

# Oklahoma Parents Center

Summer 2013



## Mission Statement

Oklahoma Parents Center is dedicated to the inclusion and **equality of children** and adults with disabilities. Our mission is to train, inform, educate, and **support parents**, families, professionals and consumers in **building partnerships** that **meet the needs** of children and youth with the full range of disabilities ages birth through twenty-six.

## **7<sup>th</sup> Annual Statewide Conference... Another Great Year!**

The Oklahoma Parents Center hosted their 7<sup>th</sup> annual statewide conference in May and it was a huge success with **well over 200 registrants** braving the Oklahoma weather to make it one of the largest statewide conferences the OPC has held in years.

This year we tried something a little different - a **Preconference Institute** the day before the conference. Our goal was to give families a little more information in smaller settings so they could better absorb the vital information our presenters were offering. We received such wonderful feedback that we hope to add this to our Statewide Conferences every year!

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After our Pre-Conference Institute our guests had the wonderful opportunity to personally sit down with professionals from disability agencies at our first annual “Topical Tables: Ask the Experts” to discuss their personal situations and get advice from people who understood what they were going through.

Then on to the real fun - the Statewide Conference! The day was packed with breakout sessions that touched on a multitude of topics for our families and professionals to choose from. The participants were treated to a wonderful lunch - it was wonderful to see the presenters and participants interacting at lunch together. After lunch participants were back at it, listening and interacting with presenters from ODSE, SERC, ODLIC and with the Main Speakers “Shut Up About Your Perfect Kid” Sisters, Gina Gallagher and Patricia Konjoian, who had everyone rolling with their quick wit and snappy humor on how they look at life raising children of their own with special needs.

The highlight of the day had to be our awards ceremony where we handed out our *2nd Annual Parent of the Year Award* to [Olga Leeper from Tahlequah](#) and *1st Annual Educator of the Year Award* to [Darla Cooper from Oklahoma Virtual Academy](#).

**[Congratulations ladies!!](#)**

We were very happy to host vendors from across the state that held stakes in helping families with children with special needs. They did an excellent job meeting with the families and professionals that attended handing out beneficial information to help families with a wide range of information.

Although the day ended unexpectedly, our ambition was that everyone made it home safely and more informed. Ginger Jaggars, an OPC Information Training Specialist, said it well - “I can tell you that I personally was touched and helped by the information that I received from the conference. All of us at the Oklahoma Parents Center hope you were as well and can’t wait to see you next year!”



**“Parent of the Year”  
Olga Leeper**



**“Educator of the Year”  
Darla Cooper**

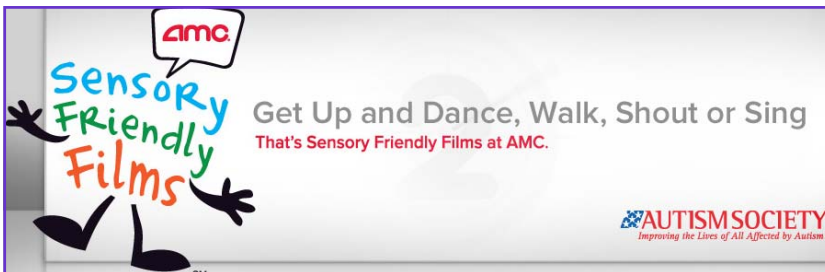


The **ADA National Network**, [www.adata.org](http://www.adata.org), provides information, guidance and training on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA),

tailored to meet the needs of business, government and individuals at local, regional and national levels. The ADA National Network consists of **ten Regional ADA National Network Centers** located throughout the United States that provide local assistance to ensure that the ADA is implemented wherever possible. We are not an enforcement or regulatory agency, but a helpful resource supporting the ADA's mission to "make it possible for everyone with a disability to live a life of freedom and equality."

Are you looking for something specific? The ADA National Network Disability Law Handbook is free and available as a download. It provides answers to common questions about the ADA, the ADA Amendments Act, the Rehabilitation Act, Social Security, the Air Carrier Access Act, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act, and the Fair Housing Act Amendments.

Visit <https://adata.org/lawhandbook> for the Handbook!!!



**AMC Theatres (AMC)** and the **Autism Society** have teamed up to bring families affected by autism and other disabilities a special opportunity to enjoy their favorite films in a safe and accepting environment on a monthly basis with the **"Sensory Friendly Films"** program. The movie auditoriums will have their lights brought up and the sound turned down, families will be able to bring in their own gluten-free, casein-free snacks, and no previews or advertisements will be shown before the movie. Additionally, audience members are welcome to get up and dance, walk, shout or sing - in other words, AMC's "Silence is Golden<sup>®</sup>" policy will not be enforced unless the safety of the audience is questioned.

**For more information,**

**you can visit**

[www.autism-society.org/get-involved/events/sensory-friendly-films/](http://www.autism-society.org/get-involved/events/sensory-friendly-films/)

All shows are at  
**10:00 am local time**

**Tickets are \$4-6**  
depending on location and  
can be purchased on the day of the event  
**\*\*Please note all dates and films  
are subject to change\*\***

August 10, 2013  
**THE SMURFS 2**

August 31, 2013  
**Planes**

October 5, 2013  
**CLOUDY WITH A CHANCE OF MEATBALLS 2**

November 9, 2013  
**FREE BIRDS**

December 7, 2013  
**FROZEN 2-D**

**AMC Crossroads 16**  
1211 E I-240 Service Road  
Oklahoma City, Ok. 73149

**AMC Quail Springs 24**  
2501 W Memorial Rd—Ste E  
Oklahoma City, Ok. 73134

# SAVE THE DATE!!!

## *OKLAHOMA PARENTS CENTER'S 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Statewide Conference*

**SHERATON  
MIDWEST CITY  
AT THE  
REED CONFERENCE  
CENTER**

**FRIDAY,  
MAY 30<sup>TH</sup>, 2014  
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM**

In conjunction with  
the Oklahoma State Department of  
Education  
Special Education Services

*“Building Relationships...Creating Successful Change”*



# FIREFLY LANTERN

## TO MAKE YOUR OWN YOU WILL NEED:

- White paper
- Yellow paint
- Blue tissue paper
- Paintbrush
- Mix of 1/3 glue and 2/3 water
- Flameless candle, optional
- Scissors
- Empty Jar
- Beads
- Pipe cleaner



We started by painting our white paper with yellow paint. You could use yellow paper, if you like.

Next we cut out circles from the yellow paper and glued them onto our glass jar.



After we had attached our dots we covered the jar with the blue tissue paper and covered it with the glue and water mix.



While it dried we added some beads to a pipe cleaner.



Then all we had to do was to attach the pipe cleaner to the jar as a handle and insert the candle.

Adapted from: [www.herewearetogether.com](http://www.herewearetogether.com)

# Donations Appreciated

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (hm) ( ) (wk) ( ) (cell) ( )

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE MARK ALL THAT APPLY:

Parent      Relative      Foster Parent      Special Educator      Service Provider      Other

Birthdate/Sex of Child: \_\_\_\_\_ Primary Disability of Child: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to make a tax-deductible donation of:

\_\_\_\_\_ \$5.00    \_\_\_\_\_ \$10.00    \_\_\_\_\_ \$20.00    \_\_\_\_\_ \$50.00    \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Your donation of any amount to the OPC is greatly appreciated!

You can also visit [www.OklahomaParentsCenter.org](http://www.OklahomaParentsCenter.org) to donate online!

Also please send me more information on the following: (Check all that apply)

- I would like to schedule a workshop.  
 I would like individual assistance and information.  
 I would like more information about the parent training and information center.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!!!

## Contact Us:

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