

◀ *Into the Light* ▶

Volume 21 Issue 11 *Autism Society, Central Virginia* November 2013

NOVEMBER 16, 2013

**LIFE IN THE COMMUNITY
LEARN, LIVE, WORK, AND PLAY!**

A FREE CONFERENCE AND RESOURCE FAIR



Keynote speaker, David Pitonyak, Ph.D., is an international consultant on positive support strategies. David believes that difficult "behaviors" are "messages" which can tell us important things about a person and his or her surroundings. Understanding the "meaning" of an individual's difficult "behaviors" is the first step in supporting the person (and the person's supporters) to change.

Our Outreach Coordinator, Tammy Burns, had the opportunity to hear David speak soon after her son was diagnosed and describes it as "life changing"!

Following his keynote, "The Importance of Belonging", David will continue with 3 sessions on "Beyond Behavior" for participants to learn about life indicators that are often missing in the life of a person who experiences disability. Participants will explore strategies and tips for supporting individuals who experience disabilities but also the needs of his or her caregivers. While each session builds on the previous session, participants will be able to attend any session and learn without attending the previous sessions.

Three additional afternoon concurrent sessions include Employment, Supplemental Security Income and Supported Decision Making and Alternatives to Guardianship. A Resource Fair with over 30 exhibitors runs throughout the day.

The conference and resource fair are made possible through a collaboration of the Autism Society, the Down Syndrome Association, and the Hanover Arc.

The intended audience is families, self-advocates, disability professionals, school personnel and anyone interested in learning more. For additional information or to register, visit <https://lifeinthecommunity.eventbrite.com/>

Mission and Vision

Mission

To improve the lives of all affected by autism by maximizing the self-sufficiency, independence, and quality of life for all living with autism.

Vision

We are the local voice and resource of the autism community in education, advocacy, services, and support, committed to meaningful participation and self-determination in all aspects of life for individuals on the autism spectrum and their families. Any age. Any stage.

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The Following Donations were in Memory of

Adam Maciejczyk

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Bradford Hulcher

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 December newsletter is November 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.

AUTISM SOCIETY CENTRAL VA DEVELOPS NEW SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH AUTISM

For more than 5 years, the Autism Society Central VA has maintained a grant program to camps and other recreational organizations to provide scholarships to children, youth, and adults with autism; grants were given directly to camps. Starting with our 2013/2014 fiscal year, we will be changing this program so that individuals on the spectrum or their families may apply directly to ASCV for scholarships of up to \$300 per year.

The Autism Society Central Virginia's Scholarship Program was developed to help children, youth and adults on the autism spectrum participate in recreational and social activities. Examples of qualifying activities could include, but are not limited to: day camps, overnight camps, social skills groups, recreation leagues, bowling, etc. **Awards are based on financial need and funds available.**

To be eligible for a scholarship, an individual must:

1. be diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder
2. reside in Metro-Richmond or a surrounding county.

Payment will not be made for past events. Only completed applications received at least 30 days prior to the event will be considered. Payment will be :

1. Sent directly to the program/provider (invoice required), or
2. reimbursed to the applicant with a paid receipt, pending documentation of attendance from program/provider.

A Committee will review all applications; scholarships will be awarded based upon the amount of funds available and the information provided on the application. The Scholarship Committee will consider financial limitations of the individual and/or family. Although membership in the ASCV is not required to apply for a scholarship, the Committee will give preference to those families and individuals demonstrating financial need who are ASCV members. Recipients will be asked to complete a brief summary for the ASCV of their experience with their provider following receipt of the scholarship.

Funding cycles will be:
November 2013 - February 2014
March 2014 - August 2014

To obtain an application, e-mail us at ascvinfo@gmail.com.

NEWS FROM THE AUTISM SOCIETY, CENTRAL VA BOARD

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

Education

- Co-sponsored Insight 2013 with the VCU TTAC and VCU ACE, including a Friday evening and Saturday sessions for families

Services and Supports

- Sponsored a Preschool Playgroup
- Sponsored an Inclusive Lego Club
- Sponsored 3 bowling events - for children, for teens, and for adults w/ ASD
- Sponsored an Asperger's Middle School Social Club
- Sponsored an Interest Group for Adults with Asperger's

Advocacy

- Attended the Virginia Autism Advisory Council meeting (Legislative Services)
- Participated on the Region 4 START Advisory Committee

Awareness

- Presentation @ University of Richmond
- Attended the First Annual Poker Run sponsored by Sons of Dominion
- Presentation to parents for Chesterfield County Public Schools

BERARD Auditory Integration Training (AIT) in RICHMOND FEBRUARY 14 - 23, 2014

**Pre-testing in Richmond – Nov, Dec.
Test included in the cost of the program;
call or email to set up an appointment.**

**Serving families and individuals with
autism, developmental disabilities & audi-
tory processing challenges since 1994.**

See our website for more information:
www.aitforyou.com
or contact Director - Terrie Silverman
262.569.7828 terries@execpc.com

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AUTISM SOCIETY NOVEMBER CALENDAR

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

Nov. 2		Asperger's Middle School Social Club Society members, register through eventbrite e-mail
Nov. 4	7 p.m.	Parents of School Aged Children w/ Asperger's Interest Group
Nov. 5	7 p.m.	Board Meeting
Nov. 9	noon	Preschool Music Group details and registration here: http://autismpreschool.eventbrite.com/
Nov. 9	1 p.m.	Inclusive Lego Club for children of all abilities in grades K - 8; details & RSVP http://novleg.eventbrite.com/
Nov. 16	7p.m.	Life in the Community: Learn, Live, Work, and Play register here: https://lifeinthecommunity.eventbrite.com/
Nov. 24		Bowling League for Elementary School Students Bowling League for Middle/High School Students Bowling League for Adults on the Spectrum Free for Autism Society members; see e-mail invitation for date, time, location, & to register
Nov. 25	7 p.m.	Adults with Asperger's/HFA Interest Group (open only to adults w/ Asperger's/HFA)
Nov. 25	7 p.m.	Family Members of Adults with Asperger's Syndrome



SAVE THE DATE! DECEMBER 7!

