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We Care a Lot Foundation Newsletter

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Program Updates

Region 2 People First Chapters

The People First chapters of Region 2 have started the candy sales that will fund their 2012 Region 2 People First Conference in Anderson! Candy bars are only \$1.00 and are available through most of the members in each chapter. Last year Region 2 funded their conference through various fundraisers, and the candy sales proved to be the most profitable and the most fun. The conference is the only one that we know of that is completely planned, funded, and put on by people with developmental disabilities. Helpers were there to offer support, but only in the background and only when asked. If you missed out on the incredible fun and excitement of last year's conference, keep watching this newsletter for information on next years conference, May 4-6, 2012. You will NOT want to miss out!

People First of California 2011 conference

Several programs from We Care a Lot Foundation were session speakers at the latest People First of California state-wide conference held in Sacramento June 3-5, 2011. Respect Yourself, SAY (Same As You), and Clean Teeth were all session presenters. Andreas Economopoulos, a Region 2 People First officer from Yreka, not only led a session, but was also a key-note speaker. Andreas gave an impassioned speech about working together towards a common goal. Every session was well attended and very well received, with praise given to all speakers by many different people in attendance.

Michelle Phillips of SAY was very surprised to see how many people came to their session. "It was a good

Foundation is partnering with Far Northern Regional Center to begin a Voting Project! There are over 200,000 people with developmental disabilities living in California. However, most of those people who are of age to vote, do not. Why is that? Far Northern Regional Center did a survey asking this question. They found that for most people, it is too hard to understand the issues they are voting on.

Self-advocates will soon be traveling around the Far Northern area to get the word out to adults with developmental disabilities- if we want to see real changes in the state budget, we have to VOTE! The group will be trained on how to sign people up to vote (which is called being registered), and will talk about why voting should be important to ALL of us. [Follow this link](#) to an article in the Chico News and Review about the upcoming voting project!

Local People First chapters are also looking at ways to make it easier for people to understand what issues and

conference. Everyone seemed interested and they really liked Andre's speech." Michelle also noted that people who go to the conference can get all kinds of different information, including help with different relationships, bullying, and more.

Changes in Adventures in Business

With the ongoing state budget cuts it was realized the Adventures in Business program will only be able to continue to support businesses that are currently up and running. No new businesses will be created or supported within the program, and unfortunately the coordinator position filled by Mark Ward had to be cut as well.

As difficult as it is for anyone to start a micro-business, Mark was a key influence in the success of business owners as he helped them to create a solid base from which to build their business. So although *how* the current business owners receive support from our company may change, we have no doubt we will continue to see success from them with that solid foundation in place and their desire and dedication. We Care a Lot Foundation would like to thank Mark Ward for his dedication to the inclusion of people with disabilities as capable members of the business community. We wish you good luck and success in your future endeavors!

People First of California conference as reported by Jenelle Copenhaver

My name is Jenelle Copenhaver and I am a Life Guide with Pathfinders. I went to the People First conference in Sacramento at the Doubletree hotel from June 10th through June 12th, 2012.



We had lots to do activity wise- there was time for art, there was a big dance that I loved where I had a great time. There was a band that played for us that was very talented from a day program in Sacramento.

We had several wonderful speakers who talked about things and there were classes we took, so I give the People First conference a 100% and more. I learned so many new things in the sessions I went to, "Buying Your Own Home", "Becoming or Wanting to Be a Parent", and "Clean Teeth".

The conference was wonderful and taught me that I am a human being, not a disability. I am a person who has

candidates they are voting for. Being registered to vote is the first step, but being an informed voter is the next step.

Watch this newsletter for more information on the voting project, and how to bring the team to YOUR area! You can also [follow this link](#) to learn more about voting in California.

Mark Your Calendar!

September 2011

The Voting Project will begin presenting to self-advocates on voting.

Call Brandi at (530) 223-7771 to schedule a presentation for your People First chapter, day program, care home, or other groups.

October 2011

Dance hosted by People First of Corning!
More information will be in the Fall 2011 issue.

