

*"The purposes of this title are to ensure that all children with disabilities have available to them a free appropriate public education that emphasizes special education and related services designed to meet their unique needs and prepare them for **further education, employment and independent living.**" (Federal law called IDEA, Section 1400(d)(1)(A), *emphasis added*).*

### 10 Quick IEP Tips

1. Always tape record your IEP meetings. (24 hour notice to your school district is all that is required!)
2. Never sign your IEP at the IEP meeting. (Take it home, listen to the tape, sleep on it...you have time!)
3. Request a full copy of your child's records. (Ask us for a sample letter)
4. Organize your child's file in a 3-ring binder with the oldest document on top and the newest on the bottom.
5. Always request all copies of assessment reports to be given to you at least 5 days before the IEP meeting. (you need time to absorb the information and be prepared to participate as an equal IEP team member)
6. Never go to an IEP meeting alone! Bring a spouse, significant other, parent or other relative or a friend. (call if you don't have a support person to go with you)
7. Do it in writing! Make all your requests in writing via email, fax or letter. Follow-up all phone conversations with a quick written note or email outlining the contents of the phone call.
8. When you get a "no", ask "why" or "why not"? Make sure your tape recorder is recording the answers.
9. Get educated! Read about special education law, talk to other parents, know your child's disability.
10. Never give up! We are here to help you!



From left to right: **Pete Wright, Esq., Pam Wright,** and Shirley Nutt, President of SNAFU. Mountain View, CA - March 18, 2008.

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**SNAFU**  
Special Needs Advocates For Understanding

**Parent  
Information  
&  
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*Supporting special-needs children  
and their families since 2005.*

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## WHO WE ARE

Special Needs Advocates for Understanding (SNAFU) is a 100% all-volunteer 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization formed in 2005.

### **Mission Statement:**

To support each other with friendship and guidance. To help each other effectively advocate for our children in educational and other settings. To welcome parents and others that are seeking answers relating to special-needs children. To freely exchange information that might be helpful to each other. To provide education to the general public so they may understand the unique needs of our children as our children become active members of society. To seek ways in which our children can be fully included with the general population.

In addition, we seek to reform social perceptions and create policy changes through our varied special projects. Our objective is to educate parents so they may make fully-informed decisions regarding their child's special education so that these precious children can make true progress towards further education, functional life skills, economic self reliance and independent living.

## OUR SERVICES

- ⊙ Comprehensive website
- ⊙ Daily Digest of information via email
- ⊙ Weekly support group meetings
- ⊙ Letter writing assistance
- ⊙ IEP meeting support/attendance
- ⊙ Various social activities
- ⊙ IEP Audits\*
- ⊙ WINGS Program\*
- ⊙ Assessment finance help\*
- ⊙ AMP Program\*
- ⊙ Much, much more!

\* See Special Programs section of this pamphlet

## SPECIAL PROGRAMS

**IEP Audits** - An experienced parent advocate will talk with you on the phone and examine your child's current IEP. You will then receive a written report detailing that advocate's opinion of your child's IEP including possible procedural violations, feedback on IEP goals and more.

**WINGS Program – Working Inclusively to Navigate Greater Success.** This is a gift program designed to purchase needed materials at home and the classroom to foster greater educational success.

**Assessment Finance Help** – This program assists families in obtaining necessary assessments that are often very costly.

**AMP Program – Achieving Maximum Potential.** This is a fundraising vehicle that parents of children with disabilities may use to help raise funds for necessary services, treatments and therapies for their children.

**All of the services above are provided free of charge. SNAFU relies on donations from people just like you! To make a donation, please visit us at [www.valleynafu.com](http://www.valleynafu.com). Please consider becoming an ongoing supporter by joining our Buck-a-week Program. For just over a buck a week (\$5 per month), you can help make the difference in so many lives. Please contact Shirley for more information at (209) 321-6510 or [Shirley@valleynafu.com](mailto:Shirley@valleynafu.com).**