



Dear ICEC Families & Friends

Thank you up front for taking the time to read this important information

During the past year ICEC provided more than 10 developmental evaluations each week for babies who need Early Intervention. Our infant program is full with a waiting list of over 20 infant. *Last year we provided program services to over **900** children aged birth to three, the most ever since our inception.* Our offices are receiving more calls every day from anxious parents looking for therapy and support for their special needs child. The need is severe in Orange County but we are NOT able to come along side the family and help them due to the significant the state budget cutbacks that have taken place in programs for critical Early Start services.

ICEC wants and needs to continue to Treat Special Needs with Special Care, but cannot do so without your help. ICEC has taken a 10% funding reduction through furloughs, eligibility restrictions and payment rate cuts during the last 18 months. Children previously receiving services from ICEC are no long eligible, reducing the hours of service we can provide. In addition families are required to their private insurance for their child's therapy needs even if it is part of their 'educational' plan. This is costing ICEC more, costing parents more, postponing & reducing treatment options. New restrictions are often making critical therapy completely inaccessible to the children.

Even prior to the budget crisis the rates Regional Center reimburses ICEC for our programs have not covered our costs so we have always had to fund raise to some extent. However, the cuts are not going so deep that we are at a tipping point, a place where we will have to eliminate some programs entirely without your help. This year our operating deficit will be more than \$225,000 – and increase of more than 200%. Our daily operating expenses continue to rise and request for program scholarships grows daily.

I am asking for your help in 3 ways:

1. Please consider making an end of the year donation to our ICEC Annual Campaign Fund, and help one more child receive the services they need.
2. Help us expand our Community Donors. If you know of a foundation , corporation or individual that could assist ICEC in reaching our donor needs, please let us know. We want to share the ICEC mission with the community through our website, video and presentations but need your assistance finding donors who value what we do.
3. Become a fundraising volunteer for ICEC. Our third annual “Lovers & Others Ball” is February 26, 2011. Volunteers and committee members are needed, as well as silent auction items and underwriters. Invite friends and family and share a table at the event so that we can share the ICEC story with them.

Your help will allow the current and future ICEC families to benefit from the quality programs you and your loved one’s experienced while in our program. All donations to ICEC are tax deductible, and regardless of size make a difference in these difficult times for us.

At these season of Thanksgiving I wish you and your family a joyful holiday season.

Thank you,

Pam Alexander
Executive Director, ICEC

P.S. We cannot keep our doors open without your help!