May 4-6, 2012

Region 2 People First Conference in Anderson
More information will be in the Spring 2012 issue.

hopes and dreams and goals to achieve. I am now motivated to achieve them and am going for it with a full blast of my energy to succeed in life!

The Programs of We Care a Lot Foundation

People served in our programs receive services from a regional center unless otherwise noted.

The Abuse Prevention Team

teaches adults with disabilities how to be their own first line of defense against abuse. [Learn more about APT.](#)

The Consumer Abuse Awareness Team

teaches staff and professionals about the culture of abuse in people with developmental disabilities. [Learn more about CAAT.](#)

Legacy Homes will house and support adults with developmental disabilities who want to live in their own homes, while planning for future needs such as increased cost of living and repairs. [Learn more about Legacy Homes.](#)

Pathfinders helps people create a Life Plan, which is a tool they may use in planning what services and supports they need to live a successful life. [Learn more about Pathfinders.](#)

People First chapters are local self-advocacy groups that are run by and for people with developmental disabilities. [Learn more about People First.](#)

Respect Yourself has two educational series: *Me and You* focuses on healthy relationships, while *Respect Yourself* goes deeper into learning about your body and healthy sexuality. [Learn more about Respect Yourself.](#)

Same As You (SAY) teaches school-aged children about the effects of bullying and teasing. The message is clear- we are all the same as you. [Learn more about SAY.](#)

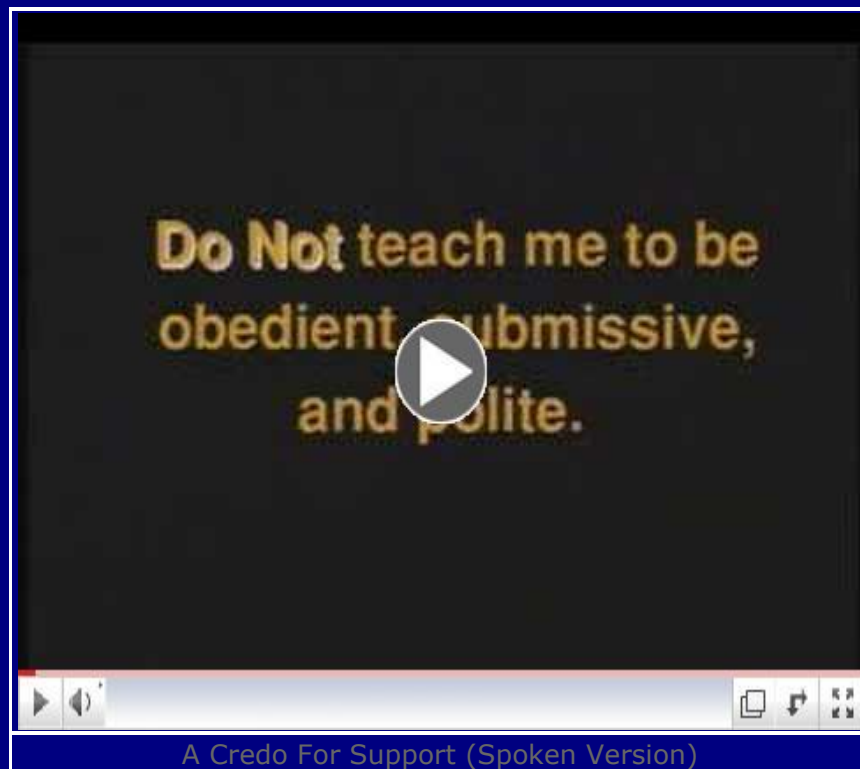
Watch Out! is a newsletter featuring positive stories about people with developmental disabilities in Northern California. [Learn more about Watch Out!](#)

Self-advocates from around the Region 2 area recently traveled to the state capital on May 25 to voice their opinions about ongoing budget cuts. The rallying cry was "No More Cuts!" as people from around the state marched in the rain to the capital and visited legislators in their offices. Booths were set up in front of the capitol building with information and services, and speakers gave impassioned speeches that had the crowd cheering.



Credo of Support

Written by Norman Kunc and Emma Van der Klift © 1995



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