XXAUTISM SOCIETY

Improving the lives of All Affected by Autism Central Virginia

April 2015

Volume 23, Issue 4



Into the Light

APRIL IS NATIONAL AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

The greatest benefit of involvement in the Autism Society will always be our community - networking and learning from parents and individuals on the spectrum who are walking a similar path!

Donna Sabel, ASCV board member and mom to a teen on the spectrum, recently shared: The other evening at dinner, our son announced to us that he was glad he had autism. He said it made his brain so he can remember a lot of details that help people when they buy cars and TVs. Also, if he didn't have autism, he wouldn't be able to go to all the cool things that the Autism Society puts on. He wouldn't have met 2 of his friends. ASCV has been helping to improve his life ever since Bradford helped me through his IEP going into kindergarten, but very cool to hear him acknowledge it from his perspective. I know you all are crazy busy, but know that your efforts truly positively impact affected individuals and families.

Rosa Fernandez, mom to a young son with autism, told us: ASCV has trips, classes, etc. for kids and adults under the spectrum. They do so much...too much. And that's a great thing. I can't help but cry at times. They've helped my son and me so much. I love this organization!!!!! I took their IEP BootCamp and I benefited from enlightening myself with all that information. I was able to help my son. Thank you so much. We're truly blessed to be members.

Shawn Kirk, self-advocate and ASCV board member has shared: If were not for the Autism Society Central Virginia I would not be where I am today. They have helped me out and many others affected by autism in ways more than I can begin to describe.

Being part of our caring and growing community is "priceless"! Learn more about what the ASCV has to offer and how to get involved at http://ascv.org/membership/!





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 in our community. You can help by making a donation today!

BOARD OFFICERS

President: Bill Thompson

Treasurer: Adam Bailey, CPA

Meeting Secretary: Shawn Kirk

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This newsletter is a publication of: Autism Society Central Virginia.

200 South 3rd Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

(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 May newsletter is April 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

Happy April!

The ASCV is excited to have been invited to participate in many awareness events in April in support of National Autism Awareness Month. I want to thank the members and others who have approached us with these ideas and other ways to promote autism awareness and raise funds for the ASCV this April. We are excited to be sharing information at a Motorcycle Ministry Ride in Petersburg, an Easter Egg Hunt in Hopewell, Kings Dominion, TGI Friday's Hull Street, at Vineyard Vines Stony Point, and at the Cuddle Up for a Cause "Until the Pieces Fit" vendor fair in Colonial Heights, among other places! Please take a close look at the newsletter for details on when and where we will be all month and plan to join us at these and other events!! You can also check out the full listing of our programs and events on our website at http://ascv.org/meetings-events/

We hope you will help us share information about the resources and social and educational opportunities the ASCV provides for individuals with autism and families, not just in April but year-round!! Here are just a few ways you can help --

- Wear or display the puzzle piece ribbon
- Check out the NAAM page of our website, http://ascv.org/resources/national-autism-awareness-month/, and share info with your school or community.
- · Share our newsletter with others.
- Forward our weekly E-Blasts to anyone you think might be interested in the activities we offer, and encourage them to get involved with the ASCV!
- Ask your employer if they match contributions and designate the ASCV as the recipient of your donations.
- Contact me if you hear of organizations or companies that are looking for community
 partners! I am always happy to share about the many opportunities we have for volunteers
 and the numerous ways the ASCV can put donations to great use for individuals with autism
 and families in Central VA. And make sure to share with all that you contact, "the funds
 raised here, stay here!"

All the Best,

Becky

Becky Boswell, MBA Executive Director director@ascv.org



Autism Society Celebrates 50 Years of Support to Individuals and Families!

We can think of no better way to begin our celebration of National Autism Awareness Month (NAAM) this year than by recognizing the 50th Anniversary of the Autism Society! From the Autism Society website, "The Autism Society was founded in 1965 by Bernard Rimland, Ph.D. His book, *Infantile Autism: The Syndrome and Its Implications for a Neural Theory of Behavior*, was written in late 1964 and was one of the first of its kind. In 1968, Ruth Sullivan, Ph.D., became the organization's first elected president. Over the last 40 years, the Society has grown from a handful of parents into the leading source of information, research, reference and support on the autism spectrum. The Autism Society is the oldest and largest grassroots organization within the autism community." (http://www.autism-society.org/about-the-autism-society/history/) The Autism Society Central Virginia (ASCV) is proud to be one of the 107 Affiliates of the Autism Society working across the United States to improve the lives of ALL affected by autism in our community!



