# A Look Back at 1974 Children with Special Needs

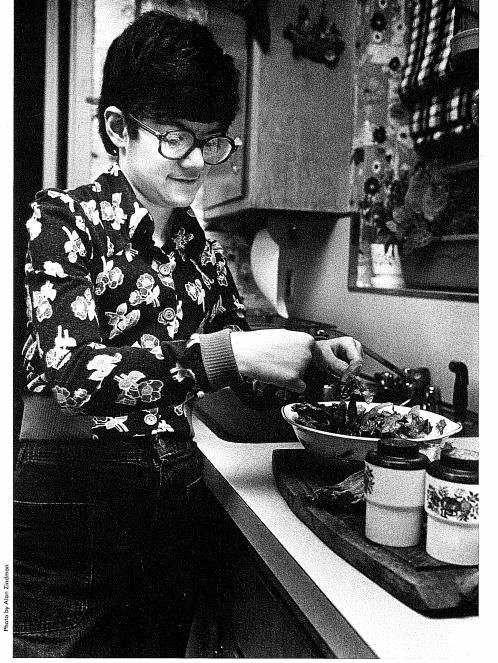


Public Law 94-142 The Education for All Handicapped Children Act

#### **US Congress finds that:**

(1) There are more than 8 million handicapped children in the US today

(2) The special educational needs of such children are not being fully met



"I never thought my daughter could live without me."

Public Law 94-142 The Education for All Handicapped Children Act

#### **US Congress finds that:**

(3) More than half do not receive appropriate services which would enable them to have equality of opportunity

(4) One million children are excluded from the public school system and will not go through educational process with their peers

"When Jeannie was born, we were told to place her in an institution."



Public Law 94-142 The Education for All Handicapped Children Act

#### **US Congress finds that:**

(5) There are more handicapped children participating in regular school programs whose handicaps prevent them from having a successful educational experience because their handicaps are undetected.

"Four years ago I fought to keep these people out of my neighborhood. Now I play cards with them every Tuesday night."



Public Law 94-142 The Education for All Handicapped Children Act

#### **US Congress finds that:**

(6) Because of the lack of adequate services within the public school system, families are often forced to find services outside the public school system, often at great distance from their home and at their own expense...

"In 1974, the parent leaders within the Coalition [for Special Education] established a federation composed exclusively of organizations controlled largely by parents."



Federation for Children with Special Needs is founded.

Martha Ziegler is named Executive Director.



"The successful advocacy by parents of handicapped children, particularly in the area of public education, is frequently cited as the prototype for parent activism and citizen participation in public policy making."

"The Federation for Children with Special Needs developed as a formalized outgrowth of the Coalition for Special Education."

# A Look Back at 1974 Coalition for Special Education

- Children in Hospitals
- Massachusetts Association for Children with Learning Disabilities
- Massachusetts Association for Retarded Citizens
- Massachusetts Parents Association for Deaf and Hard of Hearing
- Massachusetts Parents for Deaf-Blind
- Massachusetts Spina Bifida Association
- National Society for Autistic Children
- New England Parents Association for Visually Handicapped Children and Adults
- Parents for Cardiac Children Together
- Parents and Friends of CP and Multi-Handicapped
- Tuberous Sclerosis Association of America, Massachusetts Chapter

"...the Federation implemented an intensive statewide program to locate and identify unserved children with special needs."



"With banks of telephones and WATS lines, Federation staff members conducted an extensive media campaign that revealed significant numbers of unserved children as well as larger numbers of inappropriately served children."



"It became clear that if the hard fought for changes were to be realized,....parents had to receive information and training."



"In snowball fashion, Federation staff held round-the-clock workshops, bringing on board newly trained parents who began to swell the ranks of the staff while building a dedicated energetic advocacy pool."