

P.A.C.K. (Pasco Association for Challenged Kids, Inc.) is a non-profit corporation dedicated to providing services for disabled children in Pasco County, Florida.

P.A.C.K. was formed in 1997 by Paula and Barry Cohen, parents of an autistic child. Frustrated that every summer, Pasco County children with disabilities – unable to attend regular summer programs– had no programs available. After summer school was over, the kids had no opportunity to get out of the house, away from their families to have the chance to have fun and socialize.

Paula and Barry working with Florida State Senator Mike Fasano and the Center for Independence formed P.A.C.K. to provide a summer camp experience where the kids could have fun and be cared for by qualified, trained staff. The first camp was held at the Center for Independence and served about 18 children with all types of disabilities. Staff consisted of teachers and paraprofessionals from within the Pasco County School system who were trained to work with these children. Additionally, there was a nurse on staff to deal with any medical needs.

P.A.C.K. is the only summer program in Pasco County that takes children with ALL types of disabilities. Parents pay a small registration and supply fee. It is funded primarily from private donations with some help from the state legislature. Parents can enroll their children confident in the knowledge that they will have the opportunity to learn, socialize and have fun while being cared for by trained, qualified staff.

For more information about P.A.C.K. see www.pascopack.org