



# Annual Report FY 2010

October 1, 2009  
through  
September 30, 2010



# “How come I can’t go to school with the neighbor kids?”

This is what eleven year old John had been asking his parents when they contacted Family Matters in the spring of 2010. John, diagnosed with autism, was being served in an out-of-district classroom for students with multiple impairments. His parents, John and Stacy, wanted their son to go to the same school as the other neighborhood boys who played at their home and were his friends in Boy Scouts. They were also concerned about a lack of exposure to the general education curriculum despite the fact that John had shown beginning reading skills at the end of second grade when he had been instructed with a computer-based program. The family was linked to Family Matters by their local Center for Independent Living.

Stacy explained that John was the only verbal student in the functional skills classroom and became agitated by the noise and behaviors of the other students. Family Matters staff reviewed John’s educational records and helped John and Stacy prepare a list of their parental concerns including restraint by school staff for behaviors. Stacy said she didn’t know how to secure the services that John needed but knew he should be making more progress. “Kristin gave us lots of suggestions,

ideas, and information about options. Taking her suggestions we observed other settings and learned about supports like a personal aide that could be put in place back at the home school.”

In September 2010 John and Stacy came to an agreement with their school district through the use of the state’s mediation process, preventing the need for a due process hearing. John was placed back in his home school and spends part of each day in the general education room. Stacy reports that she is amazed at his progress. “He comes home and tells us all about manners and classroom rules. He is learning to read new words all the time. He has friends.” There has been no need for restraint by school staff.

“It was scary to stand up to our school but Kristin gave us the facts we needed. We talked so much.” The district now plans to keep John in his home school and he will continue to pursue academic goals rather than all functional skills. “We had no idea what to expect at his most recent school meeting. It turned out to be the best meeting we ever had.” Stacy says that she is glad they learned about Family Matters and is grateful for all the information and support they received.

# The mission of Family Matters Parent Training and Information Center

We build upon families' strengths, to empower parents and professionals to achieve the strongest possible outcomes for students with disabilities and to enhance the quality of life for children and young adults with disabilities.

## Guiding Principles

- Parents have a comprehensive knowledge of their children.
- Parents who know their children's rights can better advocate for their children.
- The home, school and community are vital components when developing an education program.
- All children are capable of learning and good behavior.
- All children have strengths and talents.
- Students are entitled to appropriate technology and access to buildings, curriculum and programs.
- All school districts and parents are capable of a cooperative relationship.



*The IEP meeting was the best ever, very positive and supportive!!! I really don't know how I could have managed the last couple of years without the help and support I received from you. - Jodi of Peoria County*

# Why Parent Centers?

Parent Training and Information Centers provide training and assistance to the families of the nation's **7 million children with disabilities**. They are funded through the U.S. Department of Education under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Every state has at least one Parent Center, and those with large populations may have more. There are currently **107 Parent Centers** in the United States.

Parent Centers serve families of children of all ages (birth to 26) and all disabilities (physical, cognitive, behavioral, and emotional). Parent Centers provide a variety of services including one-on-one support and assistance, workshops, publications, and websites. The majority of Parent Center staff and boards are parents of children with disabilities, so they are able to bring **personal experience and expertise** when working with families.

Specifically, Parent Centers help families to:

- better understand their children's disabilities and education needs
- communicate more effectively with school and related professionals
- understand their rights and responsibilities under the IDEA
- obtain appropriate services for their children
- resolve disagreements with the school or other agencies
- connect with other community resources that assist children with disabilities

Parent Centers work collaboratively to **improve outcomes** for children with disabilities. They collect and share data from their work experience that leads to improved practices in serving children and youth with disabilities and their families.

*You've been a treasure chest of knowledge and hope for G. and his future. – Sue of Lee County*

## Family Matters Provides:

- disability-related information
- referral
- linkage
- telephone and email consultation regarding individual issues
- parent training
- training for professionals and support staff
- lending library
- informational packets on special education issues
- educational record review

Serving 94 counties of Illinois  
(outside the Chicago area)

