Into the Light

Volume 20 Issue 7 Autism Society , Central Virginia July 2012

AS-CV 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.

2011–2012 OFFICERS AND BOARD:

President: Sandi Wiley
Vice-President Fundraising: Pam Mines
Vice President Outreach: Tiffany Robertson
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Meeting Secretary: Bill Thompson
Corresponding Secretary: Marty Shields
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Norm Geller Ph.D.
Shawn Kirk
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Karen Singleton, M.D.

KEY VOLUNTEER POSITIONS:

Office Manager: Tammy Burns
Newsletter Editor: Elizabeth Selko
Webmaster: Anthony Wiley
Childcare Coordinator: Francesca Jones

STAFF:

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

Autism Society 2012 5K Run Walk for Autism Wrap-up

Our 10th Annual 5K Run/Walk for Autism, under the leadership of Committee Chair Donna Sabel, was once again a rousing success! 1,502 registered participants raised over $64,000 thus far! We are still receiving donations for the 5K and hope to have a final figure for the amount raised for our August newsletter.

Runners:
First place male runner was Brian Welch with a time of 16:39.
First place female runner was Pamela Lovett with a time of 20:07.

Team Recognitions
134 teams vied for special awards, including the following:

Largest Team:
SuperHeroes for Autism with 77 registered participants

Spirit Award, given in honor of the Run's founder, Dr. Don Mayfield:
Team L.A.A.W.

Top Fundraisers:

1 TEAM BFF	7693.48
2. Team bELIeve	6179.00
3. You, Me and Lil D	3885.00
4.SuperHeroes for Autism	3540.00
5. Make Tracks for Matt	2633.00

Top Individual Fundraisers:

1. Jennifer Barnum	5904.00
2. Holly Aldridge	3980.13
3. Dilshad Ali	3885.00
4. Heidi Dugent	2700.00
5. Elizabeth Allums	2300.00

Other Recognitions
We want to provide a special thanks to the following individuals and organizations who helped to make the day such a huge success:

(Continued on page 3)

SAVE THE DATE!!

AUGUST 31, 2012
AUTISM AWARENESS NIGHT AT THE DIAMOND
UP TO 200 FREE TICKETS FOR CHAPTER MEMBERS
FREE 5K RUN/WALK FOR AUTISM T-SHIRTS WHILE THEY LAST
CHAPTER MEMBERS WILL BE SENT AN EVENTBRITE TO RSVP

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 August newsletter is July 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.

Thank You for the Following Donations

Lee District of the GFWC of VA
Jesselle Christenson
William & Elizabeth Thompson
Karl Koenig
Mosaic Café
River's Edge Elementary School
Kevin Behrooz
Allyson Sladic
Brenda Fox
Nancy Andelin
Mary Elizabeth Hamlin in Honor of
John Faulders & Jim Shannon
Elizabeth Franklin in Memory of Elizabeth Fay Pillow
Dale, Victor and Laurie Moes in Memory of Mildred Plotnick
Heather Kirschner in Honor of Zak Kirschner's and Waverly Abell's 3rd Birthdays
Sandra Partridge in Honor of Eli Barnum

The following donations are in Memory of Walter Gardner
Sharon Tucker
Jane Cosler
David Hall

5K Run Walk for Autism Wrap-up

(Continued from page 1)

Team Leaders:
Karen Singleton - Race Committee
Pam Mines - Race Committee
Phillip Link
Anna Neese
Todd Domaleski
Tammy Burns

Alma Hughes for singing the National Anthem
Miss Virginia Essence: Jennifer Gray
Mrs. Virginia Essence: LaFonda Parham
Mrs. Classic Virginia Essence: Maria Beall
WRIC 8 and Amie McLain
Mainline Radio:

- 98.9 Liberty
- 93.1 the Wolf
- 107.3 Big Oldies

Kona Ice
Diamond Springs
Richmond Road Runners
Sons of Dominion Motorcycle Club
ALL of our WONDERFUL VOLUNTEERS
Innsbrook Foundation and the Markel Corporation

Mark your calendars for the 10th Annual 5K Run/Walk for Autism happening May 25, 2013!!

