

OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, & DECEMBER 2023

Newsletter

In This Issue:

SSI, Social Security Benefits Set To Increase	page 3
LaCAN	page 6
Advocating For Your Child	page 7
IRS Increases Limit For ABLE Accounts	page 8
F2FHIC	page 9
National Disability Employment Awareness Month	page 10
OCDD Roadshows	page 11
Upcoming Trainings & Events	pages 13-19
A Holiday Message	page 21



FAMILIES HELPING FAMILIES STAFF

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,

Stacey Guidry

sguidry@fhfnela.org

DEPUTY DIRECTOR &

REGION 8 ADVOCACY LEADER

Konstance Causey

kcausey@fhfnela.org

PROGRAM ANALYST, COORDINATOR

Shacoma Brown

sbrown@fhfnela.org

EDUCATION SPECIALIST

Alexa Bolden

edspecialistregion8@fhfnela.org

BUREAU OF FAMILY HEALTH

COMMUNITY RESOURCE SPECIALIST

bfhcrs@fhfnela.org

BOOKKEEPER

accounting@fhfnela.org

Families Helping Families of Northeast Louisiana, Inc. is a family-directed resource center whose mission is to provide information, referrals, and peer to peer support to individuals with disabilities and their families.

Board of Directors:

John Wilson

LaDonna Harrison

Hillary Sirmon

Shontae Johnson

Leigh Hersey

Drew Fluke

John Thompson

Suzanne Riggs

Thelma Scott

Funding Acknowledgements:



These agencies provide the core funding to support programs and services provided by the network of Families Helping Families resource centers across the state of Louisiana. These agencies also work hand-in-hand with FHF Centers to support various collaborative initiatives, as they too believe that families are a vital component in the array of services provided to individuals with disabilities.

SSI, Social Security Benefits Set To Increase

People with disabilities receiving Social Security and Supplemental Security Income benefits will see their monthly payments rise next year.

The Social Security Administration said Thursday that benefits will go up 3.2% in 2024. The jump is due to an automatic cost-of-living adjustment, known as COLA. The annual adjustment, which is intended to account for inflation, is based on the Consumer Price Index from the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The increase will mean that the maximum federal SSI payment for individuals will reach \$943 per month next year, up from \$914 currently, according to the Social Security Administration. The maximum for couples will be \$1,415, up from \$1,371.

Actual payments to SSI beneficiaries could be higher since some states tack on extra.

The new amounts will take effect for about 7.5 million SSI beneficiaries nationwide starting Dec. 29, while higher payments will begin for those receiving Social Security in January, officials said.

The Social Security Administration indicated that it will send out notices informing beneficiaries of their new payment amount in early December, and the information will be available online for those with an account on the agency's website.

While the coming year's COLA is notable, the increase falls far short of the 8.7% hike this year, which represented the largest year-over-year bump in more than 40 years.



Louisiana Department of Education gets \$10M to help students with disabilities get jobs

The Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) has been awarded \$10 million to improve career opportunities for students with disabilities. Louisiana is one of 20 states to receive funding from the U.S. Department of Education's (ED) Pathways to Partnerships. The innovative project supports partnerships between state vocational rehabilitation agencies, state and local educational agencies, and centers for independent living to help individuals with disabilities seamlessly transition to life after high school.

"We are excited about this opportunity to further support students with disabilities as they transition to successful lives beyond high school," said Louisiana State Superintendent of Education Dr. Cade Brumley. "Connecting more students with career opportunities is part of our broader efforts to improve the quality of special education programming statewide, providing greater access to information and services for families and higher quality programming for students."

Louisiana will pilot a framework that facilitates collaboration between high schools and Louisiana Rehabilitation Services (LRS), streamlining the transition into a career for individuals with disabilities. The pilot will provide comprehensive training for students with disabilities in career exploration and job readiness. The pilot will focus on innovative activities that develop career opportunities such as internships and apprenticeships for students with disabilities.

Administered by the ED's Rehabilitation Services Administration, Pathways to Partnerships is the largest discretionary grant of its kind. It strengthens Louisiana's ongoing efforts to expand access to high school credentials, post-secondary education, or employment through multiple graduation pathways.

