



## RMU Trees Network July 2023 Newsletter



### Special Needs Consortium In-Person Event

Next Wednesday, July 19, 2023, the RMU Trees Network will host July's Special Needs Consortium. Based in Cranberry, the Special Needs Consortium's mission is "working together to increase the awareness of resources available to the special needs community through networking, promotion, and advocacy." The meeting will begin at 9AM in Patrick Henry. All organizations and people presenting will be sharing information, brochures, and fliers on upcoming events and activities for

families, caregivers, and individuals with disabilities. We will be sharing this information on our website and Facebook page.

### Special Education Conference

On Monday, October 9, 2023, the RMU Trees Network will be holding its annual Special Education Conference. It is being held virtually to allow for more participation from special educators, administrators, paraprofessionals, and related service staff looking for professional development on important topics in special education. To register complete the following registration form: [Special Education Conference 2023 Registration Form](#)

#### SAVE THE DATE

#### RMU Trees Network Special Education Conference Pathways of Possibilities

October 9, 2023

A free, virtual conference with sessions on:

- Updates from the PDE
- Technology Innovations
- STEM and Exceptional Learners
- Transition to Adulthood
- Unified Sports
- Children's Literature
- IEPs
- Lessons Learned in Autism

Registration begins in August

For additional information, contact: [donne@rmu.edu](mailto:donne@rmu.edu) or [hiltzd@rmu.edu](mailto:hiltzd@rmu.edu)

## September 11 Family Support Meeting

Mark your calendars! On Monday, September 11, 2023, we will have our first parent and family support meeting of the new school year. It will be FREE and held LIVE virtually from 7PM-8PM. Stay tuned for the topic and registration!

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### Family Engagement Activities

Looking for something fun to do and not sure where to look. As we get fliers and information on activities to do, we post them on our RMU Trees Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/RMUtrees/> and on our RMU Trees webpage [RMU Trees Network Wix site](#). On the website, choose **Resources**

and select **Family Fun Around the 'Burgh**. Let

us know if you attend anything - we would love to hear from you and what you thought! Comment on the Facebook page or email Vicki Donne at [donne@rmu.edu](mailto:donne@rmu.edu) or Deanna Hiltz at [hiltzd@rmu.edu](mailto:hiltzd@rmu.edu).



### Resources for Parents and Educators

The Network provides resources for parents and teachers and these resources can be found at the [RMU Trees Network Website](#).

Information on RMU Trees is also posted on the RMU website and the previous newsletters can be read and viewed at <https://www.rmu.edu/academics/provost/trees>. In

each newsletter we try to provide links to resources of topics discussed in our parent meetings and workshops as well as other information that may be helpful to families, schools, and the community. Below are some links to resources for developing visual schedules and brain breaks.



**Center for Parent Information and Resources** - The materials found on the CPIR Hub were created for Parent Centers around the country to help them provide support and services to families. <https://www.parentcenterhub.org/>

**Family's Quick Start Guide to Special Education** - This resource includes several different publications that provide essential, comprehensible information to families who are new to special education.

<https://www.pattan.net/Publications/Familys-Quick-Start-Guide-to-Special-Education>

**Special Needs Consortium** - The Special Needs Consortium's mission is working together to increase the awareness of resources available to the special needs community through networking, promotion, and advocacy.

<https://www.specialneedsconsortium.org/> These are some of the most recent events and activities they have shared:



## 12th Annual Autism Open

Friday, July 28, 2023  
Nemacolin Country Club - Beallsville, PA

**\$600 per Foursome - 9 am Shotgun Start**

Fee includes continental breakfast, participation in 9 contest holes, complimentary food and beverage stations throughout the course, and a prize filled luncheon reception. Sponsorship opportunities are available.

Please contact Courtney at (724) 678-5115 or visit [www.autismopen.org](http://www.autismopen.org) for more information.



**JULY 29-30, 2023**  
PITTSBURGH SHRINE CENTER  
CHESWICK, PA

Featuring

**TOMMY CASTRO**  
**KING SOLOMON HICKS**  
**JOSLYN & THE SWEET COMPRESSION**  
**GABE STILLMAN**

THE SHINERS | BLUES ATTACK  
THE POLKAMANIACS | XAVIER ALLEN BAND  
NIED'S HOTEL BAND w/ MIA Z  
THE BAIL JUMPERS (2023 IBC WINNER)  
BILLY THE KID TRIBUTE TO  
THE THREE KINGS (BB, FREDDIE, & ALBERT)

Featuring Pittsburgh's Young Guns - Pierce Dinner, Donnie Bell, Guitar Zech, Dan Bubien, Jan Vallecorsa

**PLUS VERY SPECIAL PERFORMANCES BY BAND TOGETHER PITTSBURGH MUSICIANS!**

[WWW.PGHBLUESFESTIVAL.COM](http://WWW.PGHBLUESFESTIVAL.COM)

**BAND TOGETHER PITTSBURGH** PROCEEDS BENEFIT: **AUTISM PITTSBURGH**



## Accessible Clay Classes

**WHY YOU'LL LOVE IT**

- Join us in our new studio!
- One of the only wheelchair accessible pottery wheels in the area as well as standard and tabletop wheels to accommodate all abilities!
- New handbuilding projects and wheel time every week!

Year Round in the Heart of Carnegie!  
Studio Forget-Me-Not  
323 E Main St., Carnegie, PA 15106  
**SIGN UP AND REGISTER NOW AT [NFHCS.ORG](http://NFHCS.ORG)**



## Free August Summer Camp



We invite you to fill out an application if you're interested in sending your child to our program.

Open Up Studio  
3711 Butler Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15201



Scan the QR code to apply for this program and learn more.

**What To Expect**

- Middle school age welcome
- Open to all abilities
- Flexibility in programming
- Expert staffing with all required clearances
- Caregiver must provide transportation from school to studio

**Open Up's mission is to teach mindfulness tools through movement and art practices that center people living with disabilities.**


[www.open-up.org](http://www.open-up.org)



**include me**  
**CONNECTION CLUB**


## Meerkat Village Usability Study: Seeking Participants

This quality assurance study is being carried out to gain insight on the usability of the Meerkat Village application. Meerkat Village uses a simple approach to integrating services for children with social, emotional, behavioral, or medical needs.



**We are looking for Individuals who...**

- Are caring for a child with a physical, cognitive, or developmental disability
- Own a smart phone or tablet



If you participate you will be given complementary access to Meerkat Village and asked to use it as you wish for 3-4 weeks and then you will be asked to share your thoughts and opinions on Meerkat Village through a series of 3 online surveys and a virtual focus group. Participants who engage in study will receive \$35 total in compensation

For more information email: [juf52@pitt.edu](mailto:juf52@pitt.edu)

## RMU Trees Network Contact

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[RMU Trees Website](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/RMUtrees/>

