

ParentLink

Parent Mentor Training Program

2014



The purpose of this project is to train volunteer mentors to provide instrumental and affective support to parents of children with disabilities as they advocate for the educational needs of their children.

LifeLine, Inc.
Reaching Families of Those with Special Needs
1400 McCallie Avenue
Chattanooga, TN 37404
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www.LifeLineFamilies.org
LifeLine, Inc. on Facebook



ParentLink Parent Mentor Training Application

ParentLink was created by LifeLine to train certified volunteer advocates to provide instrumental and affective support to parents of children with disabilities. In this training, participants will learn more about special education law and advocacy strategies. At the end of the training, each participant will shadow an advocate at a special education meeting as well as an IEP Consultation. Following graduation from the program, you will be linked with a family of a child with a disability.

Actual dates are yet to be announced, pending Saturday or weekday availability. This is a comprehensive 6-week training to be held in the spring of 2013 (actual dates to be announced). Each training session will last 6 hours if on a Saturday (beginning at 9AM (CST) and ending at 3PM (CST); beginning at 10AM and ending at 4PM, EST). This will be a comprehensive 12 week training with training sessions lasting 3 hours if on a weeknight. (There is a total of 36 hours of training.) A meal is provided at each training session to facilitate starting/ending on time.

The training will include a large binder of materials including passages from: the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, State law, No Child Left Behind, the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. Additionally, the participants will be given copies of each training session's powerpoints along with relevant supporting materials. The training will take place at 1400 McCallie Avenue in Chattanooga. A Georgia location may be considered if there is enough interest.

There is a \$100 charge per mentor to cover the cost of materials/meals for the trainings. Make checks payable to LifeLine, Inc.

LifeLine has already certified more than 30 Parent Mentors over the last several years. We look forward to receiving your application to the ParentLink Parent Mentor Program. You may e-mail your application to lifelineministry@juno.com **The application is due by January 3, 2014.** If we receive applications which outnumber the available spots, we will encourage those not participating in this training session to attend a future training session.

Thank you,

Lisa Mattheiss
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Spring 2013 Parent Mentor Application

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **County:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Day Phone: _____ **Evening Phone:** _____

E-mail: _____

Present Occupation: _____

Please list your children's names and ages: _____

In which area would you like to attend the sessions?

TN (Chattanooga): _____

GA (Lafayette): _____

Please answer all of the following questions to the best of your ability.

- 1. What interests you about becoming an mentor for families of children with disabilities? Why do you want to participate in this project?**

- 2. What is your personal connection to the disability field?**

3. Have you had any experience mentoring families of children with disabilities?

4. What do you think are necessary attributes to be a successful mentor?

5. How would you describe yourself and your family?

6. What would you like to get out of participating in this project? How do you think you will apply the skills and knowledge you will have gained from this project?

7. How did you learn about Parent Mentor Training?

Letter of Commitment

The ParentLink Parent Mentor Training lasts for 6 weeks (or 13 if weeknights) and requires participation at each session. The rigor of this curriculum requires energy and commitment from its participants. Along with these 6 sessions, the participants will shadow an advocate from LifeLine to understand the proceedings of special education meetings. After completing this training, each participant will work as a volunteer advocate with, at least, four families. LifeLine or STEP will link the volunteer advocate with these families. Please mark your responses to the following questions.

- I will attend all of the 6 weekend (or 13 weeknight) sessions.

Yes____ No____

- I will be on time to all of the sessions.

Yes____ No____

- I will complete all of the homework and readings prior to the training session.

Yes____ No____

- I will shadow one IEP meeting with an advocate.

Yes____ No____

- I will shadow one IEP Consultation with an advocate.

Yes____ No____

- I will attend at least one STEP or LifeLine workshop (3 hours) each year to stay current on Special Education Law. (Some workshops are free. For some there is a minimal cost for materials.)

Yes____ No____

I commit to all of these requirements.

Name

Date