

Disability Ministries to Families of Children with Special Needs

Church	Contact	Ministry Type	Area of Expertise	How Did it Begin?	Current Needs	Other
First Covenant Church Sacramento	Angelia Brigance firstcov.oneagleswings (at) comcast.net	Buddy program Sunday mornings for kids with special needs where an adult or youth buddy goes to Sunday school class with them. Children with special needs can go back to a quiet room if they need to. Once a month free childcare program for Special Needs Kids and siblings. Match up buddies for special events and summer camps.	Mostly work with autistic children	Talked about for at least the last 6 years. Got a budget to hire someone part time. Been going about a year.	Volunteers	
Bayside Covenant, CA	Dan Adranga Dana (at) baysideonline.com	Disability/Special needs ministry. Special needs ministry is mostly for children. They offer a room for parents to drop off special needs kids during church services. Their respite program is called Friday Night Kid's Club and is for kids with special needs and their siblings. About 55 families participate.	Helping other churches "thrive". They give workshops at a health/disability fair. Formed Sacramento-area network, 12 churches, trainings.	Dan became involved in disability ministries at his former church because of a mom with special needs daughter. He got involved through the organization Joni and Friends. He then moved to Bayside and began a special needs ministry there when he realized none existed.	They are working on forming a group for adults with developmental disabilities	There is an adult's bible studies & support group for parents of children with special needs. Bayside recently expanded handicapped parking, as well as wheelchair seating throughout the church.
Riverside Covenant, RI	Holly McCoy Hrmccoy (at) juno.com	"Mothers of Special Children" (specifically didn't say special needs). Met once/month, usually women, for a time of devotion and sharing, working on handling stress in their lives (this is not therapy, it is sharing or advice giving). There are currently people from 6 different churches participating	In-tune to special needs kids needs & adapting to them, sensitive & accommodating	Pastor and pastor's wife have special needs kid	Kids that act out more, parents tend to stay home instead of bring them. As kids get older they feel they don't fit in. Riverside also desires to increase their accessibility.	Way of networking support: 2 times/year they have a meal together called "Celebrating our Children". Not a big agenda, that's what made it good. It includes scripture, sharing, prayer.
Glen Ellyn Covenant Church, IL	Kathy Jaderholm kathy.jaderholm (at) gecovenant.org	Support Group for Parents - meets 1/mo. There are about 50 families on the mailing list (including some outside of the church.). The support group is facilitated by church members, speakers, meet 3-4 mos for social time. "Jonathan's Kids"- provides shadows for kids on Sunday morning during Sunday School on a rotational basis. Trying to have families bring in a bin of activities. Occasional big event for families and kids. Focus on one family at a time.	Parent support group.	This group started with 2 moms w/ children with special needs and they are now having their 10 year anniversary.	Working on shadowing and curriculum with kids. Have ordered curriculum for high school and were disappointed, as it didn't fit needs. Right now the focus is on simply loving the kids. They are having a downturn in volunteerism for shadows and so will be doing an Awareness Sunday in February of 2008.	