



**Curriculum Vitae**

**Donnie Winokur**



**Educating communities about invisible disabilities**

## DONNIE WINOKUR

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### PERSONAL CONTACT INFORMATION

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**Website:** [www.TheChancerChronicles.com](http://www.TheChancerChronicles.com)

Donnie is available for consulting, teaching, professional training, project development and management, speaking and writing. Donnie's ability to weave her family's compelling narrative into her work builds an unexpected capacity into those who attend her programs or become project partners. She and her husband reside in Roswell, Georgia, with their two teens, their son's internationally beloved Behavioral Assistance Dog, Chancer, and their two cats.

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### PROFESSIONAL OVERVIEW

Founding, Executive Director:

**FASDempowered** – *Educating communities about invisible disabilities*

**The Chancer Chronicles LLC.** – *Creating awareness of the benefits of assistance dogs for individuals who experience behavioral, developmental, psychiatric and cognitive challenges*

Positions include:

Developmental Disabilities Expert, Community Builder, Keynote, Inspirational, Conference Speaker, Consultant, Educational Trainer, Curriculum and Program Developer, Project Manager, Author/Industry Content Provider

Training:	First Responders	Medical Professionals
	Attorneys	Healthcare Providers
	Judges	Educators
	Mitigation Specialists	Caregivers
	Special Investigators	Families
	Legislators	Advocates

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## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### 2009 – present

Speaking, training, consulting with various states, federal, national, international and university organizations;

Consultant with Georgia State University's Center for Leadership in Disability; in Project Management and Program Training Development; (2009-2013). Scope of work included developing a Training Protocol for Parent Detailers to educate pediatricians in surveillance, screening, and referrals for children presenting with autism and other developmental disabilities. The training is currently utilized statewide through Parent to Parent Georgia.

### 2005 – 2009

Founding, Executive Director; *NOFAS Georgia*, the non-profit state affiliate of the National Organization on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (NOFAS); Directorship included crafting a Strategic Plan, Work Plan, creating partnerships with corporations for funding, working with an international advertising agency to design a marketing campaign on prevention of fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASDs); trained volunteers and lead parent support groups, networked with other state agencies to develop awareness of FASD prevalence, and began relationships to educate justice system professionals. Lobbying legislators in Wash. D.C. was a key component of this work.

### 2000 – 2005

Founding, Executive Director; *The National Institute of Body and Soul*; a non-profit, educational program for girls, teens and women to build stronger self-esteem and body image through spirituality; Supervised staff to create and facilitate programs for schools, Jewish Community Centers, conferences, camps, women and children's shelters, Jewish Women's Federation Programs and the Georgia Psychological Association for Women. The curriculum is now being implemented at The Harvard Center for Eating Disorders.

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## PRESENTATIONS/TRAINING; INTERNATIONAL, NATIONAL, REGIONAL, STATE

### Understanding Developmental Disabilities

- Panel Participant, "*Summit: Back and to the Future: 1973-2013: 40 Years of Prenatal Alcohol Exposure & FASD*", Atlantic City, N.J. 2013
- Opening Speaker, Centers for Disease Control FAS Prevention Team's CHOICES grantees

annual meeting at CDC/CCHP/NCBDDD/FAS, *"FASDs: One Family's Experience"*, Atlanta, Georgia, 2012

- Keynote Speaker for 1-day Seminar, 4children.ca, *"You Can't See What You Don't Know: Understanding the Abilities of fetal alcohol spectrum disorders"*, Powell River, B.C. Canada, 2012
- Poster: *"Parents as Detailers to Increase Primary Care Provider Referrals for Early Intervention: A Pilot Project"*, Robert C. Wild, MS, MPH, Stacey Ramirez, Donnie Winokur, Daniel Crimmins, PhD, & Ida Bledsoe, LMSW, MPH, Center for Leadership in Disability, Institute of Public Health, Georgia State University, Atlanta, Georgia, 2011
- Keynote Speaker for 2-day Seminar, Linda Purdy Consulting *"Understanding the Hidden Abilities of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders"*, Ontario, Canada, 2011
- Speaker, First International Conference on *"FASD and Sexuality"* - Northern Light United Church, Juneau, Alaska, 2011
- Keynote Speaker, 7th Annual FASD Symposium sponsored by the State of Mississippi's Mental Health Department, *"Growing into, not out of fetal alcohol spectrum disorders"*, Jackson, Mississippi, 2010

### **Ethical Implications of Diagnosing Developmental Disabilities**

- Presenter: *"Handle With Care – The Ethical Implications of Labels and Diagnoses for FASD-affected Individuals, their Caregivers and our Culture"*, Alberta, Canada, 2014
- Feature Presenter and Plenary Panel Participant: *"Handle With Care – The Ethical Implications of Labels and diagnoses for FASD-affected individuals, their Caregivers and our Culture"*, 6th National Biennial Conference on Adolescents and Adults with FASD; Changing the Conversation, Vancouver, Canada, 2014

