



# Responding to Inclusive Special Education Needs

A Newsletter of the F.A.I.T.H. Initiative

Please visit [www.SacredHeartGroton.org/RISEN](http://www.SacredHeartGroton.org/RISEN)

Vol. I No.14 Spring 2010

## R.I.S.E.N. MISSION STATEMENT

We are an inclusive educational ministry; focused on the overall development of the child with special needs, thereby maximizing their potential to the best of their ability. We believe that it is through each child's differences that we come to learn more about the purposes and philosophical meanings of life. The entire community, especially parents and school staff, support and participate in this development.

### FROM THE DESK OF JANE O'FRIEL



What a blessing upon *R.I.S.E.N.* to be approaching its *tenth* year of supporting children with special learning needs! For the past nine years *R.I.S.E.N.* has been able to grow and develop into an extremely valuable resource for children attending Sacred Heart School. When we began in the Fall of 2001, we were targeting 3 children who had special learning needs that would not be able to attend a Catholic School if it were not for the assistance of the resources available through the then "*F.A.I.T.H. Initiative*". We are now able to provide supports to over 40 children through a variety of teaching strategies and incentives, including the exceptional child, and impact the entire student population in some way.

Personally, *R.I.S.E.N.* has been a journey that has brought me to places that I would have never expected in my lifetime. I have been involved in advocacy for children and adults with disabilities. I have learned a great deal of information about the supporting documents of the Catholic Church and initiatives throughout the country pertaining to persons with disabilities. At the present time, I am actively discerning a new direction in the mission and vision to persons with disabilities. I am entertaining the possibility of pursuing a doctoral degree which will blend all of my life, nursing and disability experience. I am committed to tying in the theological, ethical and philosophical perspectives within the disability ministry at a Catholic University in New England. In addition, a family member has encountered a serious health challenge for which I must attend. I will remain as a consultant to the *R.I.S.E.N.* Advisory Board of Sacred Heart School. So this will be my last newsletter to all of you. I am extremely grateful to everyone who has been supportive throughout the years. Please keep me in your prayers as I embark on an extended journey reflecting upon the benefits and challenges of *R.I.S.E.N.* The future of the *R.I.S.E.N.* program is in the capable hands of the administration of Sacred Heart School. It is my prayer and my dream that *R.I.S.E.N.* will be a beacon of hope into the future for all the Diocese of Norwich and beyond. I hope that you will continue to support the efforts of *R.I.S.E.N.* in your thoughts and in your prayers. The mission and vision of *R.I.S.E.N.* has been maintained by people like you.

In the Spirit of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus,  
Blessings and Peace,

Jane A. O'Friel  
President, R.I.S.E.N. Advisory Board

### Thought for Reflection

*"I can do all things through CHRIST who strengthens me"*

*-Philippians 4:13*



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# The JOURNEY OF RISEN in FAITH

By  
*Jane O’Friel*

This section of the newsletter this spring is dedicated to reviewing some of the key points to consider when reflecting on the development and implementation of a special needs initiative within the Catholic School. In this time of financial challenges, it is difficult to think about the resources necessary to meet the needs of children with special needs. Equally as challenging is the collaboration with the public sector in accessing resources and support services for children. The fact that, at times, we are unable to access adequate resources pertaining to this vital issue is disheartening to parents and teachers who want to make this opportunity possible for children in the faith-based setting.

We must always keep in mind and stay focused on the fact that inclusion of children with special needs is about the child, not anyone else. Realistically, however, other issues always seem to become obstacles to this mission and vision. Always remain positive and keep the FAITH. Listed below you will find a review of a few of the resources available that help us to recognize the fact that we must continue on the journey that was the very heart of the *F.A.I.T.H.* (Faith-based Advocacy for Inclusion Together from the Hear) Initiative (now *R.I.S.E.N.*) started in 2001. *R.I.S.E.N.* of Sacred Heart School has been successful at meeting these challenges and it is through our experience that we share with you these sources.



*“Let me be an instrument of your peace.”*

## RESOURCES

**The Scripture:** the foundation of our faith  
**Welcome and Justice to Persons with Disabilities:** based on the pastoral statement issued by the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops (USCCB)

**University of Dayton, Ohio, Institute for Pastoral Initiatives:** Network of Inclusive Catholic Educators (N.I.C.E.) – offers a number of publications pertaining to persons with disabilities

**National Catholic Educational Association: Special Needs Conference** (usually meets in January)

**The Catholic Funding Guide** (lists by state, resources that are available for potential grants)

**Publications of the USCCB:** in addition to the welcome and justice brochure, the sacramental guidelines for persons with disabilities are available as well

**Other Diocesan Initiatives:** such as St. Anthony’s School Programs (Diocese of Pittsburgh) and FIRE (Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph)

These are just a few of the many resources available in support of inclusion of children and adults with disabilities within the life and community of the church. Stay tuned to future issues of Four County Catholic for occasional articles pertaining to persons with disabilities.

