

*Happy New Year! We love receiving holiday cards and letters every year and displaying them in the office. Each year, we receive at least one letter that is worthy of sharing – and this wins the prize for 2012! Thanks for sharing your lives with us for 30 years ... and for remembering FOCUS!*

## Reflections

by Gigi Taylor

What fun to read the last FOCUS newsletter! As I read, I reflected how FOCUS was there for me, from the beginning.

I don't know exactly how many visits Will and Ginia had with Dr. Barbara Weissman, their pediatric neurologist, when she started to tell me that I needed to network. My kids were really young at the time. She tried to tell me that families were wonderful resources – and she said I would need them. She told me to call FOCUS. I put the number in a pile somewhere. That little piece of paper kept finding its way to the top – and I kept ignoring it!

Dr. Weissman was right, of course. It took me awhile before I really understood what she was talking about. Even though I found the paper, I still didn't call. I believed I could handle everything. I didn't call because I thought I was obligated to go through my uncharted waters by myself. I thought that somehow I should be the only person to bear my challenges. I thought I should take sole responsibility and never burden anyone else as I sorted through doctors, specialists, therapists, and everything else that had the term 'special needs' attached to it. How wrong I was!

My first call to FOCUS was when Susan Calhoun was the director – this call was like no other to anyone before or since. I don't even think I knew exactly what I was saying! But what a relief it was – my stuttering, stammering, and muttering was understood by the

person on the other end of the phone! I was so relieved to speak to someone who understood this new language I was acquiring ... the language of 'special needs.' I immediately felt a bond. Susan allowed me to go on and on. She knew a lot about this world and her initial help was just letting me talk. Then I learned how FOCUS could help me and my family!



*Ginia and Will model with Helene Prokesch in the 2001 FOCUS on Fashion Show.*

I met Lucy shortly after that. Through good fortune, her Josh had therapy on the same day that Ginia and Will did. I learned that Josh really connected with the PT, and their connection was one that I hoped for with my Will. The magic eventually happened. Soon the PT could manage Will in ways no one else could – Will totally trusted him.

He would tell Will everything he was going to do, and remarkably Will complied, even through painful stretching. Those were the days that Josh's sister was with Lucy. Even though their friendship didn't really blossom, it helped Ginia to connect with Jessica. It also allowed me get to know another mom who had a girl and a boy.

Looking back, I loved when we had brief moments to chit chat. We were living the same lives! I felt like I had someone to confide in. When the kids were young, we could talk about the challenges, past surgeries, looming surgeries. We talked about our spouses and how difficult it was to have energy left at the end of the day. We were fighters back then, weren't we? We

*(Continued on page 6)*

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FOCUS understands and supports the unique needs of families with children who are medically fragile or have significant developmental or physical disabilities. FOCUS offers comfort, hope and information to parents; accessible recreational and social programs for children and teens; and fun, inclusive activities for the entire family. A nonprofit founded by parents in 1983, FOCUS continues to embrace and strengthen metro Atlanta families.

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**From the Editor***by Lucy Cusick*

Happy New Year! Somehow, this first-of-the-year article should be memorable, witty, and insightful. I'm older now and have a notion that parents look up to me for wisdom and advice – how delusional is that?? Parental wisdom and advice escape me at the moment; as we begin a new year, I resolve NOT to make resolutions. I do, however, have a list of "do betters." Some apply to work, some apply to home. Most are a combination of the two. These are the parts of my life that are hard, so I am including them in my annual list of New Year's "Do Betters."