## Family Matters:

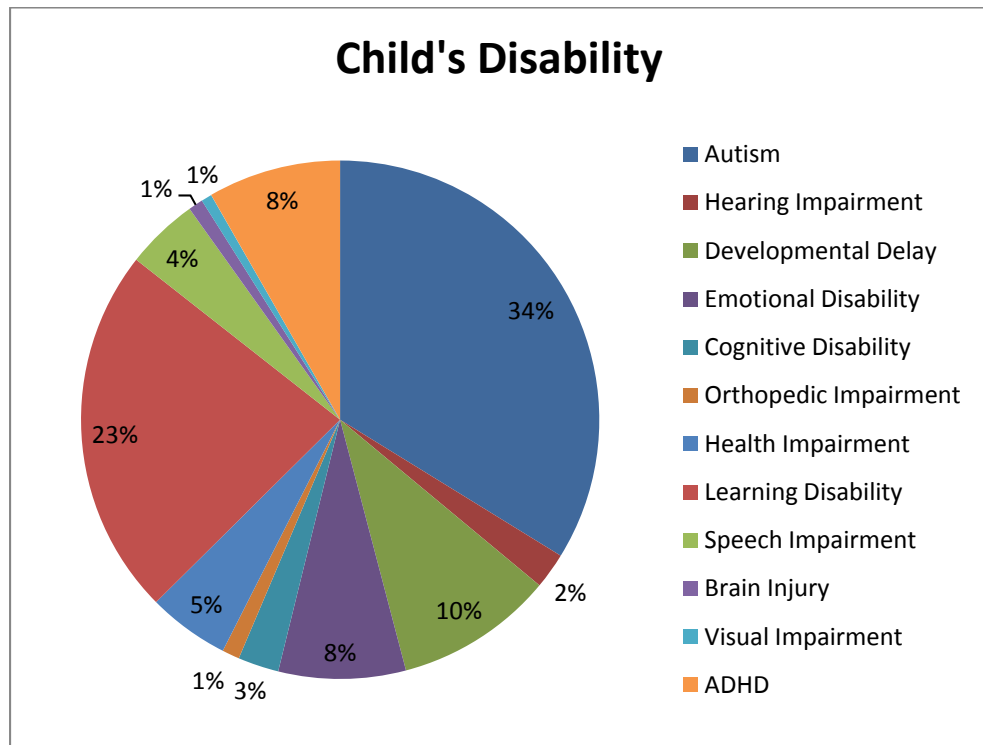
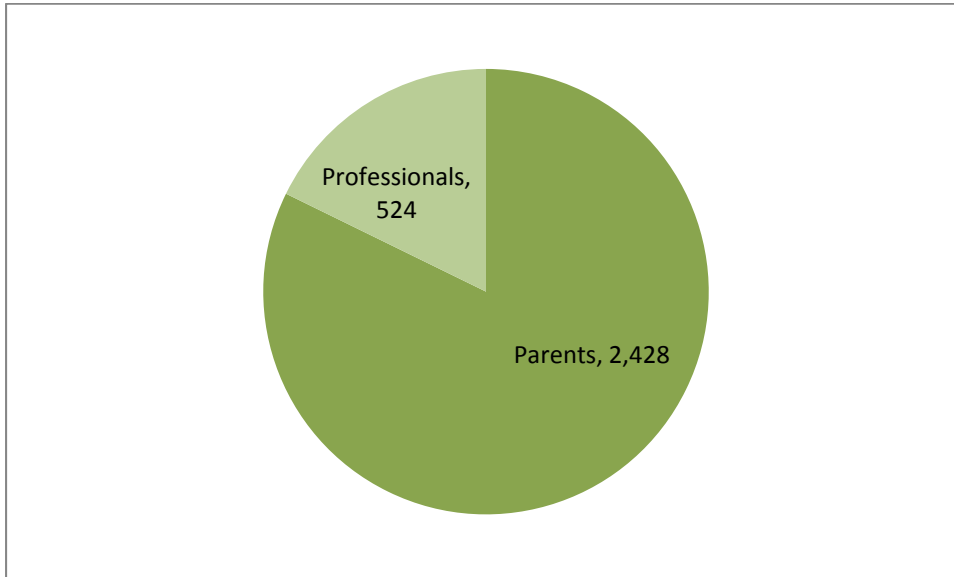
- assists parents of children with disabilities to be informed participants in the special education process
- assists students with disabilities to understand their rights and responsibilities
- supplies information to teachers and other professionals who provide special education and related services to children with disabilities

### Board of Directors

Claudia Fabian  
Deb Fornoff  
Susan Kaufman  
Debbie McClellan  
Phil Milsk  
Kyle Packer  
Ashaki Roberts  
Jodi Tieffel  
Barb Utz  
Dena Weber

