



Spreading Hope, Spurring Action!

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About MHA

The Mental Health Association of Central Carolinas is an advocacy organization whose core mission is to offer a variety of mental health advocacy, prevention and education programs in Mecklenburg and Cabarrus Counties and acts as a clearinghouse for the dissemination of mental health information and educational materials for the community and elected officials. For more information, visit www.mhacentralcarolinas.org or call 704-365-3454.

Mental Health Association of Central Carolinas Adopts ParentVOICE Program

Organization educates community to remove stigma associated with mental illness

Charlotte, NC – May 13, 2010-

The Mental Health Association of Central Carolinas (MHA), a leading nonprofit dedicated to helping people live mentally healthier lives, today announced its adoption of ParentVOICE, a family driven, youth guided organization, staffed primarily by and for parents and caregivers of youth with emotional, behavioral, or mental health concerns.

For the past 77 years, MHA has been the voice of hope for persons affected by mental illness. The organization provides resources and services for residents in Mecklenburg and Cabarrus counties, offering a variety of mental health advocacy, prevention and education programs, which will now include ParentVOICE.

“ParentVOICE is a phenomenal program and we are excited about announcing adoption of the program in May, which is Mental Health Awareness month,” said Ellis Fields, Executive Director of MHA. “ParentVOICE meshes well within our organization’s mission and joining forces allows us to broaden our advocacy efforts to now include self advocacy and empowerment for families and youth.”

Since 2006, ParentVOICE has provided exceptional programming for families dealing with mental illness by providing trained and caring Family Support Specialists to help families navigate the education, mental health, juvenile justice and child welfare systems. ParentVOICE also provides support groups for parents, caregivers and grandparents to connect with other parents facing similar issues; a support group for youth with emotional, behavioral and mental health concerns and their siblings; trainings and workshops for parents, youth, and provider agencies; and a specialized lending library for parents and professionals as well as resource information for youth and their siblings. At ParentVOICE, families will find the education, support and resources they need to help their child.

“ParentVOICE’s mission remains the same and we remain dedicated to helping families and youth become effective advocates for their mental health, while empowering them to reach their goals,” said ParentVOICE’s new Program Director Candace Wilson. “We are committed to making sure the program maintains a strong and enduring presence in the community.”

For more information on MHA visit www.mhacentralcarolinas.org or call (704) 365-3454 to learn how you can help. Visit the ParentVOICE website at www.parentvoice.net.



The MHA is a member agency

The MHA is an Affiliate of the Mental Health Association in North Carolina and Mental Health America