

FAMILY TIES of Massachusetts



Southeast Regional Support Groups

Support groups come in many sizes and forms, and their primary goal is the same. That goal is to provide comfort and/or assistance through the gathering of two or more individuals with a common concern. Support groups vary in their approach to fulfilling this goal. Some support groups strive to assist through education by hosting speakers on various issues. Others strive to provide comfort through the sharing of mutual experiences. It is important to find a support group that meets your specific needs. Keep in mind that just like a good pair of jeans, it may take several tries before you find a good fit. Once you find the right fit, a support group can become a comfortable and indispensable resource.

The support groups listed below are just a sampling of the groups available in the area. If you would like more information about a support group listed here, please call the specific support group contact. Groups do change, so we suggest that you call and confirm the meeting time and place before attending a meeting.

To update or add a new support group to this Regional Support Group list, please call Kathleen Amaral, Family TIES Southeast Regional Coordinator, at 508-984-0625 or 1-800-905-TIES (8437). THANK YOU!



FEDERATION FOR CHILDREN
WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Family TIES of Massachusetts is a project of the Federation for Children with Special Needs, funded by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Family Health & Nutrition, Division for Children & Youth with Special Health Needs.

FAMILY TIES

of Massachusetts



Together In Enhancing Support

1-800-905-TIES (8437)
www.massfamilyties.org

ADD / ADHD – ATTENTION DEFICIT DISORDER

CHADD of Rhode Island (Children and Adults with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder): CHADD works to improve the lives of individuals with Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder through education, advocacy and support. Meetings are held on the 1st Wednesday of each month from 7-9PM at Bradley Hospital, 1011 Veterans Memorial Parkway, East Providence. Check the website for specific dates and topics.

CONTACT: PO Box 8251, Cranston, RI; 401-369-0045

E-MAIL: rhode-island@chadd.net

WEBSITE: www.chadd.net or www.help4adhd.org

ADOPTION SUPPORT

Stoughton Area Parent Group: Meets the 1st Monday of each month from 6:30-8:30PM at the Stoughton Public Library, 84 Park Street, Stoughton.

CONTACT: Lauren Baeumler, 857-728-2157 or Ashley Pepoli, 617-587-1554

E-MAIL: lbaeumler@mspcc.org or aepoli@mspcc.org

WEBSITE: www.mspcc.org/aft

ALL DISABILITIES

Family Support Center: All Ages and family members welcome. 155 Webster Street, Unit D, Hanover. Please call for more information.

CONTACT: Mary Ann Mills-Lassiter, 781-878-4074, Ext.11

E-MAIL: familysupportcenter@bamsi.org

Parent Support Group, ARC of Bristol County:

- **Family Networking and Support Groups:** Families coming together and supporting each other has always been fundamental to The Arc's services. The Arc hosts both a Dads' Night Out and a Parent's Support Group on a monthly basis. Come enjoy dinner and conversation with others who walk the walk. Call for more information.
 - **CONTACT:** Cathryn Vasconcelos, 1-888-343-3301, Ext. 3104
 - **Brothers and Sisters Sibling Support Group (ages 8-12):** This is a group just for brothers and sisters of kids with special needs. The group is open to siblings ages 8-12. Activities have included games, sports, movies, arts & crafts, and conversations about having a brother or sister with special needs. Please call for more information.
- CONTACT:** Cathryn Vasconcelos, 1-888-343-3301, Ext. 3104



FEDERATION FOR CHILDREN
WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Family TIES of Massachusetts is a project of the Federation for Children with Special Needs, funded by and in collaboration with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Family Health & Nutrition, Division for Children & Youth with Special Health Needs.

- **Project Kids Connect (PKC):** The mission of Project Kids Connect is to facilitate lifelong relationships between children / teenagers with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities with other community members. One of the ways we do this is by supporting inclusion at various community activities and through the provision of ability awareness training. PKC also offers community based vacation club activities throughout the year. Families interested in having their child/teen included in a particular community activity or who wish further information on vacation activities are encouraged to call to find out more information.

CONTACT: Beth Bogus, 1-888-343-3301, Ext. 3118.

Parents Helping Parents: Offering peer support to parents with a 24-hour hotline and local parent groups around the state. In Southeast Region, current sites are in Brockton, Fall River, and New Bedford. Check the website for details.

CONTACT: 617-926-5008 or 800-632-8188

WEBSITE: www.parentshelpingparents.org

Grandparents Helping Grandparents- HYANNIS

Cape Cod Family Resource Center, Tuesdays (2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month) from 5:30-7:00PM.

