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Bayada Nurses to Host Southeastern PA Pediatric Special Needs Trade Show

Bayada Nurses a national home health agency with pediatric home care offices in Philadelphia, Willow Grove and Paoli, is sponsoring the first annual Southeastern PA Pediatric Special Needs Trade Show designed for those who have and care for children with developmental and physical disabilities. The non-profit event will feature nearly 100 vendors as well as presentations by experts versed in the care of special needs children, including State Representative Dennis O'Brien, a strong advocate for autism awareness and treatment. The program will also include a continuing education conference for nurses.

The trade show will take place on Thursday, April 2 from 11am to 6pm at the Hilton of Philadelphia located at 4200 City Avenue. The event is open to the public and Admission is free.

"We wanted to host an event that would bring together multiple resources for the families of children with special needs," said Kimberly Biggins, a Recruitment Manager for Bayada Nurses.

Participating vendors include but are not limited to social service agencies, hospitals, doctors' offices, medical supply companies, transportation companies and rehabilitation centers. Support groups, schools, camps, sports and dance centers that provide therapeutic programs for children with special needs will also be in attendance. Additional exhibits include organizations that offer art therapy, equestrian therapy, and music therapy specifically to special needs children.

"The show provides an opportunity to connect parents, teachers, therapists, social workers, nurses, and others involved in the care of special needs children," said Biggins.

The trade show will also offer presentations featuring experts in developmental and physical disabilities in children, including a lecture by State Representative Dennis O'Brien. Representative O'Brien has an autistic nephew and has been an advocate for autism issues. He founded the Pennsylvania Legislative Autism Caucus. Over the course of 20 years, he has proposed a number of bills requiring mandatory school and health care funding for parents. In addition, he worked with Governor Ed Rendell to organize a Bureau of Autism Services within the state's Office of Developmental Programs. In 2008, one of his bills, requiring insurance companies to cover autism treatment, was passed and signed into law.

The presentation schedule is as follows:

11:30am

Autism Awareness

Dennis M. O'Brien

Pennsylvania State Representation

1:00pm

Sensory Processing in Young Children

Colleen Defruscio, OTR/L

Theraplay

2:30pm

Autism: Research and Teaching Methods

Dr. Judy Horrocks, Ed.D.

Academy Director & Lead Trainer

TIM Academy

4:00pm

Parents Speak: Unique Perspectives on the Care of Severely Neurologically Impaired Children

Molly Watson, Co-Founder

Christa Tyner, Co-Founder

Tripp Tyner, Partner

Parents Speak

1:00 to 5:00pm

Airway Clearance Seminar- CE Seminar

Nancy Linda, RN

Lynn Vanderburg, BA, RRT

The Hill-Rom Company

"At Bayada Nurses, we also saw this trade show as an opportunity to provide continuing education to the nurses in our community," explained Ms. Biggins. "That's why we incorporated a CE program into the day's events." The CE seminar titled Airway Clearance, will be offered from 1:00pm to 5:00pm by Hill-ROM and provides an opportunity for nurses to earn 4 CE hours.

For more than 75 years Hill-Rom has worked to help healthcare professionals safely deliver effective and efficient care to their patients in acute care, long-term care and home care environments. Registration for the CE seminar can be done by sending an email to ac.edu.registration@hill-rom.com (be sure to note seminar date and location) or call **1-800-426-4224 ext. 1568**. Pre-registration is required and must occur no later than March 25, 2009.

For vendor or sponsorship opportunities, or for more information on the Southeastern PA Pediatric Special Needs Trade Show, contact Kimberly Biggins at **215-657-3900** or **kbiggins@bayada.com**.