

# Taking it **ONE STEP AT A TIME**



January-February-March 2010

This newsletter is brought to you by the Early Steps Southernmost Coast Family Resource Specialists. Family Resource Specialists (FRS) provide assistance, information and support to families of children with special needs. For more details, please contact a representative in your neighborhood:

- In Miami-Dade County:

**Joan Holcomb**

Phone: 786-268-2639

Fax: 305-252-2778

Email: Joan.Holcomb@mch.com

- In Monroe County:

**Dorothy Clever**

Phone: 305-294-1089

Fax: 305-296-1530

Email: Dorothy.Clever@mch.com

This quarterly newsletter is also available online at:  
[www.mchpalmettobaycenter.com](http://www.mchpalmettobaycenter.com)  
under the Early Steps Southernmost Coast section.



## Early Steps Family Involvement Workgroup

Our Family Involvement Workgroup is looking for parents, caregivers, and family members of young children with special needs to promote family participation by empowering parents and caregivers to have a voice through the use of education, resources, and opportunities in our community.

For more information, please call your Early Steps representative:

Joan Holcomb: 786-268-2611

Julieta Romano: 305-576-5001

Cindy Borroto: 305-349-1330

It is with great pleasure that we announce the expansion of Miami Children's Hospital Early Steps Southernmost Coast, serving the southern half of Miami-Dade, and now also the Florida Keys. Early Steps provides early intervention services to eligible children from birth to three years old with special needs, and their families. We will work with providers throughout the Florida Keys to provide quality direct services to children eligible for Early Steps in Monroe County.

For any questions, please call us at our toll-free number: **1-888-MCH-STEPS**.

## Upcoming Events and Meetings

### **Lower Keys Interagency Council, Inc.**

Monroe County School Board

Meets the second Friday of each month from noon to 1 pm at 240 Trumbo Rd.

For further information, please contact your Family Resource Specialist.



The Lower Keys

### **Young Children with Special Needs and Disabilities Council**

Meets the last Thursday of each month from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm.

For additional details, please contact your Family Resource Specialist.



Young Children with Special Needs and Disabilities Council

### **Walk Now for Autism Speaks**

February 21

The walk starts at 8 am in Crandon Park, Key Biscayne.

For more information, please log on to the following website:

[www.walknowforautismspeaks.org/miami](http://www.walknowforautismspeaks.org/miami)



### **American Cancer Society Relay for Life**

March 13 and 14

The event takes place at Miami Children's Hospital Palmetto Bay Center.

17615 SW 97th Ave. (Franjo Rd.)

For further details, please visit the following website: [www.relayforlife.org](http://www.relayforlife.org)



### **MCH Palmetto Bay Center Spring Extravaganza**

April 2

The event takes place at Miami Children's Hospital Palmetto Bay Center from

11 am to 3 pm.

For additional information, please contact your Family Resource Specialist.



## Touched by a Smile

In my field of work, I am fortunate enough to meet many wonderful and extraordinary children and families and often come across heartbreaking stories of families with special needs children who are enduring financial hardship. Consequently, these families are unable to obtain the necessary resources their children need for their therapeutic activities.

I was particularly touched by one little boy's smile and his mother's determined heart. His mother canvassed several agencies for over a year in an attempt to obtain approval for a wheelchair for her son, which would simplify their life. Sadly, she came across a great deal of rejection. Daily tasks that others take for granted became an overwhelming process. I was personally touched by her little boy's smile and decided that something needed to be done to ensure that this child and other children like him would have the chance to experience life in comfort with the resources they need.

My name is Barbie Lopez. I am the founder of Touched by a Smile; an organization developed by the help of warm and caring individuals that dedicate their time to make a positive impact in the lives of children of all abilities.



For more information about Touched by a Smile, please contact your Family Resource Specialist or log on to: [www.touchedbyasmile.org](http://www.touchedbyasmile.org)