

Polk County Schools  
Exceptional Student Education Department  
Services Guide for Students with Disabilities

**Accessible Communication for the Deaf**

1830 Crossings Blvd. Suite 130

Odessa, FL 33556

Direct: (813) 926-0008

[Lisas@acdterps.com](mailto:Lisas@acdterps.com)

Provides sign language interpreting services statewide.

**Achievement Academy**

716 E. Bella Vista

Lakeland, FL 33805

Direct: (863) 683-6504

[mary@achievementacademy.com](mailto:mary@achievementacademy.com)

Contact: Mary Holjes: Parent Liaison

Public charter pre-k for children with special needs.

**Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD)**

200 North Kentucky Ave. #422

Lakeland, FL. 33801

Direct: (863)413-3360

Contact: Connie Miller

[Connie\\_Miller@apd.state.fl.us](mailto:Connie_Miller@apd.state.fl.us) Direct: (863) 413-3369

The Developmental Disabilities Program is funded by state and federal money that provides support to people with developmental disabilities from age 3 to adulthood. It identifies needs and funding to purchase supports and services. Individuals must apply for the services and there is a long waiting list. Clients must have a disability such as spina bifida, autism, cerebral palsy, Prader Willi Syndrome, or mental retardation (IQ 69 or below) and reside in Florida. Services include: Therapy and assessment for PT, OT, ST., and respiratory, support coordination, adult dental services, day training, medical equipment and supplies, special medical home care, supported employment, nursing services, psychological services, behavior analysis, dietician, and more.

**Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD)**

200 North Kentucky Ave. #422

Lakeland, FL 33801

Direct: (863)413-3377

Contact: Jenny Sykes: Supported Employment Liaison

[Jenny\\_Sykes@apd.state.fl.us](mailto:Jenny_Sykes@apd.state.fl.us)

**Alliance for Independence, Inc. (AFI)**

1038 Sunshine Drive

Lakeland, FL 33801

Direct: (863) 665-3846 Fax: (863) 665-2330

Contact: Shirley Balogh: President/CEO, ext. 230 or [Sbalogh@afi-fl.org](mailto:Sbalogh@afi-fl.org)

Alliance for Independence provides adult day training program featuring skills training, vocational training, contract work, and adult basic education. AFI's goal is to provide knowledge and experiences for adults with special needs to become independent and productive members of the community.

**AmeriCorps Volunteers**

Contact: Vicki Ginda: Program Director, 863-519-8638 Email: [vickig.ginda@polk-fl.net](mailto:vickig.ginda@polk-fl.net)

Kristen LeFan, Program Assistant, 863-519-8638 Email: [kristen.lefan@polk-fl.net](mailto:kristen.lefan@polk-fl.net)

AmeriCorps Polk Reads is a grant-funded reading tutoring program in Polk County, Florida. Members provide reading tutoring to more than 600 Kindergarten-3rd grade public school students at selected school sites each year while working collaboratively with community agencies to strengthen community ties. AmeriCorps Polk Reads is made possible through a partnership between the Polk Education Foundation, Polk County Schools, and Volunteer Florida, Inc.

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**Autism Speaks**

Tampa Bay Regional Office  
13575 58th Street North #162  
Direct: 813-407-1704 Fax: 727-538-7717  
[tampa@autismspeaks.org](mailto:tampa@autismspeaks.org) or [southwestflorida@autismspeaks.org](mailto:southwestflorida@autismspeaks.org)

Autism Speaks goal is to change the future for all who struggle with autism spectrum disorders. To raise public awareness about autism and its effects on individuals, families, and society; and to bringing hope to all who deal with the hardships of this disorder.

**Brain & Spinal Cord Injury Program (BSCIP)**

500 East Lake Howard Drive Third Floor  
Winter Haven, Florida 33881  
Direct: (863) 295-5993 FAX: (863) 298-5201

Contact: David Johnson: Senior Case Manager, Winter Haven

The Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Program (BSCIP) is administered by the Florida Department of Health. Services may include: case management, acute care, inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation, transitional living, assistive technology, home and vehicle modifications, nursing home transition facilitation; and long-term supports for survivors and families through contractual agreements with community-based agencies.

**Buddy Break!**

North Lakeland Presbyterian Church  
6725 N. Socrum Loop Rd.  
Lakeland, FL 33809  
Direct: (863) 853-9541  
Contact: Evelyn McMullen, [Buddybreak.nlpc@verizon.net](mailto:Buddybreak.nlpc@verizon.net)

Buddy Break is a free kids/respite program where kids with special needs make new friends, play fun games. Enjoy a variety of activities. Siblings have fun too! Takes place the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month.

**Celiac Disease Foundation: Central Florida Chapter**

P.O. Box 7476  
Lakeland, FL 33807-7476  
Contact: Julie Kincart: Chapter President  
(863)559-8025 or [celiacsupport@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:celiacsupport@tampabay.rr.com)

Create an awareness of Celiac Disease; provide educational material and general support.

