



June 2015 Express

## Who Supports you?

Parenting a child with special needs is a job that needs a support team. One of our [values at Matrix](#) is collaboration and teamwork. Working together to find solutions is the best way to meet challenges.

One way to collaborate with other parents is through our [BIG TENT online forum](#). Parents of children with special needs can securely post comments, needs, or questions to our group of other parents with special needs children.

Find a [support group](#) to attend that may work for you.



Think about your own network through [making an Ecomap](#). Also, our [Matrix Helpline Parent Advisors](#) are a phone call away to support you! *There is no need to go it alone. Reach out, connect, and build a support system!*

**DONATE**  
to Matrix

[Matching Gift Challenge!](#)

[En Español](#)

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### Self Determination- Learn More About It!

Are you or someone you know a Regional Center client? Would you like to have control over what services you need?



The State Council on Developmental Disabilities and the Regional Centers are rolling out a new program throughout California called the Self Determination Program.

In this first round, 2500 clients statewide will be participating in this innovative program that

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## Upcoming Matrix Trainings & Workshops



### Coming this Fall...

A six week class on Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction, specifically tailored for parents of children with special needs

We are very grateful to the Marin County Board of Supervisors for making this class possible.

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## Matrix News

### Heartfelt Farewells...

**Stephanie Smith**, Director of Parent Services, is retiring after almost 15 years of service here at Matrix. She started in December, 2000 at just a few hours a week as a Parent Advisor. She added Grant Coordinator to her duties along the way and finally became Director of Parent Services where she continued to serve families, collaborate with professionals, and guide and train other Parent Advisors. She has provided hope for many families. We will miss her strong, guiding presence so much.

**Nikisha Sims**, Senior Parent Advisor, and her family are relocating to Nevada. Nikisha started with us September 1, 2010. She quickly absorbed our training information and became a valuable asset for our families. The families she has served have been well supported to advocate for their children. We wish Nikisha and her family all the

helps clients and families determine and control a personal budget for services. [Read more here in English and Spanish.](#)

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### Matrix News Brief

#### Heartfelt Farewells...

Stephanie Smith and Nikisha Sims...[more](#)

#### A Warm Welcome...

Carmen Diaz and Martha Perdomo...[more](#)

#### [New Mission, Vision and Values](#)

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### More Ways to Give

Support  
Matrix a Parent Network  
and Resource Center.  
When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com),  
Amazon donates.  
[Go to smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)

amazonsmile

[Amazon Donates! Click here.](#)

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### Community Events



Sensory Sensitive Film Screenings

best in their next adventures, but Matrix and the families she has served so well will miss her greatly.

### **A Warm Welcome...**

**Carmen Diaz** joins Matrix as the Bilingual Parent Advisor for our Helpline and to serve families in Marin County. Carmen has three children and two guardian children. She has been advocating for children with special needs (including mental health needs) for over fifteen years.

**Martha Perdomo** is our new Bilingual Parent Advisor for our Helpline and for families in Napa and Solano Counties. Martha's experience includes eight years working for Upland and Brea Unified School District in the Special Education Resource Program. She also has worked in a Mental Health Adult Crisis Residential Program and as a Bilingual Parent Educator for parents of troubled youth.

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## **Ways to Give**



### **Matching Gift Challenge – Double your impact at Matrix!**

**Imagine our gratitude when a leader from our local community steps up to advance our mission through a \$10,000 challenge gift!**

Angela DeCarli, owner of Petaluma Butane Distributors, believes in the importance of direct services to parents and their children's primary educators and advocates in

### **Saturday, June 27th**

Showing monthly at 10 am on the last Saturday of each month at Airport Stadium 12 in Santa Rosa.

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### **Additional Resources**



[Visit our Calendar](#) for more community events

Search our new website for:

- [Information by topic](#)
- [Our Matrix Library](#)
- [Matrix Newsletters](#)
- [Links to Key Public Agencies](#)



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enabling each child to reach their highest possible potential.

**Angela will match every charitable gift up to \$10,000 to Matrix by June 30, 2015.**

Will you accept Angela's matching challenge and make an important investment in direct services to families in our community? Your gift will fund our Parent Advisors and their outreach to new families, Helpline support, workshops and trainings, and online resource information.

**Doubling your gift to Matrix online is [one click away!](#)** You can also mail your tax deductible gift to Matrix Parent Network & Resource Center, 94 Galli Drive, Suite C, Novato, CA 94949.

For questions contact Joanne Ferris at 415-475-2118 or [joannef@matrixparents.org](mailto:joannef@matrixparents.org)

[Online Photo Album](#)

[Big Tent Online Support Group](#)

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## En Español

### ¿Quién le Apoya?

Criar a un niño con necesidades especiales es un trabajo que necesita un equipo de apoyo. Uno de nuestros valores en Matrix es la colaboración y el trabajo en equipo. Desafíos pueden ser mejor satisfechas por trabajar juntos para encontrar soluciones. Los padres de niños con necesidades especiales pueden enviar en seguridad comentarios, necesidades o preguntas a nuestro grupo de otros padres con necesidades especiales.

Encuentre un [grupo de apoyo](#) para asistir a que pueden trabajar para usted. Piense en su propia red a través de [hacer una Ecomapa](#). También puede usted llamar en nuestra [línea de ayuda](#) y habla con nuestros Asesores de Padres. No hay necesidad de ir solo. Alcanzar, conectar

y construir un sistema de apoyo!

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