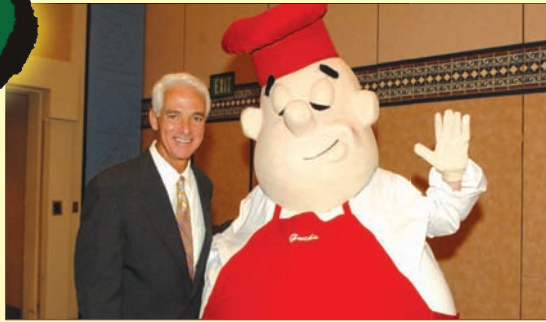




The 1st Annual Youth Summit

August 1-2, 2008



Walt Disney World Hilton
Lake Buena Vista, FL

Welcome Youth and Emerging Leaders!

Welcome to The 1st Annual Youth Summit, presented by the Florida Youth Council and The Family Café!

The Annual Youth Summit is a two-day event that has been designed by youth, for youth, by the youth and emerging leaders of the Florida Youth Council. When the FYC first came together last year, we had a discussion about what we could do to inspire leadership and promote conversation about the things that youth and emerging leaders with disabilities deal with every day. We decided that a great way to do that would be to host an event where we could get together with our peers to learn, network, and talk about the challenges we face.

The end result of that idea is the Annual Youth Summit that we are hosting this weekend. We have arranged for some informative, interesting and fun activities over the two days, including a keynote address from Greg Smith, "The Strength Coach," an arts session where we will work on the Disability Mural Project, a movie night where we will view *My Brother* and a Dance Party on Saturday night. We also have some great sessions planned on a number of relevant topics, including sex and relationships, voting, exercise and fitness, disability history, disability disclosure, conflict resolution, meeting people, resume writing and IEPs.

We hope you have a great time at our 1st Annual Youth Summit this weekend, and that you make some new friends and learn a little bit at the same time. If there's anything you need while you're here, or if you have any suggestions about how we can make the Annual Youth Summit even better, please let us know!

Yours,
The Florida Youth Council

JT Davis, Youth Advisor
Lizzy Barrows
Matthew Boselli
Alex Brown
Carly Fahey

Whitney Harris
Coury Knowles, Ed. D.
Cinthia Melgar
Matthew Murray
Christopher Regan
Sara Romine



The 1st Annual Youth Summit

August 1-2, 2008

Agenda

FRIDAY, AUGUST 1

Opening Keynote

3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
South Ballroom

How to Build Inner Strength for Victory in the Game of Life

In sports, teams and individuals don't win games on the day of the event. They win games from hard work and discipline in practice and conditioning well before they hit the field. The same is true in life. To become successful and victorious in life, we must build our inner strength. We must lift the weights of life's challenges and become stronger and more confident as a result. In this presentation, Greg will turn the meeting room into a locker room as "The Strength Coach," and will reveal three keys your attendees will be able to use immediately to build inner strength!

Born with muscular dystrophy, raised by a football coach, Greg's inner strength message is woven into all of his programs:

"In any situation, great opportunity exists for victory." Greg's remarkable life

story was revealed to America in a PBS documentary film, "On A Roll: Family, Disability and the American Dream," which aired in February, 2005. His autobiography, "On A Roll: Reflections from America's Wheelchair Dude with the Winning Attitude" was published in 2005. His

radio show, "The Strength Coach," airs

nationwide on the Radio America Network. For 11 years, Greg hosted "On A Roll - Talk Radio on Life & Disability" a syndicated program that aired on more than 70 stations nationwide.



Greg Smith, "The Strength Coach"
Professional Speaker, Radio/TV Host, Author
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Friday, August 1

Disability Mural Project

4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
South Ballroom

Join us in creating *The Florida Youth Disability Mural!*

The idea behind the Disability Mural is to offer individuals with disabilities a chance to express themselves through art, and for each artist to contribute to a larger whole. This project, which began in California, involves the creation of a large mural composed of individual 12 inch square tiles. The Mural began in March 2000 as a 200 square-foot work, celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Response to the Disability Mural has been so overwhelming that over 1000 tiles have been created to date.



Every artist expresses their feelings about the challenges of living with a disability through art on an individual tile. All of the tiles are then combined and displayed together, creating a visual impression of the meaning of disability from the individual perspectives of the hundreds of artists that contribute a tile.