### **Developmental Disabilities and the Justice System**

- Trainer: *"You Can't See What You Don't Know – Understanding the Differing Abilities of Individuals Living with Developmental Disabilities"*, Court Appointed Special Advocates of Middle Georgia (CASA), 2014
- Trainer: *"FASD and the Justice System"* Special Assistant Attorney Generals, (SAAGs) Conference, Atlanta, Georgia, 2013
- Presenter: *"FASD and the Justice System"*, Georgia Youth Law Conference, (GYLC) Atlanta, Ga. 2013
- Trainer, Workshop: *"Preventing the Perfect Storm", FASD and the Justice System*, Office of the Georgia Capital Defender; Atlanta, Ga. 2012

## **Developmental Disabilities and Service Dogs**

- Presenter: *“Working Brains of Service Dogs”* for *“The Fido Project”* – Georgia Tech University, Atlanta, Ga. 2014
- Speaker, Workshop, *“External Brains on Four Paws”*, 6<sup>th</sup> National Biennial Conference on Adolescents and Adults with FASD: Changing the Conversation, Vancouver, Canada, 2013
- Speaker, Workshop, *“External Brains on Four Paws: reaching FASD-affected individuals through fur-covered intelligence and healing”*, 2013 Alberta FASD Conference, Calgary, Canada, 2013
- Speaker, The Papillion Center, *“Understanding Children from Hard Places, Including Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders”*; *“Using Service Dogs for Children with FASD”*, Hendersonville, Tennessee, 2012
- Keynote Speaker, 7th Annual Professional Seminar Series, *“Growing up with FASD and the help of a certified FASD Assistance Dog”*, The Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, Suicide Prevention Program in partnership with the Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation, Supreme Court of Georgia Committee on Justice for Children, and the Marcus Institute’s Critical Issues Facing Special Needs and At-Risk Children and Youth: Atlanta, Georgia, 2010
- Poster Presenter, 3rd International Conference on FASD, *“Behavioral Assistance Dogs for Individuals with FASD; Creating unconditional companionship through intervention and support”* Victoria, B.C., Canada, 2009
- Poster Presenter, 13th International Conference on Intellectual Disabilities, *“Service dogs: Taking the ‘dis’ out of disabilities in children with intellectual or behavioral disabilities”* Cape Town, South Africa, Yvonne W. Fry-Johnson, MD, MSCR, Suzanne Powell, MPH and Donnie Winokur, 2008
- Opening Speaker, FASD Training Center Grantees Bi-annual meeting at CDC/CCHP/NCBDDD/FAS Prevention Team; *“Intervention with Behavioral Assistance Dogs for Individuals living with FASD”* Atlanta, Georgia, 2008

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## **CERTIFICATIONS**

- *An Introduction to FASD and Human Rights*, Minnesota Organization on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, 2014: CEUs
- *Policies and Practices to Reduce the Risk of Abuse including Sexual Violence against people with FASD*, National Organization of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, 2014
- *Prevention Intervention and Professional Ethics as Viewed through the lens of FASDs*, CDC Frontier Regional training Center, 2014: CEUs
- *Hidden Victims: Protecting Children with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities*, Missing