There's No Mystery to the Puzzle

Oftentimes, I am asked when out in public why I am wearing a puzzle piece ribbon pin. I never hesitate to respond that the puzzle piece ribbon is the symbol of the Autism Society. I go on to explain that the puzzle pattern reflects the mystery and complexity of the autism spectrum. The different colors and shapes represent the diversity of the people and families living with autism. The brightness of the ribbon signals hope – hope that through increased awareness, and through early intervention and appropriate treatments, people with autism will lead full, independent, and self-sustaining lives.

Help the ASCV share awareness by wearing and/or displaying the autism ribbon this April. Don't have a ribbon? Contact us for info on where to purchase one online.

- Becky

NEWS FROM THE AUTISM SOCIETY CENTRAL VIRGINIA BOARD

In March 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 a sensory friendly movie in collaboration with the Byrd Theater
- Sponsored Inclusive Lego and Game Clubs
- Sponsored bowling leagues for children, teens, and adults
- Sponsored Adults with Asperger's Interest Group
- Sponsored a Sibshop Group
- Partnered with First Tee to provide ASD Golf Clinic

Advocacy

- Participated on the DBHDS Integrated Day Work Group
- Participated on the Region IV Children's Crisis Services Workgroup
- Participated on the VA Autism Council bi-monthly meeting
- Enlisted families to share their experiences with IFSP funding with the DOJ Independent Reviewer
- Participated as a stakeholder on the quarterly DOJ Stakeholder's Meeting
- Participated on the CCCS Health and Well-Being Workgroup

Education

- Sponsored SSI/SSDI workshop
- Presented sibling workshop at Commonwealth Autism Conference

Awareness

- Exhibited at the Henrico County Transition Fair
- Exhibited at AEP Conference
- Provided materials for NAAM displays in all Chesterfield County Branch libraries

DO YOU FOLLOW THE ASCV ON FACEBOOK?

Following the Autism Society Central Virginia on Facebook is a great way to keep up with autism happenings and advocacy information. You can also participate in various 5K Facebook contests and have a chance to win some awesome prizes!

Follow us today at https://www.facebook.com/pages/Autism-Society-Central-Virginia/94856648531



This April, 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.

4/04	9 am	Preschool Music Group details & registration: https://chesterpreschool.eventbrite.com
4/04	10 am	Inclusive Lego & Game Club – Chester details and registration: http://legochester.eventbrite.com
4/14	7 pm	Board Meeting @ 200 South 3rd Street, Richmond
4/17	6 pm	Asperger's Middle School Social Club free for ASCV members; registration required – check your email
for		Eventbrite invitation
4/18	8 am	First Annual Central VA Autism Conference preregistration required; for info http://ascv.org/meetings-events/annual-central-virginia-autism-conference/
4/19		Bowling Leagues for children, youth and adults w/ ASD; free for ASCV members; check your email for Eventbrite invitation
4/25	10 am	Inclusive Lego & Game Club – Downtown details and registration: https://maylegodowntown.eventbrite.com
4/27	7 pm	Adults with Asperger's/HFA Interest Group (open only to adults with Asperger's/HFA)
4/27	7 pm	Parents of Adults with Asperger's Group

AUTISM SOCIETY CENTRAL VIRGINIA

APRIL CALENDAR



2015 5K Run/Walk for Autism

Have you registered yet for the 2015 5K?

April is a great month to register before prices increase on May 1st!!!

Also, make sure you have LIKED us on Facebook and participate in our 5K contests for great prizes!

Get ready....get set.... GO!!!

