

Windmill Project— Frequently Asked Questions



Question—What Is the Windmill Project?

Answer—It is a nonprofit public charity that connects families of children with special needs and disabilities to each other and to appropriate resources and services.

Question—Why do families of children with disabilities need support?

Answer—Families face serious challenges when they have children with disabilities. Families need important information and appropriate services for their child and family. One of the parents may quit a job in order to coordinate assessments and services related to the child's health and education. Some children require special care and supervision. It is not unusual to be overwhelmed by the unexpected needs of the child. Fatigue, stress and feelings of shame, guilt, fear and frustration may lead to isolation from friends, associates and family members. Families use a lot of energy as they cope with their feelings and search for ways to resume or redefine their normal lives.

Question—What does the Windmill Project work to accomplish?

Answer—It provides opportunities for family members to break their sense of isolation, to share insights, and renew their hope and strength.

Question—How is that done?

Answer—This is accomplished by connecting them to:

- other family members with similar situations
- information
- resources and
- services

The Windmill Project offers family events, workshops and an annual parent retreat with opportunities to learn and recharge. The retreat allows time to network so they can gain valuable insights and encouragement from “veteran” parents. The break from care giving also provides a chance for parents to dream again for their child and family.

Question—How and when did the Windmill Project get started?

Answer—The Project got its start in 1990 with federal funding so parents could come together and identify their own needs. Parents learned that effective partnerships with professionals are built with mutual respect that result in meeting needs that strengthen families rather than foster dependency. In 2004 Windmill was incorporated as a nonprofit directed by a volunteer board.

Question—How Is the Windmill Project funded?

Answer—Since federal and state grants ended in 1995, Windmill relies on payments for parent training from agencies, United Way funding and contributions from organizations, businesses and individuals to subsidize costs and provide scholarships. Donations are tax deductible.

If you want to know more, please call Gail Kulp at 320-763-9228. You can also contact us through the website www.windmillproject.org where you can read family stories and learn more about the Windmill Project.