Pathways to Partnership recipients are awarded full funding for a five-year project period – meaning successful applicants receive all project funds at the beginning of year one. Through the five-year project period, award recipients will pilot, refine and implement their proposed projects while also collecting and analyzing project data.

To read more:

<https://www.houmatimes.com/news/louisiana-department-of-education-awarded-10-million-to-improve-career-opportunities-for-students-with-disabilities/>

NIH designates people with disabilities as a population with health disparities designation

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Today, Eliseo J. Pérez-Stable, M.D., director of the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD), designated people with disabilities as a population with health disparities for research supported by the National Institutes of Health.



"This designation recognizes the importance and need for research advances to improve our understanding of the complexities leading to disparate health outcomes and multilevel interventions," said Dr. Pérez-Stable. "Toward this effort, NIMHD and other NIH institutes launched a new research program to better understand the health disparities faced by people with disabilities who are also part of other populations designated as having health disparities."



NIMHD is the lead NIH institute on monitoring minority health and health disparities research. Designated populations experience significant disparities in their rates of illness, morbidity, mortality and survival, driven by social disadvantage, compared to the health status of the general population. A health disparity designation helps to encourage research specific to the health issues and unmet health needs of these populations. Other NIH-designated populations with health disparities include racial and ethnic minority groups, people with lower socioeconomic status, underserved rural communities and sexual and gender minority groups.

“Access to quality health care is a basic human right. It is unacceptable that in 2023, every person in the United States of America does not have that access,” said HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra. “Research to understand the barriers and unmet needs faced by people with disabilities, and to develop effective interventions to address them, is needed. This designation will help to improve access to healthcare and health outcomes for all people.”

People with disabilities often experience a wide and varying range of health conditions leading to poorer health and shorter lifespan. In addition, discrimination, inequality and exclusionary structural practices, programs and policies inhibit access to timely and comprehensive health care, which further results in poorer health outcomes. People with disabilities who also belong to one or more other populations with health disparities fare even worse.

Excerpted from: <https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/nih-designates-people-disabilities-population-health-disparities>



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Releases Proposed Rule To Protect People with Disabilities From Discrimination

On September 7th, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released a historic Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that will update Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. The proposed rule titled “Discrimination on the Basis of Disability in Health and Human Service Programs or Activities” will update Section 504 to ensure that people with disabilities are not discriminated against in any program or activity that receives funding from HHS. This is the first time in about 50 years that the rule has been updated.

The proposed rule will work to prevent discrimination in medical treatment, access to medical equipment, access to web, mobile app, and kiosk accessibility, access to child welfare programs, access to community living and in value assessment methods. HHS is accepting comments on the proposed rule until November 13th. All resources have been gathered by the Administration for Community Living on one webpage at [ACL.gov/504rule](https://acl.gov/504rule).

Action Steps




[Learn more about the proposed rule.](https://acl.gov/news-and-events/acl-blog/exciting-announcement-hhs-proposes-strengthen-protections-against)
<https://acl.gov/news-and-events/acl-blog/exciting-announcement-hhs-proposes-strengthen-protections-against>



**BECOME AN
ADVOCATE FOR
YOURSELF AND
OTHERS.**
**WE ARE HERE TO
HELP.**

LaCAN furthers the mission of the Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council by advocating for policies and systems that support inclusion everywhere people learn, work, live, and play. LaCAN advocates for service systems that support children and adults with disabilities to live in their own homes and be fully-included and participating members of their local schools and communities.

MEMBER BENEFITS

-  **TRAINING** – learn skills to effectively advocate for systems change
-  **INFORMATION** – receive current information on proposed policy changes and how those changes may affect you and others
-  **CONNECTION** – become a part of a regional team of advocates

OUR IMPACT

Linking lawmakers, individuals with disabilities, and family members to make positive change in systems serving people with disabilities.

