Early Steps Scholarships for Currently Enrolled Families

Early Steps Reimbursement Scholarships, up to $150 to attend Conferences, Workshops and Trainings in Florida Only, that Will Help with Parenting Skills/Knowledge

(Families Must Be Currently Enrolled in Early Steps on the date of the Conference/Training)

PLEASE NOTE: April is 15th 2021 is the last date we can accept Scholarship Applications for any conferences or trainings that occur through June 30th. We will begin accepting applications on July 1st, 2020, for the upcoming fiscal year.

Reimbursement funds are limited and are given in the order applications are received. Apply asap to secure funding, even if the event is months away. Early Steps Reimbursement Applications must be submitted to sces.marycancel@gmail.com prior to attending the conference, training or workshop.

Items That Can Be Reimbursed related to the conference/training: Registration & Materials Fees; Accommodation costs; (if over 50 miles from home address) Transportation/parking costs $0.445 per mile from home address to workshop/conference; Childcare Costs(additional form needed for this - It will need to be signed by the provider of the childcare)

Steps for Getting an Early Steps Reimbursement Scholarship:

1. Contact sces.marycancel@gmail.com for application
2. Complete the application and scan it to sces.marycancel@gmail.com
3. Once you get confirmation that your application was approved, register for your event and save all receipts. No reimbursement can be made without the proper documentation, no exceptions.
4. Take a photo at the conference. The photo will be attached to your summary you will submit to Early Steps after the conference.
5. After participating in the conference/training, scan all receipts to sces.marycancel@gmail.com within 7 days of the conference. Put “Scholarship Reimbursement” in the subject line.
6. E-mail at minimum, 3 to 5 sentences to sces.marycancel@gmail.com describing what you learned/enjoyed at the conference/workshop within 7 days of the conference. Attach a photo from the conference to the e-mail.
7. Let Mary Cancel know when you get your reimbursement check. It should arrive within 30 days after receipts are submitted. It will be sent to you from Space Coast Early Steps.
We are here to help

During this critical time, we are working to keep you informed about resources available throughout our communities.
Follow us on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/SpaceCoastEarlySteps to learn about the latest news and opportunities.
If you need extra help, please don’t hesitate to contact our Family Resource Specialist Mary Cancel, she will be glad to assist you.
Call or text 321-292-1370 or email mary.cancel@flhealth.gov

Free 10-minute live video chats with a puppet for children!

Since 1985 MicheLee Puppets has been connecting puppets to the heart of children. We know how much a one-on-one interaction with a puppet can help children express themselves. In this time of social distancing, we are excited to offer Live Puppet Chats. These virtual sessions allow your child/children to interact in real time with a puppet character. Sing, dance, read a story, or just simply chat. Each session is child-guided and completely unique! There is no charge for this as we continue our mission digitally empowering lives through the art of puppetry.
You can find more info and sign up here: https://micheleepuppets.org/live-puppet-chats/
Share Your Story

Why Share Your Story? Our stories connect us as human beings. Each of you has a story to tell. Some parts of your story are uniquely yours while other parts are common to most of us. For example:

♦ How did you feel when you first suspected that your child had a disability or delay?
♦ When and how did you find out about your child’s disability or delay?
♦ How did your family become involved in Early Steps?
♦ How do you feel now concerning your child’s disability or delay?
♦ How overwhelmed do you feel with all the new terminology and programs you must learn about?

Sharing your story may be easy or it may be difficult. Just remember that you can share as much or as little as you like with others. Sharing your story can be a healing exercise that helps as you face your life experiences.

An excerpt adapted from “New Star” A Family’s Guide to Navigating Early Steps

If you would be interested in sharing your story to help other families, please reach out to Mary Cancel at Mary.cancel@flhealth.gov or text/call 321-292-1370

You may be featured in the newsletter or on social media!

A Moment of Magic Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that provides medically vulnerable children with creative programming, outlets, and support to foster imagination, friendship, and hope through our college-student volunteers. A Moment of Magic Foundation provides a variety of services to children with medically vulnerabilities all at no cost. Click below to see how to easily schedule a 30-minute video chat call with a favorite character or to view the schedule of Facebook Live interactions Wednesdays at 2PM with princesses. The directory makes note of which characters can speak Spanish or American Sign Language.

https://www.amomentofmagic.org/request-a-visit
The 22nd Annual Family Cafe will kick off on Friday, June 5th at 11 AM ET with our opening session, featuring The Governor's Summit on Disabilities. That will be followed by another live session at 2 PM ET on Friday, with the first of our keynote speakers, Zack Gottsagen, self-advocate and star of the film *The Peanut Butter Falcon*.

