

# FCPA

Florida Cleft Palate-Craniofacial Association, Inc.

*The year so far in 2008, has been an uneasy one for our area of Cleft-palate and Craniofacial Anomalies, especially for children requiring state funding for their medical intervention. In Florida, policy makers kept us on our toes, when they attempted to remove the specialized funding for the craniofacial population. Our members, associated professionals, parents, and supporters advocated with a tough fight and the funding was restored. However, this situation served as a pointed reminder of our continuous need to campaign for craniofacial needs.*

*We began 2008 with a transformational spirit when we had one of the highest attendances at our Annual Symposium in Daytona, Fl. This year we were also able to fundraise several hundred dollars to assist in paying for several families, and family orientated speakers to attend the conference. Debbie Oliver, Executive Director of AboutFace, presented on “Navigating the World of Insurance and Cranio-facial Care”, Dr. Nancy Berk, Board Member of American Cleft Palate Association, on “Cleft Palate and the Family: Dealing with Facial Differences,” And “Preventing Bullying” was presented by Dr. Meline Kevorkian, Fischler School of Education, Nova Southeastern University. We will continue to create improved parent programs that meet the current trends and issues for our families.*

*I would especially like to congratulate Margie Wells-Friedman & Bill Peel as they were awarded the Honors of the Association, for their continued support and dedication to FCPA.*

*It is our hope that in the future months and years FCPA will become a stronger entity that would consolidate and systematize many of our activists’ philanthropic efforts and visions. We remain dedicated to supplying knowledge in public and professional interest, and it is through our commitment to you that we will continue to improve and address contemporary issues. As we look towards 2009 and our next symposium, it is you our members that give us the ability to address these emerging issues directly, with the best professional and intellectual talent available, so we look forward to your Paper and Presentation submissions for the 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium in January 2009.*

*Sincerely,  
Dr. Tambi Braun  
President FCPA 2008*