APRIL COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES

4/01	teachers where they can meet various vendors who provide services for individuals with disabilities; 4:30 pm – 7:00 pm at the Career and Technical Center, 13900 Hull Street Road		
4/02	Young Life Capernaum Hanover faith based social group for middle/high school students with disabilities and peers; for info clint.dowda@gmail.com		
4/03	Special Night for Special Needs at Children's Museum Chesterfield; 5:30 pm, for info: http://www.c-mor.org/events/special-nights		
4/06	Sky Zone Special Needs Sensory Night http://www.skyzone.com/richmond		
4/07	Jumpology special needs night; http://www.jumpology.us/Calendar		
4/09	Richmond Asperger's Meet-Up http://www.meetup.com/aspergers-397/		
4/11	Game on Aspergers from 2-4 pm at the Clover Hill Public Library (small meeting room), 6701 Deer Run Drive, Midlothian. Adults 18 and older with Asperger's have fun playing games and hanging out. Free. Info: 804-335-6634 or willkir77@gmail.com		
4/14	Young Life City faith based social group for middle/high school students with disabilities and peers; for info https://citycapernaumrva.wordpress.com/		
4/15	Chesterfield County Special Education Advisory Committee topic: Autism Services: Presentation of Annual Plan; meets at 5 pm at the Career and Technical Center, 13900 Hull Street Road, room 256; open to the public		
4/16	Young Life Capernaum Chesterfield faith based social group for middle/high school students with disabilities and peers; for info chesterfieldcapernaum@gmail.com		
4/16	Young Life Capernaum Westend faith based social group for middle/high school students with disabilities and peers; for info westendcapernaum@hotmaill.com		
4/16	Young Life Capernaum Hanover faith based social group for middle/high school students with disabilities and peers; for info clint.dowda@gmail.com		
4/21	West End/ Northern Chesterfield Asperger's Meet-Up http://www.meetup.com/aspergers-397/		
4/21	Monkey Joe's Special Needs Night from 5 pm-7 pm; kids ages 2-12 with special needs free; closed to public; siblings welcome \$5; info 897-5867		
4/25	Game on Aspergers from 2-4 pm at the Clover Hill Public Library (small meeting room), 6701 Deer Run Drive, Midlothian. Adults 18 and older with Asperger's have fun playing games and hanging out. Free. Info: 804-335-6634 or willkir77@gmail.com		
4/28	Henrico County Special Education Advisory Committee meets at 6:30 pm at Brookland Middle School; working session		
4/28	Young Life City faith based social group for middle/high school students with disabilities and peers; for info https://citycapernaumrva.wordpress.com/		
4/29	Young Life Capernaum Hanover faith based social group for middle/high school students with disabilities and peers; for info clint.dowda@gmail.com		

ASCV RECREATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The ASCV knows the importance of social and recreational opportunities for individuals on the spectrum. The ASCV Recreational 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. Partial scholarships may be awarded. To be eligible for this scholarship, an individual must:

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

To apply or learn more, visit http://ascv.org/about/recreational-scholarships/



INDIVIDUAL AND FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAM (IFSP) UPDATE

The Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) will begin accepting applications **postmarked on or after March 31 for the** next round of funding for IFSP for individuals on the ID or DD Medicaid Waiver waiting lists.

An updated application, instructions, and guidelines on what IFSP will and will not fund can be found at http://www.dbhds.virginia.gov/individuals-and-families/developmental-disabilities/community-support-services.

A free informative webinar on IFSP from the ARC of VA can be heard here - https://cc.readytalk.com/cc/playback/Playback.do?id=5jm2yo

WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCES

- 4/14 Teaching Social Communication Skills to Young Children with Autism Using Naturalistic Developmental Behavioral Interventions free webcast from VCU ACE; info and registration: http://www.vcuautismcenter.org/registration/webcast/index.cfm
 4/18 Annual Central Virginia Autism Conference preregistration required; more info on pages 10-11 of this newsletter
- Parent Coaching: Teaching Parents Strategies to Promote Their Child's Development free webcast from VCU ACE; info and registration: http://www.vcuautismcenter.org/registration/webcast/index.cfm

Thank You To The Following Volunteers

"In proportion as one renders service, he becomes great." ~Booker T. Washington

Brittany Hood
Crystle Williams
George Clexton
Laura Beaudet
Candace Dillard
Jailyn Johnson

Skills Development Center

Eleanor Stickley
Marrissa Bekowski
Kelly Galloway
Natalie Quinn
Katie Forsythe
Christy Yee
Gray Little
Michelle Zirin
Kelly Galloway
Nicole Shelton
Becky Early

Vincent Naughton Rim Hussein Brianna Earl Beza Kumbi Ashley Phung Alex Graves Colin Gibson Dean Lee Will Rixmann Isaac Lee

