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Special Needs Parents and Their Need for Support

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Abstract—*In this presentation, I will demonstrate that families with special needs children need support groups and in particular that Norwood Ohio needs such a group through presentation of my survey of Norwood Ohio parents and parents in other areas, and through analysis of news coverage.*

Keywords—*Parent support, Special Needs Children*

I. Introduction

My plan of action is to start by making a facebook group, titled “Norwood Special Needs Families”. My plan is to first build the facebook page by drawing interest and inviting people I know are special needs families. I have reached out to the firefighters and first responders about having a meet and greet between them and the families they are trying to protect. I plan to organize all of the goals of the group and reasons the group are important by making flyers. My goals are unite the community, as well as educate them on what autism really looks like. I want to have meetings with the families in safe, secure locations that are chosen with our kid’s needs in mind. We can plan activities for the kids so that they can not only develop friendships, but also work on some of their communication issues and social skills. Most of all, the families will be there for each other in a way that no one else can. .

II. Findings

There are a lot of resources available in Ohio for families varying from grants, family therapies, speech therapies, occupational therapies, behavior therapies, etc. What there is not however, at least not for everyone, was a tour guide readily available to steer me to the right direction on this wild journey. I remember so much that first year of isolation and pain and if I can help families with my experiences going through those same issues, it would make a difference to someone in this world.

After talking to several families, I realized they all agreed. It became clear we needed a community support group. The benefits from monthly meetings between the families would be great not only for the parents, but also our children. The kids also have a special bond. When we get together for small play groups of our children, they all interact in a different way than that of their typical peers. I also find an immense amount of comfort knowing that my kids will grow up with other autistic children. They see other children, that are not so different than themselves and yet totally different. They have an acceptance amongst each other that will be vital to them as they grow into teens and young adults. I have such a wonderful team of people in my circle varying from my kids previous teachers and therapists to their aids and I am always finding useful information for myself as I continue my special education degree. A community group would allow parents to share that information with each other. Knowledge is power. We are stronger in numbers.

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