*“We walk by FAITH not by sight”*  
*11 Corinthians 5:7*



## R.I.S.E.N. STAFF

**Stacy Mares**  
*Special Education Coordinator*

**Nan Gibeault**  
*Paraprofessional, R.I.S.E.N. Learning Resource Center*

**Jane O’Friel**  
*President, R.I.S.E.N. Advisory Board*

**Trissy Poitras**  
*Paraprofessional*

**Tracey Davies**  
*Paraprofessional, R.I.S.E.N. Learning Resource Center*

**Kim Shepardson**  
*Consultant*

# THE SIXTH ANNUAL R.I.S.E.N. GOLF TOURNAMENT

## SCRAMBLE FORMAT

*"TO BENEFIT CHILDREN WITH  
SPECIAL LEARNING NEEDS"*

**Friday, June 4, 2010**

11:30am.....Sign-In/Lunch

12:30pm.....Shot-Gun Start

5:30pm.....Buffet Dinner

## Shennecossett Golf Course

93 Plant Street Groton, CT 06340  
860-445-0262

### Golfer's Package

*\$125 per person*

REGISTER BY APRIL 16<sup>TH</sup> FOR A FREE MULLIGAN

Your golf package will include:

**A cart, lunch, 18 holes of golf, a t-shirt, and a dinner buffet.**

*A Great Deal!!*

## Sponsorship Information

### Tournament Sponsor **\$1000**

Includes: a foursome, recognition banner, your business promoted on t-shirt, and priority program listing

### A Partner **\$500**

Includes: your business promoted on t-shirt plus program listing

### A Friend **\$300**

Includes: name on cart plus program listing

### A Tee Sponsor **\$150**

Includes: sign recognition on the green plus program listing

### A Youth Patron **\$100**

To support Sacred Heart Youth participants

### Lunch Sponsor **\$700**

Includes: your business promoted on t-shirt, and program listing

### Dinner Sponsor **\$1500**

Includes: your business promoted on t-shirt, and priority program listing

## Golfer's Registration

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

Company: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Company: \_\_\_\_\_

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

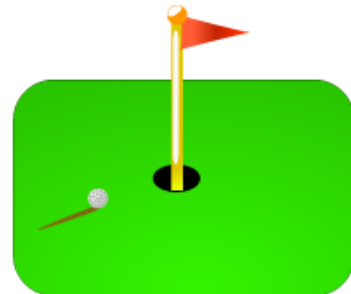
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form with your check made payable to R.I.S.E.N. - Sacred Heart School by May 14, 2010 to:  
**R.I.S.E.N. at Sacred Heart School**  
50 Sacred Heart Drive Groton, CT 06340

### Contact information:

860-449-8302, 860-445-9611 or email Brian O'Friel at  
RISENGolf@hotmail.com



*Donations for door prizes are welcomed.*

## UPCOMING EVENTS



**2010 NCEA Convention & Expo**  
**St. Paul & Minneapolis; “Leadership, Direction, Service”** April 6 to 8, 2010; Minneapolis Convention Center, Minneapolis, MN  
www.ncea.org

**Massachusetts Down Syndrome Conference –**  
Saturday, March 27, 2010; **DCU Center in Worcester, MA; “Taking Chances”** There will be a track for parents, educators, brothers and sisters and young adults with Down syndrome.

**New England Conference on Gifted and Talented Education** October 22 - 24, 2010; Harford, CT  
www.necgt.org

**Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) 2010 Convention & Expo** April 21 – 24, 2010, Nashville, Tennessee; www.cec.sped.org; 1-800-232-7733; sessions on teaching strategies, special education legislation, exhibits and products.

## FUNDRAISING

### HOLY BEARS

A limited number of Holy Bears are available at this time for purchase in the Sacred Heart Parish Gift Shop. Each bear has a spiritual theme. You can visit the WEB site [www.holybears.org](http://www.holybears.org) to see what they look like.



### St. Patrick’s Day Fundraiser

The 8<sup>th</sup> grade has been with the RISEN Program since its inception in 2001. With approval of the RISEN Advisory Board, the proceeds of the St. Patrick’s Day Fundraiser will support the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Through a generous donation, the RISEN Program will be purchasing the items for the fundraiser.



### VEHICLE DONATIONS

We continue to accept vehicle donations! If you have a vehicle that you would like to donate please contact us. One simple phone call and we will take care of the rest.



# CHRIST IS RISEN

## RESOURCES

[www.ccse-maryland.org](http://www.ccse-maryland.org)

**Catholic Coalition for Special Education, Inc.**  
Raises funds to support special education instruction in Catholic Schools in Washington, D.C. and Maryland



[www.woodbinehouse.com](http://www.woodbinehouse.com)

Publishes the Special-Needs Collection, a series of almost 50 books on disabilities and related topics

[www.gifted-children.com](http://www.gifted-children.com)

“Identification, Encouragement and Development”  
Resource for the parent of children with great promise.

## OUR SUPPORTERS

*Listed below are some of the foundations and organizations that have supported our mission and vision since 2001!*

Campaign for Human Development  
Charter Oaks Federal Credit Union  
Church of the Holy Family, Hebron  
The Society of St. Edmund  
The Catholic Foundation, Diocese of Norwich  
The Doug Flutie Foundation for Autism, Inc.  
The Groton Education Fund  
The Ruth Sanger Conant Trust  
The Dime Bank Foundation Fund  
The Sullivan Foundation  
The Blessing Fund, Dominican Sisters of Ohio  
The Intensive Education Academy  
Middletown ARC  
The Knights of Columbus Council #1943  
The Knights of Columbus, Conn. State Council  
The Knights of Columbus, Our Lady of the Lakes Council and Our Lady’s Shrine Council  
Wal-Mart  
Pfizer Volunteer Grant  
Sacred Heart School Parent Guild

## NEWSLETTER/CONTRIBUTIONS

(Please Circle)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Company: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

*Is there someone you know who may be interested in receiving our newsletter? Please fill in the name and address in the space provided and we will add the name to our mailing list. If you would prefer to receive this newsletter via e-mail, send us your e-mail address to: [RISEN@SacredHeartGroton.org](mailto:RISEN@SacredHeartGroton.org). If you would like to make a contribution, please complete the information above, payable to RISEN@Sacred Heart School, 50 Sacred Heart Drive, Groton, CT 06340. You may contact us at 860-449-8302.*