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The Downtowner

Randy's Ramblings...

Hope for Autistic Children...

As the grandparent of an autistic child, I am excited about the prospects of a new medical breakthrough that has some parents and physicians singing its praises. Though controversial, *chelation therapy* (using drugs that strip the body of metals), is proving to significantly reduce autism's devastating symptoms such as lack of emotion and repetitive behaviors. Unfortunately, the drugs used in the chelation process can cause some serious side effects, including bone marrow and liver problems.

The practice of chelation therapy grew out of the belief among many autism experts that heavy metals, especially mercury-based preservatives in childhood vaccines, are to blame for autism. That theory got a boost last year after a toxicologist who treated his own son with a chelating medication testified before a congressional subcommittee chaired by Congressman Dan Burton of Indiana. Rashid Buttar told the committee that 19 of the 31 patients in his North Carolina clinic using the medication, called TD-DMPS, for more than a year had a complete loss of their autistic symptoms. The results haven't been published, though Dr. Buttar says he is working toward that.

The traditional approach to treating autism has focused on intensive behavioral therapy, special education and speech training. Autism, which affects as many as one out of every 166 U.S. children, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, is a developmental disorder that affects a child's communication, creative play and social interaction.

Here's hoping that chelation therapy is the key to unlocking the mysteries that lie deep within the autistic child. One thing is for certain—hope is a good thing!

Information gathered from Wall Street Journal—Feb. 15, 2005.

~ Randy Allman

Easter Egg Hunt and Cookout

BIGGER and BETTER

Saturday, March 26 ~ 11 a.m.

North Christian Church Lawn (850 Tipton Lane)

Three hunt areas—ages 3 and under, 4-6 and 7-10 year olds.
Followed by a FREE COOKOUT for the whole family!
Sponsored by North Christian, Q-Mix 107.3 and the LCNFC!

Building tomorrow's neighborhoods... TODAY!

THE DOWNTOWNER is a monthly newsletter for the Lincoln-Central Neighborhood Family Center. Our office is located at 1039 Sycamore St. See our enclosed calendar for the activities and programs that you or your family might be interested in. Please call the LCNFC at 379-1630 for additional information.