



Jewish Family Service
5402 Arapaho Road
Dallas, TX 75248



Spreading The Light of

Inclusion
in our
Faith Communities

Monday, February 25, 2013
www.JFSdallas.org/inclusion

Spreading The LIGHT of

Inclusion in our *Faith Communities*

The first symposium of the
Faith Inclusion Network of Dallas



**Supporting faith communities as we increase
our ability to invite, include and engage
our neighbors with disabilities**

featuring speakers

**Erik W. Carter, PhD and
Bill Gaventa, MDiv**

Monday, February 25, 2013

Share. Learn. Connect.

Preston Hollow Presbyterian Church
9800 Preston Road at Walnut Hill Lane

www.JFSdallas.org/inclusion

Inclusion In Our Faith Communities

Join us for the first in a series of three inclusive, faith-based communities symposia created to share successful strategies to fully embrace individuals with disabilities and their families. We will share, learn and connect with spiritual and lay leaders, congregants and consumers from a cross-section of faith communities to create opportunities that empower an individual or family with a disability to participate and contribute to their highest potential. This project is led by Jewish Family Service of Greater Dallas and funded graciously through a grant from the Texas Council on Developmental Disabilities with federal funds made available by the US Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Developmental Disabilities.

Faith Inclusion Network of Dallas

Our goal is to create and sustain a collaborative network of faith communities to share successful awareness-building and inclusion program strategies in our houses of worship and throughout the greater community. Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families deserve the opportunity to fully engage socially, emotionally, academically and spiritually—with appropriate behavior support—woven within the sacred heart and soul of their faith community.

Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities

The mission of the Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities is to create change so that all people with disabilities are fully included in their communities and exercise control over their own lives.

Jewish Family Service

Inspired by the values of social responsibility, Jewish Family Service promotes emotional health and self-sufficiency for anyone in need throughout the Greater Dallas area by providing effective and affordable mental-health and social services.

Project Advisory Committee

Teri Kachur, Project Director,
Community Organizer,
Special Needs Partnership of
Jewish Family Service

Susan Bland, Community
Advocate, Past President,
The Miracle League of Frisco

Clay Boatright, Community
Advocate, Past President,
The Arc of Texas

Nathan Cagle, Self Advocate
With support from his parents
David and Dana Cagle

Dilshad Deyani, Advocacy
Speaker and Broadcasting
Journalist, South Asian Media
and New America Media

Archana Dhurka, Community
Advocate, National Autism
Association of North Texas

Reverend Kenny Dickson,
Pastor, Christ United Methodist
Church, Farmers Branch

Fern Gimenez, IDD Director,
LifePath Systems of Collin
County

Hind Jarrah, PhD,
Executive Director, Texas Muslim
Women's Foundation

Smita Mehta, PhD, Associate
Professor of Special Education,
Department of Educational
Psychology, University of North
Texas

Witek Nowosiad, MDiv, Manager,
Department of Pastoral Care,
Supervisor, ACPE, Inc., Children's
Medical Center at Legacy

Louis Zweig, Co-Founder
and Chair, The Golman-Dallen
Special Needs Fund

Breakout Sessions

All sessions will be offered both in the morning and afternoon.

1. Welcome: How Inclusive Are You?

Discover the difference between being present and having a presence. This session targets congregational leadership overseeing worship, educational programming, social outreach and more. Community assessment tools and implementation strategies will guide participants in a collaborative discussion of current programs and elements of inclusion.

2. Accommodations and Access: People, Places and Strategies

Individuals with behavior problems can disrupt the traditional sacred and social aspects of community engagement while sights, sounds, and architecture can all be barriers to participation. Congregational leaders and volunteers will learn positive behavior strategies and environmental needs assessment tools to address full inclusion.

3. Intentional Worship: Sacred Inclusion

Beyond the accommodations and access comes the meaning of the message. Are your worship services and sacred rituals understood by all who come to worship and celebrate? This session targets clergy, staff and lay leadership to share strategies for welcoming, connecting and including everyone to a sense of community filled with grace.