CONTACT US

Konstance Causey,
Region 8 Advocacy Leader
kcausey@lacadvocate.org
(318) 361-0487



YELLOW SHIRT DAYS

During the legislative session, LaCAN members show up at key legislative committee meetings when critical decisions are being made. LaCAN Leaders coordinate members in their region to make a presence at these meetings. Regional members are also called upon to share their personal stories during times of public testimony.



LEGISLATIVE VISITS

LaCAN Leaders support their regional members in making personal visits with their legislators by providing speaking points and helping members with their personal story and message. Leaders schedule legislative visits throughout the year. Please contact your Leader if you are interested in participating in an upcoming visit.



ACTION ALERTS

Roundtables are held each January-February in every region of the state. Roundtables provide you the opportunity to:

- o Meet with legislators in your area
- o Get current information on state issues
- o Increase your ability to be an effective advocate
- o Learn techniques for sharing your personal story to encourage positive changes

ADVOCATING FOR YOUR CHILD

Quick Tips for you Advocacy Toolbox

✕

Learn as much as possible about special education and your child's rights.

Reference the Families Helping Families website or Facebook page which provide links to upcoming, free webinars, learning opportunities, and individual parent mentor services, to help you enhance your advocacy skills.

✕

Stay organized and keep proper documentation.

Keep an organized file of documents. Keep notes and copies of everything (e.g., individualized education programs (IEPs), progress reports, report cards, notes/ emails from teachers and school staff). Sort information by date or topic so you can find documents easily. Ask for a summary or notes from the meetings you attend.

✕

Plan and prioritize for what matters most.

Be prepared for meetings. Take important paperwork such as the IEP. Prioritize what is important to accomplish at the meeting.



✕

Remember, you are a vital team member.

Build strong relationships with your IEP team and school staff. Be polite and stay calm even if it is sometimes challenging. The more you can strengthen these relationships and come to agreement on issues, the more likely your child will benefit.

✕

Ask questions.

Assume the best. Most educators want the best for your child. If you cannot reach agreement, continue to learn and seek assistance.



IRS INCREASES LIMIT FOR ABLE ACCOUNTS

The Internal Revenue Service has upped the gift tax exclusion due to inflation.



People with disabilities can save more money without jeopardizing eligibility for government benefits thanks to a change in tax rules for the new year.

Starting this month, the federal gift tax exclusion increases from \$16,000 to \$17,000 annually, according to the Internal Revenue Service. The deposit limit for ABLE accounts — a savings vehicle for people with disabilities — is tied to that metric, so it will grow as well.

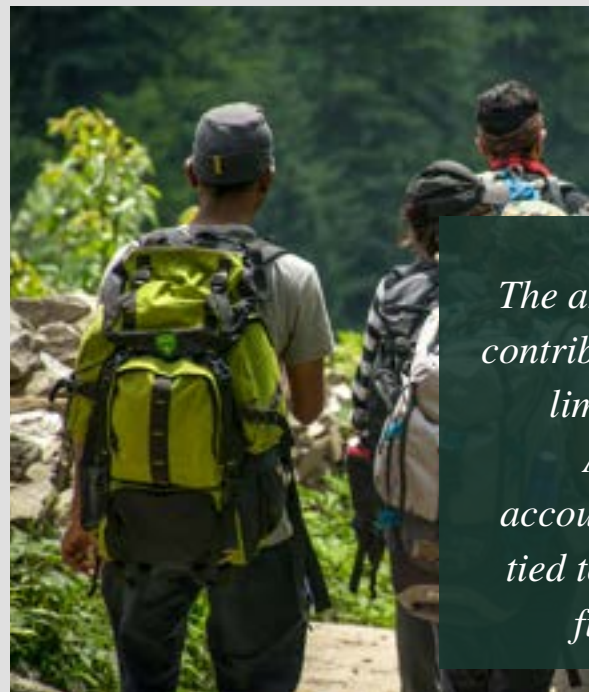
The rise is the result of inflation and follows a similar uptick in the maximum allowable ABLE account contribution last year. Created under a 2014 federal law, ABLE accounts allow people with disabilities to save up to \$100,000 without forgoing eligibility for Social Security and other government benefits. Medicaid can be retained no matter how much is in the accounts.

