



# WVDSA Monthly

## Willamette Valley Down Syndrome Association

### Michael Bailey: Good I.D.E.A.s



When a speaker finishes his presentation and you find yourself wishing you'd had him scheduled for a full-day seminar, instead of an evening meeting, you know you've had a good speaker! Michael Bailey kept us in the palm of his hand as he talked to us about some of the challenges that face us as par-

ents of "special needs" kids and what may lie ahead as legislation to guarantee our children's rights to a good education awaits renewal.

Of course, Michael points out that our kids aren't really "special" needs; their needs are perfectly normal for them. He gave the example of how

the ESD had to provide us with chairs to sit on, because we didn't bring our own (i.e. wheelchairs). Our special need was to have something to keep us from having to sit on the floor.

Michael holds training sessions for people wanting more skills in how to be an effective advocate. The session scheduled for February 20th is full, but sessions are also available on Monday, March 17th; Thursday, April 17th; and Thursday, May 15th. All trainings will be in Hearing Room 50 in the basement of the capitol building in Salem. If you're interested in attending, go to [mtbclarion@attbi.com](mailto:mtbclarion@attbi.com) for more information or to register. The sessions fill up quickly, so act soon

**WVDSA**  
2598 NW Maser Drive  
Corvallis, OR 97330

Volume 3, Issue 4

February 1, 2003

### In this issue:

Michael Bailey: Good I.D.E.A.S.	1
IEP Partnership Training	1
Challenger Little League Baseball	2
Future Child of the Month Candidates	2 & 3
Michael Johnson: Portrait of Fiona	3
Calendar of Events:	3
WVDSA News	3
President's Corner	4

### Upcoming IEP Partnership Training

This intensive 2-day training is for people who would like to help support other parents with their IEP meetings. Training includes:

- IDEA
- IFSP/IEP components
- Principles of Communication

- Parent/Professional Partnership ...and more!

**March 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>, Eugene,** 9-4pm at Lane ESD, 1200 Hwy 99 N, rm. 5

**May 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>, La Grande,** 9-4pm Union Baker ESD

**September 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>, Medford,** 9-4pm at the Smullin Center

**To register or for more information contact Karen Ripplinger, at 503-968-7030 or 1-888-505-2673 ext. 212**

# Challenger Little League Program: A New Approach

You know the child ... they are in a wheelchair; they have Down's Syndrome; they are mentally retarded; they are deaf and have other challenges; they have a limp; they have Asperger's Syndrome or Autism; they have suffered a traumatic brain injury (TBI); they are visually impaired; they have Fragile X Syndrome; they either have leukemia or another form of cancer - or they are in remission; or they face some other mental or physical challenge every single moment of their life. You know the child: they watch their peers doing things they wish they could do, but they or their families have felt they were limited and couldn't. They may watch from the sidelines, or they may just hear their peers excitedly talking on and on about being on the ball field and playing a game. They are the children parents may have never pictured holding a bat, much less swinging one or connecting to a ball. They are the children one might not think would ever "get it" - but they do. And, even if they don't, if they experience something new and smile, it's well worth everyone's effort. They are "surprises" to the adults who allow them to participate, to their peers, and to the "others" who come watch and cheer. We see them every year. We have witnesses!

For nearly 14 years, Oregon Little League Baseball has provided a program specifically designed for these children that you know. Little League's "Challenger Division" provides a regular season of games *just like conventional teams*, bats through the order *just like a T-Ball team or like many minor division teams*, uses regular 60' Little League fields *just like conventional teams*. They have the same needs as conventional teams: bats, balls, uniforms, catcher's gear, volunteer young people and adults who would enjoy the opportunity of spending some time making children smile. They may need a few special things like individuals who

love the challenge of pitching to a child's need instead of pitching to a "regular" strike zone, or, perhaps, an ASL translator, or someone to be their "legs" and run to get the ball for them so they can throw it. They may be tagged out, but they remain on base - advancing to cross home plate and receive a grand "high five" from the umpire who is there to move the bat or tee out of the way, cheer the kids on, or be lucky enough to spread those high fives. The ballplayers and those observing cheer on every player on every team. The competition is that within the child ... their drive to make it to the next base, to hit the ball, for some - to make an out, for others - just to be able to take their little body around those bases and smile. For some, it's all in the upper body - wheeling that mode of transportation to the next base. For some, it's all in the strength of a "buddy" who helps them get around because they don't have the upper body strength. But they all would prefer to do it all on their own, just like their peers.

