

◊ *Into the Light* ◊

Volume 22 Issue 1 *Autism Society, Central Virginia* January 2014



From the Executive Director, Becky Boswell, MBA

Happy New Year!! What an exciting start to 2014 for myself and the Autism Society Central VA (ASCV)! I feel privileged to have been selected from many qualified candidates to serve as your Executive Director and I look forward to working with you as we strive to meet our 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.*** I am excited about the opportunity and potential of helping communicate the mission and resources of the ASCV to its existing members and to a new audience of potential members and business partners. I also look forward to investigating and securing new business partnerships and sources of funding and to establishing a development infrastructure to further advance our work in the community.

I have worked in, for, and with the autism community across the state of Virginia for the past 10 years. During that time I have come to have the greatest admiration and respect for the work being done for individuals with autism and their families by the staff, Board, and members of the ASCV. In my previous work, both at Commonwealth Autism Service (CAS) and the VCU Autism Center for Excellence (VCU-ACE), I often referred parents and family members to the ASCV staff, family support group activities, trainings and workshops, and library. It has always been my belief that contact with a family support group is one of the most important first steps for a family after hearing a diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder, and that the need for family support and education continues throughout the lifespan of individuals with ASD. It will be an honor to work alongside Bradford Hulcher, Tammy Burns, and the ASCV Board, members, and volunteers to insure that our efforts continue to match the ASCV Vision to be: ***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.***

Be sure to check out the many exciting activities we have planned in the coming months! And remember, it's never too early to start planning and recruiting your team members for our Annual 5K Run/Walk for Autism!! I look forward to seeing you at monthly meetings, workshops, and special events. Please take a minute to introduce yourself and your family!

All the Best, Becky

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.

2013 OFFICERS AND BOARD:

President: Bill Thompson

Treasurer: Adam Bailey, MBA

Meeting Secretary: Shawn Kirk

Corresponding Secretary: Tim Jones

Past President: Sandi Wiley

Board members: Chele Brandon
Norm Geller Ph.D.
Nate Harry CPA
Donna Sabel E. D.

KEY VOLUNTEER POSITIONS:

Newsletter Editor: Elizabeth Selko

Webmaster: Anthony Wiley

STAFF:

Executive Director: Becky Boswell

Program Director: Bradford Hulcher

Outreach Coordinator: Tammy Burns

Asperger's Interest Group Facilitator: Brie King

Childcare Supervisor: Deo Smith

JANUARY 10 AUTISM SOCIETY MEETING:

*Really Understanding the IEP:
"It isn't as tough as you think"*

IEP season will be here before you know it; it's never too early to review the rules of the road and your role in the process. Take the intimidation out of the IEP. Empower yourself, gain confidence and learn each step and the active role you can play throughout the IEP process.

Vicki Beatty will be our speaker. Vicki is a 2002 graduate of Partners in Policymaking and a 2011 graduate of Virginia LEND (Leadership Education in Neurological Disorders Program) at VCU. Vicki worked at the VCU Partnership for People with Disabilities for 11 years before forming Virginia Parent Advocates, LLC. Vicki is the parent of 2 children, one of whom has a disability.

Autism Society meetings take place at River Road United Methodist Church, 8800 River Road in Richmond. **Our meetings are free and open to the public.** The library opens at 6:30 p.m. and meetings begin promptly at 7 p.m. To ensure we have enough handouts, we ask that you register here: <https://ascviep.eventbrite.com>

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 February newsletter is January 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.

VA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION RELEASES FREE *IM DETERMINED* APPS

Check out the first of three free apps developed by the Department of Education which can be found on iTunes. The *One Pager* App features:

Step by Step Tool

- Enable students to communicate and identify strengths, preferences, interests, and needs

Icon and Photo Selection

- Reinforces and leverages use of visuals for assistive communication

Take Photo & Video

- Provide students alternative ways to express themselves

OnePager

- One sheet overview of students areas of strengths, preferences, interests, and needs

Teacher Dashboard

- Provide overview of students and access to individual students "OnePager"

The Goal Setting App should be live in January and the Good Day Plan App by early March.

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 December in the following ways:

Education

- Co-sponsored workshop on *Supporting Children on the Autism Spectrum through Grief and Loss* with Full Circle Family Grief Center
- Shared information with preschool families and staff at Shady Grove ES

Services and Supports

- Sponsored a Preschool Playgroup
- Sponsored a Tacky Light Bus Tour
- Sponsored 3 bowling events - for children, for teens, and for adults w/ ASD

Advocacy

- Met with individuals and families who are in need of a responsive crisis prevention intervention system for those living with developmental disabilities and challenging behaviors and mental health needs

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

Paid Advertisement

Thank You For The Following Donations

Betty Ann Flynn
W. B. Butterfield
Amy French
Sarah Wolfgang
Eric Schmutz

Jaequez Fuentes in honor of
Isaac Hannon

Nancy Sutherland in Memory of
Linda Freeman

Community Events/ Meetings of Interest

Jan. 3 **Special Nights for Special Needs** children with special needs age 10 and under @ the Children's Museum @ Central; adapted materials, special activities, a cool-down space and reduced number of visitors; free from 5:30 - 7:30

