

detach & mail with payment

# Register

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address is  home  business

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Place of Employment: *(for name tag)*

Check all that apply:

- Educator  Nurse  MD  OT/PT
- Social Worker  0-3 Professional
- Parent/Guardian of child\* age 0-3
- Parent/Guardian of child\* age 3-18
- Parent/Guardian of adult \*with a disability
- Self-advocate  Childcare Provider
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Morning Workshops:** *(write in #)*

1<sup>st</sup> choice #\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> choice #\_\_\_

**Afternoon Workshops**

1<sup>st</sup> choice #\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> choice #\_\_\_

Request for:  Social Work Cont Ed  
 Mental Health  Attendance Certificates

Do **not** list me in the participants list  
*(name/contact info)* in conference packets.

**Conference Fee** *(includes lunch)*

- \$70 Registration  \$75 after April 15
- \$55 Family member\*/caregiver

**Limited Partial & Full Scholarships are available for families, call 1-800-800-4005**

Request **Special Accommodations** before April 15: \_\_\_\_\_

Send check\* (non-refundable) payable to:

**Vermont Family Network**  
600 Blair Park Rd., Ste 240  
Williston, VT 05495-7549

\*additional payment options on our website:  
[www.vtfn.org/Conf2010.html](http://www.vtfn.org/Conf2010.html) (see Registration form)

# Agenda

- 8 - 8:45am ..... Registration & Exhibits  
Continental Breakfast
- 8:45 - 10:00 ..... Welcome & Keynote:  
Sarah Helena Vazquez
- 10:00 - 10:15 ..... Break & Exhibits
- 10:15 - 11:30 ..... Morning Workshops:  
#1 - #5
- 11:30 - 11:45 ..... Break & Exhibits
- 11:45 - 1:05pm ..... Lunch, Awards, Exhibits
- 1:05 - 1:15 ..... Intro to Round Tables
- 1:15 - 2:30 ..... Round Table Discussions
- 2:30 - 2:45 ..... Break & Exhibits
- 2:45 - 4:00 ..... Afternoon Workshops:  
#6 - #10
- 4:15 ..... Closing Remarks/Door Prize  
Evaluation Forms
- 4:30pm ..... Conference Adjourns

Photos will be taken at the conference event. If you do NOT want your photo used in any VFN promotional materials, write in with the registration form, contact [EventsCoordinator@vtfn.org](mailto:EventsCoordinator@vtfn.org), OR tell us at the registration desk. See also [www.vtfn.org/Conf2010.html](http://www.vtfn.org/Conf2010.html).

Applications for Mental Health and Social Work CEU's pending.

**Exhibitors:** Businesses and Organizations from around VT will have booths exhibiting information about their services. If your organization is interested in exhibiting at this conference contact: [EventsCoordinator@vtfn.org](mailto:EventsCoordinator@vtfn.org) at 876-5315 x202.

Thanks to our Conference Sponsors, as of printing date: Vermont Department of Health, Children with Special Health Needs; Law Office of Claudia I. Pringles; and VSA Arts of Vermont. Updates on [vtfn.org/Conf2010.html](http://vtfn.org/Conf2010.html)

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support information advocacy  
Vermont Family Network  
600 Blair Park Rd, Suite 240  
Williston, VT 05495-7549  
[VermontFamilyNetwork.org](http://VermontFamilyNetwork.org)

Directions:  
Sheraton Burlington Conference Center  
Williston Road, immediately off I-89,  
Exit 14W



May 13, 2010  
Sheraton Burlington Hotel  
& Conference Center

## 2010 VFN Conference

Access to healthcare, education, technology, and community speaks to the type of society we strive to be. We should all be able to participate in community life and aim to achieve a quality of life, based on dignity and the fulfillment of dreams. Through the partnered efforts of families/caregivers, healthcare professionals, educators, human-services specialists/providers, and policy makers, it is possible to open doors to brighter futures.

Event Sponsor:



Formerly named the Partners In Care conference, VFN is the merged organization of VPI-C and Parent to Parent.



