

NYC Family Information & Resource Network
www.nycfamilyinformationandresourcenetwork.org (*Under Construction*)
Phone: 212-477-1225 or Email: nycfirn@gmail.com

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Dear Fellow Members of the Developmental Disabilities Community,

We are pleased to announce the creation of the “**NYC Family Information & Resource Network.**” This resource network is being developed by families to strengthen and expand the ability of family members and others to learn about and affect the issues facing those with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). It is imperative that our community continues to expand and to empower others to be advocates in order to maintain quality services.

The goals of the Network are to:

- Provide family members with opportunities to learn about how to access services and how services are paid for, whether by city, state and/or federal government.
- Launch a comprehensive website for all ages that will offer links to existing resources that can provide help and answer questions.
- Have meetings to coordinate, consult and respond to changes in the field.
- Initiate and support a **Mentor/Mentee Program** to help individuals share information and develop supportive partnerships and learn to navigate the challenging world we find ourselves in today as changes in funding and attitudes affect the lives of our family members.

We need your help now! (*and you may need our help too!*)

Please search your contacts/database for candidates for the Mentor/Mentee program and share our information with your families.

Contact us either by email, nycfirn@gmail.com or call Elly Rufer 212-477-1225 with your suggested participants.

Thank You!

Organizing Group
Family Members: Meri Krassner & Elly Rufer
Professional Advisors: Judy Delasi & Amy Bittinger