

EXCEPTIONAL NEWS

News you can use for special needs families Second Edition

POWERED BY: EXCEPTIONAL DESIGNS

Serving all: Special Needs to the Elderly

Exceptional Designs serves children and young adults with developmental and/or physical disabilities, but they also serve seniors. Exceptional Designs is a proud member of the Broward Coalition on Aging as well. This is an organization of service providers that enhance the lives of the elderly. Like individuals with special needs, sometimes seniors have similar issues and health concerns. Exceptional Designs is dedicated to assessing each person's needs individually and customizing every environment accordingly. To learn more, contact us.



Designing for Special Needs Families —Designing For Your Life

A person's mood determines their behavior and performance in life, therefore Exceptional Designs focuses on providing an environment that creates contentment. Contentment enables a person with special needs to work hard to overcome his challenges and to be more receptive to educational and therapeutic interventions. Because of this, caregivers will have an easier time as well. The kitchen remodel, shown here on the right, transformed the lives of the residents using wheelchairs and the staff of an adult group home. For the first time, the residents were able to participate in food preparation with the staff and could access the kitchen for a snack on their own. Promoting independence is a priority. Previously, the kitchen was inaccessible and the residents were totally dependent on their caretakers. Now, this change has boosted their confidence and independence.



Parkinson's Disease—Quick Facts

Since mobility is difficult, the living space environment should be as uncluttered as possible. Furniture design needs to be addressed as well as fabrics that are used. Attention also needs to be paid to the type of flooring in the home because carpet can inhibit mobility. Certain color schemes can also make mobility more difficult. I am ready to help. Contact 954-232-1679 or email elaine@exceptionaldesigns.com.



Local Community Happenings

- **December 7**—Sensory Friendly Film—Autism www.autism-soceity.org
- **December 14**—Circle of Friends Activity weekly Group www.circleoffriendsandstars.org/
- **January 24**—PALS Dynamites Fun—weekly www.leaquelineup.com/plantationdynamites/
- **January 3** —Parkinson Support Group—weekly <http://northwestmed.com/calendar/index.dot>
- **January TBA**—Broward Parks Special Population Dance <http://www.broward.org/Parks/ProgramsClasses/Documents/FallWinter2013.pdf>