

## # 96 Heidi's Book, DMHDD Budget, Acumen and Good Media Attention!

Dearest Advocates:

I am very excited to announce that I am a contributing author for the newly released book **“Gifts 2: How People with Down Syndrome Enrich the World”**. <http://gifts2.segullah.org/contents/> Chapter 50!

If you would like to order the book, please go to:

[http://www.woodbinehouse.com/main.asp\\_Q\\_product\\_id\\_E\\_9781890627966](http://www.woodbinehouse.com/main.asp_Q_product_id_E_9781890627966) (Jacob and I would be happy to sign it!)

Good news regarding positive media attention lately on disability issues in Georgia:

Below is a copy of an email I received from a VERY proud father over Labor Day weekend and wanted to share the news with you. Christopher Hunnicutt started Kennesaw State University. He is part of a new inclusive adult education model. This is a very exciting time in Georgia for children/adults with disabilities and having the opportunity to go to college. I have posted on my website <http://www.heidijmoore.com/pressroom/index.asp> the actual newspaper article and picture of Christopher at KSU! I remember, like it was yesterday, during my first rally at the Capitol (SOS-Save Our Special Kids), Christopher got up and spoke to the crowd to motivate them! He truly touched people's lives that day and continues to do so!! He is such an inspiration to so many self advocates out there and their families!

Also below is an email I received from a VERY proud mother last week and wanted to share with you this great story. I know many of you know, Heidi Fernandez. Heidi's son, Andrew was part of a news segment regarding “Good Deeds” in the community and how canine assistance dogs are making a difference for those with disabilities. Read below for more information and to see the CBS46 video.

In addition:

Acumen (fiscal agent for those families that has the COMP/NOW disability waivers in Georgia) gave presentations throughout the State last week and this week. I attended one of their presentations and was VERY impressed with them recognizing that they had issues BUT they are making changes to fix them now. I truly hope they are able to implement many of the ideas and processes that they are proposing in order to make this a more transparent system to everyone involved. Please go to <http://www.heidijmoore.com/infohelp/index.asp> for the actual Acumen presentation – just in case you missed it. Please note: you need PowerPoint software to review. Bottom-line: They are looking to implement a Georgia web-portal that you can log into in order to track your budget, invoices paid, employee information, etc in REAL TIME! They will also be posting up to date information on this website as well! To check it out, go to: [www.acumenfiscalagent.com/gaweb](http://www.acumenfiscalagent.com/gaweb) . More information will hopefully follow soon regarding this new system.

The **Amended FY 2011 Budget Proposal Presentation by Board of Directors, Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities is available for review**. Advocacy starts now as the new budget are being developed and recommendations are given to Governor Perdue. If you would like to look at the budget, please go to <http://www.heidijmoore.com/advocacy/index.asp> for the proposed budget. Please note that the new BHDD recommendation for 1500 NEW waiver slots!

I hope you find this information helpful. Have a great day!

***“UNITED – WE WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE!”***

Sincerely,

***Heidi***

(Proud Mother to Jacob - 9 yrs old with Down syndrome and Jared - 7 yrs old)

*“Help the Children Now, So They Can Help Themselves Later!”*

[www.heidijmoore.com](http://www.heidijmoore.com)

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**New Inclusive Post Secondary Education Program at Kennesaw State University:**

Good Evening,

Labor Day is the celebration of the value and dignity of work, and its role in the American way of life. As we begin the weekend, here's a "fruit of our labors" report.

On August 17<sup>th</sup>, Christopher and two others began attending the first inclusive post secondary education (IPSE) program in Georgia at Kennesaw State University; and YOU are a part of his reaching this milestone and becoming who he is! As such, we are very grateful for YOUR contribution into his and our lives as he has come to this point. “Thanks” seems hardly enough to say, nonetheless...Thanks!!! Attached is an article that appeared in the campus newspaper, "The Sentinel", telling a little about the purpose of the program and his direction and goals. During the last couple weeks I have already seen growth in him personally, and a desire to pursue intellectual and academic topics. We'll be glad to keep you abreast if you like!

In addition to updating you about “OUR” boy, I wanted you to know of the new Kennesaw State University Academy for Inclusive Adult Education. This program has potential for substantial impact on others with and without disabilities as the Academy grows, becomes successful and is replicated elsewhere; this is a fulfilled dream of ours, and desire we have for others.

Tell others about the program if you know of folks with family members with intellectual or developmental disabilities (I / DD). Perhaps they can become part of the classes in the future; the website Kennesaw.edu will likely have a link to the Academy soon. If there is some way to assist you or others, let us hear.

Be Well,

*Chris*

Chris Hunnicutt  
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**CBS Atlanta: Good Deeds News Segment: Georgia Canines for Independence:**

I wanted to share some great news. CBS Atlanta does a daily segment called " Good Deeds". They spotlight great organizations or individuals who are making a difference. Today the Good Deeds segment was on Georgia Canines for Independence. It featured Ramona and Jerry working on commands and it also talks about Teddy and Andrew. We are so appreciative for CBS Atlanta for helping to educate the community on the wonderful service that GCI is providing to the community and how they have made a difference in Andrew's life.

Here is a link to the video:

<http://www.cbsatlanta.com/video/20809139/?taf=Inta>

Enjoy! Heidi Fernandez