

Heart to Heart

A Newsletter for Parents of Children with Disabilities

“...that their hearts may be encouraged...” COLOSSIANS 2:2

Love. It is a word we use so often. We seldom pause to contemplate a definition. It is something we all crave, and in fact, something we all need. It is something we strive to do. While Christmas is the major holiday most often associated with love, Easter, which we celebrated not too long ago, is a holiday that portrays it beautifully. True love is sacrificial. Love is best defined as ‘the sacrifice of self for the benefit of others.’

Jesus Christ, holy God, submitted Himself to the Father’s plans and gave His life up for our benefit. The Creator of the world held nothing back for His creation. Jesus Christ is love in action. Love gives us the benefit of the most unfair trade of eternity: our sins for His righteousness. The Cross evidences that sacrifice. The Resurrection proclaims the victory of love. For as Paul says in Corinthians, love never fails.

Even with the perfect example of Christ, even with the proof of the victory love gives, our human hearts are incapable of such unselfish love. Our human nature responds according to what it receives most of the time. Given insult, we slash back at the character of another. Overlooked, we stomp on toes until we are recognized. Arrogance is our usual response to ignorance. Anger rises up to meet hate. Love does not respond in kind but only responds to benefit another. Love accepts the death of self so that the undeserving will be blessed. Learning to love like that is a gift God grants us. It is a process that endures throughout our lives.



by Billie Jo Youman

Our families are a starting point for learning to love. Children are intended to first learn love from their parents. Sadly, some parents have never learned to love themselves and those children especially flounder in learning to give and receive love. Even in the best family circumstances, parental understanding of love is imperfect and the lessons we give to our children, flawed. Our greatest gift of love is to lead our children to the Source of Love so that He can teach their hearts directly. God calls us to love more than just our families, though. In fact, His commands of love include our enemies.

Our enemies are a treasure trove of love lessons. In fact, when we embrace God’s call to love our enemies, we will find we owe a debt to our enemies for the lessons they offer. This debt will always move us to loving more! Christ’s example is of exactly this kind of love... while we were yet sinners, He died for us. God showed the extent of His love at the Cross and the power of His love in the Resurrection. We show the extent of our love for Jesus by sharing that unbounded love with those who do not deserve it... with those who reject us, despise us or even persecute us.

It has been said that we only love God as much as we love the one who annoys us the most. Loving hateful humanity is more costly and more draining than any natural capacity can sustain. Only a heart which has accepted the love Christ poured out at the Cross and received the power which raised Him from the dead can extend such love. Easter celebrates the gift of that love and power. Receive it and LOVE--starting with your family and never ending!

Think About it: *Future Planning 101*

“Thinking about the future can be intimidating and even overwhelming. You may be asking yourself, ‘What will happen to my loved one after I’m gone?’ The most important thing to realize is that it is never too early start planning for your family member’s future. There are resources available to help you work on a plan for the future.” [Lawrence Friedman, Attorney at Law. For further information on planning for the future, you can contact him at 908.704.1900.] The following checklist was shared in our PIP support group meeting, taken from *Options Magazine*. More will be shared on this topic in future newsletters.

- We’ve prepared a written plan to let others know what we want for the future.
- We’ve asked someone to serve as an advocate or guardian.
- We are familiar with and understand all of the government benefit programs available to us for basic care and supervision.
- We’ve created a Letter of Intent to insure our wishes will be carried out when we are gone.
- We’ve prepared written instructions for our disabled loved one’s final arrangements.
- Our current wills include provision for our disabled loved one with a disability.
- We have a Special Needs Trust to protect assets for our disabled loved one with a disability.
- We’ve informed relatives, friends and care providers about our Future Life Care Plan.
- We’ve reviewed our plan thoroughly in the last year.
- We feel we’ve done everything possible for our loved one’s secure future.

Resources:

Seminar on Health Care Advocacy Across the Lifespan: *What Parents of Children With Disabilities Need To Know.*

Topics include:

- * Maximizing and coordinating benefits
- * Accessing care and services- Medicaid/Medicare
- * New laws and autism treatment
- * Appealing health care decision

Presented by Hinkle, Fingles and Prior in conjunction with the Statewide Parent Advocacy Network (NJ)

May 5-Cherry Hill NJ

May 6-Paramus NJ

Contact: trainings@spannj.org
973.642.8100 x 116

NJ Self Directed Support Conference

May 22-Somerset NJ

Presented by the NJ Division of Developmental Disabilities

Contact: rwjms.umdnj.edu/boggcenter

Upcoming Events:



H*VMI will be holding two special nights at the following ballgames in NJ and PA. Purchase tickets at \$9.00 each through H*VMI and part of the ticket

sale will benefit the ministries of H*VMI including PIP and Handi*Camp. Contact us for details or visit our website.



Both of these events will have fireworks!

Camden Riversharks (NJ): July 31st

Lancaster Barnstormers (PA): August 20th



Family Picnic on **Saturday, August 28th** from 11AM-3PM at Roland Park in Akron [Lancaster County] PA.

All are welcome to attend!

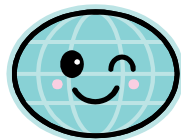
Contact Tara for more information or to RSVP at:

Phone: 717.859.4777

E-mail: tkelley@hvmi.org

Website: www.hvmi.org

JUST FOR FUN:



English or German?

The European Commission has just announced an agreement whereby English will be the official language of the European Union rather than German, which was the other possibility. As part of the negotiations, the British Government conceded that English spelling had some room for improvement and has accepted a 5-year phase-in plan that would become known as "Euro-English."

In the first year, "s" will replace the soft "c." Certainly, this will make the sivil servants jump with joy. The hard "c" will be dropped in favour of "k." This should klear up konfusion, and keyboards kan have one less letter. There will be growing publik enthusiasm in the sekond year when the troublesome "ph" will be replaced with "f." This will make words like fotograf 20% shorter. In the 3rd year, publik akseptanse of the new spelling kan be expekted to reach the stage where more komplikated changes are possible. Governments will enkourage the removal of double letters which have always ben a deterrent to akurate speleng. Also, al wil agre that the horibl mes of the silent "e" in the language is disgrasful and it should go away. By the 4th yer people wil be reseptiv to steps such as replasing "th" with "z" and "w" with "v." During ze fifz yer, ze unesesary "o" kan be dropd from vords kontaining "ou" and after ziz fifz yer, ve vil hav a reil sensi bl riten styl. Zer vil be no mor trubl or difikultis and evrivun vil find it ezi tu understand ech oza. Ze drem of a united urop vil finali kum tru. Und efter ze fifz yer, ve vil al be speking German like zey vunted in ze forst plas!

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You are welcome to contact **Heart to Heart** regarding articles, resources or information contained in this publication. We also welcome your thoughts, personal testimonies and resources that would be helpful or encouraging to other parents!

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