Creating a tile for the Disability Mural Project will offer you the chance to express yourself, while also having fun and getting to know some of the other attendees at the Annual Youth Summit. Don't worry if you're not the world's best artist; the point of this activity is for everyone to participate, and for everyone to express themselves through art!

For more information about the project, visit:
<http://thedisabilitymural-valesco.blogspot.com/>

Friday, August 1

A Night At The Movies

7:45 p.m.

South Ballroom

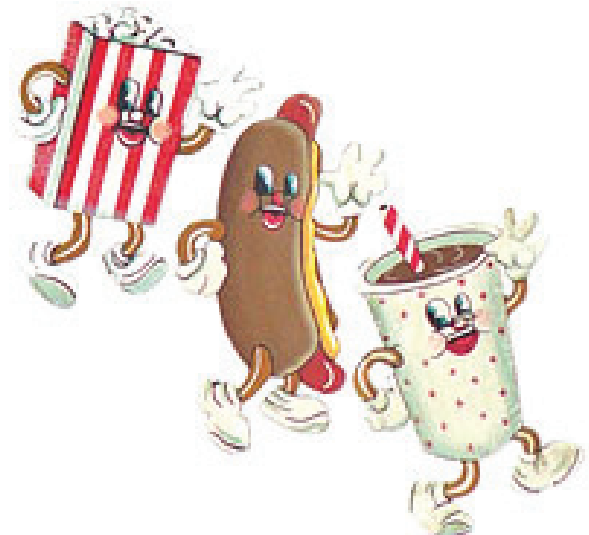
Join us for the film My Brother starring Vanessa Williams.

My Brother is the story of two impoverished boys, one of whom is developmentally disabled, and the bond of love they share. Forged in their youth by their mother, and made under life's most desperate of circumstances, their bond is unwavering, even in the face of adversity. One brother, trying to free himself from



oppressive debt, falls prey to ruthless men, setting into motion life-threatening events that challenge their connection and force them to find the courage to overcome.

This film is rated PG-13.



Saturday, August 2

Saturday Morning Welcome Session

9:30 a.m.

South Ballroom

Breakout Sessions

10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

Mission (Not) Impossible for Dispute Resolution

10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

Salon 1

The presentation will explore practical dispute resolution strategies. This session will provide information on the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services related to assisting with dispute resolution options for students with disabilities. Participants will receive information on effective resolution of special education disputes from IDEA 2004.

Demetria Harvell

Program Specialist

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“Prognosis – Poor” How to Embrace Change and Find Love, Happiness and Financial Freedom

10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

Salon 2

THIS SESSION IS FOR PARENTS ONLY

“Prognosis . . . Poor.” Those were the words scribbled by a doctor on Greg Smith’s paperwork several years ago. And the words were accurate. Having lived 43 years with Muscular Dystrophy, “The Strength Coach,” Greg Smith has endured constant change for the worse. Every year, every month, every week, he is gradually getting physically weaker. But his accomplishments and satisfaction with life grow stronger every day. Despite the fact that he only weighs 65 pounds and cannot sit upright without support, he is an active father of three, radio and television host, author and

Saturday, August 2

professional speaker, traveling the world with a message of inspiration. Greg is an expert on accepting change. Most people accept change as a necessary part of life, although very few people embrace it. Accepting change forces us to move away from the familiar into the uncertain, which creates fear. After hearing Greg, attendees will know how to go beyond accepting change. They'll know how to embrace it!

Greg Smith, "The Strength Coach"
Professional Speaker, Radio/TV Host, Author
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Sugar Balance

10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.
Salon 3

This program focuses on sugar intake and how one can make better nutrition choices that can reduce ailment development due to high sugar intake. Students will learn how much sugar they are actually consuming and determine how much they should be consuming.

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Lunch for Youth and Emerging Leaders

11:30 a.m.
South Ballroom

Saturday, August 2

Breakout Sessions

1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Transition: What You Need to Know to be Successful in School and Post-School

1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Salon 1

This presentation will provide you with an overview of the transition process. You'll learn all about the Individual Educational Plan (IEP), including 1) what you can do to prepare for your IEP meetings; 2) how to actively participate in your IEP meetings; and 3) how to get the services and supports you need to be a success in school.

