

Parent Resource Newsletter

January / February 2014

Like Us on Facebook

If you have a good experience at Children's Therapy, we invite you to [let others know](#) with your comments.



Need Help Navigating the New Insurance System for your Autistic Child? Get Autism Insurance Support

The Washington State Legislature has provided funding to Washington Autism Alliance & Advocacy (WAAA) to help individuals or families with children who experience autism to navigate health insurance coverage as Washington state transitions to federal health reform. If treatments are denied or unreasonably capped, families can contact a WAAA advocate to help with insurance appeals: call **425.894.7231**, [email](#) or [get info](#) about the Washington Autism family services team members serving your area.



Talking to New Friends through New Online Social Network for Teens with Chronic & Life Threatening Conditions: Starbright World, Powered by Starlight Children's Foundation

Starbright World is the first-ever online social network for teens with chronic and life-threatening medical conditions. Starbright World is for teens/young adults ages 13 to 20. Medical conditions that require frequent hospital stays, ongoing procedures or long-term treatments qualify for Starbright World membership. All site content is moderated by trained adults at all times. If interested, please [register online](#).



Preparing Spanish-speaking Children for Kindergarten: FIESTAS DE ALFABETIZACION TEMPRANA EN Español— Early Literacy Parties in Spanish



The "Fiestas" are King County Library-sponsored workshops designed for Spanish-speaking families to prepare their children for Kindergarten. In each of the "Fiestas" we will provide families with information about Early Literacy, free books in Spanish, craft materials, snacks, beverages and the opportunity to socialize with other Spanish speaking families. For more information, please

contact Teresa Luengo Cid, Coordinator for the Early Literacy Parties in Spanish by phone at **425.369.3443** or [email](#). More information is available at the [King County Library website](#).

Cool Chill Time for the Whole Family at the Children's Therapy Holiday Open House—Thanks to Everyone who Joined Us!

It was a holiday blast for patients and families of Children's Therapy as they attended the Holiday Open House December 9 at VMC's Medical Arts Center. In addition to photos with Santa, families enjoyed Dizzy's Tumblebus activities, dancing with Frosty the Snowman, arts and crafts, refreshments and gifts for all the children, including siblings. Ms. Wheelchair America 2014 Jennifer Adams and Stary, the Starlight Foundation's mascot, both made special guest appearances.



The party was sponsored in large part by The Starlight Children's Foundation Northwest whose mission includes creating special moments and happy memories for seriously or chronically ill children and their families. In addition to the Starlight Foundation and our fabulous families who made the party so special, Children's Therapy thanks the many VMC employees and volunteers who donated time, talents and gifts for the party.

Turkey, Stuffing, Pumpkin Pie + Tender Loving Care: 1st Annual NICU Thanksgiving Dinner a Big Success for the Families of VMC's Most Fragile Patients

Families with infants in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit celebrate the holidays with their families. To offer a stress-free venue for them to gather close to their fragile infants without the work and worry of holiday dinner preparations, Valley Medical Center's Birth Center hosted its first NICU Thanksgiving dinner the evening before Thanksgiving Day.



"The NICU family Thanksgiving dinner was very successful," says Judy Roudebush, Vice-President of Women's and Children's Services. "To see the families sitting down for a meal together was very heartwarming."

The Environmental Services and Birth Center and NICU staff transformed The Birth Center's Fireplace Lounge into a beautiful dining area for the NICU families to gather. VMC's Executive Chef Roger Phillips and his staff prepared and served a delicious traditional meal with all the trimmings.

"Everyone has been so gracious in making this event possible," says Judy. The dinner was organized in collaboration with the March of Dimes NICU Family Support.

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RESOURCES

Free Occupational Therapy Evaluations & Interventions through UPS Student Program Clinic

The University of Puget Sound's Occupational Therapy program will be providing free one-to-one evaluations and interventions for children during the spring of 2014. Services will be provided by occupational therapy students under the direct supervision of licensed occupational therapists. For more information, please contact Susan Isaacson at 253.879.3514 or by [email](#).

Looking for a Dentist for your Special Needs Child? Check Out The Center for Pediatric Dentistry

A partnership of University of Washington School of Dentistry and Seattle Children's, The Center for Pediatric Dentistry provides care for children ages birth through 18 and children with special needs ages birth through 20. Services include preventive (examinations, cleanings, sealants); restorative (fillings, stainless-steel crowns); sedation and general anesthesia; and social work (to help arrange transportation and assist with financial aid).

They are a preferred provider with Washington Dental Service & Premera, and also accept DSHS Provider One Cards.

Address: 6222 NE 74th St., Seattle, WA 98115; call 206. 543.5800 or visit their [website](#) for more info.

DONOR CORNER

New Online Wish-List!

Children's Therapy now has a "wish-list" through the [Starlight Foundation's website](#). The site lists items we'd love to have donated to our department! If you are interested in purchasing an item for Children's Therapy, please do so directly through the [Starlight Foundation website](#). Thank you so very much!

Thank You to Our Donors!

- Play-doh & bubbles from the Fettig family
- Avery Walling for the game
- Jenny Chilson for the Chick-a-Chick-a Boom Boom book & coconut tree
- Avery Walling for the toys



CHILDREN'S THERAPY WEBSITE

PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS

Back Issues of the *Parent Resource Newsletter* Available Online

[Click here](#) to view back issues of the Children's Therapy *Parent Resource Newsletter*.

If This is Your First Parent Resource Newsletter

Welcome to all of our new families! The *Parent Resource* is our bi-monthly e-newsletter, keeping you current with what's going on that may be of interest to your family. Printed copies are also available at Children's Therapy. We'll keep you up-to-date about resources and events in the area, while providing information about Children's Therapy policies and changes. We welcome your comments—please tell your therapist if you have any suggestions or input. Information about non-VMC sponsored events is for your consideration only: we cannot guarantee the accuracy/content of the listed events and services.