



Into the Light

12th Annual Autism 5K Run/Walk Wrap-Up!

The 12th Annual Autism 5K Run/Walk was once again a huge success!!

In all, 1643 runners/walkers and 93 teams were registered!

Teams and individual fundraisers, along with sponsors, raised over \$91,000 and still counting!!

Thank you for helping make our largest event of the year so successful!
We would like to congratulate and recognize the following:



Runners:

Fastest Overall Female : Elizabeth Knize

Fastest Overall Male: Jason Driscoll

Team Awards:

Don Mayfield Spirit Award: Midlothian Middle : Friends of Amazing Kids

Largest Team: Jogging for Jared (78 participants)

Best T-Shirt: Walking with Wyatt



Fundraisers:

Highest Fundraising Team: Team bELleve \$10,849.58

Highest Fundraising Individual: Jennifer Barnum \$10,499.58

Top 5 Individual Fundraisers:

1) Jennifer Barnum, 2) Dilshad Ali, 3) Waverly Bamman, 4) Holly Aldridge, 5) Anne McCray

Top 5 Fundraising Teams:

1) Team bELleve, 2) Team BFF, 3) You, Me and Lil D, 4) Matt-Adores, 5) Walking with Wyatt





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.

Donate

Your gift will help support autism education, awareness, advocacy and most importantly, enable us to assist families and individuals living with autism. You can help by making a donation today!

2014 OFFICERS

President: Bill Thompson

Treasurer: Adam Bailey, CPA

Meeting Secretary: Shawn Kirk

Corresponding Secretary: Tim Jones

Past President: Sandi Wiley

2014 BOARD MEMBERS

Chele Brandon

Norm Geller, Ph.D.

Nate Harry, CPA

Donna Sabel, Ed.D.

Katherine Gray, Esq.

Mary Bess Bolin

STAFF

Executive Director: Becky Boswell, MBA

Program Director: Bradford Hulcher

Outreach Coordinator: Tammy Burns

Recreational Therapist: Brie King

Childcare Supervisor: Deo Smith

This newsletter is a publication of: Autism Society, Central Virginia.
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 info@ascv.org.

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 Virginia area.

This edition was edited by ASCV staff.



From Our Executive Director

Summer – A Time for Reflection and Planning

Summer is officially here! And hopefully with it, things like relaxation by the pool, family vacations, flashlight tag amongst the fireflies, and cookouts with friends and family! Summer is also a time where the Autism Society Central Virginia (ASCV) Staff and Board pause to catch our breath after a VERY busy year. We use the summer months as a time for reflection on all the programs and activities of the previous year and begin to outline our plan for the next.



As I hope you noticed in our June Newsletter, the planning has already begun for two conferences in 2014-2015, one in November and another in April! We are also excited about plans for an IEP Bootcamp in October, made possible in part because of a grant from the Network of Enterprising Women (N.E.W.), and an Exhibition/Competition event hosted by Martial Arts World as a fundraiser for the ASCV! Stay tuned for more details on those and many other exciting plans for the coming months!

In everything we do, we are charged to do our best to meet our mission *to improve the lives of **ALL** affected by autism by maximizing the self- sufficiency, independence, and quality of life for individuals living with autism* and to use our funds wisely. We want to make sure that we are on target with the needs of individuals and families and are always open to your suggestions about program topics and special events. We also need your help in another way. In reviewing attendance records from our 2013-2014 workshop/trainings, programs (bowling, lego league, preschool group), and special events (ball games, picnic, holiday event, etc...) we have noticed that approximately **30%** of those that register do not actually attend. This is concerning for several reasons. In some cases, it means that we had empty seats that individuals on a waiting list could have filled, and in others it means that the ASCV paid for tickets that went unused and/or food that went uneaten. Please know that we realize cancellations are sometimes unavoidable and we plan as best we can for those situations, but we would ask you to be thoughtful as you receive the email invitations for activities and events and to register only when you know that you can attend. Thanks so much for helping the ASCV do as much as possible with the funds we raise throughout the year!

All the Best,

Becky

Becky Boswell, MBA
director@ascv.org

Individual and Family Support Program (IFSP) Update

The Individual and Family Support Program (IFSP) is designed to assist individuals on the waiting list for the intellectual disability (ID) or developmental disability (DD) Medicaid waivers to access short-term resources, supports, and services that will help them remain in their own community homes.

