



## Giving Season

Each year, the [Family Support 360 Center](#) provides a Holiday Assistance Program for families in need during the winter holiday season. Some of the items provided to families are culturally appropriate toys, winter clothes, food baskets and emergency items. Please consider [making a tax-deductible donation](#) to help families with children with disabilities or special health care needs this holiday season. Your donation helps most where we cannot use federal or state money to support a family need. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

## Wanda Felty named CLL's new Assistant Director

Please join us in congratulating [Wanda Felty](#) on her promotion to Program Coordinator and Assistant Director for the Center for Learning and Leadership, Oklahoma's UCEDD. Wanda's long-term leadership as an advocate for families who are caring for a child or adult family member with a disability and for people with developmental disabilities has benefitted Oklahomans and policy staff across the entire country. Wanda will continue to be CLL's lead staff member for policy and advocacy. Now she will also be formally recognized for her leadership skills as a program coordinator and administrator. Congratulations on your promotion, Wanda!

## Flu, RSV, and COVID-19 high numbers throughout Oklahoma

As people plan to gather for holiday events, OU Health's [Dr. Dale Bratzler](#) is reminding people that [flu, RSV, and COVID cases are increasing nationwide](#). In Oklahoma, COVID cases have risen since Thanksgiving, especially in people older than 70. Currently, Oklahoma is in the "high" category for flu cases, and all of the states surrounding Oklahoma are listed in the "very high" category. Watch [Dr. Bratzler speak to KFOR](#) and learn what you can do to help prevent the spread of these viruses.

## Autism Foundation of Oklahoma Offers Gift Giving Guide for the Holiday Season

The [Autism Foundation of Oklahoma \(AFO\)](#) has partnered with local retailers to create a [gift-giving guide](#) for those with loved ones on the autism spectrum and with other neurodevelopmental disabilities. AFO's first-ever gift-giving guide includes sensory-friendly and educational items available at Oklahoma City retailers The Learning Tree and Blue7.

## National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum named Certified Autism Center

Recently, OKC's [National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum](#) was named a Certified Autism Center (CAC). This is the first certified autism center in Oklahoma through the International Board of Credentialing and Continuing Education Standards (IBCCES), a certification that the Autism Foundation of Oklahoma also recently received. Learn more about the credentialing process and find Certified Autism Centers across the nation by visiting the online [Autism Travel Directory](#).

## Events and Announcements

### January 18<sup>th</sup>: Long-term Planning - Financial and Employment Options (Virtual)

The Center for Learning and Leadership/UCEDD and the Oklahoma Disability Law Center invite you to the family training on Long-term Planning - Financial and Employment Options. Participants in this training will learn about long-term supports and benefits, including waiver supports, and options for community integrated employment such as Ticket to Work. Attendees will also learn about saving money through OK STABLE accounts beyond the typical Medicaid asset limits. Come learn about what could be available for the people in your lives with I/DD. [Registration is required](#).

### Night to Shine registration open for both OKC events happening in February 2023

[Night to Shine](#) is a formal dance celebration for teens and adults with disabilities over the age of 14. This is a nationwide program sponsored by the Tim Tebow Foundation. This year, Oklahoma City will be hosting two Night to Shine events on February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023. [Putnam City Baptist Church](#) will be hosting as well as [Crossings Community Church](#). Limited space is available. Register now at your location of choice.

## We want to hear from you!

Do you have news or an event to share? Please send all information including a link (if applicable) to [learn2lead-ucedd@ouhsc.edu](mailto:learn2lead-ucedd@ouhsc.edu). All submissions should be in no later than the fourth Friday of the month before publication (ex: 4<sup>th</sup> Friday in June for July's newsletter).

Sign-up to receive our free monthly newsletter *focus facts on community living* <http://tiny.cc/focusfacts>

Or use your cell phone camera and point it to this QR code



The University of Oklahoma advances a diverse, equitable, and inclusive university community by embracing each person's unique contributions, background, and perspectives. OU Norman, OU Tulsa, and the Health Sciences Center recognize that fostering an inclusive environment for all, with particular attention to the needs of the historically marginalized populations, is vital to the pursuit of excellence in all aspects of our institutional mission and enhances the OU experience for all students, faculty, and staff. *focus facts* is published for the University Affiliated Developmental Disabilities Network members. Its purpose is to highlight specific information and data items relevant to developing and sustaining positive community environments. Individual information items are provided for use in this form, or for further circulation. When re-printing information please reference *focus facts* and the month of issue noted below the banner at the top of this page. The name of a contact person for additional information on items referenced in the newsletter is provided for your convenience. If you have data, information or a story to report relevant to community living, please send it to *focus facts* Editor at the Center for Learning and Leadership/UCEDD OU Health Sciences Center, PO Box 2690, Oklahoma City, OK 73126. Please include the information source, by title, a one paragraph (or less) description or story, a contact name who can provide additional information on the subject, and a daytime or evening telephone number for the contact.

If you have questions regarding the format for submissions, please call the Center for Learning and Leadership/UCEDD Headquarters Office at (405) 271-4500. The University Affiliated Developmental Disabilities Network is open to membership by any organization or individual who shares the interests of Network members. The Network is dedicated to identifying opportunities for collaboration and information exchange among its participating members, which leads to improving our statewide, regional or local capacity to provide a better living environment in Oklahoma for people with developmental and other disabilities and their families. The Network is partially supported through a grant from the U.S. Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, Department of Health and Human Services, and by the Offices of the Designated Representatives of the Center for Learning and Leadership/UCEDD Collaborating Partners.

If you have a disability (Deaf/hard-of-hearing, Blind/low-vision, mobility, cognitive, etc.), and require accommodations, please reach out to [Learn2Lead@ouhsc.edu](mailto:Learn2Lead@ouhsc.edu). It is helpful if you share what type of accommodations will be needed to ensure that you are able to use the resource materials.