



SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES

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For Immediate Release

Date: 5/15/2023

Support for Families welcomes Wendy Neikirk Rhodes as Executive Director

**Office moving to 832 Folsom (4th and Folsom) to increase accessibility
for families**

Free Family Open House at Yerba Buena Gardens May 20, 10am-1pm

SAN FRANCISCO: The Board of Directors for Support for Families of Children with Disabilities is delighted to announce the appointment of Wendy Neikirk Rhodes as Executive Director.

Board President Sally Coghlan McDonald says: “Wendy brings extensive experience in non-profit leadership, strategy, fundraising, and program development. She has served as Interim Executive Director of Support for Families since April 2022 and led the organization through significant operational challenges and positive organizational change. We are thrilled she is at the helm and look forward to a strong future under her leadership.”

Previously, Ms. Neikirk Rhodes held leadership positions with arts and civil rights organizations in New York including the Apollo Theater, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Legal Services of Central New York, the New York Philharmonic, and Syracuse Stage. She also holds an MBA in Strategy and Marketing from New York University and has served as President of the Jamesville Dewitt (NY) School Board and Vice Chair of the Syracuse Opera Board of Directors.

Wendy Neikirk Rhodes reflects: “As the parent of two incredible children, one of whom is autistic, I have a deep personal connection to the work of Support for Families. I am looking forward to continuing the work with our dedicated staff. Together, we can help families access vital support and services and boldly center their experiences to create positive change in the maze of systems we are all forced to navigate for our children.”

Support for Families is also moving their offices from 1663 Mission to 832 Folsom. The office will be open by appointment beginning May 30 and new drop-in hours will be announced in July. Families are encouraged to call the warmline at (415) 920-5040 to get help via phone or



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zoom, or to schedule an appointment. A guide of upcoming workshops and trainings can be found at: <https://tinyurl.com/2zamv7wx>.

Sally Coghlan McDonald shares: “We are moving to a location that is more welcoming and accessible to families and staff and look forward to starting this new chapter in Support for Families service to families.”

To celebrate this new chapter in its leadership and location, and as part of the Department of Early Childhood’s Week of the Young Child’s celebrations, Support for Families is hosting a free Family Open House at the Childrens Garden of Yerba Buena Gardens on Saturday May 20 from 10am-1pm. The day will include facepainting, a bubble artist, lion dancers, interactive drumming class with Mr. Bongo, sensory play, delicious food, and more!

For more information and to register visit tinyurl.com/yc7ftr4c.

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Support Families of Children with Disabilities is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that provides lifechanging support to parents of children with disabilities, unique learning differences, and complex medical needs (and the providers who serve them). For over 40 years, Support for Families has empowered families with the knowledge and tools to ensure their child receives the care they need at school, at home, and within the community. Support for Families’ services are free to families and are offered in English, Spanish, and Cantonese. Our mission is to ensure that families have the knowledge and support to make informed choices that enhance children's development and well-being so they can thrive.

<https://www.supportforfamilies.org/>

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