In order to meet demand and process applications in a timelier manner, IFSP funding will now have two funding periods. The first funding period will start September 15, 2014 (P1). Funding for this period will cover funding for supports and services that are required by individuals and families for a one year time period of September 15, 2014 through September 14, 2015. The second funding period will take place March 15, 2015(P2). Funds for the second period will cover services and supports for March 15, 2015 through March 14, 2016. It is requested that those wishing to ask for funding for summer camps wait until the second funding cycle to submit their requests. Funds for the program will be evenly split between the two funding periods. The cap for IFSP funding remains at \$3,000, so families may request funding during each cycle if the amounts for each period together do not exceed \$3,000.

The settlement agreement between the Commonwealth and the U.S. Department of Justice on Virginia's Intellectual and Developmental Disability System requires the IFSP to run until 2021. The IFSP program will support a total of 1,000 individuals and families throughout Virginia each year from FY 2014 to FY 2021. For additional information, visit <http://www.dbhds.virginia.gov/ODS-IFSP.htm>

AUTISM SOCIETY CENTRAL VA ADVOCATING FOR THE AUTISM COMMUNITY

The ASCV works diligently to represent the voice of the autism community with local and state policymakers. We serve on many local and state work groups, committees, coalitions, and advisory councils to insure that the needs of our community are represented in conversations and decisions impacting individuals with autism and their families. Beginning with this issue of the newsletter, we'll highlight the work of one of these groups each month.

Settlement Agreement

Many of the work groups we serve on focus on the 2012 Settlement Agreement between the Commonwealth and the U. S. Department of Justice. The U.S. v Virginia Settlement Agreement requires Virginia to provide services and supports to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the most integrated setting, regardless of the complexity of support needs. The settlement agreement moves Virginia from funding institutionalization for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to funding for services and supports in the community, to include integrated housing and integrated employment.

Individual and Family Support Program Work Group

One of the requirements of the settlement agreement was that Virginia provide funding for individuals on the waiting lists for ID or DD Waivers. This funding is known as the Individual and Family Support Program (IFSP). Individuals on the waiting lists for ID or DD Waivers may apply for up to \$2,000 a year in funding to meet their needs in the home and community while on the waiting lists. Our Program Director, Bradford Hulcher, has served on the work group for the IFSP since its inception 2 years ago, insuring that the needs and concerns of individuals with autism and their families are included in the development of the program. You can find an update on the IFSP in the article above.



NEWS FROM THE AUTISM SOCIETY CENTRAL VIRGINIA BOARD

In June the Autism Society Central Virginia worked to fulfill our mission to "improve the lives of all affected by autism" in the following ways:

Services and Supports

- Sponsored Autism Awareness Night @ the Diamond
- Sponsored Inclusive Lego Club
- Sponsored 3 bowling events - for children, for teens, and for adults w/ ASD
- Sponsored the Adults with Asperger's Interest Group
- Sponsored the Parents of Adults w/ Asperger's Interest Group
- Partnered with the Byrd Theatre for Sensory Friendly Movie

Advocacy

- Participated on DBHDS Waiver Redesign Eligibility Subcommittee
- Participated on the Arc of VA's Advocacy Committee
- Participated in the DD Coalition Meeting
- Participated on The Advisory Council for Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (TACIDD)
- Participated on the Region IV Children's Crisis Work Group

Awareness

- Exhibited at the ChikNEgg Farmer's Market Health Fair
- Hosted our bookstore and judged the Poster Session at the Community of Learning in Autism (CoLA) Annual Conference
- Participated in Keystone Golf Tournament to benefit ASCV

THANK YOU!!!!

We want to extend a special thank you to Keystone Insurers Group, who again this year, hosted the Keystone Virginia Golf Tournament to benefit the Autism Society Central Virginia. We appreciate the time and effort Keystone puts into this event to raise funds to help support the ASCV on its mission of improving the lives of all affected by autism!!!

Next year's golf tournament, which will also benefit the ASCV is already on the calendar!

Thank you Keystone!



This summer, the Autism Society, Central VA will sponsor or participate in the following events. All events take place at River Road UMC, 8800 River Rd, Henrico, unless otherwise specified. For information: 257-0192 or info@ascv.org.

