

◆ *Into the Light* ◆

Volume 20 Issue 10 Autism Society, Central Virginia November 2012



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.

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Executive Director: Bradford Hulcher
Asperger's Interest Group Facilitator: Brie King

AUTISM AWARENESS AND ACCEPTANCE

Join Us in November for Special Screenings and Discussion

This month we'll be screening two short films from our library that focus on providing information to typical peers to promote awareness and acceptance of children with autism.

How Can I Be a Good Friend to Someone with Autism?, a 16 minute film designed to create awareness and answer basic questions about ASDs for elementary-aged students, features a fifth grader engaging in an instant message discussion with his aunt. Jacob wants to know more about four kids with ASDs at his school. Since his cousin has an ASD, Jacob figures his aunt might know how he can be a good friend to them.

Choosing To Be a GFF [Good Friend Forever] is a 15-minute production with positive social emotional themes for autism awareness and peer acceptance for middle school students. Symptoms of autism are explained by seven 12- to 15-year-old students with ASD in their real-life accounts. Friends and siblings of students with ASDs also lend their voices, making the video a powerful and effective anti-bullying tool.

Following the screenings, we'll have time for interactive discussion of this important topic. Parents, educators and community members are welcome to attend these screenings on November 12 at 7 p.m. or November 14 at 10 a.m. at River Road United Methodist Church, 8800 River Road, Richmond, 23229.

AUTISM SOCIETY NOVEMBER CALENDAR

The Autism Society, Central VA will sponsor the following meetings in November. All meetings are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted. Meetings take place at River Road United Methodist Church, 8800 River Road unless otherwise noted. For information: 257-0192 or asacv@aol.com

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|-------|--------------|--|
| 11/10 | | Life in the Community free conference and resource fair; see flyer insert |
| 11/11 | 1 p - 2:30 p | Bowling League for Children w/ Autism , Grades K-5 FREE for chapter members; \$25 /non-members (includes annual membership fee) ; preregistration required |
| 11/11 | 3 p - 4:30 p | Bowling for Middle/High School Students w/ Autism FREE for chapter members; \$25/non-members (includes annual membership fee); preregistration required |
| 11/12 | 7:00 p | Film Screenings on Autism Awareness and Acceptance |
| 11/13 | 7:00 p | ASCV Board Meeting |
| 11/14 | 10 a | Film Screenings on Autism Awareness and Acceptance |
| 11/17 | 1 p. - 3 p | Inclusive Lego Club for kids of all abilities in grades K - 8; ; free; Chester Library |
| TBD | | Friendship Group for Middle School Kids w/ Asperger's free for chapter members; \$25/non-members (includes annual membership fee); preregistration required |
| 11/26 | 7:00 p | Adults w/ Asperger's/High Functioning Autism Interest Group (<i>open only to adults w/ AS/HFA</i>) |
| 11/26 | 7:00 p | Parents of Adults with Autism Interest Group |

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 chapter newsletter. The deadline for submission for the December newsletter is November 15. You may send your contributions to the Chapter at 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 Chapter is a volunteer organization providing information, support and encouragement to parents, family members and professionals in the Central VA area.

This edition was edited by Elizabeth Selko and Bradford Hulcher.

NEWS FROM THE AUTISM SOCIETY, CENTRAL VA BOARD

The ASCV worked to fulfill our mission to "improve the lives of all affected by autism" in October in the following ways:

Advocacy and Public Policy

- Gave public comment on the proposed suspension of Care Van service in Henrico County beyond 3/4 of a mile from a fixed route
- Participated on the VA Dept. of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services work group on Individual and Family Supports
- Participated on the VCU Autism Center for Excellence (ACE) Advisory Council
- Participated on VA Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) Settlement Agreement Stakeholder Group
- Participated in the Region IV START (Systemic Therapeutic Assessment Respite and Treatment) Advisory Council, which will address the Crisis Stabilization portion of the Department of Justice (DOJ) settlement agreement.

Education and Training

- Collaborated with the VA Department of Education's VCU Training and Technical Assistance Center and VCU Autism Center for Excellence to host Insight 2012: Topics in Autism with Brenda Smith Myles, Ph.D.