**Center for Independent Living (CIL)**

500 S. Florida Ave  
Lakeland, FL 33801  
Direct: (863) 413-2722 ext. 202 Polk County Special Needs Program - 863-534-5600  
Contact: John Hurt: Lakeland Site Manager, [Jhurt@cilorlando.org](mailto:Jhurt@cilorlando.org)

CIL, in partnership with the community, promotes personal rights and responsibilities among people with all disabilities and strives to eliminate architectural, communication, and attitudinal barriers by providing education, resources, and training to enhance self-determination through informed choice.

**Central Florida Health Care (CFHC)**

Dundee- 863-419-3330, Frostproof 863-635-4891, Lakeland 863-413-8600  
Web: [www.cfhonline.org](http://www.cfhonline.org)

Central Florida Health Cares, qualified health professionals are dedicated to serving all patients with dignity and respect. The highest quality of patient-centered, responsive and compassionate care is offered by our medical and dental team. CFHC's accredited health centers are "one-stop" shops for children and families with a myriad of needs. Services are provided regardless of the patient's ability to pay. An up-to-date approved fee schedule based on the most current federal poverty guidelines is available and accessible. Patient health education and services offered are available in English and Spanish, and patients with reading difficulty are provided with assistance.

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**Central Florida Autism Institute, Inc. (CFAll)**

5147 South Lakeland Drive Suite 3

Lakeland, FL 33813

*Direct* : (863) 816-5886

Contact: Terry Millican, [terry@cfaii.org](mailto:terry@cfaii.org)

CFAll was started by families of children with autism and by concerned professionals. Together we desire simple options of dignity for our children with autism. We use the term "options" when we proclaim rights for people with disabilities. We believe they have the right to live their lives with dignity, growth, and development within their own communities... rights jointly claimed by all citizens.

**Central Florida Deaf Services**

1811 Richmond Road

Lakeland, FL 33803

*Direct*: (863) 688-9394 Voice/TTY/Videophone

Central Florida Deaf Services provides programs, support services, training, and facilities for the deaf and hard of hearing.

**Central Florida Parent Center**

1021 Delaware Ave.

Palm Harbor, FL 34683

**(888) 61-AWARE**, (888) 612-9273,

Local: (727) 789-2400

Fax: (727) 789-2454

[cfpc@cflparents.org](mailto:cfpc@cflparents.org)

Our mission is to provide parents of children and young adults with all disabilities and special needs (ages 0-26) in central and northeast Florida with accurate information, interactive training, quality assistance, and empathetic support.

**Central Florida Speech and Hearing Center (CFSHC)**

710 East Bella Vista Street

Lakeland, Florida 33805

*Direct*: (863) 686-3189 (voice or TTY)      *Fax*: (863) 682-1348

Contact: Danida Frier, [dfrier@cfshc.org](mailto:dfrier@cfshc.org)

CFSHC is a non-profit agency working with adults and children with speech and hearing needs.

**Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (CARD)**

13301 Bruce B. Downs Blvd.

Tampa, FL 33612

*Direct*: (813) 974-6108      *Fax*: (813) 974-6115

*Toll-Free Florida Only*: 1-800-333-4530

[www.card-usf.fmhi.usf.edu](http://www.card-usf.fmhi.usf.edu)

The Center for Autism & Related Disabilities at the University of South Florida is a community-based project that provides information and consultation to individuals diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders and related disabilities. CARD-USF offers instruction and coaching to families and professionals through a training and assistance model.

**Children's Medical Services (CMS)**

200 N Kentucky Avenue, Suite 114

Lakeland, FL 33801

*Direct*: (863) 413-3580 x118      *Fax*: (863) 413-3597

Contact: Anita Melton, [Anita\\_Melton@doh.state.fl.us](mailto:Anita_Melton@doh.state.fl.us)

Counties: Hardee, Highlands, Polk

Children's Medical Services (CMS) provides medical case management services to children from birth to 21 years old who qualify under our eligibility requirements.

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**Circle of Friends Ministries, Inc.**

105 E. Stuart Avenue  
Lake Wales, FL 33853  
*Direct:* (863) 679-2507

Contact: Mertice Fehringer, [www.circleoffriendsministry.org](http://www.circleoffriendsministry.org)

Circle of Friends Ministries, Inc. provides support and friendship to families and children with physical and/or developmental disabilities.

**Citrus Connection**

1212 George Jenkins Blvd.  
Lakeland, FL 33801

*Direct:* (863) 688-7433

Handi-bus: (863) 688-LIFT (5438)

Contact: Cathy Wolosin

The Citrus connection Handi-bus is available to individuals who are eligible with ADA regulations.

**City of Lakeland Parks and Recreation**

228 Massachusetts Ave.

Lakeland, FL 33812

*Direct:* (863) 834-6090

Contact: Mindi Fitch, [Mindi.fitch@lakelandgov.net](mailto:Mindi.fitch@lakelandgov.net)

Recreation Division for the City of Lakeland

**Devereux Kids/Neighborhood Partnership Program**

1021 Lakeland Hills Blvd.

Lakeland, FL 33805

*Direct:* (863) 686-1221    *Fax:* (863) 686-0981

Devereux Kids/Neighborhood Partnership Program helps persons with emotional, behavioral, and developmental disabilities transition from troubled lives to lives filled with personal accomplishment and hope.