4. Religious Education: Curriculum and Inclusion

From accommodations and access to curriculum and classroom management. Teachers, parents, volunteers and peer mentors will share strategies to create a positive and authentic relationship in their worship community.

5. Community Outreach: Is Everyone Invited to Worship?

National research reports that people with disabilities often struggle with pity and isolation by their fellow congregants. Discover how to develop a mission project within your own neighborhood with support from community leaders and resources.

6. Support for Individuals and Their Families: 7 days a week, 24 hours a day

Is your congregational network inclusive, intentional and authentic to support the social and emotional needs of individuals—and their families—with special needs? Does your hospitality include their extended family and, for many, their support staff? Community resource professionals will share proven programs and strategies for inclusion and collaboration.

Community Celebration Dinner

Our first symposium is a time for celebration for all our participants and the individuals and families coming together for the collaboration of the Faith Inclusion Network of Dallas. This is a time for singing, dancing, and blessing our efforts as a community. Join us! Bring a friend, make a friend or be a friend to someone who is committed to our goals. Together, we will “break bread” and share a meal in honor of our shared journey.

Spreading The Light of

Inclusion in our Faith Communities

Monday, February 25, 2013
Preston Hollow Presbyterian Church

Keynote Speakers

Erik W. Carter, PhD

Associate Professor of Special Education, Vanderbilt University's Vanderbilt Kennedy Center, and author of the book, *Including People with Disabilities in Faith Communities*.



Bill Gaventa, MDiv

Director of Community and Congregational Supports, Elizabeth M. Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities; Associate Editor of *Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities*; Executive Secretary for Religion and Spirituality Division of the AAIDD.



Schedule

- 8:00 a.m. Registration Opens, Breakfast Buffet
- 8:30 a.m. Welcome and Invocation
- 8:45 a.m. Keynote Speaker, Bill Gaventa, MDiv
- 10:00 a.m. Breakout Sessions
- 11:30 a.m. Break
- Noon Luncheon & Keynote Speaker, Erik W. Carter, PhD
- 1 p.m. Break
- 1:30 p.m. Breakout Sessions
- 3:00 p.m. Plenary Session
- 4:30 p.m. Networking
- 5:30 p.m. Community Celebration Dinner

QUESTIONS?

Visit www.JFSdallas.org/inclusion, or contact Teri Kachur, Project Director, Inclusive Faith-Based Communities Symposia Project at tkachur@JFSdallas.org or 972.437.9950.

Registration Form

Please RSVP by February 18, 2013

Online www.JFSdallas.org/inclusion
Mail Jewish Family Service, 5402 Arapaho Road, Dallas, TX 75248, ATTN: Symposium
Fax 972.437.1988, ATTN: Symposium
Email RSVP@JFSdallas.org

Registrant Contact Information

Name: _____
Organization (if applicable): _____

Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____
Email: _____
Telephone: _____

Guests

Name #1: _____
Email: _____
Name #2: _____
Email: _____

Accommodations

(Please check all that apply to you or anyone in your party, for the symposium or the celebratory dinner.)

Sign-Language Interpreter Closed Captioning
 Quiet Break Room Supervised Respite
 Hallal Gluten-Free Vegetarian Kosher
Other: _____

Attendance

Please check all events you plan to attend:

Breakfast/ Keynote presentation Morning Breakout Session
 Lunch/ Keynote presentation Afternoon Breakout Session
 Plenary Session Afternoon Networking

Please note that Symposium attendance is FREE—including all speakers, breakout sessions, networking, breakfast, lunch and snacks throughout the day—with the exception of the Community Celebration Dinner.

Community Celebration Dinner

Children attending Adults attending Total attending
The charge for the Community Celebration Dinner is \$10/person, \$15/couple, \$20/family (up to 5). For information about scholarships, please contact Tkachur@JFSdallas.org.

Enclosed please find my check payable to Jewish Family Service.

Please charge the total to my _____ MasterCard _____ VISA
Name as it appears on card _____

Account # _____ Exp _____

If you prefer to register by phone, please call 972.437.9950.