# Keynote

## Keynote Speaker: Sarah Helena Vazquez

Sarah was born and raised in Newark, New Jersey. She was diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy at the age of four. Sarah's mother raised her mindful of two major facts—the fact that rice and beans could not be missing from the dinner table, due to her Puerto Rican culture, and the knowledge and awareness that she could do anything to which she put her mind.



Proud to have been educated within the Newark Public School system, Sarah is a graduate of Rutgers University, where she earned her BA degree in Psychology and English. Currently, she is a Support Coordinator for Neighbours Inc. Sarah is also editing her first autobiography, *Unpaved to Paved Roads*.

She has been the keynote speaker and master of ceremonies at several events, which include: the New Jersey Department of Education's Dare to Dream Student Leadership Conferences; graduation ceremonies for John F. Kennedy High School and Malcolm X. Shabazz High School (Newark, NJ); the Latinos with Disabilities Employment Conference; the Secondary Transition State Planning National Institute (New Jersey City University); the New Jersey Coalition for Inclusive Education Annual Conference; SPAN's Regional Conference; and the annual New Jersey Governor's Conference on Recreation for Individuals with Disabilities. Sarah serves on the Boggs Center Advisory Board, as well as the National Youth Leadership Consortium. In addition, Sarah has been a freelance writer for the World Institute on Disabilities, of Oakland, California. Sarah bases her achievements on two major factors—having dreams and following her dreams on a full stomach. **For more on Sarah, visit her website: <http://sarahvazquezspeaks.com>**

## VFN Awards

We will announce our **2010 VFN Award** winners after lunch.

We are accepting nominations until April 12. View category descriptions for our parent, professional, youth, leadership, and education awards and nomination form at:

[www.vfn.org/VFNAward2010.html](http://www.vfn.org/VFNAward2010.html)

# Morning Workshops

## 1. Stepping Into Your Future

Focus will be on the high-school student's transition from school to adulthood. Post-secondary options and strategies for transition planning from high school to work/education/life for youth with special needs. Considerations for developing a transition plan while in high school will be discussed as well as how to connect to youth and adult services. Panel includes students who have, or are about to, transition and Q & A. For late teens, young adults, parents, educators, and professionals.

Panel: **Ellen Vaut**, VFN; **Eric Johnson**, VocRehab Vermont; **Mame Grossman** and **Nancy Rice**, Mt. Mansfield Union HS Special Educators; and **students**

## 2. Champion Your Cause

Attendees will learn about VT's legislative process, from the multiple perspectives of a legislator, parents who have provided testimony at the Legislature or worked to put an act into law, and an experienced political organizer. Participants will gain a better understanding of how the legislative process works and the roles they can play in effecting change.

Panel: **Kim Friedman**, Kids Are Priority One Coalition Director; **Patsy French**, Legislator; **Lisa Maynes**, Parent, DD Council; **Lisa Erwin-Davidson**, SLP; and **Ron Marcellus**, Parent, Autism Task Force

## 3. Speech Recognition Software—It Really Works Now!

An overview of speech-recognition software options now available on the market will be given. Participate in a hands-on exploration; speak into the microphone and have your words translated into text. Main focus will be the application Dragon NaturallySpeaking version 10, including a demonstration and tips for troubleshooting voice-dictation issues. Discussion encompasses identifying the characteristics of a student who might benefit from using the software, to produce written work in a school setting.

**Dan Gilman** and **Eileen Haddon**, ATPs, Vermont Assistive Technology Program

## 4. Fun, Fitness, & Friends

A panel of leaders, who offer a variety of social and recreational opportunities, will discuss programs adapted to individual needs, regardless of age, ability, cognitive impairment, or special needs. Learn about ways in which children and adults can engage in an active and healthy lifestyle, through fun experiences at camp, school, and community activities. The emphasis will be on adaptive and inclusive recreation in a social environment.