Provide an approach to safeguard children and support families in need.

**Division of Blind Services (DBS)**

402 Kentucky Avenue, room 310

Lakeland, FL 33801

*Direct:* (863) 499-2385    *Toll:* (877) 728-7738    *Fax:* (863) 499-2698

Supervisor: Geraldine Kressin

Contact: Rob Risavy, [Robert.Risavy@dbs.fldoe.org](mailto:Robert.Risavy@dbs.fldoe.org)

The Division of Blind Services provides transition and vocational rehabilitation services to Citrus, Hardee, and Polk Counties for children and adults who are blind or visually impaired.

**Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (VR)**

500 E. Lake Howard Fr. 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

Winter Haven, FL 33881

[www.rehabworks.org](http://www.rehabworks.org)

Contact: Johanna Gonzalez,

[Johanna.Gonzalez@vr.fldoe.org](mailto:Johanna.Gonzalez@vr.fldoe.org)

*Direct:* (863)291-5280    *Fax:* (863) 2915289

200 N. Kentucky Avenue, Suite 310

Lakeland, FL 33801

Contact: Kathy Sangster

[Kathy.Sangster@vr.fldoe.org](mailto:Kathy.Sangster@vr.fldoe.org)

*Direct:* (863) 680-5534    *Fax:* (863) 499-2332

Vocational Rehabilitation provides services designed to enable clients to prepare for, get, keep, or regain employment.

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**Down's Syndrome Association of Polk County, Inc. (DSA)**

P.O. Box 10  
Lake Alfred, FL 33850  
*Direct:* (863)651-2011  
Contact: Tracy L. Garcia, [tracy@dsapolk.org](mailto:tracy@dsapolk.org)  
[www.dsapolk.org](http://www.dsapolk.org)

We are here to support our families with loved ones with Down's syndrome.

**Easter Seals Camp Challenge**

31600 Camp Challenge Road  
Sorrento, FL 32776-9729  
*Direct:* (352) 383-4711 or (407) 629-7881  
[scaporina@fl.easterseals.com](mailto:scaporina@fl.easterseals.com)

Easter Seals Camp Challenge provides summer camp for children and adults with disabilities or other special needs.

**Early Steps Lakeland**

1021 Lakeland Hills Blvd.  
Lakeland, FL 33805  
*Direct:* (863) 686-1221 ext. 222  
Contact: Shawna Butler, [shawna.butler@uwcf.org](mailto:shawna.butler@uwcf.org)  
Web: <http://uwcf.org/site/success/fundamentals>

**Epilepsy Foundation of West Central Florida**

The **ESWCF** has two offices:

4618 North Armenia Avenue	305 South Florida Avenue
Tampa, FL. 33603-2706	Lakeland, FL. 33801-4623
Main: 813-870-3414	Main: 863-686-5880
Fax: 813-870-1321	Fax: 863-686-5995

E-mail: [eswcf@epilepsyservices.com](mailto:eswcf@epilepsyservices.com)

The Epilepsy Services Program of Florida is sponsored by the Department of Health, servicing the estimated 360,000 Floridians who are afflicted with this devastating disorder. Services include targeted case management; prevention education to groups, employers, and organizations; employment services; counseling; access to quality neurological medical treatment; and support groups.

**ESTEEM Program/Winter Haven Hospital**

3425 Lake Alfred Road  
Winter Haven, FL 33881  
*Direct:* (863) 292-4061  
Outpatient head injury clinic of Winter Haven

**Exceptional Student Education (ESE)/ Transition Program**

P.O. Box 391  
Bartow, FL 33830  
*Direct:* (863) 534-0931    *Fax:* (863) 534-0922  
Nancy Woolcock: Assistant Superintendent of Learning Support, [nancy.woolcock@polk-fl.net](mailto:nancy.woolcock@polk-fl.net)  
Karen Toppin: Senior Manager for Transition Services, [karen.toppin@polk-fl.net](mailto:karen.toppin@polk-fl.net)  
Cathy Lerner: Program Facilitator, [cathy.lerner@polk-fl.net](mailto:cathy.lerner@polk-fl.net)

Polk County's Exceptional Student Education Department provides a continuum of services for students ages 3 to 22 in each of the exceptionalities. Transition programs are also available to those students who are graduating with a special diploma so that they may become functional adults within their society. The ESE Department has additional support services such as occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech therapy, mental health counseling, assistive technology and audio logical evaluations are provided to the students as needed.

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**Family Care Council/DCF/Developmental Disabilities (FCC)**

200 N. Kentucky Avenue

Lakeland, FL 33801

*Direct:* (863) 413-3364

Contact: Sara Howerton: APD Liaison, [Sara\\_Howerton@apd.state.fl.us](mailto:Sara_Howerton@apd.state.fl.us)

Chairperson: Manyone Champavannarath

Family Care Council provides information and support to families who need Developmental Disabilities programs.