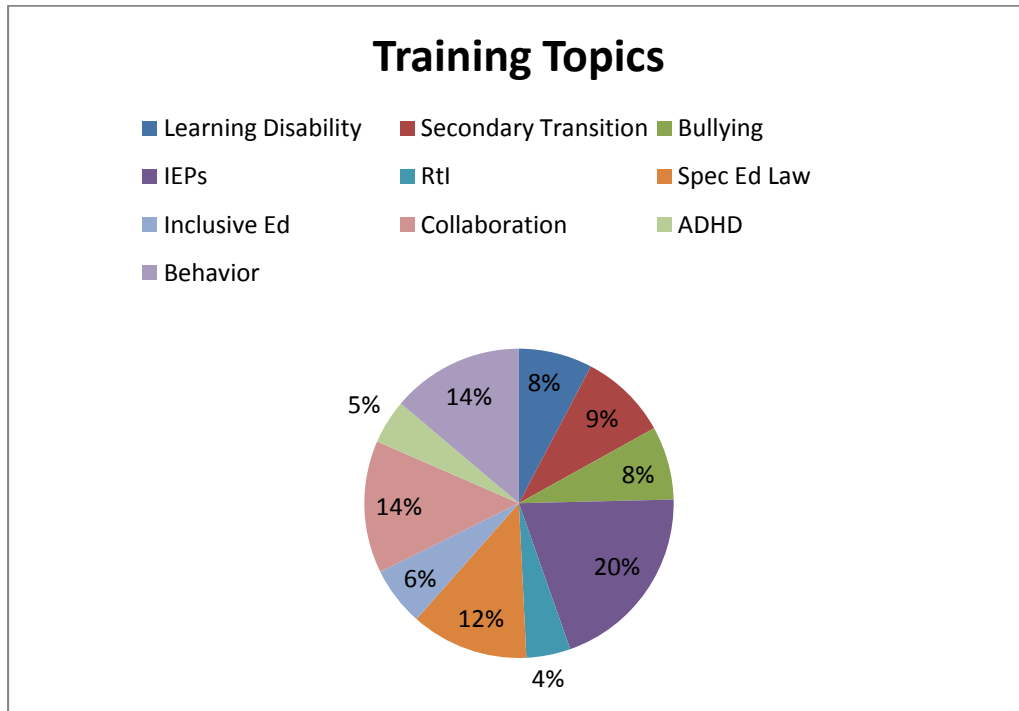
*Thank you so much for your support and preparation for N.'s IEP. I really needed the extra courage and to know that there are laws in place to prevent N. from being sidelined. Should I need the help and advice, I will not hesitate to contact you again!! – Christy of Lee County*

## Contacts Made – FY 2010



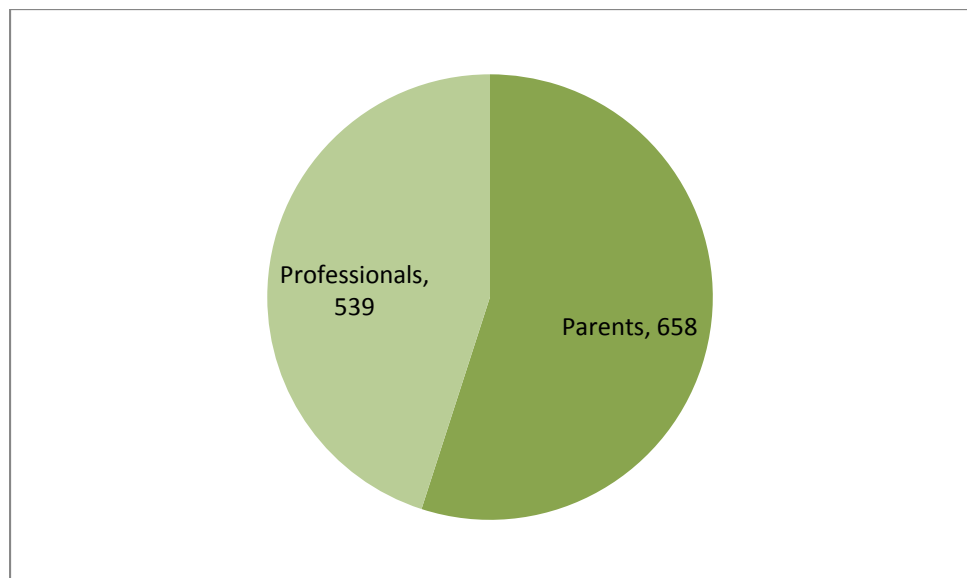
*You and all the staff at Family Matters have been a true blessing in our lives and I can't thank you enough for your help over the years. – Sandy of Bond County*

## 66 Trainings Provided on Special Education Rights Topics



An additional 8 trainings were provided in Spanish

### Training Participants



*Appropriate placement achieved - don't know what I would do without your priceless assistance.*  
- Cathleen of Madison County

**Family Matters Parent Training and Information Center  
Statement of Assets, Liabilities, and Net Assets – Modified  
Cash Basis  
September 30, 2010**

**Assets**

Current Assets:

Cash and cash Equivalents \$ 8,609

Non- Current Assets:

Property and equipment, net \$ 8,725

**Total Assets \$17,334**

**Net Assets**

Unrestricted \$17,334

**Total Net Assets \$17,334**



**Family Matters Parent Training and Information Center**  
**Statement of revenues, expenses, and other changes in net assets**  
**- modified cash basis**  
**For the Year Ended September 30, 2010**

**Unrestricted Net Assets**

<b>Unrestricted Revenues and Gains</b>	
Federal financial assistance	\$294,921
Contributions	\$ 3,895
Fees	<u>\$ 8,614</u>
Total Unrestricted Revenues and Gains	\$307,430

**Expenses**

<b>Program Services:</b>	
Health education and training	
Contractual	\$217,863
Local transportation	\$ 6,825
Mailings	\$ 14,143
Advertising	\$ 1,047
<b>Supporting Services:</b>	
Management and General	
Contractual	\$ 22,548
Supplies	\$ 15,567
Occupancy	\$ 10,548
Depreciation	\$ 2,643
Miscellaneous	<u>\$ 8,891</u>
Total Expenses	\$300,075

Increase in Unrestricted Net Assets	\$ 7,355
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	\$ 9,979
Net Assets, End of Year	\$ 17,334