Services and Supports

- Sponsored an Inclusive Lego Club
- Provided support for monthly social group for adults with Asperger's Syndrome
- Sponsored bowling leagues for elementary school students with ASD and middle and high school students with ASD
- Sponsored an Asperger's Middle School Social Club
- Sponsored 2 parent support groups

Awareness

- Shared information with VCU doctoral students in Disability Policy

Conferences, Workshops, and Webcasts

Nov. 1 **Self-Determination Workshop** a person who is self-determined drives the ship; they're not just a passenger. They actively participate in planning their future, advocate for themselves, and understand what *they* need to be successful and can tell others; sponsored by the Hanover PRC; for details: 804-365-4596

Nov. 5 **The Next Generation of Social Stories** with Carol Gray; learn: What is and what is NOT a Social Story, How to Write a Social Story, Social Context - exploring how the world can be confusing, and How to add Social Context to the Social Stories you write. FREE; 6 - 8 p.m. at the Henrico Theater; to register: radiganct@vcu.edu

Nov. 10 **Life in the Community Preparing for Life After High School: It's Never Too Early to Start** a free conference and resource fair sponsored by the Autism Society, Central VA, the Down Syndrome Association of Greater Richmond, and the Hanover Arc; see flyer insert

Nov. 13 **Introduction to the Hidden Curriculum - Part 1** with Brenda Smith Myles; free webcast; <http://www.vcuautismcenter.org/training/webcasts/details.cfm/237>

Nov. 15 **Positive Discipline Techniques: Strategies for Better Behavior at Home** 6:30; sponsored by the Henrico Parent Resource Center; rsvp to lhabernathey@henrico.k12.va.us

Nov. 27 **ASD Workshop Series** sponsored by Hanover Parent Resource Center; for info: hanoverprc@hcps.us or 804-365-4596

Nov. 28 **Early Intervention Advocacy** free webinar will discuss Virginia's Early Intervention program and the challenges it is facing, how families can help and effectively advocate for this program; to register: dholloway@thearcofva.org

Dec. 3 **Medicaid Waiver Supports** free webinar will review services and supports that are available to individuals with disabilities through the Medicaid Waiver program. We will also discuss Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment Program (EPSDT) and the Health Insurance Premium Payment Program (HIPP/HIPP for Kids); to register: dholloway@thearcofva.org

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

Community Events/Meetings of Interest

Nov. 1 **Young Life Capernaum Hanover** an inclusive faith based group for teens and young adults with disabilities; 6:15 - 8 p.m.; for information, contact Clint at clint.dowda@gmail.com

Nov. 2 **TACA** 7 - 9 p.m. @ St. Andrews United Methodist Church, 9801 Fort King Road, Richmond; for info: LisaAnn.Setchel@TacaNow.org

Nov. 5 **Hanover County Special Education Advisory Committee** *Understanding Part C and Early Childhood Public Education @ School Board Office*; 7 p.m.; for info: rob.rlipc@comcast.net

Nov. 5 **Aspie Bible Study** meet on the first and third Monday of each month @ Good Shepherd UMC, 9155 Hungary Rd, Richmond; 7:15 pm. - 9 p.m.; call Shawn at 804-339-4393 for info; open to mature teens 17 or older and adults with HFA/Asperger's

Nov. 7 **Special Night for Special Needs @ CMOR**; 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.; for children 10 and younger; free

Nov. 8 **Richmond Asperger's Meetup** the second Thursday from 7-9 pm @ River City Diner on Parham Rd.; RSVP at <http://www.meetup.com/aspergers-397/>

Nov. 10 **Buddy Break** a free respite care program for children with special needs ages 3-21 and their siblings ages 3-11; 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.; sponsored by Trinity Lutheran Church, North Parham Rd; for info: Carolyn Hassan 804-270-4626 BuddyBreak@TrinityRichmond.net

Nov. 13 **Young Life Capernaum Westend** an inclusive faith based group for middle and high school students with disabilities; West End Presbyterian Church, 9008 Quiocassin Road, Henrico; 6:30 - 8:00; for info: westendcapernaum@hotmail.com

Nov. 13 **Young Life Capernaum City** an inclusive faith based group for middle and high school students with disabilities; 6:30-8:00pm, at First Baptist Church; 2709 Monument Ave; for info: citycapernaum.rva@gmail.com

Nov. 14 **Chesterfield County Special Education Advisory Committee** meets 5 to 6:30 p.m. at the Fulghum Center.