The local program is designed for boys and girls from league age 5 through 21 (or graduation from high school). No registration "fees" are requested; donations are encouraged through individuals and businesses who enjoy helping these children be part of a team. It is different from Special Olympics in that the ballplayers are together for a season of 10-14 games each year ... with games scheduled to begin late in April and run through late June. Local games are scheduled for 2PM on Sunday afternoons, and 6:30 on Tuesday evenings, along with a few brief Saturday events. Games are primarily hosted by leagues in the Salem metro area, but there are some out-of-area events during the season as well. The local "District" is encouraging the development of Challenger programs in Albany, Corvallis, Eugene, Springfield, and other outlying areas - with hope there will be enough participation in those areas for their local teams to have local games. One major event

each spring is an invitation to a "Jamboree" for Challenger teams in the Portland and Vancouver-area at Alpenrose (the host field for the Little League Softball World Series). We also try to get donations to cover the local kids and a couple of family members each for a Salem-Keizer Volcanoes game night.

Anyone with an interest in learning more about the program, obtaining registration information, making donations, or volunteering is invited to contact Raleen Hockenberry at 503 873 5563 or rhocken@earthlink.net. Preparations for the 2003 season are underway, and ... we need your help in getting the word out because "You Know The Children" who could benefit from this program. Any donations may be made to Oregon LLBB D7/Challengers c/o address below:

Raleen Hockenberry  
Oregon Little League District 7 & State Challenger Consultant  
PO Box 328  
Scotts Mills, OR 97375-0328  
503-873-5563  
rhocken@earthlink.net

## February Meeting

Tuesday,  
February 18th

7:00 PM

Grace Lutheran Church

435 NW 21st Street

Corvallis, OR

## Child of the Month Submissions

Occasionally we like to feature one of our children as a "Child of the Month"! We need your help, though. If you would like to have your child featured, we welcome your submissions! Please see page 3 for information on where to send either a short story about your child or the information so we can write it up. Also include 1-4 pictures we can put in the newsletter. They will be returned! Digital pictures can be e-mailed!

## Michael Johnson: Portrait of Fiona

*For those of you who were at the 2002 Buddy Walk, we had some of Michael Johnson's paintings displayed. He is a young man with Down syndrome who has found his gift in painting and shares his gift happily. If you're interested in purchasing any of Michael's works—including note cards featuring his paintings—check out the website at the end of this article.*

Michael painted this portrait of Fiona and the mastiff puppy in 2002. Fiona loves animals just like Michael :) The customer sent Michael several "jpgs" to work from and he took his time to paint in the

details very carefully. Over the holidays he worked hard to finish all of the jobs from 2002 and now his commission schedule is clear for 2003. I just rewrote the guidelines and made a brand new price list. Prices start at \$45 for an acrylic painting and there are many new options. We are trying to make it easier for people to photograph their children and pets and easier for them to choose images that Michael can use. We hope you enjoy the big picture of Fiona and



that you will download and print it and share it with your families.

Happy New Year

Robin and Michael

[www.psln.com/sharingds/Michael](http://www.psln.com/sharingds/Michael)

## Calendar of Events:

WVDSA meetings are usually held on the third Tuesday of every month. We have members ranging throughout the mid-Willamette Valley so try to have our meetings in Corvallis or Salem so members close to one area or the other don't always have to drive so far. The current meeting's location is usually found on page 2 of the newsletter, so be sure to check if you're not sure.

### Tentative Schedule:

**February 18:** An Evening with Veteran Parents, featuring **Bud & Dot Fredericks!** (Corvallis)

**March 18:** **Anne Hopkins** (Salem)

**April 15:** **Kevin E Mayne** (Salem)

**May:** **WVDSA Spring Social** - Date and location TBA

**June 18:** TBA

We hope to see **many** of you at the meetings! We need your support!

Submit "Child of the Month" information to:

**Gretchen Davey**

**370 Center St**

**Lebanon, OR 97355**

[wvdsa@ookla.com](mailto:wvdsa@ookla.com)

## WVDSA News: Planning for Life after High School

Oregon PTI is offering a seminar on Transition for Students With Disabilities: **Planning for Life After High School.**

The training is free and open to the public. All are welcome that are interested in the High School transition process. Information will be most helpful for parents and students in Middle and High School.

Topic Areas Include:

- Federal IDEA and State regulations.

- Long Range Planning
- Transition Service in the IEP
- Agency Responsibility
- Self Determination
- Self-Advocacy
- And more.

Dates and Locations:

Portland~ February 26<sup>th</sup> 2003 at Providence Medical Center.