and Exploited Children's Program, 2014: CEUs

- *Integrating, Safety, Permanency, and Well-Being*, Pal-Tech, 2014: CEUs
- *"Alternatives to Incarceration for Criminal Offenders with Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities"*, The Criminal Justice Advocacy Program (CJAP) of The Arc of NJ, 2014: CEUs
- *Supporting Individuals with an FASD across the Lifetime*, CDC Frontier Regional training Center, 2013: CEUs
- *Sexuality and FASD*, CDC Frontier Regional training Center, 2013: CEUs
- *Intellectual and Developmental Delays in the Forensic Context*, CDC Frontier Regional training Center, 2013: CEUs
- *FASD Identification and Management*, CDC Frontier Regional training Center, 2013: CEUs
- *Interviewing Children with Disabilities*, Missing and Exploited Children Program, 2013: CEUs
- *Life After Loss: Contemporary Grief Counseling and Therapy*, CMI Education Institute, Inc., 2013: CEUs
- *Trauma, PTSD & Traumatic Grief: Effective Assessments and Immediate Interventions*, American Academy of Bereavement, CMI Education Institute, Inc., 2012: CEUs
- *Missing Children with Special Needs*, Missing and Exploited Children Program, (MECP) 2012: CEUs
- *Bipolar Disorder*, Jewish Family & Career Services; Disabilities Division/Tools for Living: Essential Learning, 2012: CEUs
- *FASD: Why Isn't this Person Responding to Treatment*, Jewish Family & Career Services; Disabilities Division/Tools for Living: Essential Learning, 2012: CEUs
- *Human Sexuality for Students with Special Needs*, Jewish Family & Career Services; Disabilities Division/Tools for Living: Essential Learning, 2012: CEUs
- *Person-Centered Planning*, Jewish Family & Career Services; Disabilities Division/Tools for Living: Essential Learning, 2012: CEUs
- *Grief and Loss*, Jewish Family & Career Services; Disabilities Division/Tools for Living: Essential Learning, 2012: CEUs
- *Effective Behavior Support* with David Pitonyak, Georgia Advocacy Office, 2011: Training, CEUs
- *Trauma, PTSD and Traumatic Grief*, American Academy of Bereavement, CMI Education Institute, Inc., 2010: CEUs
- *Motivational Interviewing*, Georgia Advocacy Office, 2010: CEUs
- *Critical Issues: Reactive Attachment Disorders*, Duke University School of Social Work, 2010: CEUs
- *Stats RRTC- The 2008 Disability Status Report – Employment and Disability Institute*, Cornell University School of Industrial and Labor Relations, 2010: CEUs
- *Effective Behavior Support* with David Pitonyak, Georgia State University Center or

Leadership in Disability, 2010: CEUs

- *Critical Issues Facing Special Needs and At-Risk Children and Youth: 7th Annual Professional Seminar Series: Reactive Attachment Disorder*, 2010: CEUs
- *Triumph Through the Challenges of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome*, Double Arc, Nofas Ohio – Programs, 2009: Parent and Special Educational Facilitator Trainer
- *SibShops* workshops, Sibling Support Project, Facilitator Training: 2009
- *Reactive Attachment Disorder and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder*, Duke University, School of Social Work, 2009: CEUs
- *4 Paws for Ability – Service Dog Agency*, Certified Service Dog Handler 2008

**The following series of Continuing Education Units were sponsored by:**

The Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation, The Marcus Autism Center at Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta (CHOA), University of Georgia Cooperative Extension, The Barton Child Law and Policy Clinic at Emory University School of Law and the Supreme Court of Georgia’s Committee on Justice for Children, 2008: CEUs

- *Brain Development: Baby Brains, Parent’s Rights, Child’s Rights*
- *ADHD – An Overview of 20 years of research in Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder*,
- *The New Revised DSM: Cracking the Code*
- *Autism Spectrum Disorder: Multiple pathways to working the Puzzle*
- *PTSD and Reactive Attachment Disorder*
- *Depression and Bi-Polar*

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- *Attachment Disorders*, CMI Education Institute, Inc., 2007: CEUs
- *Grief & Depression*, American Academy of Bereavement, CMI Education Institute, Inc., 2006: CEUs
- *Parent Loss*, American Academy of Bereavement, CMI Education Institute, 2005: CEUs

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**PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS**

- State Advisory Panel on Special Education, Georgia, 2009-2015
- Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment ACT (CAPTA PANEL) Citizen Review Panel; 2012 – present
- Subcommittee of CAPTA; Georgia Children’s Justice Advisory Task Force (CJATF) Programs in Progress Workgroup (PIP): FASD in Georgia, 2012 – present
- Georgia Office of Capital Defenders FASD and Justice Training, 2012 – present
- All About Developmental Disabilities and the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies;

developed Gap Analysis on state wide services for individuals and families living with fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASDs) 2008

- Curriculum Development and Facilitator Training for Jewish Aids Network of Atlanta, 1995-1996
- Curriculum Development and Facilitator Training for AID Atlanta, HIV/AIDS education; high school/college students, 1994-1995

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### **BOARD OF DIRECTOR MEMBERSHIPS**

- Former Member, Committee on Developmental Disabilities, Jewish Family & Career Services (JF&CS), 2009 – 2014
- Former Member Board of Directors, All About Developmental Disabilities (AADD), 2005 – 2013
- Former Member of The Atlanta Press Club, 2010 – 2013

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### **GRANT RECIPIENT**

Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities, Partnership Grant, 2008

Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities, Innovative Grant, 2009

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### **HONORS AND AWARDS**

**Book:** *“Nuzzle – Love Between a Boy and his Service Dog”*, 2011 Publisher; Better Endings – New Beginnings

- 2012 Mom’s Choice Award (Juvenile Level 1)
- 2012 First Place Reader Views Award for Early Reader (6-8)
- 2012 Parents’ Choice Award Winner
- 2012 Finalist in Readers Choice About.com Special Needs Children’s Book 2012 International Book Award Winner (Animals/Pets Novelty category)

