

## Family Friends Benefits Everyone Involved

### Volunteer:

- Opportunity to build a genuine, caring relationship with a child with special needs and his/her family
- Opportunity to share experience, skills, wisdom, time, knowledge, and compassion with the next two generations
- Opportunity to receive training and support from Family Friends staff, volunteers, and families served

### Child:

- One on one attention
- Friendly Support
- Opportunity to learn from the Family Friend
- Receives compassion, concern, and possibly, love

### Parent/Family:

- Friendly support
- Time to spend with another child, tend to another responsibility, or do something for their self or their family

### Child, Volunteer, & Family:

- Enlarged social networks
- Opportunity to give & receive affection and appreciation
- Someone to talk to
- Someone to listen to
- Someone to spend quality time with
- Opportunity to strengthen and improve his/her community by promoting the principals of friendship and civility

**A SIMPLE IDEA:  
CALL 584-1239 TODAY, AND  
INVESTIGATE MAKING THE  
DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD OF A CHILD  
WITH A DISABILITY!**

## HOW WOULD YOU

## LIKE TO SPEND SOME TIME WITH US?



Family Friends, a program of



The Council on Mental Retardation has a longstanding history of valuing the experience & insights of older individuals and recognizes how these qualities can benefit younger individuals facing challenging situations.

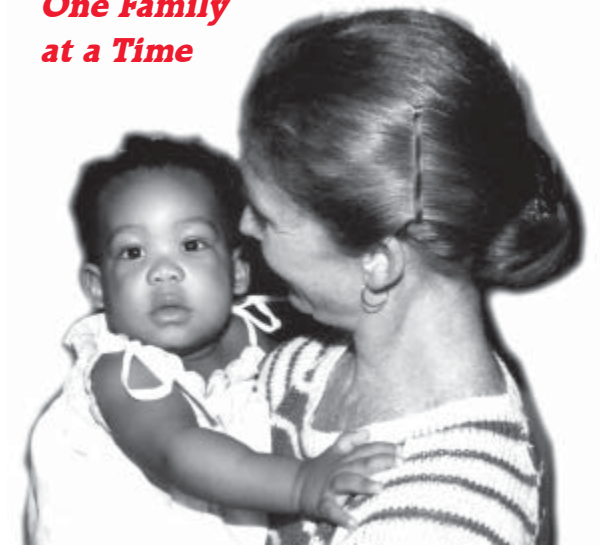
Family Friends exists to provide mature, experienced community members the opportunity to make a difference in their community by sharing their wisdom, knowledge, love, and experience in support of a family with special needs.

It is the vision of Family Friends at the Council that children with mental retardation and their families be included & empowered in their local communities through the fostering of intergenerational relationships with volunteers at least 50 years of age - who value each individual - sharing wisdom, time and experience to strengthen families that include a child with a disability & their communities.



# Family Friends

***Caring Individuals Making a  
Difference in the Lives of  
Children & Communities,  
One Family  
at a Time***



Family Friends - a program with the potential to improve lives as it benefits all who choose to become involved

# Family Friends - Building community, strengthening families, & enriching lives.

## *Bringing caring individuals and families together.*

*Family Friends is an intergenerational program based on the principle that Family Friend volunteers —active committed mature people— give of themselves to improve their community and the lives of children and families with special needs.* Currently there are over 26 Family Friends projects established in the U. S. In Louisville, the Family Friends program matches volunteers, age 50 + as mentors/friends, to families, which include a child age 16 or younger, with a disability.

To learn how you can become a Family Friends volunteer or be matched with a Family Friend volunteer please call Sandy Woolen at 584-1239 or e-mail her at [swoolen@councilonmr.org](mailto:swoolen@councilonmr.org) or visit us on the Web at [www.councilonmr.org](http://www.councilonmr.org).



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## You Can Be a Family Friend Volunteer!

- ✓ If you are 50 +
- ✓ Have 2-4 hours a week to spend with someone special
- ✓ Love children
- ✓ Are willing to participate in a free training program
- ✓ Want an ongoing relationship with a child and family in your community

## What Happens When a Family Friend Volunteer Visits a Family's Home?

The volunteer offers love and attention to a child by playing games, reading stories, drawing pictures, practicing school skills, listening and talking, or perhaps helping with a child during a busy time in the parents day. Each relationship will be unique based on the child and family's needs and the Family Friends' level of comfort, willingness and abilities. Parents usually remain at home during the volunteers visit. The time a volunteer spends with a child offers the parent opportunities to spend time with another sibling, catch up on household chores, or do something for themselves or their family.

## Who is eligible to have a Family Friend?

- ✓ Families living in Louisville and surrounding counties
- ✓ Families with a child, who has a disability, age 16 or younger
- ✓ There is no cost to the family