

◊ *Into the Light* ◊

Volume 21 Issue 8 Autism Society , Central Virginia August 2013

VDOE AUTISM PREVALANCE RATES RISE 11% AUTISM SOCIETY POSITIONS TO MEET NEEDS

The Virginia Department of Education's most recent Annual Child Count (2012 - 2013) reflects a dramatic one year increase in the number of school aged children identified as having autism. The count for the 4 school districts in metro Richmond are reflected in the following numbers for last year:

Chesterfield :	683
Hanover:	279
Henrico:	549
Richmond:	252

These numbers do not reflect the number of preschool children who are identified under the educational label of Developmental Disability (DD), some of whom will be identified as having autism once they turn 6.

The Autism Society Central VA recognizes the growing needs in the metro Richmond community. We are often the first point of contact after a family has received the news; we want to insure that **every** family and individual affected by autism is aware of the resources we offer. The ASCV is THE local source for individuals with autism, from newly diagnosed through adulthood.

Through workshops and Information & Referral, the Society helps individuals and their families understand and access what can be an overwhelming system of supports including special education, Medicaid Waivers, Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Income (SSDI). The ASCV provides recreational and social opportunities for children, youth and adults with autism and their families. And we advocate at the local and state level, by serving on numerous public policy work and advisory groups and through legislative advocacy, for better supports and services for individuals with autism in the areas of education, employment, transportation, housing, Medicaid Waivers, and much more.

We have spent the last year involved in the *Organizational Improvement Process Pilot* with the Partnership for Nonprofit Excellence. Out of that process, we identified the need to build capacity through strategic planning, board development, and marketing and fund development. The board and staff of ASCV have spent the summer working long hours with a consultant to develop a strategic plan, the results of which will be shared with our community this Fall.

Mission & Philosophy

The Autism Society, the nation's leading grassroots autism organization, exists to improve the lives of all affected by autism. We do this by increasing public awareness about the day-to-day issues faced by people on the spectrum, advocating for appropriate services for individuals across the lifespan, and providing the latest information regarding treatment, education, research and advocacy.

2013 OFFICERS AND BOARD:

President: Bill Thompson

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Meeting Secretary: Katherine Gray, J.D.

Corresponding Secretary: Tim Jones

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Nate Harry CPA
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Newsletter Editor: Elizabeth Selko

Webmaster: Anthony Wiley

STAFF:

Executive Director: Bradford Hulcher

Outreach Coordinator: Tammy Burns

Asperger's Interest Group Facilitator: Brie King

Child care Supervisor: Deo Smith

NEWS FROM THE AUTISM SOCIETY, CENTRAL VA BOARD

The Board of the Autism Society met 5 times in June and July for strategic planning. We look forward to sharing the final plan with our community in September.

The Autism Society Central VA worked to fulfill our mission to "improve the lives of all affected by autism" in August in the following ways:

Education

- Sponsored a workshop on SSI, SSDI and Work Incentives

Services and Supports

- Sponsored an Inclusive Lego Club
- Sponsored a Night at the Diamond for our members
- Sponsored an Autism at the Movies Night
- Sponsored an Interest Group for Adults with Asperger's

Advocacy

- Participated on the DOJ Settlement Stakeholders' Group meeting
- Participated on the Regional START Advisory Council meeting
- Participated on the VA Autism Council meeting

Thank You For The Following Donations

Powhatan County Public Schools
Betty Haynie in memory of George Crenshaw
Jim and Diana Marilla
Mary Noon
Lisa and Peter de Groot
Nate Harry
Michele Brandon
River Road United Methodis Women
Funny Bone Comedy Club
William and Lelia Banks
Brendan Moran
Sandi Wiley

This newsletter is a publication of: Autism Society, Central VA □ P.O. Box 29364 □ Richmond, Virginia 23242-0364 (804) 257-0192

We accept for consideration any comments, personal vignettes, book reviews, information, announcements or advertisements for publication in our newsletter. The deadline for submission for the September newsletter is August 15. You may send your contributions to the above address or email contributions to SELKO1@aol.com.

The Autism Society, Central Virginia does not endorse nor promote any program or service provider. The information contained in this newsletter is provided for informational purposes only. The Society is a 501(c)3 organization providing information, support and encouragement to individuals with autism, their families and professionals in the Central VA area.

This edition was edited by Elizabeth Selko and Bradford Hulcher.

New Individual and Family Support Program (IFSP) Funds Available September 3

The Individual and Family Support Program (IFSP) is designed to assist individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities **who are on the waiting list for the ID or DD Waiver** (and their families) to access short term person/family-centered resources, supports, and services. IFSP funds may be provided to individuals or family members in varying amounts, as requested and approved by DBHDS, up to the established annual maximum of \$3000.00 per individual per fiscal year

The new start date for FY 2014 will be September 3. Applications will not be accepted before this date. Applications will be submitted via on-line web based application through DBHDS website and paper application through U.S. Mail. An expanded directions guide has been created to assist people with filling out the application and load. Applications will **not** be accepted via fax or e-mail. A debit card system will be implemented for FY14. Checks will only be sent when an applicant requests payment go directly to a vendor.

