

Welcome to the 2009 Annual FRIENDS Convention.

This is the inaugural year for the FRIENDS Graduate Student Training Program (GSTP). FRIENDS has developed this program to help graduate students in Speech Pathology get a better understanding of stuttering and its affect on children and their families. The FRIENDS GSTP will provide a much needed and valuable clinical opportunity for many graduate students. This program will also enhance the knowledge and experience graduate students acquire in the field of stuttering. The GSTP will address the affective, behavioral and cognitive behaviors of a young person who stutters. In order to do this each graduate student will spend at least one full day working with experienced Speech Language Pathologists in the children's workshops at the annual three day convention.

The graduate students will:

- ④ Obtain information on stuttering and receive hands on experience with children who stutter.
- ④ Observe what the young person who stutters experiences throughout the three day convention, seeing the children's vast transformation from beginning of the convention to the end of day three.
- ④ Learn how to successfully engage children who stutter in conversation.
- ④ Attempt to help each child become as comfortable as possible talking and learning about stuttering with help of the workshop facilitator.

The Graduate Student Training Program mission is:

Mission:

1. To provide a valuable and unique experience for graduate Speech Language Pathology students over a three day period working with young people who stutter and their families by:
 - a. Learning from experienced stuttering specialists
 - b. Interacting with other Speech Language Pathologists
2. In order to get the most out of this experience, we require the graduate student to volunteer for the entire day. This will provide consistency and continuity for both the SLP graduate student and the child who stutters. This consistency will increase comfort for the child who stutters and will provide the graduate student with a more comprehensive experience and increase their knowledge about stuttering.