McKinley McWilliams

Keli Keener

Christine Del Bueno Matthew Vozar Erik Biehler Amber Murray Alex Rossi Buddy Stolze Bianca Spaulding

Thank You For the Following Donations

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

Brendan Moran
John Yasnowksy
Lipstock Lasik & Cataract Center
FerrellGas
Hank Keiper
Nicole and Charles Harris
Microsoft (Matching Funds)
Eric Schmude

The following donation was made in memory of Kyshaun Irving:
The staff at MCVP Chesterfield

The following donations were made in memory of Johnathan Florenz:
Marie de Percin
Margaux Anderson





Central Virginia

Saturday, April 18, 2015 9:00am-4:00pm River Road United Methodist Church 8800 River Road, Richmond 23229 804-257-0192 info@ascv.org www.ascv.org



Please join us for our first Annual Central Virginia Autism Conference! Jennifer O'Toole will deliver our keynote address, "Relentless Positivity (and a Little Bit of Caffeine)." O'Toole was diagnosed as an Aspie in adulthood, is the mother of three Asperkids, the wife of an Aspie, an award-winning educator and author of the internationally celebrated "Asperkids" book series. Jennifer's books will be available for purchase at this year's conference.

- winner of the Autism Society of America's 2014 Outstanding Literary Work of the Year
- winner of 2012 Temple Grandin Award
- recipient of GRASP's 2012 Distinguished Spectrumite Medal
- · 2012 AuKids Speaker of the Year

Jennifer's awards include:

• nominee for the 2012 Autism Society Book Award and Godiva's Woman of the Year.

Conference Schedule

8:00am	Registration Opens - Resource Fair Open		
9:00am-10:30am	Keynote: Relentless Positivity (and a Little Bit of Caffeine) Jennifer O'Toole		
10:45am-12:00noon	***BREAKOUT A-1*** Been There. Get That: The Secret Social Rules Every Aspie Needs to Know But No One Tells Us Jennifer O'Toole	***BREAKOUT A-2*** Parents Have Power! How to Help Your Child Develop Social and Communication Skills Dawn Hendricks, Ph.D.	
12:00noon-1:00pm	Lunch (Boxed lunches provided) – Resource Fair Open		
1:15pm-2:30pm	***BREAKOUT B-1*** See-Through Eggshells and Chalk on the Trampoline: Building Extraordinary People through Ordinary Stuff Jennifer O'Toole	***BREAKOUT B-2*** Using Positive Behavior Supports in the Home Justin Creech, PBSF	
2:45pm-4:00pm	Panel of Experts Individuals on the Spectrum		

A resource fair will be open throughout the day, featuring local service providers and organizations.

Annual Central Virginia Autism Conference Registration

Registration includes continental breakfast and boxed lunch. There are two registration options: 1) Register online at: https://ascvconference.eventbrite.com (fees apply) -OR-2) Complete this registration form (1 per person) and mail along with check payable to ASCV to: **ASCV Conference Registration** 200 South 3rd Street Richmond, VA 23219 For Planning Purposes Please Indicate Ticket Type (Choose One): Your Breakout Choices: ☐ Self Advocate \$5 □ A-1 OR □ A-2 ☐ Autism Society Central Virginia \$20 □B-1 OR □B-2 ☐ General Admission (Non ASCV Member) \$55 Tickets are non-refundable. First Name Last Name Email Street Address City State Zip Phone **Dietary Restrictions** How did you hear about this

Need more info? Email info@ascv.org or call 804-257-0192.

conference?



Since the 1970's, the Autism Society has been celebrating National Autism Awareness Month (NAAM) to highlight the growing need for concern and awareness about autism. The United States recognizes April as a special opportunity to educate the public about autism and issues within the autism community.

JOIN US AT A LOCAL CELEBRATION!