1. Realizing that I can't be all things to all people. Neither can FOCUS. I wish I/we could, but I/we can't. We must do what we do well, otherwise we're un-focused, pardon the pun. We have limitations: financial, time, resources, energy. Which leads into #2 below.
2. Saying "No." I have trouble saying "no" to anyone, especially at FOCUS. Our goal is not to make life harder or more stressful for parents – we want to support them. But all programs are not for all kiddos, and sometimes we have to say "No." We've all heard "No" before, and we know that "No" hurts, feels exclusive, and just plain feels bad, even when we try to say it gently. Somehow, I must learn to say "no" and still sleep at night.
3. Asking for help. If I'm obviously struggling to do a project and my husband or children ask if they can help, I automatically say "No, I'm ok." (In my head, I'm thinking, "REALLY? Can't you see I'm struggling? Just come help!) And at FOCUS, I don't want to ask parents to help since the goal of FOCUS is to help parents! But, FOCUS was founded by parents and has been run by parents for the past 30 years. And, people often want to help, feel more a part of the group if they are helping, and are more invested if they contribute time. I must realize that people only offer if they want to help and that everyone needs to be needed. I should allow them to help.
4. Managing the help (home) or volunteers (FOCUS). Nicely, but clearly. If someone offers help, then I have to give them expectations of the 'job.' Whether at home or at work, that means communicating what I need. We love our volunteers and couldn't manage programs without them. Most volunteers are awesome and their experiences at FOCUS often help them make career choices. But occasionally, we'll have a volunteer who is uncomfortable around our kiddos, self-conscious and unable to be silly, and anxious to be in a group with their friends. We try to help them constructively and kindly, but sometimes we just aren't a good match.
5. Planning fresh and new fund raisers. Yep, this is a joint one, since my friends are very generous and help and support FOCUS!! Fund raisers serve two purposes: raising funds and creating public awareness. Fund raisers take significant time and manpower ... see #3 and 4.
6. Setting limits. My personal and professional life often blend and are difficult to distinguish. I often feel very appreciated at work (when I'm not doing 1 – 5 above!). Clean laundry and regular meals are often unappreciated until they do not magically appear for a few days; that said, family should come first. Always. With or without thanks.

*(Continued on page 7)***"So Long, but NOT Farewell"**

We've just said "hello" to Patrick Faulhaber at FOCUS and we're now saying "good-bye." We hate to see Patrick go – all who met him remember his enthusiasm and cheerfulness – but he's moving on to full-time employment. We hope to continue to see him at monthly Teen and Young Adult activities since we only want to say "so long" and not "farewell!" We wish him well and know that he will go on to do great things!

# A Grandparent's Role

by Nancy B. Gibbs



With medical technology as it is today, we know more at an earlier time than ever before. We were faced with a difficult prognosis regarding our granddaughter even while our

daughter-in-law Amy was in the first trimester of her pregnancy.

Our storm began with an ultrasound. Over the next few days many tests were performed. Some doctors offered termination as a solution. Terminating this pregnancy and trying again was never an option.

My heart was broken for my children. Several doctors continuously reminded them of how difficult life would be raising a handicapped child, if she lived to be born.

I wondered how I could help them when my own heart was breaking. I learned early-on there were a few things I could do to help, but other things I couldn't.

Following are the things I couldn't do:

1. I couldn't make the situation right. All mothers want to fix the problems their children face. I was able to kiss my children's bee stings and put band-aids on their scraped knees when they were young. I learned there is no band-aid big enough to cover this kind of injury.
2. I couldn't tell them how to feel. They went through a grief process even before the baby was born. All expectant parents have dreams of how life will be when a new member joins the family. Anguish follows the loss of loved ones, but it also comes with the loss of a perfect dream. I had to allow them to grieve in their own way.
3. I couldn't always be there. My children live three hours away. My husband and I work secular jobs and serve as pastor at a local church. As much as I wanted to hold Brad I couldn't always be with him.

With God's grace, there were some things I could do to help them:

1. I listened and cried along with them. I heard every fear, regret and dread. I encouraged them to name the baby and to celebrate the pregnancy.
2. I talked to them about God's promises. God never promised we wouldn't go through trials. He did say we wouldn't go through them alone. I reminded them of this truth often.

