

What Members Say about STARFISH Advocacy:

"You don't have to face the daily problems of raising a BP child alone, we are here with open arms to support and understand." - Bill, single dad to 13 year old daughter.

"I am not alone anymore and when I do feel this way I know I have a safe haven to come to and will always feel welcomed and no one will judge me!" - Bette, mom to 3 teenagers with special need .

"Starfish is to me is my second family, my refuge, my library , my sanctuary. My teacher and my pupil when I am here." - Priszilla, mom to 1 daughter and 2 sons.

"Come and visit a community of parents who have children with neurobiological brain disorders....people who know first hand from experience what is required to raise these children. Non-judgmental and sound advice and understanding. Expert advice from people who not only have children with these challenges, but also are well versed in the laws and in education." - Kara, single mom to 3 boys.



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STARFISH Advocacy Association is a 501(C)3 nonprofit organization.
Contributions are deductible for tax purposes.

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Making a Difference One Child, One Family at a Time!

STARFISH Advocacy Association



Providing support to
families of children with
neurological disorders

Dynamic Virtual Community for Parents of Children with Neurological Disorders



*Empowering
Others*

STARFISH Advocacy Association is a new Internet community for families of children with neurological disorders. STARFISH Advocacy Association founder Donna Gilcher

with a group of highly committed volunteers, are working hard to ensure that every family raising a child with a neurological disorder such as: Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Bipolar Disorder (BD), Asperger's Syndrome (AS), Pervasive Developmental Disorder (PDD), Sensory Integration Deficits (SID), Non-Verbal Learning Disabilities (NVLD's), Learning Disabilities (LD's), Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD), Tourette Syndrome (TS), Communication Disorders (CD), Anxiety Disorders (AD's) find accurate information and resources to ensure that every child can have the educational opportunities that ensure success in life and joy in living.

MISSION STATEMENT

STARFISH Advocacy Association (STARFISH Advocacy) makes a difference in the lives of children with neurological disorders and their families one child at a time by creating opportunities for joy through learning and sharing information, resources and support within the community.

SERVICES TO FAMILIES

- Forum Boards
- Interactive chat room
- Special moderated Chats
- Informational resources
- Online classes in educational advocacy
- Education consultations

BUILT ON INVITATIONAL EDUCATION

STARFISH Advocacy Association derives its name in part from the teachings of Dr. William Purkey and Invitational Education.

Invitational Education, is a theory of practice, maintains that every person and everything in and around schools and other organizations adds to, or subtracts from, the process of being a beneficial presence in the lives of human beings. Ideally, the factors of people, places, policies, programs and processes should be so inten-

tionally inviting as to create a world in which each individual is cordially summoned to develop intellectually, socially, physically, psychologically, and spiritually.

STARFISH Advocacy Association founder, Donna Gilcher, has developed online classes for parents teaching them how to use the STARFISH Analogy to work with others to ensure access to educational services for children.



*Supporting and
Educating others
in neurological
disorders.*

Donna Gilcher has expanded on Dr. Purkey's work and created the STARFISH Advocacy Model for Education, by identifying the five points on the starfish as:

- Education about the child's disability; Accurate diagnosis and medical treatment by trained professionals;
- Knowledge of federal regulations that support children with disabilities;
- Knowledge about how the child's illness manifests itself and impacts learning,
- Knowledge of the child's own learning strengths and weaknesses; and
- The laws of Abundance, Collaboration and Intentionality.