CONTACT: Cynthia • 508-815-5143

Parents Helping Parents- RANDOLPH

Randolph Community Middle School, 225 High St. , Thursdays 6:00-7:30pm **CONTACT:** Ellie • 617-926-5008 x102

ASTHMA AND ALLERGIES

Asthma and Allergy Foundation: : Support group meetings, educational events and programs are run by AAFA New England and held at various sites including Newton-Wellesley Hospital, 2000 Washington Street, Newton. Sign up for e-mail announcements, check the website schedule, or call for dates and topics. **CONTACT:** AAFA New England, 781-444-7778

E-MAIL: aafane@aafane.org

WEBSITE: www.asthmaandallergies.org

Martha's Vineyard Educational Support Group: Meets periodically at Martha's Vineyard Family Center at 35 Greenwood Avenue, Vineyard Haven. Call for dates and times. 35 GREENwood avenue

CONTACT: Marney Toole, 508-693-7900 ext. 283 or 508-687-9182

E-MAIL: mtoole@mvcommunityservices.com **WEBSITE:** www.asthmaandallergies.org

Shoreside Asthma and Allergy Support Group: Meets monthly at Wingate – The Inn at Silver Lake, 17 Chipman Way, Kingston. Call for dates and times.

CONTACT: Elise Thomas, or Melissa Haas, 781-444-7778

E-MAIL: aafane@aafane.org

WEBSITE: www.asthmaandallergies.org

APRAXIA (oral and/or verbal)

Apraxia Parent Support Group: Check website for exact schedule; usually meets 4-5 times a year on weekends, Burlington Public Library, Burlington.

CONTACT: Caroline

E-MAIL: C2cats@rcn.com

LISTSERV: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NE_Apraxia

ASPERGER SYNDROME

Asperger's Association of New England: AANE fosters awareness, respect, acceptance, and support for individuals with AS and related conditions and their families. Following is a list of the many groups coordinated for various audiences.

Regional Office: 51 Water Street, Suite 206, Watertown

CONTACT: 617-393-3824

E-MAIL: info@aane.org or Remy.Springer@aane.org

WEBSITE: http://www.aane.org/aane_services/support_social_groups_adults.html

- Adults with AS Social Group Watertown, Amherst, Framingham, and more: Call for schedule of monthly events or to find a social group near you
CONTACT: Remy Springer, 617-393-3824, Ext. 44
E-MAIL: Remy.Springer@aane.org
- Grandparents Support Group: Meetings held bi-weekly on Tuesday mornings from 10-11:30 AM at AANE, 51 Water Street, Watertown.
CONTACT: Marcia Robinson, 617-393-3824
- Parents of Adults and Older Teens Support Group, East Providence, RI: Meets monthly on the 2nd Monday from 6:30-8PM in the Pine Room/Children's Cafeteria, Bradley Hospital. Call for details.
CONTACT: Toby Liebowitz, 401-490-0574
E-MAIL: tobyane@gmail.com
- Parents of Elementary and Middle School Children: Join an online discussion group.
CONTACT: Stephanie Loo
E-MAIL: Stephanie.Loo@aane.org
- Parents of Teens with AS: Meets from 7:00-8:30PM. Please see dates at www.aane.org. Please call ahead in the event that the group is full.
CONTACT: 617-393-3824, Ext. 10
- Parents of Teens/Young Adults: Join an online discussion group.
CONTACT: Stephanie Loo, 617-393-3824
E-MAIL: Stephanie.Loo@aane.org

- *Parents of Tween Girls, Watertown, MA:* This group meets four Sundays of the year at the AANE office in Watertown from 2:30-4PM. Call or check the website for more information.
CONTACT: 617-393-3824, Ext. 10

AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS / PDD

Community Autism Resources, Inc.: CAR provides outreach and support to families living with ASD in the Southeast. They also offer workshops, a lending library, and educational consultation. Call for more information.

Office Location: 2315 GAR Highway, Swansea

CONTACT: Jan Randall, 508-379-0371, Ext. 16 or 1-800-588-9239, Ext. 16

WEBSITE: www.community-autism-resources.com

Autism Parent/Caregiver Support Group: Meetings are organized through Kennedy Donovan Center. For details, please e-mail.

CONTACT: Juliane Dillon

EMAIL: jdillon@kdc.org

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT

Compassionate Friends: Self-help support groups for parents who have suffered the death of a child of any age and from any cause. Southeast Region Chapters are located in Bourne, Harwich, and Providence, RI. Call for local chapter meeting information.

National Office: PO Box 3696, Oak Brook, IL 60522-3696

CONTACT: 877-969-0010 (toll-free); Fax 630-990-0246

E-MAIL: nationaloffice@compassionatefriends.org

WEBSITE: www.compassionatefriends.org

Cranberry Hospice and Palliative Care & Fragile Footprints Pediatric Palliative Care Program Support Groups: Offering support groups for children, teens, and adults who are coping with serious illness and/or who are coping with a death-related loss. Groups meet in Kingston and Plymouth.

CONTACT: Kathleen McAleer, LICSW, 508-746-0215

E-MAIL: kmcaleer@jordanhospital.org

Loss of a Child: Hope Floats Healing and Wellness Center in Kingston holds 2 parent support groups for the loss of a child, one is not age specific and the other, Perinatal/Infant/Toddler Loss. Call for dates and times.

CONTACT: Kathleen McAleer, 508-746-0215

E-MAIL: kmcaleer@jordanhospital.org

Overdose Loss: Hope Floats Healing and Wellness Center in Kingston holds a support group for parents who are coping with the overdose death of a child at any age. This is a peer led group. Call for dates and times.