Funds saved in the special accounts can be used to pay for qualified disability expenses including education, health care, transportation and housing. Interest earned is tax-free.

Annual ABLE account deposits are generally capped at the value of the IRS' gift tax exclusion. But, people with disabilities who are employed can save some of their earnings in addition to the gift tax amount of \$17,000.

For this year, workers with disabilities in the 48 contiguous states will be able to save \$13,590 more than the gift tax exclusion according to the Autism Society. ABLE accounts are offered through programs in 47 states, many of which are open to individuals nationwide if they have a disability that onset before age 26. Starting in 2026, that age limit will rise to 46 under a recently passed law.

As of September, there were more than 131,000 ABLE accounts open with \$1.133 billion in assets, according to ISS Market Intelligence.



The annual contribution limit for ABLE accounts is tied to that figure.

**Louisiana Family to Family Health Information Center (F2F HIC) -
Empowering Families Through Knowledge and Support**

Welcome to the Family-to-Family Health Information Center (F2F HIC) of Louisiana. At the heart of our mission lies a profound commitment: to arm families with information, training, and resources so they can advocate for enhanced health services and outcomes for their children.

Who We Are & Where We're Located

We proudly operate under the auspices of Bayou Land Families Helping Families, a key initiative of the Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council. Our center stands as a beacon of support for families with children or adults with special health care needs and professionals.

Program Supervisor: Julie Folse

Address: 286 Hwy. 3185, Thibodaux, LA 70301

Phone: (985) 447-4461

Email: jfolse@blfhf.org

Website: <http://www.blfhf.org/>

Our Services and Support

The Family-to-Family Health Information Center offers specialized services and support for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs and their Families, spanning ages 0-26. Our offerings include:

- Empowering parents and transitioning youth with skills for proactive partnership with medical professionals.
- Facilitating families' navigation through health care challenges and financing complexities.
- Outreach through health fairs to raise awareness about community programs and services.
- Conducting training sessions on services, resources, and advocacy for superior health care services in our state.

Statewide Outreach, Localized Support

Our collaboration extends beyond our immediate premises. Through our partnership with Families Helping Families Resource Centers across the state, we ensure that Louisiana's Family to Family Health Information Center reaches you right in your own backyard.

Your Information Specialists

Our specialists, parents of children or youth with special health care needs, are not just professionals – they resonate with the experiences, challenges, and aspirations of families with special health care needs. Their lived experiences make them an invaluable resource for understanding and addressing your concerns.

A National Network of Support

Our efforts are part of a larger network. Family-to-Family Health Information Centers (F2Fs) function as family-led organizations supporting families of children with special health care needs. This initiative receives robust support from the Family Voices through the Family Engagement and Leadership in Systems of Care grant, funded until 2028 by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Maternal Child Health Bureau. Furthermore, the Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) sponsors F2Fs not just in our state, but across the nation, encompassing every state, the District of Columbia, five US territories, and dedicated F2Fs serving American Indians and Alaska Natives. This cohesive network ensures that CYSHCN and their families receive comprehensive support, irrespective of their location.

Connect with Us

For more information, or to locate an Information Specialist in your region, please reach out using the contact information provided above or to your local Families Helping Families Center. We're here to guide, assist, and walk alongside you in your journey.

National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM)



Observed each October, National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) celebrates the contributions of America's workers with disabilities past and present and showcases supportive, inclusive employment policies and practices that benefit employers and employees. ODEP has chosen "Advancing Access and Equity" as the theme for NDEAM 2023. NDEAM en español.



OCDD ROADSHOWS

OCDD is scheduling Roadshows to talk about upcoming OCDD initiatives with waiver participants, families, providers, support coordinators, and all interested partners. The Roadshows will take place at the locations below.

Please share with all who may be interested in hearing about OCDD's initiatives. If you have any questions please send them to OCDD-HCBS@la.gov. As always, thank you for your support.



Please note: Dates and times are subject to change. OCDD will notify you of any changes as soon as that information becomes available.