Panel: **Peggy Owen Sands**, VT-ILEHP; **Deb Lamden**, Partners In Adventure; **Patrick Standen**, NDAA; and **Joan Martin**, Unified Sports of Special Olympics

## 5. Healthy Social & Emotional Development of Young Children

Strong lives are cultivated in childhood through positive experiences that build competence and resilience. If we fail to address the healthy social and emotional development of children, we pay a heavy price. We'll forge a pathway toward infant and toddler mental health, using principles that foster the growth of reciprocity in relationships and capacity in every child; 0-3 years is the time when trust, empathy, conscience, and self-regulation are laid down. For interventionists, parents, child care providers, teachers.

**Jeanine Fitzgerald**, Better Behavior Bureau

# Afternoon Workshops

## 6. Build a Better IEP

This step-by-step explanation of the Individualized Education Program process will enable parents to better understand how the plan is designed to work for their child and their role as team members. Discussion will also include suggestions around how to actively participate in the IEP planning process in order to create a well-written IEP that can help the child make meaningful progress.

**Christine Kilpatrick**, Vermont Family Network (VFN), Director of Parent Training & Information Center

## 7. Creating a Better Future through Effective Communication

Basic communication strategies, best practices, and research-based techniques for getting your point across respectfully, even in situations of conflict, will be explored during this session. There will also be time for audience scenarios and group problem-solving to highlight and implement the newly-learned strategies of this facilitated discussion. This workshop is designed for parents, school administrators, and educators.

**Kathleen Kilbourne** and **Jay J. Morris**, PhD, VFN, PIRC-Vermont

## 8. Caring for Ourselves & Our Children with Special Needs

Families of children with special needs find they are often vulnerable to stress that comes with their unique set of life challenges. This workshop will explore commonly-faced challenges for families of children with special needs. Participants will: identify personal and relational stresses associated with parenting a child with special needs; examine the role of loss, grief, and mourning in their relationships to and with their children; consider preferred methods of self care and possible alternatives; examine communication patterns within the family and experiment with new ways of relating; discuss concerns about the future; and share information regarding resources for accessing support.

**Dr. Marlene Maron**, Director of Pediatric Psychology Service, Fletcher Allen

## 9. Effective Strategies for Challenging Behavior

Finding solutions for a child's behavior issues can be challenging to parents and schools. Parents play a unique role in helping the school develop an ideal behavior plan because they have particular insight and information regarding their child. This workshop will help parents understand functional behavioral assessments and positive interventions in school as well as include some practical behavior intervention strategies for the home.

**Ginny Iverson**, Special Educator & Educational Consultant, VT State I-Team

## 10. Accessing Your Community

This Q & A workshop will address accessing community resources and services, particularly relating to housing, employment, and social opportunities, with the focus being on adults with developmental disabilities. Attention will also be given to the probable effects of FY 2011 budget cuts on all three of these areas, as well as how Vermont Family Network routinely provides information, services, and resources to individuals with developmental disabilities.

**Claudia Inés Pringles**, VFN Family Support Consultant; and **Stan Baker**, HowardCenter Developmental Services

## Round Table Discussions:

*One of the many benefits of attending the conference is networking with other parents and professionals. The Round Tables, held after lunch, will be an opportunity to network with other conference participants in a facilitated environment. There are various topics from which to choose, with experts from the field to answer questions and facilitate discussions.*

**You may choose 2 discussion topics to attend on the day of the conference. There is no need to sign up, beforehand.**

## Round Table Discussion Topics:

1. Autism Resources
2. Medical Partnerships: Creating a "Medical Home"
3. Children with Special Health Needs (VT-DOH)
4. Early Childhood Issues
5. Federal Legislation, Policy, & Initiatives
6. Health Care Finance
7. Starting a Support Group
8. Individual Education Plans
9. Legal Issues for Individuals with Special Needs
10. Resources for Vermonters with Traumatic Brain Injury
11. Mental Health Issues & Resources
12. Parent Involvement in School (for educators too)
13. Plans for Achieving Self Support (PASS) Program (SSA)
14. Siblings of Children/Adults with Special Needs
15. Special Education Parent-Teacher Groups
16. Special Needs Trusts
17. VT Alternative Assessment
18. Summer Programming

View more details about these topics at: [www.vfn.org/Conf2010.html#RoundTableList](http://www.vfn.org/Conf2010.html#RoundTableList)