CONTACT: Denise Brack, 781-936-8068

E-MAIL: denise@hopefloatswellness.com

Suicide Loss: This group meets on an ongoing basis, and leaders have specialized training and experience assisting those facing the unique challenges of coping with a death by suicide. Call for more information.

CONTACT: Kathleen McAleer, 508-746-0215 or Denise Brack, 781-936-8068

E-MAIL: kmcaleer@jordanhospital.org or denise@hopefloatswellness.com

Mike's Club, Hope Floats Healing and Wellness Center, Kingston:

This program is designed for children and parenting adults dealing with death related loss. Pizza and drinks provided. Call for more information.

CONTACT: Kathleen McAleer, 508-746-0215 (Space is limited.)

E-MAIL: kmcaleer@jordanhospital.org

Tuesdays on the Farm, Duxbury: We offer this groups for kids, teens, and families coping with death-related loss. Kids and teens can look forward to discussion and activities, including painting, pet therapy, games, music, drumming, poetry/creative writing, and more. The adult group is primarily a discussion group, focusing on parenting grieving children. Pizza and drinks are provided. Call for more information.

CONTACT: Kathleen McAleer, 508-746-0215

E-MAIL: kmcaleer@jordanhospital.org

BRAIN INJURY

Boston Acquired Brain Injury Support Group (BABIS): Support group provides socialization and education for people with acquired brain injury, their friends and family. Usually meets on the 1st Saturday of each month from 10 am to Noon at the Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital, 300 First Avenue, Charlestown Navy Yard in Conference Rooms A and B on the first floor. If the first Saturday falls on a holiday weekend, the BABIS Support Group will meet on the second Saturday. Family & affected individuals are invited. There is also a Family/Caregiver support group which meets at the same time, starting around 10:45-noon, facilitated by a Social Worker. Check the website for more details.

CONTACT: Sally Johnson, 617-952-6254 **E-MAIL:** sejohnson@partners.org **WEBSITE:** www.babis.info

Brain Injury Association of Massachusetts: Offers information and resources to survivors, families, and the professionals who work with them; runs programs to prevent brain injuries and to educate the public; and provides over 35 support groups across the state. For information about support groups or for information and resources, check the website or call the Southeast office.

Brain Injury Helpline: 800-242-0030

Office Address: 3119 Cranberry Highway, Suite 5 F, East Wareham

CONTACT: 508-743-0333

E-MAIL: biamase@biama.org

WEBSITE: www.biama.org

CROHN'S DISEASE AND COLITIS

Boston Support Group: This group meets monthly on the 2nd Wednesday from 6:30-7:30PM at Mass. General Hospital, Yawkey Building, Room 4-4820, 55 Fruit Street, Boston.

For details, call or visit: www.cdfa.org

CONTACT: Melissa Murphy, 781-449-0324

E-MAIL: mmurphy@cdfa.org

Providence Pediatric Support Group: Meets simultaneously with Parent Support Group. Usually meets monthly on Thursdays from 6-7:30PM at the Hasbro Children's Hospital, 593 Eddy Street, Providence. Call for details and to RSVP.

CONTACTS: Karen Swartz, CCLS, 401-444-5613

Providence Support Group: Support group for parents of Children with IBD. Usually meets monthly on Thursdays from 6-7:30PM at the Hasbro Children's Hospital, 593 Eddy Street, Providence. Meetings only occur during the schoolyear. Call the leaders for details and to RSVP.

CONTACT: Karen Swartz, CCLS, 401-444-5613

EMAIL: kswartz@lifespan.org

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Family Support and Advocacy Resource Center: Offers parent support groups and parent networking to families of children with developmental disabilities in the Greater New Bedford area. Call for information.

CONTACT: Addie Perry, 508-996-8551

Kennedy Donovan Center- Cape Cod: Periodic support groups and educational events scheduled in the Region. Please contact KDC for more information. Location is subject to change and groups are sometimes put on hold.

CONTACT: Juliane Dillon, 508-385-6019, ext. 125

E-MAIL: jdillon@kdc.org

- Dennisport Area Parent/Caregiver Support GroupMashpee Mom/Caregiver Support Group: Meets at the Mashpee Public Library. Please call for more information.
- Sandwich Area Parent/Caregiver Support Group: Meets at Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital, 1st Floor, Conference Room. Please call for more information
- Eastham Area Parent/Caregiver Support Group: Meets at the Eastham Senior Center, Please call for more information.

DOWN SYNDROME

D.A.D.S (Dads Appreciating Down Syndrome): Action Group and Network of Fathers of children with Down Syndrome. Statewide

CONTACT: Jeff Roback, 339-788-1460

WEBSITE: www.dadsmass.org

Families Supporting Families Attleboro Area : Moms night out the last Thursday of each month with occasional family gatherings and playdates

CONTACT: Shannon Paul 508-695-4930

Massachusetts Down Syndrome Congress (MDSC): MDSC works to enhance the lives of individuals with Down syndrome through the education and support of people with Down syndrome, their families, friends, teachers, and the community as a whole. Call for more information.

