Welcome to Family Education Day!

We are a group of CF parents who got together to form a Family Advisory Board to make sure that the care our children receive at the CF Center is centered on them—and us, their families. We want to work in a supportive role to the CF Center, serving as a resource of constructive input and assistance.

Aside from advising the CF Center, we want to help in other ways, depending on the needs of our local CF families. We want to create a parent-to-parent network, establish a mentoring program for one-on-one family support, organize social functions for CF families, and get families involved in supporting each other on non-medical issues that affect our lives as CF families—day care, school, siblings, social issues, etc.

Your input is needed. We want to know your individual challenges. We want to hear your opinions. We welcome your ideas for improving our children’s care and well-being. If you wish to get more actively involved with the Family Advisory Board, please contact Karen Boren at 939-6996. The board accommodates a wide variety of interests, energy levels, and abilities to meet. The work will be enormously rewarding and will generate fellowship among our local CF families.

We wish your family best of health, and we look forward to working with you!

For General Inquiries
Contact Karen Boren
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Allen Schreiber
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I have been practicing law in Birmingham for 26 years. My wife, Stella, and I have three children; Scott (21), William (19), and Emily (16). Emily was diagnosed with CF at the age of 9. I am part of the FAB team because I want to be involved in the Children’s Hospital and UAB CF Centers. I think it is important to not only raise money for CF research and treatment but also to help maintain a relationship with our CF families as well as their caregivers. I am currently involved in my daughter’s foundation www.lapsforcf.org, which has raised money to improve the quality of care for CF patients at the local level.

Carrie & Corie Ricard
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Cory and I are the parents of three wonderful kids, Maddie (6), Toby (4), and Annie (1). Toby was diagnosed with CF at 5 weeks of age. There is never a dull moment at our house! As a family, we are continually educating ourselves about CF and working to find a good balance in our care of Toby. We are excited to be a part of the FAB and are looking forward to meeting other CF families.
Meet The Family Advisory Board

David & Jeanne VonHagel
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We have two daughters: Katie, age 8, and Kara, age 6. Katie was diagnosed with Cystic Fibrosis when she was 2 years old. Since then, we have been actively involved with the Cystic Fibrosis community along with being members of the Family Advisory Board. Not only does the Board give us an opportunity to meet other families dealing with the same situation, but it also helps to communicate needs from the families directly to the CF medical staff. With us all working together, we can continue to improve the lives of those affected by this terrible disease.

Sherry Gilbreath
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I am a single mother of Rachel (21) and Patrick (18). Rachel was diagnosed with CF at six weeks. Patrick does not have CF and is not a carrier. I have worked in a pathology laboratory for 28 years. Rachel currently works as a dental hygienist and Patrick plays varsity football. Although only one of my children has CF, they both have to struggle with the hurdles of CF. The reason that I am part of the FAB team is that I want to reach out and learn. The past 20 years have been a learning experience for me. I love to work with the CF community and I want to make the CF world stronger and better.

Stuart & Gabriela Oates
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We are the parents of Teddy (4), Mina (8), Andrew (18), and Lizzie (20). Only Teddy has CF. He was diagnosed at birth. We both work full-time but are blessed to have the help of Teddy’s grandmother, who takes care of him during the day.

We got involved with the Advisory Board because we felt that CF families can do a lot to improve the care our children receive at the CF center. Often, hospital administrators won’t listen to requests by the staff, but have a hard time turning down the same requests presented by parents. We also felt that there is a lack of social support for CF families. Sometimes we needed the advice of more experienced CF families, but we didn’t know anybody and felt alone in our struggle. We are hoping the Family Advisory Board will fill this void and help the CF families in Alabama to get connected and learn from each other so our lives can get just a bit easier.

Vicky Walker Homan
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Seventeen years ago I became a part of the CF community. My son Charlie was born, and ten weeks later diagnosed with Cystic Fibrosis. I began to realize the value of sharing experiences with other CF families. The people who have walked in our shoes are the only people who can truly understand. My vision for the Family Advisory Board is to continually build a network of the CF families who can share, support, and understand. The CF journey is sometimes difficult; let’s join together and do what we can to make this journey easier. God Bless, and please feel free to contact me anytime.

Susan Hankins Estes
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I am the proud mother of a beautiful sixteen year old daughter, Elizabeth Scott Hankins, whom we call “Libby.” I teach secondary English and language arts at Gordo High School, where Libby is a junior in the advanced diploma program. Libby is a varsity cheerleader, vice-president of the Student Government Association, and a Bevill State Talent Search representative. She is a member of the Bible Club, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Beta Club, and FBLA.

Our family is involved in several local fundraisers for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. Each year Gordo High School hosts a benefit concert featuring students and local bands. The GHS Student Government sponsors the CF Great Pumpkin Campaign each October. For the past eleven years, Libby has designed and sold T-shirts to spread awareness and to raise research funds.