NEWS FROM THE AUTISM SOCIETY, CENTRAL VA BOARD

Board member Kelly Domaleski has been appointed interim Treasurer through early September.

The board welcomed Adam Bailey as a new board member. Adam lives in Glen Allen, is a graduate of Radford University and a CPA with Keiter. In his free time, Adam enjoys golf.

We worked to "improve the lives of all affected by autism" in June in the following activities:

Advocacy

- Attended the Fairness Hearing on the DOJ Settlement Agreement.
- Participated in the Region IV START (Systemic Therapeutic Assessment Respite and Treatment) Advisory Council, which will address the Crisis Stabilization portion of the settlement agreement. We raised concerns that individuals with developmental disabilities and children were not included thus far in the planning, as mandated by the agreement.
- Participated at the June TACCID (The Advisory Council for Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities) meeting where Commissioner Stewart presented an update on implementation of the Commonwealth's Settlement Agreement. We raised concerns that planning across many of the targeted areas, such as Crisis Stabilization and Employment First, included individuals with Intellectual Disabilities, but not Developmental Disabilities, as required by the agreement.
- Participated in the First Annual Statewide Steering Committee Meeting for Virginia START (Systemic Therapeutic Assessment Respite and Treatment).

Awareness

- Presented to Capitol One employees with Autism Society National VP for Programs, Jennifer Rapella.
- Board member Bill Thompson, along with his wife Betty, gave a presentation on the work of the chapter to Keystone Insurers Group.

Education

- Sponsored support groups for parents and individuals on the spectrum

Leisure

- Sponsored an Inclusive Lego Club

HEALTHY DRAMA
by The Arts Help

a drama/social skills program to help young people learn to express
their feelings, interact appropriately, have fun, and be successful!

June 15 - August 18 Saturdays
10 am - 1 pm (includes lunch) ages 12 - 16, $500
AND
2 - 4 pm, ages 7 - 11, $350
Contact Erin Mahone (804)869-9804 erinlmahone@gmail.com www.theartshelp.com

paid advertisement

AUTISM SOCIETY JULY CALENDAR

The Autism Society, Central VA will sponsor the following meetings in July. 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

July 21 1 p.m. **Inclusive Lego® Club** @ Glen Allen Library; open to children of all abilities grades K- 8

July 30 7 p.m. **Adults w/ Asperger's/High Functioning Autism Interest Group** *(open only to adults w/ AS/HFA)*

July 30 7 p.m. **Parents of Adults with Autism Interest Group**

Pooled Special Needs Trusts: Preserving Assets for People with Special Needs

A special needs trust is a tool that allows funds to be set aside for an individual with a disability to be used for supplemental needs that will improve, to the extent possible, the quality of life of the Beneficiary. Proper administration of a special needs trust ensures that the funds are available solely for the needs of the Beneficiary and can benefit an individual who needs assistance managing their finances.

Special consideration should be made for individuals receiving SSI and Medicaid benefits. In order to qualify for SSI and Medicaid, an individual cannot have more than $2,000 in cash assets. When an individual with a disability receives a sum of money from an inheritance, settlement due to an injury, social security back payment, monetary gift, or sale of an asset, those funds threaten the individual's eligibility for SSI and Medicaid benefits. However, funds that are placed in a special needs trust will not jeopardize these crucial benefits.

Estate planning attorneys, financial planners and case managers can give their perspectives on long-term financial planning that will best suit your particular situation. Once you are ready to establish a special needs trust, you must select a trustee. The trustee manages disbursements, invests the funds, reports to government agencies and keeps up with changing regulations. Because the regulations are complex and constantly changing, it is important to select a trustee that specializes in these types of trusts. One option is a pooled special needs trust, which is established and administered by a nonprofit organization. A separate account is established for each Beneficiary, but the funds are "pooled" to provide greater investment opportunities and lower administrative expenses.

Article submitted by Commonwealth Community Trust (CCT), a nonprofit organization established to provide effective, affordable administration of pooled special needs trusts. CCT does not require a minimum amount to fund a trust and has been chosen by more than 850 clients nationwide. For more information, call toll free at (888)241-6039, or visit: www.commonwealthcommunitytrust.org.