You'll learn how to use self-advocacy (speaking up) to make sure you get the accommodations or modifications and services included on your IEP. You'll also learn how important self-advocacy is in graduation from high school. Whether you plan to go directly into employment, a career and technical school, a community college or a university, come learn what you can do now to work toward your dreams and goals!

Sheila D. Gritz

Program Specialist for Transition

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The Power of the Disability Vote: How Voting Rights Laws Affect You

1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Salon 2

How does my one vote even matter? Why should I care if my friends with disabilities are registered to vote? We're just months away from a national vote that will elect a new President, and this workshop will tackle the answers to these and other questions relevant to the election year. This workshop will provide an overview of the legal rights of people with disabilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Help

Saturday, August 2

America Vote Act (HAVA) and discuss how, if we voted as a community, we could shape the outcome of the election.

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Intimacy & Disabilities: Practical Social Skills Strategies for Relationship Development

1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Salon 3

This training will provide information regarding specific strategies for youth and adults with disabilities in dealing with social-sexual situations as they arise within the community. Specific strategies and educational information will be provided in the following areas: Skills of friendship, personal boundaries, and health & hygiene issues.

Kim Spence-Cochran
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Saturday, August 2

Breakout Sessions

2:15 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

Its Time to Learn Our History: Disability History and Awareness Legislation in Florida

2: 15 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

Salon 1

The Florida Youth Council is a group of youth and emerging leaders with disabilities that are committed to providing leadership and support to their peers in Florida. One of their recent projects has been working on legislation that encourages schools to provide education on disability history and awareness during a two-week period each October. Join members of the FYC along with Representative Curtis Richardson, the House Sponsor of the bill, to learn more about SB 856, as well as the rich history and important contributions of persons with disabilities in our nation.

Representative Curtis Richardson
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Saturday, August 2

Should I Tell Them?: The Laws, Policy, and Social Norms Surrounding Disability Disclosure in the Workplace

2:15 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

Salon 2

Who should you tell about your disability? When and how should you tell them? Employers and co-workers want to know that you are an employee with a disability, but you need to know your rights and how protect yourself. This workshop will give you a working knowledge of the laws that affect disability disclosure in the workplace. We will also discuss the politics and social implications of “coming out” as disabled to your co-workers, and how, in many ways, disclosing your disability can help you get a job.

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Building an Effective Resume

2:15 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

Salon 3

You only get one chance to make a first impression. Your resume is your introduction to prospective employers. Participants will learn the components of an effective resume. Material will be provided to assist in self-evaluation of skills and qualities. Information will be provided as to the skills and qualities employers value.

Karen Wesley

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Breakout Sessions

3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

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How to Meet People by “Being Cool with YOU”

3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Salon 3

Feeling good about one's self is a prerequisite for success in meeting people who can open doors to success in life. In this presentation, Greg tells stories of the painful challenges he faced as a youth that hurt his self-esteem. Stories like how as an 8th grader, life threatening spinal surgery led him to use a wheelchair for the first time. He wasn't embarrassed to be in the chair because he was already accustomed to people staring at the funny way he walked and how skinny he was. His lesson for all students is to be realistic about their strengths and weaknesses and to set goals and work toward them with optimism and humor. Greg will urge students to establish their own identity and to not take other people's negative impressions of them too seriously.

Greg Smith, “The Strength Coach”
Professional Speaker, Radio/TV Host, Author
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Dinner: Pizza by the Pool!

5:30 p.m.



Time 2 PARTY!!!!

Dance Party

6:30 p.m.

Salon 1, 2, 3

The Saturday night Dance Party will feature a live performance by the band The Mighty Heroes, featuring Rick Weigand, PJ Murray, Patrick Murray and Andrew Murray. This group has been playing venues in Philadelphia, New Jersey and Florida for more than a decade. Come and enjoy their versions of some of the great party rock songs of the 80s, 90s and 2000s.

After the band, stick around and keep dancing to the music that our live DJ will be playing for you. Requests are welcome!



Keep In Touch!

The Youth Summit is a great place to network, visit with old friends and meet new friends. We encourage you to use this page to share your contact information and ***keep in touch!***



The Florida Youth Council is a Program of The Family Café



**The
Family
Café**

Showcasing Florida's Menu of Services



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