

# newsbriefs

## Via Presents Workshops for Siblings of Children with Special Needs

Brothers and sisters of children with disabilities now have a chance to meet and talk with other children whose brothers and sisters have special needs. At Via Sibshops, the only program of its kind offered in Lehigh and Northampton counties, they'll have an opportunity to talk about the good and not-so-good parts of having a sibling with a disability. They will also have fun.



Through more than 50 years of experience, Via knows that individuals with a disability are part of a family and families share in both the joys and sorrows of their loved one. Via Sibshops offers a lively celebration of the many contributions siblings ages 8 to 12 make to their brothers and sisters with special needs, and supports the well-being of the family member most likely to have the longest-lasting relationship with the person with special needs. Besides peer support, Sibshops provide participants with an opportunity to learn more about their sibling's disability.

Via Sibshops is supported by generous contributions from Bastian Foundation, D'Huy Engineering, Fleming Foundation, Just Born and the Lehigh Valley Community Foundation (Russo Family Fund).

*Sibshop Series are held on six Saturdays, one per month, beginning September 5, 10am to 1pm, Northampton Community College, 3835 Green Pond Rd., Bethlehem. Register at [ViaNet.org/Sibshops](http://ViaNet.org/Sibshops) or 484-893-5379. Series includes lunch and is \$60 with registration by August 15.*