Jan. 6 **Hanover County Special Education Advisory Committee** topic: Transition Programming; 7 p.m. @ Hanover County School Board Office; open to the public

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

Jan. 8 **Chesterfield County Special Education Advisory Committee** topic: Division Perspective and Legislative Updates; open to the public; 5 p.m. @ the Fulghum Center

Jan. 21 **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

Jan. 28 **Henrico County Special Education Advisory Committee** topic: Transition; open to the public; 6:30 p. - 7:30 p.; Brookland Middle School Library

Conferences, Workshops,

Jan. 7 3:30 p.m. **Inclusion - Making the Marriage Work FREE** webcast All children are able to learn, just not in the same way. Autism is an information-processing difference that affects: communication, social interaction, sensory response, and learning and thinking. This presentations will discuss academic strategies for the classroom. Register @ <http://www.vcuautismcenter.org/training/webcasts/upcoming.cfm>

Jan. 14 noon **Early Intervention Advocacy Forum** Since 2007 there has been a 52% increase in the number of children needing early intervention services in Virginia. Unfortunately, funding has not kept pace with the growing demand for services and this has led to a budget shortfall in early intervention services. Join the Arc of VA for this free webcast to learn how to advocate for these vital services! Register here: <http://www.thearcofva.org/event/early-intervention-advocacy-forum/>

Jan. 17 **Richmond TACA** Speaker: Michael Payne, Ph.D. ; 7 p.m. ; <http://www.tacanow.org/local-chapters/northeast/virginia/richmond/>

Feb. 12/13 **Social, Behavioral, and Inclusion Strategies for the Student/Child with ASD FEE**; details & registration @ www.aepconnections.com/pdf/VA2014conference%20info-final.pdf

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

Thank You To The Following Volunteers

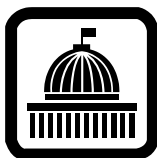
Nancy Andelin
Jillian Morrison
Liam Tuohy
Alex McAllister
Kennedy Goldsborough
Courtney Goldsborough
Brett Burns
Troy Burns
Audrey Watson
Jeremy Watson
Katherine Zink
Alexander Long
Anthony D'Orsaneo
Joseph Clifton
Ian Ragland
Joshua VanUtrecht
Haadia Khan (SPARKS VCU)
Mahreen Azam (SPARKS VCU)
Christiana Omland (SPARKS VCU)
Phill Williams (Pi Kappa Alpha VCU)
Sean Lee (Pi Kappa Alpha VCU)
Nassiam Elgourchal (Pi Kappa Alpha VCU)
Danyl Chung (Pi Kappa Alpha VCU)
Jackson Cantor (Pi Kappa Alpha VCU)
Shawn Kirk
Skills Development Center

AUTISM SOCIETY JANUARY CALENDAR

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

- | | | |
|------|--------|--|
| 1/7 | 7 p.m. | Board Meeting |
| 1/10 | 7 p.m. | Society Meeting: <i>Really Understanding the IEP: "It isn't as tough as you think "</i> Speaker: Vicki Beatty; register here: https://ascviep.eventbrite.com |
| 1/10 | | Asperger's Middle School Social Club Society members, register through eventbrite e-mail |
| 1/11 | noon | Preschool Play Group details and registration here: http://janpreschool.eventbrite.com |
| 1/11 | 1 p.m. | Inclusive Lego Club for children of all abilities in grades K - 8; details & RSVP @ http://janlego.eventbrite.com |
| 1/26 | | 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 and to register |
| 1/27 | 7 p.m. | Adults with Asperger's/HFA Interest Group (open only to adults w/ Asperger's/HFA) |
| 1/27 | 7 p.m. | Family Members of Adults with Asperger's Syndrome |



2014 GENERAL ASSEMBLY NEWS

As we are go to press, the Governor's budget is about to be released on December 16. Advocates will propose amendments to the Governor's budget during the General Assembly session which convenes January 8, 2014.

The Senate Finance Committee and House Appropriations Committee have announced the dates and locations of the Regional Budget Hearings. This is a very important advocacy event. The money committees hold these hearings to hear from the public about what the Commonwealth's budget priorities should be. **PLEASE ATTEND ONE OF THESE HEARINGS TO SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR IDD FUNDING!** In Richmond, the hearings begin at noon at the General Assembly Building, House Room D. (This is a great opportunity to take your kids to see how our system works!)

A Developmental Disabilities (DD) Advocacy Day will be held on January 22, organized by the Arc of VA with local and state DD organizations, such as the ACSV participating. Make plans now to visit your legislators to share your story and your needs. Not sure who your legislators are? Visit <http://conview.state.va.us/whosmy.nsf/VGAMain?openform> to find out. Then call their office, tell them you are a constituent, and ask for a meeting on January 22!

Autism Society, Central Virginia
P.O. Box 29364
Richmond, VA 23242-0364
(804) 257-0192

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

Address Service Requested