New dates/times/locations are starred (*) below.

Date/Time	Venue	Address	Region
October 26 2:30 - 4:30 p.m.	Jefferson Parish Library East Bank Branch	4747 W. Napoleon Ave. Metairie, LA 70001	1/10
October 31 10 a.m. - noon	East Baton Rouge Library Goodwood Branch	7711 Goodwood Blvd. Baton Rouge, LA 70806	2
November 1 10 a.m. - noon	LSU Alexandria Brumfield Caffey Ballroom	8100 Highway 71 S Alexandria, LA 71302	6
*November 2 10 a.m. - noon	Virtual (register in advance)	https://bit.ly/Nov2OCDD	all
*November 3 2 - 4 p.m.	Workforce Commission Conference & Training Center	711 Nashville Ave Hammond, LA 70401	9
November 6 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	West Monroe Convention Center	901 Ridge Ave. West Monroe, LA 71291	8
November 6 2 - 4 p.m.	Willis-Knighton Bossier Women's Conference Center	2400 Hospital Drive Bossier City, LA 71111	7
*November 7 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.	Virtual (register in advance)	https://bit.ly/Nov7OCDD	all
November 8 10 a.m. - noon	Lake Charles Civic Center	900 Lakeshore Drive Lake Charles, LA 70601	5
November 8 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.	Clifton Chenier Auditorium	220 W. Willow St., Building A Lafayette, LA 70501	4
November 9 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.	Terrebonne Parish Library Main Branch	151 Library Drive Houma, LA 70360	3

PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

REGION 8 ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Quarterly meeting discussing the delivery and implementation of services for individuals with developmental disabilities (i.e. Earlysteps services, waivers, family support, access to care). Committee members and the public are welcome to bring questions and concerns.



TUESDAY

October 31, 2023



START AT

1:30 PM -

2:30 PM



Region 8 Parishes

- Caldwell
- Franklin
- Lincoln
- Morehouse
- Richland
- Union
- East Carroll
- Jackson
- Madison
- Ouachita
- Tensas
- West Carroll



5200 NE Road, Monroe

TO PARTICIPATE VIA ZOOM:

www.tinyurl.com/2mjn8h5a

RAC Meetings are held the last Tuesday of every quarter (Jan, April, July, October). For more information about becoming a committee member, call 318.361.0487.

Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973



This year marks the 50th anniversary of the passage of the Rehabilitation (Rehab) Act of 1973—the first federal legislation to address access and equity for people with disabilities. To honor this major milestone, ODEP will be conducting a variety of activities throughout the year, all centered on the theme “Advancing Access and Equity: Then, Now and Next.” [Read the news release.](#)

F R E E W E B I N A R

ACCOMMODATIONS V. MODIFICATIONS

TUESDAY
14TH NOV 2023
12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

PRESENTERS:
Sharon Blackmon, FHF of GNO;
Konstance Causey, FHF of NELA

Registration Link:
<https://tinyurl.com/AccomModNov14>

Family Help Louisiana
Louisiana
Changing Lives Every Day

Families Helping Families
of Northeast Louisiana, Inc.

FREE WEBINAR

OVERVIEW OF
LAWS ENFORCED
BY EEOC



MONDAY
15TH NOV 2023
11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Presenter:

Marvis L. Hicks, Esq., Outreach
& Education Coordinator for
the U.S. Equal Employment
Opportunity Commission



Register:
<https://tinyurl.com/EEOCNov15>



Join us for a 90-minute webinar on
Wednesday, November 15 from 11AM to 12:30 PM.
Scan the QR code or visit the link above to register today.
This presentation will be a discussion on laws enforced by
the US Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.



UNDERSTANDING ABA IN A SCHOOL SETTING

Learning Objective: This training will provide information the provision behavior analytic services in school settings for some students with disabilities in Special Education.