3. I told them I would be there during the most difficult days. And I was. When they were heartbroken by the shattering prognosis, I went to be with them. When the birth of our granddaughter was imminent we were in the waiting room at a hospital – eight and a half hours from our home. We stayed with them almost two weeks during their NICU stay and helped them when they returned home.
4. I prayed unceasingly. There were three requests I made of God.
  - 1) That He would reward my children's faithfulness.
  - 2) That He would allow the baby to be a happy child.
  - 3) And over all other things, God's will would be done. I also promised God that I would continue to praise Him whatever the result.
5. I communicated with them in writing, and because we share the same faith, I called on our faith. Following is a condensed letter I sent to them shortly after the heartbreaking prognosis:

*Dear Brad and Amy,*

*You have had a burden placed on your shoulders that no parent should ever have to carry. God must know that you are both strong, loving, and devoted to Him and that you both have the strength of lions, yet the hearts of lambs. God knows you can handle the struggles yet to come.*

*Baby Claire would not have you to be upset. She loves both of you. Claire's heart is beating strongly. In my opinion the heart is the center of life. Sometimes our hearts will ache, but the love of God is always present there.*

*In John 14:18 Jesus said ... I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you. During this time of struggle, won't you place the burdens of your souls in Jesus' hands?*

*You may feel really alone right now. You may sense a gray cloud hovering over your home. But let me assure you that you are never alone. God is there with you. He is watching over you. He promises that you will never walk alone.*

*Your heart may be too burdened to feel Him just now, but always remember He hasn't forsaken you. He knows your heartaches and hears your every whisper.*

*Please stop sometime today and listen for God's still quiet voice. I believe it's in His voice that we can find peace during every hardship. Let's rally together over this trial, and let's expect a miracle from God.*

*Love, Mama*

*(Continued on page 7)*

# Looking Back at the Fun ...

## **OctoberFest Retreat for Teens & Young Adults on October 27 at Camp Twin Lakes Will-A-Way**

What's not to love: ziplining, climbing wall, a bonfire, and a costume ball with 25 FOCUS teens/young adults and 25 young adult volunteers!



## **FAST Fins Swim Meet on November 3**

Mountain View Aquatics Center re-opened and seven FAST Fins teams swam their best!



## **The 13th Annual FOCUS on Fashion Show at Oglethorpe University on November 4**

starring FOCUS children and the professionals who care for them was a fashionable success! A special thanks to our beautiful children and their families; the doctors, nurses, therapists, and teachers who modeled with the children; to our emcees Lane Howard and Patrick Cusick, Belk, Fleetwood Dance Theater, Foster-Schmidt Dance Academy, "Aunt Julie" for the delicious dessert, Marianne Schlinkert for the incredible baskets, Miss Georgia, Leighton Jordan, for making our models feel so special, and to all the sponsors, guests, and volunteers who make this event possible!



**Families enjoyed FOCUS Day at Zoo Atlanta on November 10** – the weather was 'just right' for maximum animal-viewing!!

**MVP Events: Boo-B-Que on October 27 and Snacks with Santa on December 2** were for our MVP families. MVP events are especially for medically fragile children who require smaller crowds. The Boo-B-Que was supported by the Knights of Columbus at Holy Cross Catholic and Snacks with Santa by St. Peter Chanel Catholic Church and the Junior League of Atlanta. Thanks also to the volunteers who helped at MVP events.



**The Annual FOCUS / Lekotek Holiday Party on December 8** was another grand affair! Many thanks to Eastminster Presbyterian, Zesto, Santa Eddy, the Northlake Kiwanis, the FAA, the donors of Pillow Pets, and the volunteers! A perfect way to begin the holiday season!

## Coming Up at FOCUS



Register Now for **FAST Fins Adapted Swim Team**  
Season begins February 8!  
Criteria for swimmers and registration information is at [www.focus-ga.org](http://www.focus-ga.org)  
For questions, please email [angie@focus-ga.org](mailto:angie@focus-ga.org)

**January, 26, 2013 FOCUS Annual Education Conference**  
Dunwoody United Methodist Church  
Brochure with speaker and workshop information is at [www.focus-ga.org](http://www.focus-ga.org)  
Register soon!