7/12	12:30 pm	Inclusive Lego Club details and registration @ http://julyinclusivelego.eventbrite.com
7/21	7 pm	Adults with Asperger's/HFA Interest Group (open only to adults w/ Asperger's/HFA)
7/21	7 pm	Family Members of Adults with Asperger's Syndrome
8/2	10:15 am	Inclusive Lego Club details and registration @ http://augascvlego.eventbrite.com
8/9	7 pm	Autism Society @ Richmond Kicker's Game free tickets for Society members while supplies last; check your e-mail for invitation
8/18	7 pm	Adults with Asperger's/HFA Interest Group (open only to adults w/ Asperger's/HFA)
8/18	7 pm	Family Members of Adults with Asperger's Syndrome

**AUTISM
SOCIETY
CENTRAL
VIRGINIA**

**JULY &
AUGUST
CALENDAR**

Community Events / Meetings of Interest

July 7	Special Needs Jump at Jumpology 5 pm - 7 pm; fee and reservations required; all ages; http://www.jumpology.us/
July 11	Special Nights for Special Needs children with special needs age 10 and under @ the Children' Museum @ Central; adapted materials, special activities, a cool-down space and reduced number of visitors; free from 5:30 - 7:30 pm
July 15	Monkey Joe's Special Needs Night from 5 pm - 7 pm.; kids ages 2 - 12 w/ special needs free; closed to the public; siblings welcome \$5; 11304 Midlothian Tnpk, Richmond; 897-5867
Aug. 1	Special Nights for Special Needs children with special needs age 10 and under @ the Children' Museum @ Short Pump; adapted materials, special activities, a cool-down space and reduced number of visitors; free from 5:30 - 7:30 pm
Aug. 4	Special Needs Jump at Jumpology 5 pm - 7 pm; fee and reservations required; all ages; http://www.jumpology.us/
Aug. 19	Monkey Joe's Special Needs Night from 5 pm. to 7 pm.; kids ages 2 - 12 w/ special needs free; closed to the public; siblings welcome \$5; 11304 Midlothian Tnpk, Richmond; 897-5867

Conferences, Workshops, and Webcasts

- July 8 **Determining an Effective Communication System for Students with ASD** free webcast from VCU ACE; for info and registration: <http://www.vcuautismcenter.org/training/webcasts/details.cfm?webcastID=288>
- July 18 **Is Your Child a Target of Bullying?** sponsored by PEATC; free but registration required; 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. @ Ft. Lee Community Service; for info or to register: Ms. Dickerson @ 804-734-7965
- July 24 **Customized Employment** this free webcast from VCU CTI will assist special education teachers, transition coordinators and employment specialists of middle and high students in considering person-directed employment beyond the confines of traditional job development. The outcome of customized employment planning is paid, community-based employment for students with complex lives; register: <http://www.centerontransition.org/training/webcastDetails.cfm/293>
- July 31 **Arc of VA Sate Convention** info and registration here: <http://www.thearcofva.org/news-events/2014-state-convention/>
- Aug. 12 **The Three T's of Transition: Tools for the Transition Process** free webcast from VCU ACE; for info and registration: <http://www.vcuautismcenter.org/training/webcasts/details.cfm?webcastID=289>
- Aug 12 **Strategies for Supporting Adolescents and Adults with ASD** free full day workshop from the VA Autism Council; for info and registration: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/strategies-for-supporting-adolescents-and-adults-with-autism-spectrum-disorder-richmond-tickets-11950260551>
- Aug. 28 **Process of Discovery** this free webcast from VCU CTI addresses a person-centered approach to gathering information about the prospective worker to guide the development of customized employment and work experience; register: <http://www.centerontransition.org/training/webcastDetails.cfm/295>

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

Please enjoy this July / August edition of *Into the Light*. Look for your next edition of *Into the Light* in early September.



Financial Eligibility for Children Using Medicaid Long-Term Care

Beginning in 2014, financial eligibility for children who use Medicaid long-term care supports will be based on the child's resources. This is different than in the past. Previously, Medicaid eligibility for children did not include a review of the child's resources.

Long-Term Care Includes WAIVERS

Long-term care is a Medicaid term used to describe institution and home and community based care waiver services. The financial eligibility factors for children who use Medicaid long-term care are different than the financial eligibility factors for standard Medicaid when a child is not going to be using waiver services.

Virginia Medicaid home and community based waivers for children include the following: Developmental Disabilities (DD), Day Support for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (Day Support), Elderly or Disabled with Consumer-Direction (EDCD), Intellectual Disabilities (ID), and Technology Assisted (Tech) Waivers.

Medicaid considers people between the ages of birth and their 19th birthday to be children. When an individual reaches their 19th birthday their Medicaid financial eligibility will be based on different factors and the individual must have a disability determination made by the Social Security Administration. It is very important that for children who use Waivers there is a careful monitoring of their eligibility renewal during their 18th year of life.