Services and items that may be funded through IFSP may include:

- Professionally provided services and supports, such as respite, transportation services,
- behavioral consultation, and behavior management;
- Assistive technology and home modifications, goods, or products that directly support the individual;
- Temporary rental assistance or deposits;
- Fees for summer camp and other recreation services;
- Temporary assistance with utilities or deposits;
- Dental or medical expenses of the individual;
- Family education, information, and training;
- Peer mentoring and family-to-family supports;
- Emergency assistance and crisis support; or
- Other direct support services as approved by DBHDS.

For additional information concerning the IFSP please go to: www.dbhds.virginia.gov/ODS-default.htm

Community Events/ Meetings of Interest

Aug 2 & 9 **Sensory Story Time @** Twin Hickory Library for children ages 3-6 with ASD; 2 sessions, 30 minutes; must register by calling 290-9200, ext. 4

Aug 6 **Special Needs Jump** at Jumpology 5 p - 7 p; fee and reservations required; all ages;
<http://www.jumpology.us/>

Aug 8 **Richmond Asperger's Meetup** 7 p.m.; River City Diner, Parham Rd; RSVP @
<http://www.meetup.com/aspergers-397/>

Aug 10 **Buddy Breaka** free respite care program for children with special needs ages 3-21 and their siblings ages 3-11; 10 a. - 1 p.; sponsored by Trinity Lutheran Church, 2315 N. Parham Rd., ; RSVP to 804-270-4626

Aug 15 **Asperger's Support Meeting** meets 6:30 p.m. at Midlothian YMCA; 804-908-7246 or email RobinDavis@RichmondAutism.Org

Aug 15 **A Journey of Rest and Restoration**; a monthly Christian-based support group designed for couples/caregivers of children with any special needs; 7 to 8:30 p.m.; Mechanicsville Christian Center; free childcare; pre-registration required; contact bfrank.ResourceConnectioninc@gmail.com

Aug 17 **Buddy Breaka** free respite care program for children with special needs ages 3-21 and their siblings ages 3-11; 10 a. - 1 p.; sponsored by Southside Nazarene Church; 804-778-7800 ext. 247 or BuddyBreakSouthsideVA@gmail.com

Aug 20 **Westend/Northern Chesterfield Asperger's Meetup @** Positive Vibe Cafe, 6:30- 8:30; RSVP at <http://www.meetup.com/aspergers-397/>

Aug 20 **Monkey Joe's Special Needs Night** from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.; kids ages 2 - 12 w/ special needs free; closed to the public; siblings welcome \$5; 11304 Midlothian Tnpk, Richmond; 897-5867

Thank You to the Following Volunteers

Sensory movie Allison Thurman Spring Li	Baseball Game Monique Tinsley Justin Ratliffe Nancy Andelin Holly Spencer
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	Bowling	
Sandy Akers Ali Newkirk Emma Newkirk Janel Parks Amanda Parks		Angela Bareford Darryl Bareford Kuba Lipowska April Turner Amanda Wilmoth
	Jeff Wilmoth	

Lego Club
Sandi Wiley
Sara Wise
Sydney Hazelgrove

AUTISM SOCIETY AUGUST CALENDAR

The Autism Society, Central VA will sponsor the following meetings in August. All meetings take place at River Rd. UMC, 8800 River Rd, Henrico, unless otherwise specified. For information: 257-0192 or asacv@aol.com

8/24	12:30 p.m.	Inclusive Lego Club for children of all abilities in grades K - 8; details & RSVP @ http://auglego.eventbrite.com/
8/26	7:00 p.m.	Adults with Asperger's/HFA Interest Group (open only to adults w/ Asperger's/HFA)
8/26	7:00 p.m.	Family Members of Adults with Asperger's Syndrome

Conferences, Workshops, and Webcasts

Aug. 8 - 10 **Arc of VA State Convention** keynote presentations and breakout sessions on a range of topics covering Public Policy Advocacy, Accessing Community-Based Supports and Services, Best-Practices, Self-Advocacy and more; fee; Richmond; for info: <http://www.thearcofva.org>

Aug. 13 **Transition Planning for Students with ASD in Public Schools** free webcast from VCU Autism Center for Excellence; register here:

<http://www.vcuautismcenter.org/training/webcasts/upcoming.cfm>

Aug. 28 **Getting Started: What Families with Young Children w/ Disabilities Need to Know** 6:30 p - 8 p., free; topics include: Medicaid Waivers, Supplemental Security Income, Health Insurance Premium Program, Early Intervention, and more! Richmond; contact dholloway@thearcofva.org to register

Sept. 20 **Temple Grandin/Jed Baker Conference** sponsored by Future Horizons; fee; for info: <http://fhautism.com/attend-a-conference/virginia-sept-20/>; ASCV members contact us at asacv@aol.com for special member rate

Oct. 18/19 **Insight 2013** Speaker Peter Gerhardt, Ed.D. will present sessions on youth with autism and transition and sexuality; sponsored by the Autism Society, VCU ACE, and VCU TTAC; <http://www.vcu.edu/ttac/>

Nov. 16 **Life in the Community Conference and Resource Fair** keynote: "Belonging" with David Pitonyak, Ph.D.; additional sessions on Transition, Guardianship, Behavior, and Social Security; sponsored by the Autism Society, Down Syndrome Association of Greater Richmond, and Hanover Arc; register: <http://lifeinthecommunity.eventbrite.com/>

For additional information on autism conferences and workshops in VA, visit www.autismtrainingva.org

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