

UF Health Jacksonville
Center for Autism and Related Disabilities

Constituency Board Biographies

Our constituency board is comprised of family members and individuals with autism and related disabilities. They help guide program policies, priorities, and activities. The constituency board meets with CARD staff on a regular basis throughout the year. If you are interested in more information, please feel free to contact our office at (904) 633-0760.

Rom Alderman – Chair -

I am the Dad of Thomas & Sarah. Thomas is a severely autistic 11 year old; but not as severe as many. His language is limited and he will barely eat unless prompted. He has fun as long as he gets what he wants, and he is not thinking about what he can't have, kind of like me. He will flee from anywhere with no thought of return; in search of his obsessions of water, running water, tractors, most any wheel, and other secondary obsessions.

We have the resources create a safe environment and through ABA therapy we have greatly reduced his bad behaviors, and enhanced our family's knowledge & skills in handling him (that includes my 8 year old daughter, wife & many more). I cannot imagine a family that is not blessed with these resources we have, to handle a child like Thomas. He is so much happier and healthier because of these ABA skills (mostly common sense but just consistently applied & reminded).

I am involved in CARD & the Autism community to lend what meager contribution I can, to insure that we are doing all we can for autism families in need.

I am a financial & systems analyst with an early career in statistics. I hope to help create a picture of the needs of our Northeast Florida Region.

Please lend a hand, where you can.

Jacqueline Bargas

I am the Program Manager for the Annual Autism Symposium sponsored by Wolfson's Children's Hospital, Nemours Children's Clinic and The University of Florida. I serve on the Executive Committee of The Women's Board of Wolfson's Children's Hospital. I am a graduate of Mercer University.

Terry Lee

Terry Lee was born and raised in Jacksonville, Florida. He is a graduate of Andrew Jackson High School - 1970. He received his B.S. degree in Secondary Education from Tennessee Temple University. Terry married his wife of 42 years, Donna while in college. He has three daughters and four grand- children. Terry taught school and coached for 11 years, worked for Florida Blue for 15 years as a sales rep, and has been employed by UF Health Jacksonville for the past 10 years. When first employed by UF Health he was the Marketing Manager for First Coast Advantage and helped grow the company's membership to 30,000 members in 3 years. He then moved into Business Development where he continues to build relationships with community leaders and business owners.

Terry is involved in several community organizations within our city such as: JIAMC, North Jacksonville Rotary, AIFBY Chamber, FCMA, and UF Health CARD.

Terry understands the needs of families of children with special needs since he has a daughter born with Spin-a-Bifida. He was a member of the Spin-a-Bifida Association of Jacksonville and served as V.P. and President of the organization. Terry and his wife served as president of their parent teacher association while teachers and were responsible for raising money to renovate the elementary building and buy new playground equipment.

Terry has worked with CARD for the past few years helping to provide gifts for the Season of Hope Dinner and Fall Festival.

Kathy Powell

My name is Kathy Powell and I live in Jacksonville, Florida but have strong ties to Tallahassee (where I lived for 15 years) and the Florida State Center for Autism and Related Disorders (CARD) center. It was there where I began my journey with my son, which led me to become a strong advocate for him and eventually for other families and individuals with varying exceptionalities. As Sam's mom, I am very proud of my son's accomplishments. Sam is a 13-year-old young man trying to overcome stressors associated with being on the Autism Spectrum. Our family was very fortunate to have received an appropriate pediatric screening, which led to a First Words Project's screening, determining he was at risk for autism as young as one year. I have years of life experiences along with Marketing, Public Awareness, and my position as Resource Specialist/Program Director of the Parents of the Panhandle Information Network (POPIN), a program of Family Network on Disabilities. (FND) I provide guidance, support, education, and training to families and professionals on all topics related to special education. I have volunteered within the school system and worked with community partners focusing on issues such as self-governance, advocacy and social opportunities for persons with varying abilities.