Statewide Office: 20 Burlington Mall Road, Suite 261, Burlington

CONTACT: 1-800-664-MDSC, 781-221-0024

E-MAIL: mdsc@mdsc.org

WEBSITE: www.mdsc.org

- **Attleboro Area Play/Support Group**: Parents meet on the last Thursday of the month periodically at 7PM, and a play date is also arranged. Call for more information
CONTACT: Shannon Paul, 508-695-4930
E-MAIL: shannonpaul28@gmail.com
- **Brockton Area EI Support at BAMSI**: Please call for more information. The group meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month from 5-6:30PM.
CONTACT: Susan Stratoti, 508-326-9872
E-MAIL: ssratoti@bamsi.org
- **Brockton Area EI Support at South Bay EI**: Please call for more information.
CONTACT: Rachel Thomas, 781-249-0629
E-MAIL: rthomas2121@hotmail.com
- **New Bedford**: Parent support group. Parents of children with all disabilities welcomed. Meets at the Arc of Greater New Bedford. Please call for more details.
CONTACT: Addie Perry, 508-996-8551
-

- **Plymouth Area:** For parent support group info, call The Arc of Greater Plymouth.
CONTACT: 508-732-9292 or 774-773-9190
E-MAIL: info@thearcofpg.com
- **South Shore Parents, Cohasset:** Parents and siblings of adults ages 35+ are welcome. Meetings occur occasionally in the Scituate area.
CONTACT: Taffy Nothnagle, 781-383-0895 or Ann Sheele, 781-545-9558
E-MAIL: nothnagle@comcast.net or annsheele@verizon.net
- **South Shore Parents, Braintree:** Please call.
CONTACT: Jeanne Zarrella, 781-789-6035
E-MAIL: jzarrella824@gmail.com
- **Rhode Island:** Please contact the Down Syndrome Society of Rhode Island.
CONTACT: 401-463-5751
WEBSITE: www.dssri.org

T.H.R.E.A.D.S (Together Helping Raise, Educate, and Advocate for Down Syndrome): Online support group.
CONTACT: Lauren Cogswell, 508-947-8497
E-MAIL: wingnut19741@gmail.com or Pamela.Caffrey@comcast.net
WEBSITE: http://groups.yahoo.com/groups/T-H-R-E-A-D-S

FOOD ALLERGY: See ASTHMA AND ALLERGY

FOSTER CARE PARENTS SUPPORT GROUP

Parent Support Group: Meets monthly at 141 Park Street in Attleboro. Contact the ARC of Bristol County for more information.
CONTACT: Kim Robin, 508-226-1445, Ext. 3103

GRANDPARENTS RAISING GRANDCHILDREN

G.R.E.A.T: Meets at Community Care Services/JRI, 70 Main Street, 2nd Floor, Taunton, on the last Wednesday of every month at 10 AM.
CONTACT: Colleen Pritoni, 617-748-2454
EMAIL: colleen.pritoni@state.ma.us
WEBSITE: www.massgrg.com

Grandparents Support Group: Support group for grandparents of children with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Please e-mail for more information about future locations and times.

CONTACT: Juliane Dillon
EMAIL: jdillon@kdc.org

HOMESCHOOLING FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Attleboro Area Homeschooling Group: Monthly parent meetings on the 4th Tuesday of the month (September through May) at 7PM at the Attleboro Public Library. Park days, fieldtrips, classes, book groups, Cub Scouts/Boy Scouts.

WEBSITE:

EMAIL: AttleboroAreaHomeschoolers-owner@yahoogroups.com

DISCUSSION LIST: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/AttleboroAreaHomeschoolers/>

Berkley Area Homeschoolers: An informally organized inclusive group serving Berkley and surrounding areas (Taunton, Berkley, Middleboro, Somerset, etc). Classes, field trips, play dates, and informal get-togethers are organized through our Yahoo group.

CONTACT: Pam Bolton **E-MAIL:** boltonpamela@yahoo.com **YAHOO GROUP:**

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BerkleyAreaHSers/>

Bridgewater Area Freelance Learners: Freelance Learners is a homeschool support group serving Bridgewater and the surrounding towns. This is a forum for any homeschool family to post ideas, events, trips, classes, obtain and sell curricula, collaborate on projects, etc., and to ask questions and share thoughts.

CONTACT: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FREELANCELEARNERS/>

National Home Education Research Institute: Provides online resources and support for parents who are homeschooling their children with special needs.

WEBSITE: <http://www.nheri.org/>

South-Central MA L.E.A.F. Home Learners Network: LEAF or "Learning Enrichment Active Partnership" is an inclusive, participant-directed network that welcomes all homeschool families in south-central Massachusetts, northern Rhode Island, and northeastern Connecticut. The main purpose of LEAF is to give families the opportunity to share resources and talents, field trips and events, learning enrichment opportunities, and overall fellowship with others, in a variety of group settings. A Yahoo group and online calendar of events easily connect network families. For more information, visit the website.