**Family Fundamentals**

1021 Lakeland Hills Blvd.

Lakeland, FL 33805

*Direct:* (863) 686-1221 ext. 222

Contact: Shawna Butler, [shawna.butler@uwcf.org](mailto:shawna.butler@uwcf.org)

<http://uwcf.org/site/success/fundamentals>

Family Fundamentals is a collaboration of agencies committed to strengthening families and our community. A parent resource center that offers classes/services for families at little or no cost.

**Family Network on Disability (Sharing the Commitment Polk County) (FND)**

2196 Main St Suite K

Dunedin, FL 34698

[fnd@fndfl.org](mailto:fnd@fndfl.org) <http://www.fndfl.org>

Karyn Spencer: Lead PEER Polk County FL

Paula Mueller: PEER Polk County FL

FND provides assistance, support, resources, referrals, and information on many topics, including: Advocacy, Education, Employment, Future Planning, Independent Living, Involving Fathers, Parent Involvement, and Transition.

**Florida Alliance for Assistive Services and Technology (FAAST)**

Tampa General Rehabilitation Center

6 Tampa General Circle Room 214

Tampa, FL 33606

*Direct:* (813) 844-7591 *TDD:* (813) 844-7767 *Fax:* (813) 844-4128

[faastcen@tgh.org](mailto:faastcen@tgh.org)

Contact: Nancy Mashberg

The Mission of FAAST is to improve the quality of life for all Floridians with disabilities through advocacy and awareness activities that increase access to and acquisition of assistive services and technology. FAAST is a non-profit organization funded by the US Department of Education through the Assistive Technology Act of 2004, Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA), the Florida Department of Health Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Program, and the Florida Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.

**Florida Baptist Children's Home (FBCH)**

1015 Sikes Blvd.

Lakeland, FL 33815

*Direct:* (863) 688-4981 *Fax:* (863) 284-5684

Contact: Annita Nall: Director of Adult Developmental Programs, [annita.nall@fbchomes.org](mailto:annita.nall@fbchomes.org)

FBCH is a faith based 501 c (3) nonprofit organization dedicated to providing Christ centered services to children and families in need. Florida Baptist Children's Home has four major service areas: campus ministries, community ministries, adult developmental ministries, and international childcare missions. Annita's specific area of knowledge is the adult ministries. In Lakeland, FBCH has a residence for adult women with developmental disabilities and a day program for men and women for the community to attend Monday through Friday. A Group Home for women with developmental disabilities and an Adult Day Training program for ambulatory adults with developmental disabilities.

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**Florida Center for Inclusive Communities**

University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities  
Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute at the University of South Florida  
13301 Bruce B. Downs Blvd. MHC 2113A  
Tampa, FL 33612  
Telephone: (813) 974-3126      Toll Free: (866) 818-4797      Fax: (813) 974-6115  
Email: [tclarke@fmhi.usf.edu](mailto:tclarke@fmhi.usf.edu)

The Florida Center for Inclusive Communities (FCIC) at the University of South Florida was established in October 2005 through a University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, and Service grant award from the Administration on Developmental Disabilities.

Through leadership in research and evaluation, theory, policy, capacity building, and practice the FCIC is committed to developing a range of supports and services in the areas of Community Supports, Early Childhood, Transition, Education, Employment, Health, Interdisciplinary Training, Public Policy, and Cultural Competence.

**Florida Diagnostic Learning Resource System (FDLRS)**

270 Bartow Municipal Airport Bartow, FL 33830 Direct: (863) 647-4258 Fax: (863) 647-4257	Hardee County Schools 200 S. Florida Ave. Wauchula, Florida 33873 Direct: (863) 773-2600 Fax: (863)773-2640
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Website: [www.polk-fl.net](http://www.polk-fl.net) keyword FDLRS      Website: [www.hardee.k12.fl.us](http://www.hardee.k12.fl.us)

Contact: Laura Taft: Parent Services/Transition Specialist, [laura.taft@polk-fl.net](mailto:laura.taft@polk-fl.net)

The Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System is a network of state and federally-funded centers throughout the state. Support services are provided to exceptional student educators, children, parents, and community agencies. FDLRS Sunrise assists any stakeholder interested in the educational needs of exceptional children in Polk and Hardee counties. Child Find: Assists in locating, identifying, and obtaining services for children who have disabilities or special needs also screens children 3 to 5 to determine if they need to be formally evaluated.

**Florida Inclusion Network (FIN)**

270 Bartow Municipal Airport  
Bartow, FL 33830  
Direct: (863) 519-8893      Fax: (863) 519-3928  
Bonnie Dupuis and Maggie Miller– Facilitators  
[bonnie.dupuis@polk-fl.net](mailto:bonnie.dupuis@polk-fl.net) / [maggie.miller@polk-fl.net](mailto:maggie.miller@polk-fl.net)

The Florida Inclusion Network (FIN) provides free information, training, and support to families related to the inclusion of students with disabilities in general education classroom/school settings and participation in the general education curriculum.