RESOURCES of Children Using Long-Term Care Medicaid, Including Waivers

The child may have up to \$1,000 of countable resources. Parent resources are not considered.

Countable resources are assets that can be easily converted to cash. Resources that are counted for Medicaid eligibility include things such as savings and checking accounts, life insurance policies, stocks, bonds, certain types of trusts and custodial accounts. The child can own one vehicle, the home they live in, contents of the home and personal items; these are not counted as resources in the Medicaid eligibility determination.

An evaluation of resources will now be conducted for all children using Medicaid long-term care supports when the child initially enrolls in Medicaid or during their annual eligibility renewal.

Any account or other resource that is in the child's name must be reported on the child's Medicaid application. Documentation verifying the resources must be provided.

The child's resources in excess of \$1,000 can be used to pay debts incurred on behalf of the child such as outstanding medical bills and purchasing items or services needed by the child. The child cannot just give resources (property or money) away to be Medicaid eligible. Medicaid may impose a penalty period if someone has given away assets and resources during the five years before the Medicaid application or after Medicaid eligibility is established.

INCOME of Children Using Long-Term Care Medicaid, Including Waivers

Income eligibility is based only on income of the child. The child's monthly income must be less than \$2,163. Examples of income include child support, wages and income from investments. Parent income is not considered.

If the child's monthly income exceeds \$2,163, they may "spenddown" monthly income that is above \$2,163 and become eligible for Medicaid payment for some Waiver services if the incurred medical expenses are higher than the income. Spenddown cannot be used for people enrolled in the DD, Day Support or ID Waivers.

Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

Why were these financial eligibility rules changed?

In October 2013, DMAS changed the rules in order to be in compliance with changes in federal policy. DMAS now uses rules more closely associated with IRS filing rules that require DMAS to look at whether or not a child is claimed as a tax dependent. In the past, DMAS did not have to consider the resources of children. Now DMAS must consider the resources of children.

The resource limit is \$1,000 for children using long-term care supports and \$2,000 for adults using long-term care supports. Why is there a difference between the resource limits for children and adults?

Children who use Medicaid long-term care supports are determined eligible for Medicaid using the rules for children, based on old Aid to Families with Dependent Children rules. These children rules limit resources to \$1,000. Adults who use Medicaid long-term care supports must either be disabled or elderly. A Social Security Administration process determines disability. The Social Security Administration does not typically make disability determination until the individual is an adult (unless the family has extremely low income).

How will the funds in a 529-college savings plan be considered?

529 saving plans for college expenses do not count as the child's resource. However, there may be financial considerations when the child begins to withdraw funds from the account in the future.

Our 14-year old son has \$4,000 in a bank account that their grandmother established for him. He has been using the EDCD Waiver for three years. What can we do so that he does not lose EDCD Waiver supports?

You have several options.

1. If appropriate and if you are interested, you could establish a special needs trust for your son. Two sources of information about special needs trusts can be viewed at www.commonwealthcommunitytrust.org and www.thearcofnova.org/ArcNVTrusts.html
2. The resources could be used to purchase items needed by your son. For instance, you could purchase bedroom furniture, clothes, a computer, recreation equipment that would help to develop or maintain skills, and other things that would be used by your son.
3. The resources could be used to pay off a debt that was incurred to purchase a service or item that your son needed. For example, if you purchased an accessible vehicle because of your son's needs and financed the purchase you could use these resources to pay all or a portion of that debt.

Regardless of how the excess resources are used, keep records of how the resources were used.

How long do we have to use the resources in excess of \$1,000 or to establish a special needs trust?

The resources must be used appropriately in the month that financial eligibility is being initially established or reviewed. The special needs trust must be established within the month.

What happens if we are not able to spend all of the resources in excess of \$1,000 or to establish the special needs trust within one month?

The child will not be eligible for Medicaid in subsequent months if the child continues to have more than \$1,000 of resources. The child can reapply for Medicaid once the resources have appropriately been used.

Since the EDCD or Tech Waivers do not have waiting lists the interruption of Waiver eligibility will not impact their ability to reinstate EDCD Waiver or Tech Waiver supports (as long as they continue to need the Waiver). However, for children using the DD or ID Waiver they will need to very carefully work with their child's case manager to ensure that their DD or ID Waiver slot is held for them while they appropriately use the excess resources. In some situations, it may be possible for the DD or ID Waiver slot to be temporarily held for them for a short period of time.