WEBSITE: <http://learninks.org/leaf>

EMAIL: LEAF-Network-owner@yahoogroups.com

LISTSERV: <https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/LEAF-Network/info>

HYDROCEPHALUS

Hydrocephalus Association Boston Community Network: This group provides support, education, and empowerment through community for individuals and families impacted by hydrocephalus. Meetings are typically held at Children's Hospital, 9 Hope Avenue, Waltham. Call for details.

CONTACT: Jennifer Miles or Sue Wieggers

EMAIL: BostonCommunity@hydroassoc.org

LIMB DIFFERENCE

Helping Hands Foundation: A national support group made up of parents who have children with upper limb differences and who are concerned with the challenges facing the child and the entire family. The Massachusetts Chapter is located in Medfield. There are family gatherings that take place four times a year (2 on the east coast and 2 on the west coast).

E-MAIL: info@helpinghandsgroup.org

WEBSITE: www.helpinghandsgroup.org

LYME DISEASE

Brewster Lyme Disease Support Group: A support group for those affected by Lyme Disease. Meets the third Sunday of the month from 3 to 4:30 PM at Cape Cod Covenant Church, 11 Satucket Road, West Brewster.

E-MAIL: lfree125@comcast.net

WEBSITE: www.lymeticks.org

Bourne Lyme Disease Support Group: A support group for those affected by Lyme Disease. Meets the first Monday of every month from 12:30-2PM at Bourne Veterans Memorial Community Center, 239 Main Street, Buzzards Bay.

E-MAIL: lfree125@comcast.net

WEBSITE: www.lymeticks.org

Orleans Lyme Disease Support Group: A support group for those affected by Lyme Disease. Meets the second Tuesday of every month from 3-4:30PM at Spaulding Orleans Outpatient Center, 65 Old Colony Way, Orleans.

E-MAIL: lfree125@comcast.net

WEBSITE: www.lymeticks.org

South Shore Lyme Support: A support for those affected by Lyme Disease. Meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month at Whitman Public Library, from 6:30-8 PM, 100 Webster Street, Whitman.

CONTACT: Melissa or Helen

E-MAIL: southshorelyme@gmail.com

WEBSITE: www.lymenet.org

MEDICAL & GENETIC CONDITIONS

Arthrogryposis Multiplex Congenita Online Support Group: Online Support group with links to numerous resources.

WEBSITE: www.amcsupport.org

Beckwith-Wiedemann Children's Foundation: Provides information, peer support, and a parent forum, as well as national conference information.

WEBSITE: <http://www.beckwithwiedemann.org/#ContactUs>

Celiac Support Group of Central MA: Meets at the Fallon Clinic Nutrition Department, 630 Plantation Street, Worcester. Open to all; call for more information.

CONTACT: 508-852-6175

Chromosome 22 Disorders: Provides information, message board, chat room, and listserv, as well as information about the biannual national conference.

National Chromosome 22 Central Office: Murney Rinholm, 7108 Partinwood Drive, Fuquay-Varina, NC 27526

CONTACT: Murney Rinholm, 919-567-8167

E-MAIL: murney.rinholm@c22c.org or usinfo@c22c.org

WEBSITE: www.c22c.org

Eosinophilic Gastrointestinal Disorders Support Group: Parent support and opportunities to meet and share for young adults and adults affected by EGID. Educational speakers arranged for monthly meetings, held on the 1st Monday at Children's Hospital Lexington, 482 Bedford Street from 7-9PM. Call for meeting details and RSVP.

CONTACT: Dianna Queheillalt

E-MAIL: dianna@EGIDBoston.org

WEBSITE: www.EGIDBoston.org

Graves Disease and Thyroid Foundation: Online support group and Bulletin Board.

CONTACT: 877-643-3123

E-MAIL: info@ngdf.org

WEBSITE: www.gdatf.org

Massachusetts Support Group for Osteogenesis Imperfecta: Meets periodically in Carver and hosts annual events. Call for more information.

CONTACT: Cheryl Manduca, 508-292-0562

MitoAction Support Groups: MitoAction hosts weekly support groups for the mitochondrial disease community. Phone support groups include sessions specific to newly diagnosed patients; parents; and adult patients and spouses. MitoAction also offers quarterly Autism and Mito calls.

WEBSITE: www.mitoaction.org/news-and-events

Muscular Dystrophy Parent Support Group: New groups are currently being formed through the state, through the efforts of the MDA Office, 33 Lyman Street, Westborough. Call for more information or visit the website, www.mda.org

CONTACT: 508-898-3375

E-MAIL: worcester@mdausa.org

WEBSITE: www.mda.org/office/massachusetts

PANDAS (Pediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorders Associated with Streptococcus):

Parents are welcome to join us for our monthly meetings, held on the 2nd Monday of the month from 6-8PM at Whitman Public Library's Community Room. Please call or e-mail before meeting. The dates and times are subject to change.