**Florida Rural Legal Services, Lakeland Office**

Administrative Office  
1321 E. Memorial Boulevard  
P.O. Box 24688  
Lakeland, Florida 33802  
(863) 688-7376 • Fax (863) 683-7861      Toll Free Clients Only: 1-800-277-7680  
Counties served: Hardee, Highlands and Polk

**Office hours are 8:30 A.M. to 5:00 PM      Monday through Friday**

Website: [www.frls.org](http://www.frls.org)

Florida Rural Legal Services is a non-profit law firm dedicated to providing quality legal advice, representation and education for low income people and communities.

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**George W. Harris Youth & Crisis Runaway Shelter**

*Direct:* (863) 595-0220 x206

Contact: John Kazaklis or Latonya Jackson

The shelter is a part of Youth & Family Alternatives, Inc. and our specific shelter serves Polk County, as well as Highlands and Hardee counties. At our shelter, we provide housing, food, counseling, and referral services to youth who are in difficult living situations as well as personal (drug/alcohol abuse, neglect, domestic violence, etc.) situations at home. Our facility is only for youth ages 10 to 17, but we also provide referral services for individuals 18 and older.

**Goodwill Industries/ Suncoast**

3033 Drane Field Road

Lakeland, FL 33811

*Direct:* (863) 701-1351

Contact Persons: Amber Smith [amber.smith@goodwill-suncoast.com](mailto:amber.smith@goodwill-suncoast.com) or  
Angie Combee [angie.combee@goodwill-suncoast.com](mailto:angie.combee@goodwill-suncoast.com)

Goodwill ADT is a training program that teaches people with developmental disabilities, skills to become independent in the community. Our focus is providing opportunities to people to understand what it is to be an ethical employee and positive team member.

**Heartland for Children**

1239 E. Main St.

Bartow, FL 33830

*Direct:* (863) 519-8900

Contact: Kyla Carswell (863) 519-8900 (x292)

Kathie Graydon (863) 519-8900 (x205)

[kcarswell@heartlandforchildren.org](mailto:kcarswell@heartlandforchildren.org) or [kgraydon@heartlandforchildren.org](mailto:kgraydon@heartlandforchildren.org)

Heartland for Children is a non-profit agency responsible for overseeing child welfare services in Hardee, Highlands, and Polk County.

**Infants & Young Children**

410 Carey Pl.

Lakeland, FL 33803

*Direct:* (863) 513-3552

Contact: Nikki Torres, [Nikki73170@aol.com](mailto:Nikki73170@aol.com)

Infants and Young Children offer support to children with special needs who are birth to age 3.

**Lakeland Volunteers in Medicine**

Find ways to meet the healthcare challenges of the working uninsured in Lakeland.

<http://lvim.net/>

(863) 688-5846

**Learning Resource Center**

1628 S. Florida Ave

Lakeland, FL 33803

*Direct:* (863) 688-9477

Contact: Cathie Wright, [cathiew@lrcpolk.com](mailto:cathiew@lrcpolk.com)

Learning Resource Center is a non-profit agency that provides one to one tutoring and other programs and services for children through adults.

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**Lighthouse for the Blind**

206 Ave. D NW  
Winter Haven, FL 33881  
*Direct:* (863) 299-3633

Contact: Linda Krueger, [Linda.krueger@tampalighthouse.org](mailto:Linda.krueger@tampalighthouse.org)

The Lighthouse for the Blind maximized independence and provides employment opportunities to persons who are blind or visually impaired. Provide transition program for teens 14 and up to prepare them with independent living training and employment opportunities and career search. And provide early intervention training to children 0-6.

**Noah's Ark of Central Florida, Inc.**

505 Bartow Rd.  
Lakeland, FL 33801  
*Direct:* (863) 687-0804    *Fax:* (863) 680-1603

Jack Kosik: Executive Director/Co-Founder

Contact: Margaret McNutt

[www.NoahsArkFlorida.org](http://www.NoahsArkFlorida.org)

Noah's Ark provides activities, affordable housing and employment supports to individuals with developmental disabilities.

**P.E.A.C.E. (Parental Encouragement for Autistic Children Everywhere)**

1021 Lakeland Hills Blvd.  
Lakeland Fl. 33805  
*Direct:* (863) 686-1221 ext. 228

<http://www.peacelakeland.com>

Nicole Torres and Sabra Murphy: Co-Founders

P.E.A.C.E. is a support group serving Lakeland and Polk County, Florida. P.E.A.C.E. provides information from a variety of sources to families with children with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

**Peace River Center**

Administrative Services, Children's Resiliency Team, Family Builders, Forensic Case Management  
1239 East Main Street  
*Direct:* (863) 519-0575

<http://www.peace-river.com>

Contact: Stacey Wesche, [swesche@peacrivercenter.org](mailto:swesche@peacrivercenter.org)

The mission of Peace River Center is to improve the mental health of individuals in our community. Services offered by Peace River Center include Crisis Stabilization Unit, Outpatient Counseling, Psychiatric/Medical, Adult Residential Treatment, Case Management, Substance Abuse, Domestic Violence and Rape Recovery programs, and 24-hour Crisis Hotline services.