November 22, 2023
11A to 12pm

REGISTRATION REQUIRED:

<https://tinyurl.com/mpk9922u>

GUEST PRESENTER:
KATIE BOUDLOCHE,
Board Certified
Behavior Analyst, LBA



*For questions or more
information, call (318) 361-0487*



Ms. Alexa Bolden
Education Specialist
FHFNELA



Webinar

disABILITY 101

ADVOCACY

Amplifying Your Voice for Change

JOIN US TO LEARN ABOUT:

- How to participate in statewide grassroots advocacy efforts for the developmental disability community
- How to prepare your talking points and personal story to share your lived experience with legislators
- The art of making that “Hard Ask”

Presenter(s):

Konstance Causey,
Regional Advocacy Leader,
LaCAN

Monday,

November 27

10 AM to 11AM



Don't miss this opportunity to meet and network with other community advocates and share your story.

ZOOM REGISTRATION LINK : [TINYURL.COM/YBCHVWET](https://tinyurl.com/ybchvwet)



Announcement: Louisiana 2024 National Child Passenger Safety Technician Certification Trainings

University Medical Center Level 1 Trauma Center in New Orleans and the Louisiana Highway Safety Commission invite you to help us decrease the number of injuries and fatalities on Louisiana roadways. Louisiana experienced an alarming increase in the number of fatalities in 2021. The proper installation of child safety seats promotes compliance with Louisiana child restraint and seat belt laws, resulting in fewer child and adult injuries and fatalities from motor vehicle crashes. This is a 4-day national certification course reserved for individuals/agencies committed to educating the public on the use and proper installation of child safety seats and seat belts.

Course fees, supplies and 2-year certification fee are paid in full and therefore **attendance is reserved for those who will participate in a child safety seat fitting station at their respective agency, routinely participate in a community fitting station/event or education.** **NOTE: The certification is the beginning of your community activity. Each technician is required to assist with the installation education of 8 seats per month.** The course is Wednesday – Saturday, 7:30am – 5pm, including inside classroom instruction, outside practice and skills testing.

Once you have agreed to the expectations above, you should register on line: <https://www.umcno.org/CPSClass>

1. Complete the Installation Service Commitment with your on-line registration. This must be signed by a supervisor.
2. Your online application will be reviewed. A confirmation and additional paperwork will be sent upon acceptance in the course.
3. Attendance at the Enhancement Training is mandatory.

PT/OT and advocates: "Safe Travel for All Children: Transporting Children with Special Health Care Needs" is an annual additional training for technicians interested in learning more about transporting children with special healthcare needs. Participants will be introduced to medical conditions that can affect restraint selection and have the opportunity to experience and install specialized restraint systems. You must complete the technician course first.

	Kenner <u>January 17 - 20, 2024</u> Time: 0730-1700 LA State Police Troop B 2101 I-10 Service Rd. Kenner, LA 70065	Bossier City <u>March 20 - 23, 2024</u> Time: 0730 – 1700 Willis-Knighton South 9130 Susan Dr. Shreveport, LA 71118
	Pearl River <u>March 6 – 9, 2024</u> Time: 0730 – 1700 Pearl River Training Center 39395 Pine St. Pearl River, LA 70452	Monroe <u>April 9 -13, 2024</u> Time: 0730 – 1700 LA State Police Troop F 1240 Hwy 594 Monroe, LA

Bridget Gardner RN
Program Director
Louisiana Passenger Safety Task Force
University Medical Center New Orleans
Bridget.gardner@lcmchealth.org

Helping Your Child With a Disability Get a Good Education

Illustration by Sol Livernois

Louisiana

[Click Here](#)

apccenter.org

People First of Louisiana  **NOW RECRUITING NEW MEMBERS!**



People First NELA
 People First membership means working together, participating in and supporting the community, speaking up for your rights, educating yourself and others, helping each other and having fun.

JOIN US NOW!

MEETINGS HELD ONCE A MONTH

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:
 Call 318-361-0487**

“Under Construction”
Psychodrama
 a new stage play directed by
 Christal Wheeler Productions

Coming to Jack Howard Theatre
November 4th

GET FREE TICKETS NOW:
nedhsaunder2023.eventbrite.com

Families Helping Families of NELA would like to wish you and your family a safe and happy holiday season.