Our virtual Annual Family Cafe will continue through Friday, June 19th, with live sessions twice daily at 11 AM and 2 PM, with the exception of Sunday the 7th and Sunday the 14th. We've tried to include the most essential and popular topics in our agenda, including keynote addresses and roundtable sessions. To help maintain the interactive aspect of The Annual Family Cafe, all of the sessions will be moderated, so you'll be able to ask questions through Facebook comments and get answers from our presenters in real time.

Even though The 22nd Annual Family Cafe is happening online, we've still printed a full event program, with descriptions of every breakout session, including both those that will be part of the live virtual event and those that had been planned for the face-to-face event but didn't fit into the agenda. We're also inviting presenters that could not be included in the live virtual event to share their presentation materials with us, so we can make them available to you electronically after the virtual event.

If you registered for The 22nd Annual Family Cafe before May 1st, you should have already received a packet with the program, the Exhibitor Catalog, and other materials you would normally receive at the registration desk on-site in Orlando. If you haven't registered, it's not too late! Registration is still open at https://familycafe.net/the-22nd-annual-family-cafe/. And if you didn't receive your packet, send us an email at info@familycafe.net to let us know.

Remember, our virtual 22nd Annual Family Cafe will be happening on our Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/TheFamilyCafeFL/live_videos/ starting on Friday, June 5th.

This year is definitely going to be different, but we still think you'll end up getting a lot out of our first-ever virtual Annual Family Cafe. We can't wait to "see" you there!
Deliver the Dream helps families experiencing a serious illness or crisis in their lives by organizing monthly three-day, two-night retreats. Each family that attends has a family member - whether it’s a child or parent – living with an illness/crisis such as cancer, autism, a blood disorder, spina bifida or multiple sclerosis. Our program invites up to 15 families, free of charge, to one of our retreat locations so they can relax, enjoy time together, forge new friendships and create support groups with the other families dealing with the same illness/crisis.

**2020 Retreat Schedule Updated**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group Served</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Venue</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Application Deadline</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Families who have a child with an autism spectrum disorder or related disability.</td>
<td>August 21-23</td>
<td>Cerveny Conference Center</td>
<td>Live Oak, Florida</td>
<td>August 7th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sponsored by Pat Moran Family Foundation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Families who have a child with a genetic syndrome.</td>
<td>September TBD</td>
<td>The Fountains</td>
<td>Orlando, Florida</td>
<td>Deadline TBD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sponsored by Bluegreen Vacations</td>
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<td>Families who have experienced the death of a loved one.</td>
<td>October 9-11</td>
<td>FFA Leadership Training Center</td>
<td>Haines City, Florida</td>
<td>September 25th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Families who have a child with spina bifida or cerebral palsy.</td>
<td>November 6-8</td>
<td>FFA Leadership Training Center</td>
<td>Haines City, Florida</td>
<td>October 23rd</td>
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For the Deliver the Dream Family Retreat application

Email contact@deliverthedream.org

Call Now (888) OUR-DREAM
Space Coast Early Steps
C.A.T.C.H. of Brevard
Community Access to Child Health of Brevard, Inc.
Early Intervention Services for young children with special developmental needs

For more information or referral contact:
2565 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Viera, FL 32940
Ph: (321) 634-3688 Fax: (321) 504-0955
Funding provided by IDEA and Florida Dept. of Health

Grab and go meals and social distancing measures are in effect at Summer Break Spot sites.
Summer Break Spot is available all summer long for kids and teens 18 and under.
Click Link to find a location near you:
https://www.summerbreakspot.org/

Now Virtual!

Viera Pizza presents the 8th Annual Eat My Crust 5K Run/Walk –
Sunday, June 7th, 2020

We’ve made the decision to move the 9th annual race to become a virtual event.
We’re still very much intent on raising money for Viera High School’s Back the Track refurbishment project, we still want to help our Special Olympic Athletes and we want to make a positive impact in Brevard County's Early Steps program. To do all of that, we need YOU! For $25 you can register for the virtual race and receive the medal, custom face wrap and EMC sticker. All the details are here:
https://www.virtualstrides.com/product/eat-my-crust-2020/

SIGN UP UNDER “EARLY STEPPERS” TO JOIN OUR TEAM!

Mary Cancel
Family Resource Specialist/Liaison
Space Coast Early Steps
2565 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Viera, FL 32940
Mary.cancel@flhealth.gov
Cell (text or call): (321) 292-1370

http://www.facebook.com/SpaceCoastEarlySteps

The articles, opinions and information in this newsletter are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions or an endorsement by Space Coast Early Steps.