CONTACT: Lisa Grisolia, 781-858-5667

E-MAIL: pandasgroup@yahoo.com

WEBSITE: www.pandasfoundation.org

Prader-Willi Syndrome Association of New England: Provides information and support, quarterly parent support groups, family recreation events, conferences every other year, parent to parent support, and informational newsletter. Call for details.

CONTACT: Mary Raymond, 978-207-1185

E-MAIL: murphyno7@aol.com

WEBSITE: <http://www.pwsausa.org/new-england-chapter/>

Rett Syndrome Support Group: Has events and programs available throughout the year. Check the website for upcoming events or call for more information.

CONTACT: Irene Gladstone, 781-444-8164

WEBSITE: rettsyndromemass.org

Sanfilippo Mothers Group: Group meetings are currently put on hold, but individual counseling is still available. Call for details about meeting format and location. All families are welcome.

CONTACT: Mary-Frances, 781-366-5300

EMAIL: mfgcgc@yahoo.com

Scleroderma Syndrome Support Group: Worcester Area Group meets monthly on a Sunday at 2PM at 640 Lincoln Street, Worcester. Please call for specific dates.

CONTACT: Nancy Velleco, 508-869-2997

Small for Gestational Age/Russell Silver Syndrome: MAGIC FOUNDATION offers online support for families of kids affected with Russell Silver Syndrome. Go to Yahoo, click on GROUPS and search for "rss-support," and follow the instructions to join.

TO SUBSCRIBE: RSS-Support-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

WEBSITE: www.magicfoundation.org

Spina Bifida Association of Greater New England: The Spina Bifida Association serves individuals living with Spina Bifida along with their families and caregivers located in MA, NH, VT, and ME. Programs and services have included Education Days, Financial Benefits, Social Events, Get Active, and Outreach with newsletters social media.
CONTACT: 888-479-1900

TrachCare Inc.: Statewide support for parents of children of all ages who have a tracheostomy. Telephone support and occasional group meetings are available.
E-MAIL: info@trachcare.org
WEBSITE: www.trachcare.org

Tuberous Sclerosis Alliance of New England: Offers resources and referrals to help individuals living with Tuberous Sclerosis and their families. Call for meeting details.
CONTACT: Allyson D'Amario, Karin Sullivan, or Marlo Schepper **E-MAIL:** mrsngumby56@comcast.net or allyson.damario@gmail.com or marloschepper@gmail.com
WEBSITE: <http://www.tsalliance.org/pages.aspx?content=100>

Turner Syndrome Society of America: Peer- or professional-led groups, offering resources, emotional support, and social interaction to people with Turner Syndrome.
CONTACT: Patricia Collins
E-MAIL: ptkccollins@gmail.com
WEBSITE: www.turnersyndrome.org

MENTAL HEALTH

National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI): NAMI offers supports to individuals and their families who are living with severe mental illness. Call for details and local affiliates.

NAMI MASSACHUSETTS: 529 Main Street #1M17, Boston, MA 02129

CONTACT: 617-580-8541 or 800-380-9085 (*not available evenings, weekends, holidays*)

E-MAIL: namimass@aol.com

WEBSITE: www.namimass.org

- **NAMI Cape Cod and the Islands:**

Office Address: 5 Mark Lane, Hyannis, 508-778-4277

E-MAIL: info@namicapecod.org

WEBSITE: <http://www.namicapecod.org/>

Family Support Group for Family and Friends of People with Mental Illnesses,

Barnstable: Meets monthly on the 3rd Tuesday from 7-8:30PM at the St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 3055 Main Street (Rt. 6A). **CONTACT:** 508-778-4277

Family Support Group for Family and Friends of People with Mental Illnesses, East

Harwich: Meets monthly on the 1st Thursday of the month at 7PM at St. Peter's Lutheran Church, 310 Route 137, ¼ mile south of Rt. 6 Exit 11. **CONTACT:** 508-778-4277

Family Support Group for Caregivers, Martha's Vineyard: Meets monthly on the 1st Sunday from 6-7:30PM at Daybreak Clubhouse, 457B State Road, Tisbury.
CONTACT: 508-693-5872

Family Support Group for Caregivers, Martha's Vineyard Group 2: Meets monthly on the 3rd Wednesday from 6:30-8PM at Martha's Vineyard Hospital Road, Oak Bluffs.
CONTACT: 508-627-5249 or darylknightr@verizon.net

Support Group for Caregivers, Nantucket: Meets monthly on the 2nd Tuesday from 7-8:30PM at the Sherburne Commons, 40 Sherburne Commons Drive.
CONTACT: Ruth, 508-221-3437 or ruthblount7@gmail.com

Support Group for Caregivers, Sandwich: Meets monthly on the 2nd Tuesday from 7-8:30PM at the Lighthouse Christian Fellowship, 6 Merchants Road, Building B.
CONTACT: LeRoy Spaniol, 508-778-4277

- **NAMI Fall River:** Serves Berkley, Bridgewater, Dighton, Easton, Lakeville, Middleboro, Norton, Raynham, Rehoboth, Seekonk, Taunton, and West Bridgewater. **Office Contact:**
Office Address: PO Box 9096, Fall River, 508-678-2584
E-MAIL: namifallriver@comcast.net
WEBSITE: www.namigreaterfallriver.org