Our office will be closed on

November 10, 2023
 Veterans Day

November 23 & 24, 2023
 Thanksgivings

December 18, 2023 -
January 2, 2024
 Christmas Break

Save the Date

FUN AND ENGAGING THANKSGIVING ACTIVITIES FOR EVERYONE



Here are 35 easy and accessible Thanksgiving craft ideas suitable for children or adults with disabilities and the whole family.

1. **Gratitude Journals:** Decorate journals where adults can write or draw what they're thankful for.
2. **Beaded Napkin Rings:** String colorful beads onto wire to create festive napkin rings.
3. **Fall Leaf Painting:** Collect leaves and use them as stencils for painting on paper or fabric.
4. **Tissue Paper Stained Glass Leaves:** Create faux stained glass by layering colored tissue paper on a leaf cutout.



5. **Felt Turkey Placemats:** Cut out turkey shapes from felt and decorate them to make personalized placemats.
6. **PineCone Centerpiece:** Paint pinecones and arrange them in a vase or basket for a seasonal centerpiece.
7. **No-Sew Fabric Pumpkins:** Wrap fabric around a foam or stuffing-filled ball, securing it with rubber bands.

8. **Button Art:** Glue colorful buttons onto a canvas to form autumn-themed designs.

9. **Paper Mache Pumpkins:** Create paper mâché pumpkins using balloons as a mold and paint them.

10. **Yarn-Wrapped Pumpkins:** Wrap yarn around small foam or paper pumpkins to create textured decorations.

11. **Scarecrow Craft:** Make a scarecrow using old clothes, hay, and a painted face on a paper bag.



12. **Leaf Wreath:** Decorate a wreath with silk or paper leaves, and embellish with ribbon or other materials.





13. Pumpkin Patch: Paint or decorate small pumpkins and arrange them in a “pumpkin patch.”

14. Button Acorns: Glue buttons on top of acorn shapes cut from construction paper.

15. Gourd Characters: Paint and decorate gourds to make unique characters.

16. Mason Jar Candle Holders: Paint or decorate mason jars and insert candles for a cozy ambiance.

17. Leaf Coasters: Use adhesive paper to make leaf-shaped coasters that can be decorated with markers or stickers.

18. Recycled Crayon Melts: Melt old crayons in silicone molds to create colorful and unique crayon shapes.

19. Thanksgiving Placemats: Design custom placemats with markers, stickers, or cut-out pictures from magazines.

20. Painted Rock Turkeys: Paint rocks with turkey designs to create adorable decorations.

21. Cornucopia Craft: Decorate paper cornucopias with stickers, colored paper, and drawings.

22. Handprint Turkey Towels: Stamp handprints on dish towels to create turkey-themed kitchen decor.

23. Thankful Tree: Assemble a tree trunk from cardboard and add leaves with written notes of gratitude.

24. Paper Plate Sunflowers: Paint paper plates to resemble sunflowers and display them.

25. Fabric Pumpkins: Sew simple fabric pumpkins filled with stuffing or rice.

26. Thanksgiving Ornaments: Create decorative ornaments using polymer clay, paint, and ribbon.

27. Harvest Corn Decor: Bundle together artificial corn cobs and decorate with ribbon.

28. Turkey Feather Wreath: Attach colorful feathers to a wreath base for a vibrant decoration.



29. **Fall-Themed Luminaries:** Decorate glass jars with leaves and tissue paper, then place candles inside.
30. **Beaded Corn Ears:** Thread colorful beads onto wire to create corn ear decorations.
31. **Recycled Paper Bag Turkeys:** Paint and decorate paper bags to make turkey puppets.
32. **Clay Leaf Dishes:** Shape clay into leaf forms and paint them for unique decorative dishes.
33. **Fall Wall Art:** Create autumn-themed art using stencils, paints, and canvas.
34. **Gourd Birdhouses:** Hollow out a gourd and decorate it as a whimsical birdhouse.
35. **Felt Cornucopia:** Cut out cornucopia shapes from felt and embellish them with sequins and beads.

