



**Curriculum Vitae**

**Donnie Winokur**



**Educating communities about invisible disabilities**

## DONNIE WINOKUR

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### PERSONAL CONTACT INFORMATION

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Donnie is available for: speaking, writing, training, project development and management and consulting. 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, Quinn, also an FASD Assistance Dog, who is the successor of their son's internationally beloved assistance dog, Chancer, and Autumn, their cat.

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

Training for: First Responders

Attorneys

Judges

Mitigation Specialists

Special Investigators

Legislators

CASAs

Healthcare Providers

Educators

Caregivers

Families

Advocates

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## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**2017 CHANCER** – *How One Good Boy Saved Another, a Memoir*, published August 22, 2017, Grand Harbor Press/Amazon Publishing

### **2013 - Present**

Consulting with various states, federal, national, international and university organizations, educating of invisible disabilities and the impact on the individuals who experience them and their caregivers and providers. Creating awareness of the benefits of assistance dogs for individuals who experience behavioral, developmental, psychiatric and cognitive challenges.

### **2009 – 2013**

Consultant with *Georgia State University's Center for Leadership in Disability*; in Project Management and Program Training Development; 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 5-year 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

- Presenter (upcoming) – *Human Trafficking – The Lost Children*, 2018 National CAPTA Citizens Review Panel Conference, Mackinac Island, Michigan
- Special Guest Speaker at the Georgia Office of the Child's Advocate 2016 Statewide Child Abuse Protocol Summit

- Presenter: *FASD, What you should know about Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder*, 16th National Citizen Review Panel Conference, Anchorage, Alaska, 2017
- Keynote Speaker: *Preventing the Perfect Storm, FASD and the Justice System*, 9<sup>th</sup> Georgia Center for Child Advocacy Annual Conference, Atlanta, Georgia, 2015
- Presenter: *Developmental and Behavioral Implications of Prenatally Exposed Infants: What you need to Know*, Symposium; Promoting Safe & Stable Families, Atlanta, Georgia, 2015
- 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**

- Guest of Honor/Closing Plenary Speaker, CDC/CCHP/NCBDDD 2018 Annual Meeting, Atlanta, Georgia, 2018
- Presenter: *Working Brains of Service Dogs*, for “The Fido Project” – Georgia Tech University, Atlanta, Ga. 2014
- Plenary Panelist, Speaker, *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

- *Introduction to Behavioral Health and Addictive Diseases*, National Alliance of Mental Illness, Georgia, 2017
- *4 Paws for Ability – Service Dog Agency*, Certified Service Dog Handler 2015
- *Into Action: Fetal Alcohol/Neurobehavioral conditions understanding of a brain-based approach*; FAFASD 2015:CEUs
- *Policies, practices to reduce the risk of abuse, including sexual violence against people with FASDs*, Dr. Nora Baladerian, 2015: CEUs
- *FASD and Human Rights Seminar*, Minnesota Organization of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, 2014
- *Ethical Issues of FASDs*, CDC Frontier Regional training Center, 2014: CEUs
- *Prevention Intervention and Professional Ethics as Viewed through the lens of FASDs*, CDC Frontier Regional training Center, 2014: CEUs
- *Understanding Sexual Development and Healthy Sexual Function in Individuals with Developmental Disabilities*, AADD Family Support Center, 2014
- *Hidden Victims: Protecting Children with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities*, Missing and Exploited Children's Program, 2014: CEUs
- *Integrating, Safety, Permanency, and Well-Being in Child Welfare*, 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 for 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 Heathcare 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

- Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment ACT (CAPTA PANEL) Citizen Review Panel; 2012 – present
- CAPTA committee; Georgia Children’s Justice Advisory Task Force (CJATF) 2012 – present
- Georgia Office of Capital Defenders FASD and Justice Training, 2012 – present
- State Advisory Panel on Special Education, Georgia, 2009-2015
- 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:** *Chancer – How One Good Boy Saved Another, a Memoir*, 2017 Grand Harbor Press/Amazon Publishing/Brilliance Audio Publishing  
#1 Amazon Bestseller List; Special Needs/Parenting and Relationships/Special Needs/Memoirs and Biographies for first 33 days after publication.

**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, **CHANCER – How One Good Boy Saved Another, A Memoir**, Grand Harbor Press/Amazon Publishing, Published August 22, 2017

Donnie’s family’s story was featured in The New York Times Magazine on February 5<sup>th</sup> 2012. This lead story was one of the top ten articles in The New York Times globally for the year of 2012. 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.

### 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)

Elizabeth Parra Dang 404 498-3947 404 406-0690  
 Behavioral Scientist, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities  
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 Children’s Advocacy Centers of Georgia  
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 FASD Legal Issues Resource Center  
 University of Washington  
 Fetal Alcohol and Drug Unit (FADU)  
[faslaw@u.washington.edu](mailto:faslaw@u.washington.edu)

***Educational:***

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State Special Education Director

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***Project Development and Training:***

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Dave Blanchard

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Assistant Director Parent-to-Parent Georgia

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***Service Dogs:***

Karen Shirk

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Founding, Director of 4 Paws for Ability (Assistance Dog Training Facility since 1999)

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Associate Professor

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Director, Animal-Computer Interaction Lab

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