobal.net Web site: <http://theddnewsblog.blogspot.com/>

Grandparents As Parents (GAP)

GAP offers care giving grandparents (and other relatives) the opportunity to share common experiences, to better understand their grandchildren's special needs, and to access resources and information from community professionals. The program provides support groups, educational workshops, counseling, children's groups, and family activities. Any grandparent or custodial relative in Washtenaw County with parental responsibilities for raising a minor child is eligible for service. For more information, contact Washtenaw County Catholic Social Services-Older Adult Services at (734)712-3625 or web site: <http://sites.google.com/site/gapcss>

Learning Disability Association of Michigan (LDAM) Washtenaw County Chapter

The Washtenaw County chapter of LDAM's goal is to provide parents with information, hope, and encouragement, guiding them through the challenges of learning disabilities. A newsletter, tutoring of referred children, senior awards program, and transition conference, are some of the services provided. For more information please contact Sue Mors at sue.mors@charter.net or web site: <http://www.ldaofmichigan.org/chapters.htm>

Manchester Positive Accommodations Stimulate Success (P.A.S.S.)

Manchester P.A.S.S. meets with individual parents and students on a request basis to assist families to advocate for students with special needs. The goal is to help students achieve their potential in the school setting. Many resource materials are available. Call Shannon Fleck at (734)428-7814.

Moms Making A Difference

Coffee is for mothers/grandmothers/female caregivers of a child with a disability. This will be a casual, confidential time to talk among ourselves about the special stresses and issues of parenting a family with a "different" son or daughter, as well as how we can "make a difference" for our kids and others like them. We will meet on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month, from 8:00-9:30am at Keystone Community Church in Saline, 3375 Saline-Waterworks Road, 1/2 mile west of Saline-Ann Arbor Road. For more information please email or call Kathleen Whiteman at kathleenmc@gmail.com or (734)944-1828.

Parent Advisory Committee for Special Education-Ann Arbor

This group's mission is to educate and support families who have children with special needs and to collaborate with the central administration and Student Intervention and Support Services as policies and initiatives are developed. Meetings are open to the public and are held the first Monday of the month (with a few exceptions) at the Forsythe Media Center 1655 Newport Road, Ann Arbor from 7 to 9:30 p.m. For more information contact Johanna Mabry, Co-Chair at jomabry@yahoo.com (734)669-6084, Web site: <http://instruction.aaps.k12.mi.us/aapac>

Parent Advisory Committee (PAC)-Washtenaw Intermediate School District (WISD)

This group's mission is dedicated to ensuring student success by strengthening the capacities of our local schools, families and communities through education, collaboration, use of best practices, technology and a wide variety of strategies. The PAC is made up of parents from public school agencies in the WISD whose children have special needs. The PAC meets monthly, usually on the third Tuesday, September-June at the WISD Teaching and Learning Center from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Meetings are open to all parents and persons interested in special education. For further information call Dawn Williams, Chair (734)475-6415 or Family Support Services web site: <http://wash.k12.mi.us/specialed/pac.php> There is also a Google Listserv you can join at: <http://groups.google.com/group/WCSEI/subscribe>

Rest and Refresh

This group of qualified volunteers provides respite care for parents/families with a child with special needs. To be sure the group can meet the family's needs, an application process is necessary. The child with special needs and siblings are welcome. Services are free and provided at the Chelsea Free Methodist Church, 7665 Werkner Road, Chelsea, Michigan on the 2nd Saturday of every month from 5-9pm. For more information please contact Bill Moull at (734)475-1391 or PastorBill@chelseafmc.com or web site: <http://www.chelseafmc.com>

Parents Who Care - Helping Children and Schools Succeed

This informational group meets in Saline and invites all parents of children with special needs and those interested in special education to attend. They are a parent/caregiver group dedicated to helping children and schools succeed. Mission statement: We, the parents of children with special needs, believe that by sharing of ourselves and working closely with the school system, we can obtain success for our children in school and life. Together we can support each other, which in turn will help us support our children. For more information contact Lisa Rentschler (734)944-0307, Email: RentschlerCM@comcast.net for meeting dates and times.

Transition to Adulthood Information Meetings

These meetings are designed to educate students and families regarding the changes in supports from school to adult services, and also assist students in making a seamless transition into adulthood. Meetings are held twice a year, usually in December and April. For more information call Rani Dronamraju at (734)222-3540.

Visual Impairments Support Group

This group meets once or twice yearly to share information on camps, workshops, and provide support to visually impaired parents and students. Speakers are often invited to attend meetings. For more information call Kathy Christensen at (734)994-8100, x1527.

Ypsilanti Special Kids

This group welcomes all families that have a child(ren) with special needs in Ypsilanti and the surrounding area. These meetings are discussions that involve information, education, and support. Meetings are held monthly. Dates and location vary. There is also an online support group: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ypsilantispecialkids> or email: ypsilantispecialkids@yahoo.com. For more information contact Lee Stutesman at merhawk1@yahoo.com.

For additional Support groups in the Washtenaw County area please go to:

[MedlinePlus Go Local-Washtenaw County:](#)

Michigan Health Go Local is a directory of health care services and providers that serve the residents of Michigan. Browse topics by first letter to locate a facility, health care provider, or programs and services relating to a specific disease or health issue. Web site: <http://apps.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/local/michigan/homepage.cfm?areaid=11>

[Michigan Mental Health Networker-Washtenaw County](#)

Here you will find resources for Washtenaw County including Self Help and Support Groups, Child & Adolescent Services, and Mental Health Treatment Services. Web site: <http://www.mhweb.org/>