**Audio Book** – *“Nuzzle – Love Between a Boy and his Service Dog”*, 2011, Produced by Creative Digital Productions

- Mom’s Choice 2012 Gold Award Juvenile Audio Book
- 2012 Recommended Audio Book by Parent’s Choice



**Book:** *“My Invisible World – My brother his disability and his service dog”*, Publisher; Better Endings – New Beginnings, 2009: (Co-author with Morasha Winokur)

- 2010 Mom’s Choice Gold Award for Outstanding Young Contributor Reader Views 2010 First Place Award for Children’s’-Young Reader (8-12)
- 2010 Reader Views Kids Award for Best Children’s’ Book of the Year
- Featured on CNN.Com’s “Young People Who Rock” 2009

### **OTHER SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS**

- Tommy Nobis Outstanding Volunteer Award, All About Development Disabilities, 2007
- Featured *Member in the Spotlight*, NOFAS, 2008
- Various awards for directing and producing educational CD-ROMS for Discovery Multimedia, and Smithsonian Institute 1992-1994
- Various awards for Random House/Broderbund’s Living Book series, 1995-1997 featured in Newsweek Magazine (1997)

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### **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

#### **Published Research, Articles, Books**

- Industry Article: Yvonne W. Fry-Johnson, MD, MSCR, Suzanne Powell, MPH and Donnie Winokur (2014) *“Service dogs: Taking the ‘dis’ out of disabilities in children with intellectual or behavioral ‘disabilities’* prepared for special edition of the International Journal Child and Adolescent Health *“Environmental Health: the home, the school and the community”* special edition - Nova Science Publishers, Inc.: 2009 and 2014
- *“A Dog’s Devotion Brings Healing”*, Guideposts Magazine, September 2012, Donnie Winokur
- *“ADOPTION + DISABILITY = WONDER DOG: The story of my son’s service dog, Chancer, and how his message is being barked around the world”*, Adoption Today Magazine, October 2012, Donnie Winokur
- Mom’s Choice Entro Magazine Spring 2012, *“Building Bridges to Success for children Living with Invisible Disorders”* Donnie Winokur and Jodee Kulp
- Children’s book author, Donnie Winokur, illustrator, Jodee Kulp, *Nuzzle –love between a boy and his service dog*; Better Endings - New Beginnings, released November, 2011
- *“Finding Faith in Fur and Four Paws for my son with FASD*, Living with FASD, Spring 2010, pp.13-16 FASD Support Network of Saskatchewan, Donnie Winokur
- *“FASD: Growing into not out of a lifelong disability”*, Adoption Today Magazine, July 2010, pp.16-19, Donnie Winokur

- Adult book author, Donnie Winokur, “*Wounded in the Womb – a story of adoption, disability and the hope we found on four pours*”, Publisher, Better Endings - New Beginnings, release date fall 2016

Donnie’s family’s story was featured in The New York Times Magazine on February 5<sup>th</sup> 2012. This lead story remained the #1 most emailed article in The New York Times globally for the first 30 days after its publication. Their journey of adoption, disability and their son’s service dog was also profiled in the May 2012 issue of Reader’s Digest Canada, Readers Digest India (September 2012), Marie Claire Australia, (May 2012), XL Seminal (Spain 2012) and was the feature in the September 2012 Guide Post magazine. Their story was also recognized in the Fall 2012 Merrill Lynch ADVISOR magazine. National Geographic (2013) highlighted Chancer and the Winokur family in their book, “*Devoted – 38 Extraordinary Tales of Love, Loyalty, and Life with Dogs*”

### EDUCATION

Emory University, Psychology, 1979 B.A

### REFERENCES

**Medical:**

Dr. Lyn Laborial 818 399-4836  
 LAC&USC Healthcare Network  
 Developmental Pediatrics  
 VIP FASD Clinic  
[mlaborial@dhs.lacounty.gov](mailto:mlaborial@dhs.lacounty.gov)

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 General Council for Department of Families and Children Services  
 Georgia Special Attorneys Assistant General  
[vdegan@dhr.state.ga.us](mailto:vdegan@dhr.state.ga.us)

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FASD Legal Issues Resource Center  
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State Special Education Director  
Georgia Department of Education  
[DGay@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:DGay@doe.k12.ga.us)

***Project Development and Training:***

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University of Georgia Center for Leadership in Disability  
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Dave Blanchard 770 451-5484  
Assistant Director Parent to Parent Georgia  
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***Service Dogs:***

Karen Shirk 937 708-6677 937 374-0385  
Founding, Director of 4 Paws for Ability (Assistance Dog Training Facility since 1999)  
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Melody Moore Jackson, Ph.D. 404 277-1324  
Associate Professor  
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Director, Animal-Computer Interaction Lab  
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