**February 23, 2013 30th Annual "For the Love of Children"**  
Dinner, Dance, and Silent Auction  
Call FOCUS for sponsorship and ticket information or to donate to the silent auction!

**May 8, 2013 FORE FOCUS**  
Golf Classic at Bear's Best



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# What I Learned From the FOCUS Adapted Swim Team

by Luke Shepherd

**B**efore I joined the FOCUS adapted swim team, I did not swim very well. As a result of being born with the physical disability known as Spina Bifida, my muscles were weak. I was not afraid of the water because I had spent time in pools and in the ocean since I was a baby. I had physical and occupational therapy in the swimming pool every week for about five years, and I enjoyed it a lot. Also, I played in the neighborhood pool with my family and friends. I always enjoyed the beach and liked playing in the waves during family and summer vacations. I was comfortable in the water, but I wanted to swim faster.

I faced some critical challenges when I first started swimming for the FOCUS adapted swim team. First, I swam very slowly because I did not know how to get my arms and legs to work together at the same time. Second, I often had to stop in the middle of the lane to take a breath and rest. Finally, I had to learn how to swim and keep my mouth closed at the same time so that I would not drink the water and end up choking.

I worked really hard to improve my swimming skills. Every Saturday, I attended all the scheduled practices unless I was sick. The coaches pushed me and my teammates to swim faster, work on new strokes, and improve our strokes. I competed with my teammates to swim faster. I pushed myself to swim even when I was tired. Finally, I took private lessons with one of my coaches to improve my swimming skills even more.

At the end of each swim season, I would participate in a swim meet. The swim meet was a lot of fun because my teammates and I enjoyed competing against other swimmers on other FOCUS Fast Fins teams from all over Atlanta. There were lots of people cheering enthusiastically and loudly for all of us. In one swim meet, I lost my swim shoe when I was doing the backstroke because I was kicking so hard. I won two ribbons for two of my heats. My grandfather took pictures of me swimming and created a photo collage, and he framed it for my bedroom wall.



I have learned a lot from being on the FOCUS adapted swim team, such as how to be a better swimmer. I also met some new friends who I have gotten to know well over the past few years of swimming. This experience also gave me perseverance and confidence. I hope that with all the swimming that I have done, I will one day become a more confident swimmer. What I learned all together from this experience is to not give up and to keep working towards my goal, whatever my goal is, until I have reached it, and then I may set new goals. ■

*Luke Shepherd is almost 14 years old and wrote this essay for his English class in November 2012.*

## Reflections

(Continued from page 1)

didn't let our kids' challenges get the best of us! That said, we talked big, but we both knew that we had our own little secrets of defeat, of frustrations, and of our energies being sucked out of us. We still tried to conquer it all with a smile, even after being up all night and zombie-ing around!

I thought about those old days today as I looked back. Then I thought about where are we now. Lucy is with FOCUS, helping hundreds of families find their way through the special needs maze; offering building camps, respite, fashion shows, fund raisers, and conferences. I'm 10 years without my Will ... how can it be 10 years since that December day we lost him? I continue to help Ginia grow into an independent young lady after her graduation from Agnes Scott. When I'm not with her or Doug (yep, still married!), I fill my days assisting people with special needs through my job as a Rehabilitation Technologist. Some of my clients are the same age as my Ginia is or my Will would be. Each have their own

challenges, each wander through mazes, and each hope for a better future. So, in a way, we continue to live the same lives!! We're both trying to make the world a better place, because of our own experiences, because of our Ginias, Wills, Joshes, and Jessicas. Remember that Emily Perl Kingsley article "Welcome to Holland?" I think we're trying to help make Holland less foreign for those just landing.

Would we be doing what we're doing if not for our kids? I sort of doubt it. Will we continue doing what we're doing? Time will tell. I'm just glad for the perfect timing that brought us together so long ago. I truly treasure our friendship.