Salem~ February 27<sup>th</sup> 2003 at Integrated Services Network.

Eugene~ March 20<sup>th</sup> 2003 6-9PM at the Lane ESD. Registration is required at least a week in advance.

For questions and registration contact Robin Wortman at (888) 505-2673 extension 211.

Or e-mail: [rwortman@oregonvos.net](mailto:rwortman@oregonvos.net)

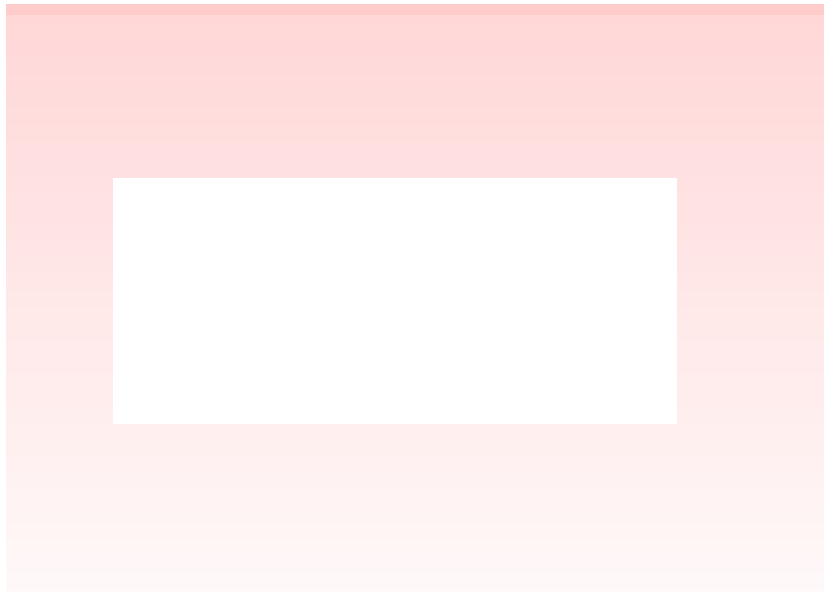


WVDSA  
2598 NW Maser Drive  
Corvallis, OR 97330

Editor: Gretchen Davey  
Phone: 541-451-5215  
Email: wvdsa@ookla.com

President: Debbie Lisle  
503-371-3046  
E-mail: jeldpm@attbi.com

Membership/Fund Raising: Mike Moore  
2598 NW Maser Dr., Corvallis 97330  
Phone: 541-753-3975  
E-mail: nbimike@pacifier.com



## President's Corner

Dear Friends,

I recently read a sweet article titled the *Top 10 List of Joys*. The author, the mom of two children with DS, has learned to be more joyful in the simple things of life. In fact she records and lists the joy in her life. Here is a sample from her Top Ten List: "#8 For over three weeks Justin is sick, then well, then sick, then well. I leap for joy when he is finally well enough to be his busy self again.... #7 When I have to rewash most of the dishes, I am thrilled that Justin volunteers to do the dishes... #4 After searching the neighborhood, I am so happy that Austin always gets dressed now before he jumps the fence...#2 I enter the family room to find someone has written on the wall with black



marker, I am thrilled to see how beautifully Austin has learned to write the letter 'n'..."

I certainly could make a list. I believe this year (Anne's 4<sup>th</sup>) is the most "joyful" yet. I am grateful that her vocabulary is growing; that the old favorite "No" is now "Nope" and "Noooooo Way." I'm relying on the child development books for guidance, but I know that these milestones sometimes take awhile to cross over. I think I'll keep a "Joy" list, too. How about you?

Looking forward to the WVDSA meetings. On **February 18<sup>th</sup>** we will have veteran parents speak to us about raising their children with DS. There will plenty of time for your questions. On **March 19<sup>th</sup>** we have Anne

Hopkins, an Occupational Therapist and Mother of three, presenting a Parents guide to Sensory Integration. Anne's professional and personal experience with children with DS makes her especially interesting and relevant. On **April 20<sup>th</sup>**, Kevin E. Mayne from the Salem law firm of Wallace W. Lien, P.C. will attend our meeting to discuss estate-planning techniques for families with disabled children. Topics will include conservatorships, guardianships, qualifying for SSI, supplemental needs trusts and other estate planning tips. Please stay tuned for added details of our meetings. I appreciate so much your interest and attendance at our meetings. I know low attendance is not a true reflection of membership interest but it sure is great when we have a larger group. Thank you and all best to you.

Sincerely,  
Debbie Lisle

*\*This date is different than the one I have. Stay tuned next month for clarification.-Ed.*