ASCV MEMBER TACKY LIGHT BUS TOUR

It's only November but the holidays will be here before you know it! We want our members to mark their calendars for the evening of December 7 when we will have a caravan of 4 commercial buses to take us on Tacky Light Bus Tour. Members will receive an Eventbrite invitation by e-mail in early November when they may register household members for this fun event!

AUTISM SOCIETY CENTRAL VA ROLLS OUT NEW MISSION, VISION AND MARKETING MATERIALS!

During our strategic planning process this past summer, the board identified a new and expanded mission and vision.

Mission

To improve the lives of all affected by autism by maximizing the self-sufficiency, independence, and quality of life for all living with autism.

Vision

We are the local voice and resource of the autism community in education, advocacy, services, and support, committed to meaningful participation and self-determination in all aspects of life for individuals on the autism spectrum and their families. Any age. Any stage.

To reflect our new voice, the Marketing Committee has worked to develop new materials. Fresh new banners, information cards, and bumper magnets were designed by Eleanor Stickley, a professional graphic designer and Autism Society member. Look for them at the next ASCV event you attend. You might see someone you know pictured on the banner or cards! We are so appreciative of Eleanor's donation of her time and talents to this project!

New or renewing members will receive a bumper magnet for free! Additional bumper magnets may be purchased for \$3.

And as a reminder, we just received our new 2014 5K refrigerator magnets. Pick one up at the next ASCV event you attend!

Conferences, Workshops, and Webcasts

Nov. 4/5 **PECS Level 1 Training: Basic** designed to teach participants the theory behind the Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS) and the protocols for how to appropriately implement the six phases of PECS; Richmond; \$395; for info: <http://www.pecsusa.com/listing.php>

Nov. 12 **Bullying and Autism Spectrum Disorder** free webcast from VCU ACE; register here: <http://www.vcuautismcenter.org/training/webcasts/upcoming.cfm>

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;

free; register: <http://lifeinthecommunity.eventbrite.com/>

Nov. 21 **Autism and the DSM - 5** an introduction to the DSM-5 diagnosis of ASD, including: a review of the data regarding the impact of the changes in the diagnostic criteria for autism; a description of the new diagnosis of Social (Pragmatic) Communication Disorder & how the condition relates to ASD; how changes in the diagnostic criteria impact recommendations for family members and service providers; \$35; autismva.org

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

Community Events Meetings of Interest

Nov. 1 **Special Nights for Special Needs** children with special needs age 10 and under @ the Children' Museum in Short Pump; adapted materials, special activities, a cool-down space and reduced number of visitors; free from 5:30 - 7:30

Nov. 3 **Special Needs Dinner** @ Positive Vibe Cafe; 6 p.m.; reservations required; <http://positiveviberva.com/events/>

Nov. 4 **Hanover County Special Education Advisory Committee** topic: Transition Assessment; 7 p.m. @ Hanover County School Board Office; open to the public

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

Nov. 12 **Meet Your State Legislators** an opportunity to ask questions and express concerns re: issues for the disability community; sponsored by the Arc South of the James; 6p - 8 p @ John Tyler Community College (Nicholas Bldg)

Nov. 13 **Chesterfield County Special Education Advisory Committee** topic: Mental Health Supports & Services; open to the public; 5 p.m. @ the Fulghum Center

Nov. 19 **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!

Rebecca Early
Matthew Merroto
Waleed Llyas
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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 1150 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 **

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

Our newsletter reaches over 600 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



MEMBERSHIP FORM

Join with hundreds of individuals with autism, their families and other caring individuals; become a part of a larger community - the Autism Society, Central VA. We can't be heard alone, but with more voices joining daily, that small voice can become a roar. We invite you to become a part of a community of hope.

Membership in the Autism Society, Central VA provides the following benefits:

- ASCV's monthly newsletter, the local resource for information regarding local and state autism-related issues, workshops, and community events
- ASCV's weekly e-mail updates
- Access to ASCV lending library
- Free ASCV sponsored social/recreational activities; discounted workshops

Membership Levels:

___ \$5 ~ Self-Advocate (Adult w/ ASD) ___ \$25 ~ Household ___ \$1500 ~ Lifetime

Names(s): _____

Address: _____ Phone # _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail address: _____

(By providing your e-mail, you will receive our weekly e-mail; your e-mail will be kept confidential)

Additional Donation:

___ \$25 ___ \$50 ___ \$100 _____ please specify amt.

Payment information:

___ Check (made payable to **Autism Society**) ___ Visa ___ Mastercard

Name on card: _____ Expiration: _____

Card #: _____

CVV# (security code on back of card) _____ **or join online at www.ascv.org**

Signature: _____

How would you prefer to receive your newsletter: ___ by mail ___ electronically

Which free gift may we send you: ___ car magnet ___ autism pin ___ refrigerator magnet

Please mail or fax w/ payment to:

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