As I remember the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Will's death and read the FOCUS newsletter, I just wanted to say 'thank you.' FOCUS made, and continues to make, such a difference to so many people – especially me. ■

### A Grandparent's Role

(Continued from page 3)

On January 5, 2011, our miracle baby Claire Elizabeth Gibbs came into the world, breathing on her own. The doctors said before she was born that more than likely she wouldn't live after birth. She proved them wrong. They said she wouldn't be able to see or hear. The latest test results have proven she can do both.

I look into her tiny face and see the wonder of God. She came into the world with many health issues; yet she has already surpassed the doctor's expectations. I ponder the fact that some doctors presented termination as an option. Then I thank God that my children thought differently. They wanted to give Claire the only chance she had to live. And she's living proof that God still works miracles!

Over the past several months, I have learned a great deal about the role of a grandparent. It's easy to rejoice and celebrate when everything is going just as planned during a pregnancy. But when life throws us curves, we must learn to adjust to a new normal.

Every day, I continue to pray for my children. I believe prayer is the key that opens the door to miracles. We are continuing to expect God to work in remarkable ways in Claire's life. And this grandmother will continue to be nearby, praying, listening and sharing her heart while doing everything I can do. Yet, I will also realize there are some things I cannot do. Those are the things, through faith and truth, I will turn over to God. ■

*Nancy B. Gibbs is a pastor's wife, mother, and grandmother, as well as a writer and motivational speaker. She has written several books and her writings have appeared in magazines, devotional guides, and newspapers. Visit her website at [www.nancybgibbs.com](http://www.nancybgibbs.com) for more information.*

### Contributors

(Continued from page 5)

- In honor of Bret Weiland and his wonderful family by Donna Chimberoff
- In honor of Noelle Ford by Kathy Ryan
- In honor of Miracle Brown by Jessie Packer
- In honor of Ava Bernardino by Melissa & Paul Bernardino
- In honor of Marina Prather by Lori & Steve Prather
- In honor of Kirk & Scott Lawton by Celia & Frank Lawton
- In honor of Christopher Bush by Laura & Darrell Bush
- In honor of Katie Preuss by Linda Preuss
- In honor of Myla Tolbert by Dianne Perry
- In honor of Paul Wade by Elaine Wade
- In honor of Rachel Weiland's Graduation by Phyllis McLay
- In honor of the Endres, Fain & Casatelli Families by Bretta Milner & the Smith Family
- In honor of Sumi Chatani's birthday by Vishal Chandiramani
- In honor of Julie Lyons' birthday by Elinore Wynne
- In honor of Lis Krawiecki's Birthday by Marilyn & Larry Margolis
- Susie Williams
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- Dina Norris & Stephen Young
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- Dianne Perry
- John Rennell
- Marcia & David Tiedt
- Chris & Bill Willson
- Irene Wright

*Special thanks to those who placed ads in the FOCUS on Fashion program book!*

### From the Editor

(Continued from page 2)

- 7. Taking time to troubleshoot the everyday problems that might actually have a solution! I sometimes am so busy putting out fires that I forget that most fires can be prevented! Sometimes a problem needs a little more thought: if dinner time is always difficult, plan ahead and use the crock pot; is a new difficult behavior connected to a medication change; create a social story to help a child understand a new situation; you get the picture. My favorite Albert Einstein quote is "Insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results."
- 8. Saying "thank you." I often take people for granted and forget to say "thank you." Never underestimate the power of a simple "thank you."
- 9. Saying "please." Ditto above.
- 10. Talking too much and not making the point. I'm done now.

So, I'm sorry I don't have any words of parental wisdom or advice and that I've bored you with my "do betters." My point is that we at FOCUS wish you a 2013 filled with Comfort, Hope, and FUN!! ■

## Driver Rehabilitation Program at CHOA

**D**riving a car is a skill that allows more independence. Teenagers and young adults who have disabilities still have the potential to become safe drivers. The Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta Driver Rehabilitation Program helps drivers, ages 15 through 21, learn the skills needed for safe driving after getting a learner’s permit. This program, through the Day Rehabilitation Program, is led by an occupational therapist who is a driver rehabilitation specialist certified by the Association of Driver Rehabilitation Specialists (ADED).