**Polk County Special Needs Emergency Management Division**

1295 Brice Boulevard  
Bartow, FL 33830  
Gayle Cather

*Direct:* 534-5606                      *Pre-registration:* (863) 534-5600

Polk County Emergency Management Division is a special care program that provides shelter and/or transportation for persons who need assistance with physical or non-acute medical conditions who must evacuate during emergency conditions. Persons of all ages who have no other transportation or shelter options and must rely on local assistance are eligible.

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**Polk County Health Department**

**Auburndale Clinic:**

1805 Hobbs Rd.  
Auburndale, FL 33823  
*Direct:* (863) 965-5400

**Haines City Clinic:**

111 N. 11th Street.  
Haines City, FL 33844  
*Direct:* (863)421-3204

Polk County Health Department employs well-trained staff members who have the necessary skills and resources to deliver best practices and evidence-based programs in clinical services, laboratory services, outreach services, and education programs and planning initiatives.

**Bartow Clinic:**

2020 E. Georgia St.  
Bartow, FL 33830  
*Direct:* (863) 519-7916

**Lakeland Clinic:**

3241 Lakeland Hills Blvd.  
Lakeland, FL 33805  
*Direct:* (863) 413-2620

**Lake Wales Clinic**

835 W. Central Ave.  
Lake Wales, FL  
*Direct:* (863)678-4144

**Polk County Transit Services**

1290 Gulfview Ave.  
Bartow FL 33830  
*Direct:* (863) 534-5585  
Contact: Heather McElwee  
[HeatherMcElwee@polk-county.net](mailto:HeatherMcElwee@polk-county.net)  
Polk County Transit Services provides transportation and Bus Routes.

**Polk County Volunteer Services**

330 Church St.  
Bartow, FL 33830  
*Direct:* (863) 534-5580  
[www.polk-county.net/volunteer](http://www.polk-county.net/volunteer)  
[VOLUNTEER1@polk-county.net](mailto:VOLUNTEER1@polk-county.net)  
Contact: Janet Bartuska, [janetbartuska@polk-county.net](mailto:janetbartuska@polk-county.net)  
Polk County Volunteer Services is a program of the Board of County Commissioners and is open for individuals ages 16 – adult and offers a wide variety of volunteer opportunities.

**Polk Education Foundation/Take Stock in Children**

P.O. Box 391  
Bartow, FL 33831  
*Direct:* (863) 519-8077  
Contact: Susan Fenich, [susan.fenich@polk-fl.net](mailto:susan.fenich@polk-fl.net)  
Take Stock in Children provides scholarship and mentoring program for underserved students. This organization offers special Florida Prepaid Scholarships to low-income, physically disabled students through the ChairScholars Foundation.

**Polk Works One-Stop Center**

Administrative Office  
600 N. Broadway Ave. Suite A & B  
Bartow, FL 33830  
*Direct:* (863) 508-1100  
Ashley Brungard, [Ashley\\_Brungard@polkworks.org](mailto:Ashley_Brungard@polkworks.org)  
(863) 508-1100 ext. 3322

One Stop Center  
309 N. Ingraham Ave.  
Lakeland, FL 33803  
*Direct:* (863) 508-1100  
Michelle Phillips, [Michelle\\_Phillips@polkworks.org](mailto:Michelle_Phillips@polkworks.org)  
(863) 508-1100 ext. 3170

One Stop Center

500 E. Lake Howard Dr.  
Winter Haven, FL 33881  
(863) 508-1100

Workforce development resources for the citizens and business community of Polk County, FL

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**Polk Training Center for Handicapped Citizens, Inc.**

Physical Address

111 Creek Road  
Lake Alfred, FL 33850

Direct: (863)956-1620

Contact: Sherrie Holbrook, [sherrie@polktrainingcenter.org](mailto:sherrie@polktrainingcenter.org)

Mailing Address

P.O. Box 1345  
Lake Alfred, FL 33850-1345

Our program provides citizens with developmental disabilities the opportunity for community inclusion, skills development, basic adult education, and vocational training. The day program offers individuals the opportunity to improve upon the skills they already have or acquire additional skills needed to assist them in being active in our community.

**SEDNET**

P.O. Box 391  
Bartow, FL 33830

Direct: (863) 519-8864 Fax: (863) 534-0031

Contact: Amy Looker, Project Manager/PBS District Coordinator, [amy.looker@polk-fl.net](mailto:amy.looker@polk-fl.net)

SEDNET District XIV serves Polk, Highlands and Hardee Counties. Local multiagency forums in District XIV provide a process for community planning and the development of collaborative initiatives with the goal of promoting a quality, comprehensive system of care for students with or at risk of emotional/behavioral disabilities.

