

# Family Success

# STORIES

An FSC Newsletter

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR



"At Family Success Center, connecting with our community is at the heart of our mission. From service, to outreach, to raising awareness, we aim to remain positive and stable advocates for families as we expand our capacity to serve each day.

We hope this monthly newsletter shines a light on how Family Success Center is working to uplift your community, through the efforts of those passionately striving to change lives for the better, and showcases the amazing partners, local businesses, fellow organizations, and individuals who support our endeavors and collaborate with us year-round."

Emma Clapp  
FSC Executive Director



# The Inclusive Needs Program

THE FAMILY SUCCESS CENTER'S INCLUSIVE NEEDS PROGRAM SUPPORTS THOSE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS, PROVIDING MEDICAL EQUIPMENT, RESOURCES, AND TRIPS TO CAMP ASSCA IN JACKSON'S GAP, ALABAMA - A NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED LEADER IN THERAPEUTIC RECREATION FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS WITH PHYSICAL AND INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES.

Insurance rarely covers equipment not deemed medically necessary, despite some of these items serving as proven contributors to enhancing the quality of life of children, teenagers, and adults. Without insurance, families are unable to afford these expensive items, which could range anywhere from hundreds to thousands of dollars. Something as simple as a wheelchair belt or harness could transform a child's ability to sit, while a helmet, vest, or adaptive car seat increases their protection and comfort.

Specialized books and tablets designed for communication open new worlds for children to connect with loved ones, and implements a deeper level of accessibility for them, allowing them to participate and engage more freely. These devices and items assist in breaking barriers and diminishing obstacles, building an environment where these children grow, connect, and flourish. Furthermore, when these children and families are uplifted, it creates a community of acceptance, raising awareness for populations that are underserved and launching a call to action for others to learn and develop a deeper understanding along the pathway of provoking positive change.

Family Success Center's Inclusive Needs Program is a proven and effective initiative, which has already touched numerous lives across the Center's service area. The Inclusive Needs Program's direct positive impact on its community is evident in its established success, demonstrating an investment in the IN Program generates worthwhile and significant results.

402 families were enrolled into the program, while \$3,000 of transportation assistance was distributed. 24 support groups (12 in-person and 12 virtual) were established for caregivers and parents, with six support groups specifically addressing teenagers and young adults with special needs. Through the IN Program, 20 individuals traveled to CAMP ASSCA for either the full camp week, or the newcomer weekend camp experience.

While the primary purpose of the IN Program resides with providing support for local populations with disabilities, an additional component of the program emerges in education.

Representatives of Family Success Center conducted speaking engagements and connected with government officials and fellow non-profit organizations to raise awareness and advocacy for special needs children, teenagers, and adults, to further expand the IN Program's impact.

Through these educational sessions and collaborative meetings with the Etowah County Commission, Gadsden City Council, Rainbow City Council, Glencoe City Council, Etowah County Board of Education, and local mayors, the IN Program extended its outreach efforts and sparked discussion to broaden the conversation about what services agencies can provide demographics with disabilities. Family Success Center partnered with United Abilities, Children's Rehabilitation Services, and the Children's Policy Council to educate, advocate, and acclimate local communities to the importance of this initiative, while coupling action on the Center's part to fulfill the initial mission of service established at the program's inception.

The Inclusive Needs Program contributed directly to the purchase of helmets, standers, vests, adaptive seating and equipment, hearing aids, walkers, and specialized car seats.

Those with special needs are often overlooked, with resources to assist them and their families limited in Etowah County. Apart from Family Success Center's Inclusive Needs Program, no program providing medical and life-enhancing equipment to special needs individuals exists in Etowah County.

The Inclusive Needs Program is the sole program in operation within this region of Alabama, meaning, it is the sole provider of equipment and resources to these families.

## Making a Difference

402 families enrolled

24 support groups established

20 trips to Camp ASSCA

\$3,000 of transportation costs provided





# With one ticket, you can change a life.

To ensure we are able to continue serving these families through the Inclusive Needs Program, we host interactive murder mystery party events! Our most recent event, Mullets, Mayhem & Murder, took place at Taivas Farm in Glencoe.

While you have a fun night with friends, you are contributing to a program that directly impacts your community in a tremendous manner.

If you missed our August Murder Mystery Party, book your calendar for Saturday, November 11, for Panic at the Prom - an 80's themed murder mystery party and our final Inclusive Needs event of 2023!

One small action =  
one great impact ❤️



WHO SAID HIGH SCHOOL'S STUCK IN THE PAST?

80'S

Panic

AT THE PROM

AN INTERACTIVE MURDER  
MYSTERY PARTY EXPERIENCE

BENEFITTING THE INCLUSIVE NEEDS PROGRAM

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11  
TAIVAS FARM  
1713 GREEN VALLEY ROAD  
GLENCOE, AL 35905  
5:00 P.M.

[CLICK HERE TO BUY](#)

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!



# Upcoming Events

**SEPTEMBER 23** **SPECIAL NEEDS PROM**  
SAT. SEPT. 23  
THE VENUE AT COOSA LANDING  
201 GEORGE WALLACE DRIVE, GADSDEN AL 35903  
5:00 P.M.



**SEPTEMBER 28** **COMMUNITY GARDEN RIBBON CUTTING**  
THURS. SEPT. 28  
FAMILY SUCCESS CENTER OFFICE  
821 EAST BROAD STREET, GADSDEN AL 35903  
11:00 A.M.



**OCTOBER 26** **COMMUNITY GARDEN WORK DAY & HARVEST FESTIVAL**  
THURS. OCTOBER 26  
FAMILY SUCCESS CENTER OFFICE  
821 EAST BROAD STREET, GADSDEN AL 35903  
1:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.

**OCTOBER 28** **TRUNK OR TREAT**  
SAT. OCTOBER 28  
FAMILY SUCCESS CENTER OFFICE  
821 EAST BROAD STREET, GADSDEN AL 35903  
1:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.



**NOVEMBER 11** **PANIC AT THE PROM**  
SAT. NOV. 11  
TAIVAS FARM  
1713 GREEN VALLEY RD, GLENCOE, AL 35905  
5:00 P.M.