Recently, a 17-year-old girl was referred to the Driver Rehabilitation Program. She uses a wheelchair to get around at home and at school. She and her family were unsure if she would be able to drive safely. During the evaluation it was found that she did have the upper body strength to use hand controls to operate the gas and brakes and could use a special knob for steering. She has been practicing using these pieces of equipment in a parking lot and is gaining confidence in her abilities. She is very excited that driving may be something that she will be able to do.

To take part in the Driver Rehabilitation Program, a teen must:

- Be between the ages of 15 and 21.
- Have a current driver’s license or learner’s permit.
- Have a doctor’s prescription for testing and training.
- Meet state rules for vision and seizure-free time.
- Have a parent or guardian present.

The initial evaluation looks at strength, movement, coordination skills, reaction time, visual skills, attention, self-awareness, basic rules of the road and decision making for safe driving. The need for adaptive equipment to assist with driving will also be assessed during the clinical assessment. For new drivers, the behind-the-wheel training begins in a parking lot to learn the basics. Teens and their caregivers are given home programs to work on areas of need in the home environment and activities to work on in the car.

Visit [choa.org/driverrehab](http://choa.org/driverrehab) or call 404-785-3300 for more information about the Driver Rehabilitation Program. ■

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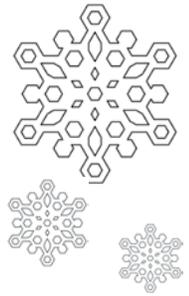
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# JANUARY 2013



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 Share Group: 10am - 5 & Under	9	10	11 Share Group: 10am - Cumming	12 Respite: 10am - Acworth 10am - Marietta
13	14 Share Group: 9:30am - Gwinnett	15 Share Group: 10am - Med. Fragile	16	17 Share Group: 9am - ExtremeNorth 9:30am - Conyers	18	19 Respite: 10am - Alpharetta
20	21	22	23	24	25	26 FOCUS Conference
27 Share Group: 6:30pm - N'side Grp	28	29	30	31 Share Group: 9:30am - Dekalb 10am - Marietta		

# FEBRUARY 2013



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
Visit <a href="http://www.focus-ga.org">www.focus-ga.org</a> for the most current information about FOCUS activities.						1	2 Respite: 10am - Acworth 10am - Chamblee 10am - Cumming 10am - Marietta
3 MVP Event	4	5	6	7	8 Share Group: 10am - Cumming 4:30pm - MTV Swim 5:45pm - MTV Swim	9 Respite: 10am - Alpharetta 10am - Newnan/Ptre 10am - Swim MJCCA 11am - Swim MJCCA	
10 Swim: 3:30pm - Cumming 5:30pm - J Creek 5:30pm - Roswell	11 Share Group: 9:30am - Gwinnett	12 Share Group: 10am - 5 & Under 10am - Med. Fragile	13	14 Share Group: 9:30am - Conyers	15 Swim: 4pm - Swim Summit	16	
17	18	19	20	21 Share Group: 9am - ExtremeNorth	22 Swim: 4:30pm - MTV Swim 5:45pm - MTV Swim	23 <i>For the Love of Children</i> Swim: 10am - MJCCA Swim 11am - MJCCA Swim	
24 N'side Grp 6:30pm Swim: 3:30pm - Cumming 5:30pm - J Creek 5:30pm - Roswell	25	26	27	28 Share Group: 9:30am - Dekalb 10am - Marietta			

## SPRING 2013 – EXTRA SPECIAL SATURDAY RESPITE SCHEDULE

To register your child, email [karen@focus-ga.org](mailto:karen@focus-ga.org) OR call FOCUS with your child's name and age and the location for which you wish to register. Please note the registration restrictions of each location. If you are registering your child for the first time and would like to talk with someone, indicate that on your message.