**Service Source**

202 Lake Miriam Drive, Suite W2  
Lakeland, FL 33813

Direct: (863) 646-9111 Toll free: (866) 770-5047 Fax: (863) 646-9111

Contact: Carlos Battles: Community Work Incentives Coordinator, [carlos.battles@servicesource.org](mailto:carlos.battles@servicesource.org)

Assisting SSA beneficiaries with planning and utilizing work incentives once they become employed. The clientele ages are 14 to 62. They must be receiving SSA disability benefits (SSI and SSDI). We however still offer vocational evaluation services private pay or VR referrals.

**SPCA, INC.**

5850 Brannen Road S.  
Lakeland, FL 33813

Direct: (863) 646-7722 (ext. 112)

**Social Security Administration**

Social Security  
550 Commerce Dr.  
Lakeland, FL 33813

Direct: (863)-607-6031

National Toll-Free: (800) 772-1214

TTY: (800) 325-0778

Contact: Krista Haskell or Yolanda Rivers, [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov)

Deliver Social Security services that meet the changing needs of the public.

**Special Olympics**

East Area ESE Office

Direct: 863-815-6671 Fax: 813-815-6673

Kimberly McHugh, [kimberly.mcHugh@polk-fl.net](mailto:kimberly.mcHugh@polk-fl.net)

Special Olympics POLK provides year-round sports training and competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for people with intellectual disabilities who wish to participate, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in the sharing of gifts, skills, and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes, and the community.

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**SPECTRUM RESOURCES**

2014 Brentwood Dr.

Auburndale, FL 33823

*Direct:* (863) 967-0660

Janet Folkerts: Executive Director, [www.tampabay.rr.com](http://www.tampabay.rr.com)

Spectrum Resources counsels families in personal debt, credit and homeownership issues.

**Straight From the Heart of Florida**

PO Box 5342

Lakeland, FL 33807-5342

*Direct:* (863)602-4462 or (863)255-3932

Contact: Tracey and Tim Dannemiller

Straight from the Heart is a non-profit organization dedicated to making a positive difference in HIV/AIDS education.

**Success by 6, United Way**

P.O. Box 1357

Highland City, FL 33846

*Direct:* (863) 648-1500 (ext. 265)

Contact: Jodi Miller, [jodi.miller@uwcf.org](mailto:jodi.miller@uwcf.org)

Success by 6 provides help preparing children to enter school ready to succeed.

**Success for All of Florida, Inc.**

111 Avenue R NE, Winter Haven, FL 33881

*Direct:* (863) 299-0007

Success For All of Florida Inc. is a private company categorized under Social Service Center and located in Winter Haven, FL. Success for All focuses on education and empowerment.

**Sunday and Saturday Nite Live**

*Direct:* (863) 298-4305

Contact: Bonnie Spires or Dawn Mayo

Sunday Nite Live provides once a month fun night for our adults with intellectual disabilities. Respite care for parents from 7:00 – 9:00 pm in Lakeland and Winter Haven. For more information contact Bonnie or Dawn.

**Sunrise Community of Polk County, Inc.**

1139 Golconda Rd.

Lakeland, FL 33801

*Direct:* (863) 688-9671

Sunrise Community is a private, not-for-profit organization whose mission is to provide people with disabilities the assistance and support necessary to enable them to live valued lives in the community.

**Sunshine Kids, Inc.**

3214 Thackery Way

Plant City, FL 33566

Matthew Lowell, [mllowell82@yahoo.com](mailto:mllowell82@yahoo.com)

Recreational and social activities for post-secondary adults with disabilities

**Support Group for Families of Students with ADHD**

Providing support for families of students with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder

*Direct:* 863-646-8042

Contact: Hope Workman: [hope.workman@polk-fl.net](mailto:hope.workman@polk-fl.net)

**Support Group for Parents of Students with Disabilities**

Contact: Cheryl Marino at [cheryl.marino@polk-fl.net](mailto:cheryl.marino@polk-fl.net)

Providing support for families of students with all disabilities.

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**Tampa Bay Pediatric Therapy**

(Serving Hillsborough, Pinellas, and Pasco & Polk Counties)  
2401 E. Henry Ave.  
Tampa, FL 33610  
*Direct:* (813) 236-5589

**TiAnViCa Riding Academy, Inc.**

1704 Parker Rd.  
Lakeland, FL 33811  
*Direct:* (863) 581-7859  
Contact: Sara L. Meadows, [sara@tianvica.org](mailto:sara@tianvica.org)  
TiAnViCa provides equine assisted learning, riding for therapy.

**The Epilepsy Association of Central Florida, Inc. (EACF)**

Wayne M. Densch Center  
109 North Kirkman Road  
Orlando, Florida 32811  
*Toll Free:* 1-866-864-1416  
[www.epilepsy-cf.org](http://www.epilepsy-cf.org)

Dedicated to serving persons with epilepsy, the Epilepsy Association of Central Florida (EACF) is a 100% local not-for-profit community based organization helping those affected by the nation's number one neurological disorder, epilepsy.

**United Way of Central Florida**

P.O. Box 1357  
Highland City, FL 33846  
*Direct:* (863) 648-1500  
[www.uwcf.org](http://www.uwcf.org)

The United Way of Central Florida is a free confidential service connecting people in need with the appropriate agency of service.