Family Support for Caregivers: Meets on the 3rd Wednesday of every month from 7-8:30PM at the First Baptist Church, 228 North Main Street, Fall River.
CONTACT: Brenda Venice, 508-678-2584

- **NAMI Plymouth:** Serves Carver, Duxbury, Halifax, Hanover, Hanson, Kingston, Marshfield, Pembroke, Plymouth, Plympton and Scituate.
Office Address: PO Box 1398, Marshfield
HELPLINE: 781-829-7215

Family Support for Caregivers meet weekly on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month from 7-8:30PM at the Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital Sgarzi Conference Room, Sandwich Street, Plymouth.
CONTACT: Nancy Leonard, bantrydux@aol.com; Kathleen, kconside@att.net

Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD): For everyone who has a relative with OCD.

CONTACT: Carla Kennedy

EMAIL: Carla@ocd-therapy.net

- **Mansfield Support Group:** Please call for information
CONTACT: Cathy Hickey- 617-241-0330
E-MAIL: chickey@fcsn.org
- **Falmouth Support Group:** Meets on the first Thursday of the month at 7 PM/
CONTACT: 508-457-0440
- **Hyannis:** Meets on the third Wednesday of the month at 6:30 PM at Hyannis Youth and Community Center- 141 Bassett Lane, Hyannis.
CONTACT: Denise Egan-Stack, 617-872-0935

Parents Helping Parents: Parents who are feeling overwhelmed, isolated, or stressed and would like free, confidential, and anonymous support from other parents with similar concerns may contact PHP. Support groups are held in Hyannis and Randolph. Call for information about meeting locations, days and times.

CONTACT: PHP hotline, 1-800-882-1250 or 617-926-5008

WEBSITE: www.parentshelpingparents.org

Parent Information Network (PIN): PIN supports parents who have children with mental health, emotional and/or behavioral needs. PIN offers a Resource Center, phone support, and free and confidential support groups at locations across the Southeast.

PIN Office: 47 East Grove Street, Middleboro

CONTACT: 508-947-8779

E-MAIL: pin@bamsi.org

WEBSITE: <http://pin.bamsi.org/>

Support Groups through PAL (Parent Advocacy League)

- **Brockton:** Parent Support- Meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month from 6-8PM at 444 Belmont Street, Brockton.
CONTACT: Tabitha West , 508-947-8779
E-MAIL: brocktonpin@bamsi.org or pin@bamsi.org
- **CAPE AREA:** Parents of Transition Age Youth- Meets monthly on the 3rd Wednesday from 3:30-5PM at Stop & Shop Conference Room, 65 Independence Drive, Hyannis
CONTACT: Tresa Salters, 508-947-8779, Ext. 22
E-MAIL: ptaypin@bamsi.org or pin@bamsi.org
- **FALL RIVER:** Parent Support, United Neighbors of Fall River meets monthly on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays from 6-8PM at 209 Bedford Street, Fall River.
CONTACT: Courtney Monte, 508-947-8779
E-MAIL: fallriverpin@bamsi.org or pin@bamsi.org
- **FALMOUTH:** Parent Support on 1st Wednesday of each month from 6:30-8:30 PM at Falmouth Library, 300 Main Street, Falmouth.
CONTACT: Kim Eldridge, 508-947-8779
E-MAIL: capepin@bamsi.org or pin@bamsi.org
- **GREATER NEW BEDFORD:** Parent Support meets on the 4th Thursday of the month from 5 -7PM at Children's Connection on 899 Pleasant Street, New Bedford; and on the 1st Wednesday of the month from 10AM-Noon at the Department of Mental Health, 888 Purchase Street, New Bedford.
CONTACT: Amy McDevitt, 508-947-8779
E-MAIL: newbedfordpin@bamsi.org or pin@bamsi.org
- **HYANNIS:** Parent Support Group. Meets on the 1st Friday of each month; 10-11:30 AM.
CONTACT: Kim Eldridge, 508-947-8779
E-MAIL: capepin@bamsi.org or pin@bamsi.org
- **KINGSTON:** Meets monthly on the 3rd Thursday from 10:30AM-12:30PM. Call for details.

CONTACT: Heather Connor, 508-947-8779

- **MIDDLEBORO DAD'S GROUP:** Parent Support Group meets monthly on the 2nd Saturday of the month from 5-7 PM. Call for more information.

CONTACT: Chris Bean, 781-626-2209 or 508-947-8779

- **MIDDLEBORO:** Parents and Caregivers of Transition Age Youth meets monthly on the 4th Wednesday from 10-11:30AM and the 3rd Wednesday from 6:30-8:30PM at the office of Parent Information Network, 47 East Grove Street, Middleboro

CONTACT: Tresa Salters, 508-947-8779

E-MAIL: ptaypin@bamsi.org or pin@bamsi.org

- **MIDDLEBORO:** Parent Support Group meets monthly on the 1st Wednesday from 6-7:30 PM. Call for more information.