Nov. 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 and sign language interpreter; pre-registration required; contact bfrank.ResourceConnectioninc@gmail.com

Nov. 15 **Young Life Capernaum Hanover** an inclusive faith based group for teens and young adults with disabilities; 6:15 - 8 p.m.; for information, contact Clint at clint.dowda@gmail.com

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

Nov. 18 **Rhythms of Grace** a special worship service to and for children w/ special needs and their families; the third Sunday of each month @ St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 12291 River Rd, Goochland; 1 - 2 p.m.; for info: 347-8755

Nov. 19 **Aspie Bible Study** meet on the first and third Monday of each month @ Good Shepherd UMC, 9155 Hungary Rd, Richmond; 7:15 pm. - 9 p.m.; call Shawn at 804-339-4393 for info; open to mature teens 17 or older and adults with HFA/Asperger's

Nov. 20 **Richmond/Northern Chesterfield Asperger's Meetup** third Tuesdays @ Positive Vibe Cafe, 6:30- 8:30; children 10+ diagnosed with Asperger's, HFA, PPD-NOS, and ADHD and their parents, as well as adults with these diagnoses, are welcome RSVP at <http://www.meetup.com/aspergers-397/>

Nov. 20 **Monkey Joe's Special Needs Night** every third Tuesday from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.; kids ages 2 - 12 w/ special needs just \$5; closed to the public; siblings welcome; 1 1 3 0 4 Midlothian Tnpk, Richmond; 897-5867

Nov. 27 **Young Life Capernaum City** an inclusive faith based group for middle and high school students with disabilities; 6:30-8:00pm, at First Baptist Church; 2709 Monument Ave; for info: citycapernaum.rva@gmail.com

Nov. 29 **Young Life Capernaum Hanover** an inclusive faith based group for teens and young adults with disabilities; 6:15-8 p.m.; for information, contact Clint at clint.dowda@gmail.com

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Community Events

(Continued from page 4)

Nov. 27 **Young Life Capernaum Westend** an inclusive faith based group for middle and high school students with disabilities; West End Presbyterian Church, 9008 Quiocasin Road, Henrico; 6:30 - 8:00; for info: westendcapnaum@hotmail.com

Nov. 27 **Henrico County Special Education Advisory Committee** topics: *HCPS Resources* and *Autism*; meets 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.; Byrd Middle School; open to the public; for info: seac@henrico.k12.va.us



Save The Date! Holiday Party at the Science Museum

The Autism Society will sponsor our annual holiday party at the Science Museum on Sunday, December 2 from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. We'll have light refreshments, holiday crafts, and Legos to play with. This event is free to chapter members and their families and includes admission to the Science Museum. Watch your e-mail for an invitation from Eventbrite.

Thank You for the Following Donations

Catherine Lanford
Margaret & Donny Wade
Saatvik Desai
Ralph & Jane Carlucci
Rand & Martha Jarratt & Amy Moody
Adam Bailey
Dale Bryant
Bruce Baxter
Brendan Moran
Gail & Mark Liebrich
Megan & Reid Colson

Would You Like To Place An Ad in "Into The Light" ?

Our newsletter reaches over 500 families, professionals and educators on a monthly basis. If you would like to place an advertisement, please email it to asacv.org or mail it to the Chapter at P.O. Box 29364, Richmond, VA 23242-0364. Call the Chapter if you have any questions. Deadline for entry is the 15th of each month.

Ad Rates:

- \$25.00 1/8 Page
- \$50.00 1/4 Page
- \$75.00 1/2 Page
- \$100.00 Full Page

Discounts/Non Profits/Long Term Ads (3 months or longer) may have negotiated rates with board approval.

The board reserves the right to refuse to place an advertisement

Directions to ASCV meetings River Road United Methodist Church

From the East:

-64 West to Exit 181 Parham Road South
*Drive 2 miles till you reach a traffic light for River Road. Be in the left hand land and turn left onto the on ramp. At the stop sign turn right on to River Road
**Go approximately .2 miles and the church will be on your right.
Turn right onto Doverland Road. Turn right into the church parking lot. To the back left of the church is a door that says "office". Go into this door and meetings are held inside at the first door on your right.

From the West:

I-64 east to Exit 181 Parham Road South.
Follow all directions that are written above for coming from the east. *

From the North:

I-95 South to I64 west then follow the same directions as written above under the East.*

From the South:

I-95 North to I150 Chippenham Parkway North. Go over the Willey Bridge crossing the James River. At the first light turn right on to the on ramp for River Road. At the stop sign turn right on to River Road. Follow directions above at the **

Autism Society, Central Virginia
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