**VISTE (Volunteers in Service to the Elderly)**

1332 E. Magnolia St.  
Lakeland, FL 33801  
*Direct:* (863) 284-0828 (x-3)  
Ashley Miller: Volunteer Coordinator  
[Ashley@viste.org](mailto:Ashley@viste.org)

VISTE's purpose is to provide services which enable frail elderly persons to continue living independently in their own homes, safely, comfortably, and in better health.

**VSA Arts of Florida**

3500 E. Fletcher Avenue, Suite 234  
Tampa, FL 33613  
*Direct:* (813) 558-5093  
*Fax:* (813) 975-6962

Wendy Finklea; Education Coordinator, [wfinklea@coedu.usf.edu](mailto:wfinklea@coedu.usf.edu), [vsaarts@tempest.coedu.usf.edu](mailto:vsaarts@tempest.coedu.usf.edu)  
<http://www.vsafl.org>

Creating a society in which people with disabilities can learn through, participate in and enjoy the arts. Headquartered at the University of South Florida, VSA Florida (VSAFL) is a member of the international network of VSA, an affiliate of The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

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**YMCA South Lakeland**

3620 Cleveland Heights Blvd.

Lakeland, FL 33803

*Direct:* 863-644-3528

Contact: Theresa Sessions Executive Director

**Adaptive Programs**

**Unique Actions (Ages 5-17)**

A class designed for children with special needs to enjoy gymnastics, swimming and informal play groups. For a complete listing of classes please contact the Reception Desk.

**Special Pops Saturday Socials (Ages 16 and up)**

This program invites participants who are mentally or physically challenged to monthly-themed socials. Co-funded by the United Way and the YMCA, "Special Pops Saturday Socials" create a sense of community for this special group. Participants come from group homes, private homes or on their own with a parent or care-giver to chaperone.

**YMCA Poinciana**

397 Marigold Avenue

Poinciana, FL 34759

*Direct:* 863-496-1814

Contact: Ruth Smith, Executive Director

Welcome to the Y. We're an inclusive organization of men, women and children joined together by a shared commitment to nurturing the potential of kids, promoting healthy living and fostering a sense of social responsibility.

**Transition Website Information:**

Administration on Developmental Disabilities

[www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/add](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/add)

Agency for Health Care Administration

[www.fdhc.state.fl.us](http://www.fdhc.state.fl.us)

Children's Mental Health

[http://www.myflorida.com/cf\\_web](http://www.myflorida.com/cf_web)

Council for Exceptional Children

[www.cec.sped.org](http://www.cec.sped.org)

Division of Community and Workforce

[www.fldoe.org/workforce](http://www.fldoe.org/workforce)

Division on Career Development and Transition

[www.dcdt.org](http://www.dcdt.org)

ERIC Clearinghouse on Disabilities and Gifted Education

<http://www.eric.ed.gov>

Florida Alliance for Assistive Services and Technology

[www.FAAST.org](http://www.FAAST.org)

Florida Alliance for Information and Referral Services

[www.flairs.org](http://www.flairs.org)

Florida Dept. of Education

[www.fldoe.org](http://www.fldoe.org)

Florida Dept. of Education and Blind Services

<http://dbs.myflorida.com>

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Florida Dept. of Education, Division of Community Colleges  
<http://www.50states.com/cc/florida.htm>

Florida Developmental Disabilities Council (FDDC)  
<http://www.fddc.org>

Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources Systems (FDLRS)  
<http://www.polk-fl.net/districtinfo/departments/learning/ese/fdlrs.htm>

Florida DOE, Bureau of Exceptional Students and Services  
[www.fldoe.org](http://www.fldoe.org)

Florida Federation Division on Career Development and Transition  
[www.coe.ufl.edu](http://www.coe.ufl.edu)

Florida Independent Living Council  
<http://flailc.org>

For Your Information Transition  
<http://www.fyittransition.org>

Health and Human Services (Agency for Persons with Disabilities)  
[www.apd.myflorida.com](http://www.apd.myflorida.com)

Health and Human Services, FL Dept. of Children and Families, Mental Health  
[www.dcf.state.fl.us/mentalhealth](http://www.dcf.state.fl.us/mentalhealth)

Information on Colleges, vocational/technical schools and career planning  
[www.facts.org](http://www.facts.org)

NAMI (National Alliance for Mentally Ill) -Florida  
[www.namifl.org](http://www.namifl.org)

National Center on Secondary Education and Transition  
[www.ncset.org](http://www.ncset.org)

National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities  
[www.nichcy.org](http://www.nichcy.org)

Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services (OSERS)  
[www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osers](http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osers)

Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP)  
[www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osers/osep](http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osers/osep)

Project 10: The Transition Education Network  
[www.project10.info](http://www.project10.info)

The Able Trust  
[www.abletrust.org](http://www.abletrust.org)

Workforce Florida  
[www.workforceflorida.com](http://www.workforceflorida.com)

Workforce Innovations  
[www.floridajobs.org](http://www.floridajobs.org)