CONTACT: 508-947-8779

- **NORTON:** Special Needs Parent Support Group meets monthly on the 3rd Wednesday from 6-7:30 PM.

CONTACT: Lindsay Chretien, 508-947-8779, Ext. 214

- **ORLEANS:** Coffee Group meets monthly on the 1st Tuesday from 10-11:30 AM.

CONTACT: Kim Eldridge, 508-947-8779

E-MAIL: capepin@bamsi.org or pin@bamsi.org

=

- **SAGAMORE:** Coffee Group. Meets last Tuesday of each month from 10-11:30AM.

CONTACT: Kim Eldridge, 508-947-8779 **E-MAIL:** capepin@bamsi.org or pin@bamsi.org

- **WAREHAM:** Parent Support Group meets monthly on the 2nd and 4th Thursday from 9:30-11AM.

CONTACT: Amy McDevitt, 508-947-8779

- **WEYMOUTH:** Meets on Fridays from 10AM-Noon at Tufts Library, 46 Broad Street, Weymouth.

CONTACT: Betty Wagner, 617-983-5803

E-MAIL: bwagner@mspcc.org

For more information and locations, please call PIN at 508-947-8779, Ext. 210 or email: pin@bamsi.org.

SIBLING SUPPORT

SIBSHOPS: At Sibshops, brothers and sisters have an opportunity to meet other children who know what it is like to have a sibling with special needs. Pre-registration is required.

Greater Attleboro: Brothers and Sisters Sibling Support Group (ages 7-12) are held every other Monday from 4-5PM at the Attleboro office. Children meet for a fun-filled “special” time. Call ARC of Bristol County for more information.

CONTACT: Amanda Masi at ARC of Bristol County, 508-226-1445, Ext. 3130

Greater Brockton: Sibshops are held periodically at The Bridge Center, 470 Pine Street, Bridgewater. Call for the Brockton Area ARC for more information.

CONTACT: Kathy Kerwin at BAARC, 508-697-7557, Ext. 20

Greater Plymouth Area: Sibshops are periodically held at the Arc of Greater Plymouth. Call for more information.

CONTACT: ARC of Greater Plymouth, 508-732-9292 , Ext. 117 or KristineM@thearcofpg.org

Kennedy Donovan –Cape Cod: Sibshops meet regularly. Location is subject to change so please call for more information.

CONTACT: Laura Griswold, 508-385-6019

EMAIL: FamilySupportCenterCapeCod@kdc.org

Nantucket Island (Nantucket Autism Resource Center): Sibling support groups offer independence and a safe place to discuss with peers the joys and tribulations of having a sibling with challenges. Through cooking, music, art and experiential challenges, the children learn coping skills, social skills, team building, healthy interactions with their sibling and more. The group is open to siblings of children with any special need, not limited to Autism. Call or email for more info.

CONTACT: 888-288-4762 **E-MAIL:** khoryn@autismspeaks.org

TOURETTE SYNDROME

Tourette Syndrome Association: TSA offers resources and referrals to help individuals living with Tourette Syndrome and their families. Massachusetts chapter offers online and over the phone support. If parents wish to meet, the contact person can arrange a traditional support meeting. Chapter address: 12 Long Drive, Westborough, MA.

E-MAIL: jnedelman@tsa-ma.org

WEBSITE: <http://www.tsa-ma.org/>

HAITIAN FAMILIES

Haitian Parents: Avez-vous un enfant avec des handicapes mentales? Voulez-vous avoir des informations qui peuvent vous aider a aider votre enfant? Aimeriez-vous de parler avec d'autres parents qui ont des enfants avec des handicapes mentales? Rejoindre pour un petit dejeneur a Brockton Area Arc, chaque premier vendredi du mois a 10:30 am. 1250 West Chestnut Street, Brockton. Recontez d'autres parents pour partager des experiences et trouver de support.

CONTACT: Appelez Eleonor Jean-Pierre pour plus d'information: 508-583-8030, Ext. 311

E-MAIL: familysupport@brocktonarc.net

PORTUGUESE-SPEAKING FAMILIES

Todas as Necessidades Especiais (Support Group for Portuguese-Speaking Individuals / Grupode Apoio às Pessoas que Falam Português): Reunioes mensais. Telfonar para saber os dias: Federação para Crianças com Necessidades Especiais, The Schrafft Center, 529 Main Street, Suite 1M7, Boston. (Monthly meetings; call for schedule.)

CONTACT: Ruth Diaz, 617-236-7210 **EMAIL:** rdiaz@fcsn.org

SPANISH-SPEAKING FAMILIES

Familias Latinas Unidas por el Síndrome de Down: Please call for information.

CONTACT: Patria Espinal, 617-953-6589

Family Connections Hispanic Family Group: Support for Hispanic family members of individuals with developmental disabilities. Meetings are generally held at the Nemasket Group, 56 Bridge Street, Fairhaven. Call for days and times.

CONTACT: Jorge Pagan or Gloria Villalobo at Family Connections, 508-999-4436