Thank You To The Following Volunteers

*How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.
~Anne Frank*

Rebecca Early
Sam Hulcher
Kyle McKenna
Tim Jones
Amber Stocker
Abigail Dixon
Aadarsh Nair
Kyle Cope
Becky Cope
Ryan Cope
Keli Keener
Allison Thurman
Zipporah Levi-Shackleford
Georgia Galanopoulos
Jennifer Fjelsted
Kate Baxter
Tyler Gizzard
Moshe Levi

Tiffany Scott
Nancy Andelin
Eleanor Stickley
Skills Development Center



Thank You For the Following Donations

*All donations stay in the Central Virginia area to support
individuals and families affected by autism.*

Health Diagnostic Laboratory, Inc.
Seven Pines Elementary
Lakeside Elementary
Ellsworth McLean
L. Bryan Rowe
Dianne Corsello
Gregory Workman
Phillip Sandino
Paul Daniel McNamara
Aja Shenay Wells
Eric Schmude
Lee-Davis High School
Faiza Sadiq
Ken and Joan Lipstock
Karl Koenig
Christi Hollins
Paul and Debbie Edmunds
Ladies Auxiliary 680
Allison Thurman
Lisa Keene
William Livingston

Rivers Edge Elementary School
River Road United Methodist Women
Paul Quel
Brendan Moran

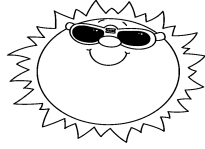
*The following donation was made in
memory of April Dawn Wray-Swart:
Mindy Cooper*

*The following donation was made in
memory of Lois Hood:
Bernadine Hitchcock*

*The following donation was made in
honor of Holly Whitt:
Serena Shellnutt*

*The following donation was made in
honor of Alex's birthday:
Brendan Moran*

What can you do this summer?



- Get ready for the new school year
- Improve reading and math skills
- Get one-on-one help with organization
- Learn how to study
- Get help planning the future
- Fun and engaging one-on-one sessions based on the student's specific needs!



Creative Approach
Education and Career Services

Call to schedule your appointment

2100 Bremono Road, Suite 104, Richmond 23294

804-288-2942

www.CreativeApproach.org

PAID ADVERTISEMENT



Autastic Avenues

Autastic Avenues is offering FUN FRIDAYS in July!! We also have a course, *Perspective Detectives*, scheduled this summer. See our website for more information!!!

www.autasticavenues.com

Robin McCallister and Tracy Scott

E-mail: autasticavenues@gmail.com

Find us on Facebook!

Contact us! We can help!!

PAID ADVERTISEMENT



Inclusive
Lego
Club
Fun

Upcoming Sensory Friendly Movies at the Byrd Theater

July – Rio 2

August – How to Train Your Dragon 2



Watch for dates and times in our weekly email blasts!

Early Learner Classroom at The Faison School



Who do we serve?

This classroom is designed for a broad range of learners, including those with autism or other developmental disabilities, at-risk learners, and neurotypical children. We serve children as young as 16 months old.

Schedule

Currently we offer an option of an AM session or a PM session, Monday through Friday. Each 3-hour session offers an inclusive, language-enriched experience, individual and group instruction, social and recreational opportunities, snack, and toilet training when applicable.

Our Approach

The Faison Early Learner Classroom embraces a verbal behavior developmental model and utilizes a tailored approach for each child, including applied behavior analysis (ABA), inclusive and play-based teaching methods, motor planning training, and social skills instruction. The program is accredited by the Comprehensive Application of Behavior Analysis to Schooling, based at Teachers College, Columbia University; a leader in student-focused education worldwide. Our approach also includes formalized, parent training, tailored to the family's needs.

Our Team

Program oversight begins with our PhD level Behavior Analyst and Master Teacher, and also includes licensed Behavior Analysts, teachers, teaching assistants, and related services.

More Information

Contact Eli Newcomb, Director, Center for Behavioral Services, at 804.612.1947 to learn more about this classroom and begin the application process.



Now Scheduling Appointments!

804.612.1947 • www.thefaisonschool.org

The Faison School for Autism, 1701 Byrd Avenue, Richmond, VA 23230

PAID 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:

Autism Society, Central VA
P.O. Box 29364
Richmond, VA 23242
(804) 290-0286 (fax)

Autism Society Central Virginia

P.O. Box 29364
Richmond, VA 23242-0364

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Richmond, VA
Permit No. 132

Address Service Requested



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 info@ascv.org or mail it to us at P.O. Box 29364, Richmond, VA 23242. 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

The Board reserves the right to refuse to place an advertisement.

Non-Profits / Long Term Ads may have negotiated discount rates with Board approval.