April 4 th – 9am	Ride 4 Autism Fundraiser for the ASCV Starting at Crater Road Walmart in Petersburg More info here - http://ascv.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/Ride-4-Autism-Autism-Society-Website2.pdf	
April 11 th – 2pm-5pm	Easter Egg Hunt – Benefitting the ASCV 3500 River Road, Hopewell, 23860 More info here - http://ascv.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/Easter-flyer.pdf	
April 12 th – All day	Autism Awareness Day – Kings Dominion Special discounted ticket promo code KDASCV, more info here http://ascv.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/KD-ASCV-2015-Flyer.pdf	
April 16 th – 6pm-9pm	TGI Fridays Bartender Flair Show – Benefitting the ASCV 13140 Rittenhouse Drive. Midlothian (off of Hull Street), more info http://ascv.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/TGI-Fridays.pdf	
April 18 th – 9am-4pm	Annual Central Virginia Autism Conference River Road UMC, 8800 River Road, Richmond More info and registration here - http://ascv.org/meetings-events/annual-central-virginia-autism-conference/	
April 19th – 3:00-6:00pm	Vineyard Vines Autism Awareness Event 9200 Stony Point Pkwy, 10% off merchandise, 10% of proceeds donated that evening	
April 25 th – 9am-2pm	Until the Pieces Fit Fundraiser for ASCV C.H. Middle School, 500 Conduit Road, Colonial Heights Over 50 vendors, face painting, balloon animals, etc. More info here - https://www.facebook.com/events/750263778393790/	

REGISTER NOW for our 13th Annual 5K Autism Run/Walk on May 23@ http://ascv.org/ascv-5k/register/

200 South 3rd Street Richmond, VA 23219 804.257.0192 info@ascv.org

CROSS BEARERS MOTORCYCLE MINISTRY 2015 THE YEAR OF "SUFFER THE LITTLE CHILDREN



Donation: \$20 per hike \$10 for each additional rider

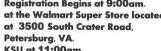


Cook-out following the ride for all participants at Eastside Enhancement Center 7801 Boydton Plank Road Petersburg, VA 28808

sponsors "Ride 4 Autism in support of

Commemorative pins for the first 100 registered rider

Registration Begins at 9:00am. at the Walmart Super Store located KSU at 11:00am





Autism Society Central Virginia

This is the inaugural event for what will become an annual effort by the Cross Bearers MM to Support the Autism Society Central Virginia. We extend a heartfelt thank you to all who come out to make this a successful undertaking and hope that we will earn your continued support. JOIN US AND "ROLLOUT" for a worthy cause

FOR INFORMATION:

Website: www.crossbearersmm.org (Pre-Registration and Contributions) Larry "PhuWatt" Watson....804-721-0772, President Joseph "Shogun" Parham...804-712-2011, Public Relations

MINISTRY MOTTO: For God we Ride, His Son by Our Side and the Holy Spirit as Our Guide.... Cross Bearers......ROLLOUT



SHOP & SUPPORT THE AUTISM SOCIETY CENTRAL VIRGINIA

Join event host Becky Boswell and take 10% off your purchase while vineyard vines gives 10% back to the Autism Society Central Virginia's continued efforts to be the local voice and resource in education, advocacy, service, and support in all aspects of life for individuals on the autism spectrum and their families. *

Sunday, April 19th • 3-6pm

vineyard vines - RICHMOND

9200 Stony Point Parkway • Richmond, VA • 804-272-2536

* Discount is valid for purchases made at the vineyard vines Richmond story on 4/19/15 from 4-7pm EST. 10% off all sales will be donated back to the Autism Society Central Virginia. Offer excludes gift cards and sunglasses. No price adjustments will be made to previous purchases. Purchases made with this offer are not eligible for future price adjustments. Cannot be combined with any other offer, vineyard vines reserves the right to change or cancel this promotion at any time. Use of this promotion constitutes acceptance of these terms and conditions, except where prohibited by law. Discount applies to merchandise only and not shipping & handling, taxes or packaging.



13140 Rittenhouse Drive, Midlothian, 23112 (off of Hull Street and 288)

Bartender Flair Show

benefitting

XAUTISM SOCIETY

Improving the Lives of All Affected by Autism Central Virginia

Thursday, April 16, 2015 6pm – 9pm

Raffles, Giveaways, and Fridays Finest Flair Show!

Contact Lisa Dean @ 804-387-1078 for info on how to donate items for the raffle or to purchase a seat or table





Autism Society Central Virginia

200 South 3rd Street Richmond, VA 23219 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 and is archived on our website. If you would like to place an advertisement, please email it to info@ascv.org or mail it to us at 200 South 3rd Street, Richmond, VA 23219. Deadline for entry is the 15th of each month.

Ad Rates: \$50.00 1/4 page \$75.00 1/2 page \$100 full 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.