Not to insult anyone's intelligence, but here's an example of how to register, using the FOCUS voicemail. Call 770-234-9111, select extension 4. "I would like to register Betty and Jack Smith for respite in Acworth on February 2, April 6, and May 4. I would like to be on the wait list for January 12 and March 2. Betty is 5 years old and has cerebral palsy; Jack is 3 years old and has no extra needs. I can be reached at 770-000-0000 if you need to call me about this reservation."

Parents will receive a reminder email from Karen Greenfield the Monday or Tuesday before each respite date, requesting that you confirm your plans to attend. Important: If you do not receive that email, you might not be on the respite list so call or email Karen to find out. Do not come to respite and hope for the best; we carefully plan our staff and volunteers based on the number of children we expect and do not want to disappoint anyone!! If your child is sick on the day of respite, please call FOCUS and let us know; we might be able to add a child from the waiting list!!

Please bring lunch, extra clothes & diapers, and any medication (must be in prescription bottle, with correct dosage on label). We look forward to sharing an Extra Special Saturday with your child – enjoy your time off!! Register soon since locations fill up quickly!!

**ALL TIMES ARE 10 AM TO 2 PM**

### Acworth at Summit Baptist Church

4310 Moon Station Lane  
*(You may register for three months,  
choose wait list for two months)*  
January 12 • February 2  
March 2 • April 6 • May 4

### Alpharetta at Alpharetta Presbyterian Church

180 Academy Street  
*(You may register for three months,  
choose wait list for two months)*  
January 19 • February 9  
March 23 • April 27 • May 18

### Chamblee at Embury Hills United Methodist Church

3304 Henderson Mill Road  
*(You may register for three months,  
choose wait list for one month)*  
No January  
February 2 • March 2  
April 6 • May 4

## Share Group Calendar by Location!

Please call (770) 234-9111 or  
e-mail ([elizabeth@focus-ga.org](mailto:elizabeth@focus-ga.org))  
to RSVP and for reminders,  
directions,  
or further information.

### 5 & Under – 10am

This group is especially for parents of children with special needs who are 5 years old and younger.

FOCUS Office –  
3825 Presidential Parkway  
Suite 103 • Atlanta 30340

**January 8**  
**February 12**

### Conyers – 9:30am

Chick-fil-A  
1610 Hwy 138 SE, Conyers 30013

**January 17**  
**February 14**

### Cumming – 10am

Chick-fil-A  
Lanier Crossing – 653 Atlanta Rd,  
Cumming

**January 11**  
**February 8**

### Dekalb – 9:30am

Old Hickory House  
2202 Northlake Parkway in Tucker

**January 31**  
**February 28**

### Extreme North – 9am

Starbucks  
4646 Woodstock Rd. Roswell  
Mabry Rd. and Highway 92

**January 17**  
**February 21**

### Gwinnett – 9:30am

Chick-fil-A  
Hwy 124 (Scenic Hwy)

**January 14**  
**February 11**

### Marietta/Kennesaw – 10am

Chick-fil-A  
1201 Johnson Ferry Rd., Marietta  
Woodlawn Shopping Center

**January 31**  
**February 28**

### Medically Fragile – 10am

Kimberly Forester's home  
in Alpharetta  
RSVP to [Elizabeth@focus-ga.org](mailto:Elizabeth@focus-ga.org)  
for directions and reservations.

**January 15**  
**February 12**

### Northside – 6:30pm

Northside United Methodist Church  
2799 Northside Drive, Atlanta

**January 27**  
**February 24**

### Cumming at Christ the King Lutheran

1125 Bettis-Tribble Gap Road  
*(You may register for all dates.)*

No January  
February 2 • March 2  
April 6 • May 4

### Marietta at Mt. Bethel United Methodist Daycare

615 Woodlawn Road  
*(You may register for three months,  
choose wait list for two months)*

January 12 • February 2  
March 2 • April 6 • May 4

### Newnan at Cornerstone United Methodist

2956 Sharpsburg-McCullum Road  
*(You may register for all dates.)*

No January • February 9  
No March • April 27 • No May