Conferences, Workshops, and Webcasts

July 2 **HealthyLittleChef Workshop** sponsored by Essential Pieces; @ Trinity Lutheran Church, 2315 N Parham Rd, 6 - 7 p.m.; join Greta Price as she teaches healthy options for children! Explore fun ways to eat and create foods that are healthy and meet the dietary needs of children. Pre-register @ 804-288-0122

July 7 **Informational Meeting on L'Arche** featuring the USA Regional Director; sponsored by Friends of L'Arche Central Virginia; learn about L'Arche, a global community of faith that builds homes for persons with intellectual disabilities and assistants who share their lives and how L'Arche might come to the Richmond area; free; 9 - 11 a.m.; St. Michael Catholic Church, 4491 Springfield Road / Glen Allen; for info: cherylemory@comcast.net or 804-747-4486

July 10 **Supporting Adults with ASD in the Workplace Using Behavior Supports** free webcast featuring Dr. Carol Schall; sponsored by VCU ACE; 3:30 - 4:30; archived for later viewing; a review of the PBS practices that assist individuals with ASD to become independent at work. Dr. Schall will discuss implementation considerations for use in the workplace and review future research recommendations. Finally, this webcast will include the presentation of case studies exemplifying the provision of PBS in a work setting.

July 10 **Visual Strategies Parents Can Use in the Home and Community** FREE! sponsored by Region 1 Parent Resource Centers; 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.at the Fulghum Center, 4003 Cogbill Road, Richmond 23234; come hear internationally respected experts Andy Bondy and Lori Frost discuss: how the use of PECS can help the entire family, how PECS can be integrated with reinforcement systems , how PECS relates to using visual schedules; to register: radiganct@vcu.edu

July 16 - 18 **Shining Stars** statewide conference will focus on evidence-based practices that connect the dots to quality early childhood practices, birth through 5; sponsored by VDOE, TTACs &DBHDS; FEE; VA Beach; for info: www.vcu.edu/ttac/

Community Events/ Meetings of Interest

July 3 **Project Success** for middle and high school students; sponsored by Easter Seals; movie @ 10 a.m. and pizza @ noon; fee; for info: sarah.hutchinson@eastersealsucp.com

July 9 **Project Success** for middle and high school students; sponsored by Easter Seals; Flying Squirrels game at noon; fee; for info: sarah.hutchinson@eastersealsucp.com

July 12 **Richmond Asperger's Meetup** the second Thursday from 7-9 pm@ River City Diner on Parham Rd.; a place where older children (age 11-17) can meet other Aspergers children and siblings/adults with Asperger's can meet together and/or share information with parents of kids with AS; RSVP at http://www.meetup.com/aspergers-397/

July 14 **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

July 17 **Project Success** for middle and high school students; sponsored by Easter Seals; Plaza Azteca @ 5 p.m.; fee; for info: sarah.hutchinson@eastersealsucp.com

July 17 **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/

July 17 **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; 11304 Midlothian Tnpk, Richmond; 897-5867

July 19 **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

July 23 **Project Success** for middle and high school students; sponsored by Easter Seals; Talent Show @ Twin Hickory Library; for info: sarah.hutchinson@eastersealsucp.com

July 26 **Richmond Asperger's Meetup** 6:30 pm@ Westover Hills Baptist Church; a place where older children (age 11- 17) can meet other Asperger's children and siblings/adults with Asperger's can meet together and/or share information with parents of kids with AS; RSVP at http://www.meetup.com/aspergers-397/

July 30 **Sensory Fun at CMOR!** sponsored by Essential Pieces; Join EP for a field trip to the Children's Museum; 1 - 3 p.m.; pre-registration for this event is required! First 20 registrants FREE. EP volunteers will be paired with each family to tour the museum and to guide your play. Please plan to meet in the lobby at 12:45pm. $7 per child. Scholarship opportunities for this event are available, please inquire. To register: 804-288-0122

July 31 **Project Success** for middle and high school students; sponsored by Easter Seals; bowling @ Shrader Lanes @ 2 p.m.; fee; for info: sarah.hutchinson@eastersealsucp.com

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

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