



Organization of Special Needs Families
10823 Willowbrook Way
Cupertino, CA 95014

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Organization of Special Need Families (OSF)

Supporting community integration for individuals with special needs toward an independent, productive, and normal life

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Web Site: www.osfamilies.org

*Our web site has
a new look –
check it out!*

2nd Annual Cupertino Special Festival

Bringing Families and Community Together

EVENT SCHEDULE

June 9, 2006

7:00pm ~ 9:00pm

AUTISM CONFERENCE

at Cupertino Community Hall

9:00pm ~ 10:30pm

YOUTH CANDLELIGHT CEREMONY

at Cupertino Civic Center

June 10, 2006

10:00am

FLAG RAISING OPENING CEREMONY

at Cupertino Civic Center Flag Pole

10:30am

SPECIAL PARADE

Civic Center Flag Pole →

Sandra James Park →

Library Field → City Hall

June 10, 2006

10:00am ~ 5:00pm

Non-Profit and Merchandise Booths

International Food and Drink Booths

at Cupertino Civic Center

Noon ~ 5:00pm

Health and Nutrition Workshop

at Cupertino City Hall

11:00am ~ 5:00pm

VIP Soccer Tournament

Cricket Tournament

Kids Game Zone

Personal Pony and Canine Dogs

Children's Kingdom --- Music/Arts/Crafts

at Cupertino Library Field

11am ~ 5 pm

Live Multicultural Performance

at Cupertino Library Field

Organization of Special Needs Families (OSF)

Newsletter ~ May 2006

Dear friends and families,

Volunteering was something I did on and off since I was a young teenager. Between my late 20's and two years prior, except for a brief stint several years ago, my state of volunteerism was unfortunately completely off. Why? For the usual reasons that Mitch Sako, this issue's featured OSF volunteer, cited – career, family, and other life things.

Like Mitch, I started volunteering at OSF shortly after my daughter started participating in its excellent programs. I dived into the role of OSF newsletter writer/editor/publisher with little forethought, even though I have never put together anything resembling a newsletter before. But heck, I do enjoy writing and nothing beats on-the-job training!

OSF is operated almost entirely by volunteers – from the Board of Directors to the summer camp counselors. Volunteers are the very core of its existence and their valuable contributions ripple throughout the community. Next time you spot an opportunity to help, jump in. You'll make a difference.

~ Shirley ~

Volunteer Newsletter Editor

Cupertino Special Festival Coming Up!

Our California sunshine has finally returned! None is more apropos than the 2nd Annual Cupertino Special Festival to kick-off this season of beautiful weather.

This unique and inclusive event celebrates friendship, love and support of the whole community. The festival takes place Friday and Saturday, June 9th-10th, at Cupertino's Civic Center and library field.

The festival kicks off Friday evening with an Autism conference and a candlelight gathering. Saturday follows with a full day of fun activities including a parade, sport games, arts and crafts, music and live cultural performances. Resource booths for non-profit organizations, as well as delicious food and vendor outlets, will be open all day Saturday.

OSF is the host of this incredible event and we need your support! Be a festival sponsor or come by and enjoy the sun and fun.

Best Wishes to the Ito Family



The Ito family is moving back to Japan this month. We wish them well and hope they'll return to the Bay Area some day soon.

For the past 2-1/2 years, the Ito family has been part of OSF and a big supporter of its programs and events. Mr. Ito kindly e-mailed OSF to express his appreciation for the excellent services and support his family received:

"Without OSF, Fumiya could not achieve such a big progress. OSF also encourage me what we, parents can do for my son. After returning Japan, I will do something not only for Fumiya but also for children who need help like Fumiya."

The Ito family has also generously donated \$5,000 to OSF recently. We give them our heartfelt thanks.

OSF Recognized with CREST Award!

OSF is one of five proud recipients of the 2006 CREST (Cupertino Recognizes Extra Steps Taken) Award. The award is sponsored by the City of Cupertino and honors outstanding community volunteers who make major contributions to the quality of life in Cupertino.

Congratulations and kudos to our corps of dedicated volunteers!

OSF Volunteer Mitch Sako – In his own words

I started volunteering at OSF shortly after we enrolled our son in the Integrated Play and Social Group program three years ago. At first, it was little things, helping around the front desk, setting up, cleaning the sidewalks, bringing classroom materials out from storage, etc. After awhile, I started helping to setup the computer classroom. I was always hanging out around computer labs since college so the task has a natural attraction for me.



Soon, it became a habit, and a very good habit at that. Volunteering is something I've always wanted to do but somehow never found the opportunity or time. I think many parents feel the same way. We're just too busy raising kids and working our jobs.

There are things in life that are noble, such as teaching, coaching, mentoring, volunteering, giving blood, spending quality time with your kids and donating to charity. For me, volunteering is something most difficult to facilitate. I teach and mentor at work, give blood when the Bloodmobile comes around, donate to various charities and try to spend quality time with my son. But, until I started coming to OSF, I never really had an opportunity to make a contribution as a volunteer. I'm grateful for this opportunity and look forward to continuing as long as I can be useful to the organization.