



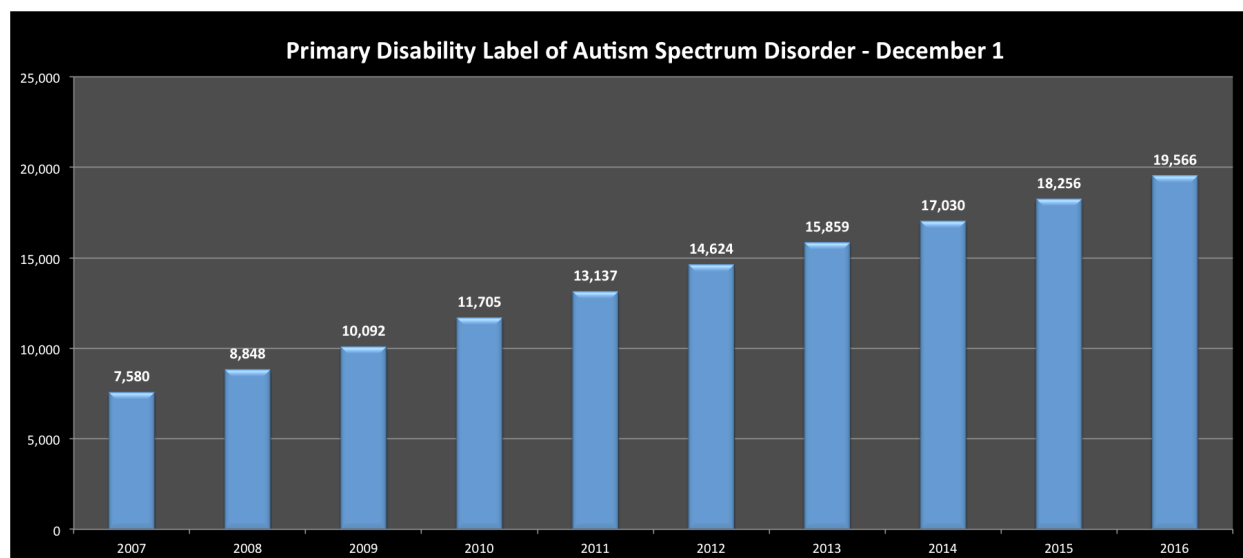
Into the Light

VDOE RELEASES DECEMBER 2016 CHILDCOUNT NUMBERS

According to the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE), as of December 1, 2016, over 19,500 students, ages 4-21, in public schools in Virginia were identified as having a primary IEP diagnosis of autism. The VDOE numbers do not include young children not yet identified, individuals in private schools, or adults on the autism spectrum. The breakdown for all VA school divisions can be found at http://bi.vita.virginia.gov/doe_bi/rdPage.aspx?rdReport=Main&subRptName=SpecialEducation

As the prevalence rate of autism has continued to increase over the past 10 years, so has the number of students with a primary diagnosis of autism in Virginia's public schools. According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the prevalence rate of autism was 1 in 150 individuals in 2007, and 10 years later it is reported that 1 in 68 children is on the autism spectrum, a 120% increase. Virginia public schools have seen an increase of 158% in autism prevalence from 2007-2017.

Theories vary on the cause for this increase in numbers, but what is known is that more and more individuals are living with autism today. Thus, there is an even greater need for appropriate services and supports in order for individuals to be able to lead independent and self-sustaining lives. The Autism Society Central VA continues to share this and similar information in an effort to educate all who live in our community about the need for increased services and supports so that all individuals living with autism can lead a life full of dignity, value, and respect.



ASD Incidence Trend in VA Schools, Source: December 1 Child Count, VDOE



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, and are 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!



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This newsletter is a publication of: Autism Society Central Virginia.
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(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 July/August newsletter is June 15th. 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 Board reserves the right to refuse to include any information, organization, business, or group where evidence-based practices are not evident. Ads for personal or organization fundraisers will not be accepted. 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

What do the Numbers Really Mean?

As mentioned in our front page article this month, according to the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) December 1, 2016 Childcount figures, over 19,500 students, ages 4-21, in public schools in Virginia are identified as having a primary IEP diagnosis of autism. Here's how that number breaks down in our local community:

Chesterfield	977
Hanover	316
Henrico	753
Richmond	346
Other Local Divisions (in ASCV Service Area)	409
Total	2801 students identified with ASD
(Source: Dec 1, 2016 Child Count, VDOE)	

ASCV data also reflects an increase in the need for services and supports and too many individuals on waiting lists for assessment/diagnosis, therapy services, and Medicaid waivers. As the number of individuals identified in our community continues to increase, so too does the need for increased advocacy, education, information and referral, support, and community. These are the 5 Core Services the ASCV provides to maintain and increase the quality of life for everyone affected by autism, which includes individuals on the spectrum, at any age and any stage, and all who support them. We are a small but mighty team dedicated to improving the lives of ALL living with autism in our community. We believe that each person with autism is deserving of a life in a community where they can pursue options to maximize their quality of life, and we continuously advocate for that goal.

Here are just a few recent numbers that are meaningful to us!

From January to April, 2017, the ASCV:

- Responded to over 800 requests for Information and Referral (inquiries by email and phone)
- Reached over 785 individuals in the community through exhibiting at community events
- Educated close to 400 family members and professionals at our monthly workshops
- Hosted Special Events for over 350 participants
- Offered social and recreational opportunities for more than 350 children, youth, and adults on the autism spectrum, and
- Provided \$4145.40 in scholarships to 19 individuals/families for ASCV membership, social and recreational activities, and educational enrichment.

If you attended any of these activities or programs, or participated with us in any way, we hope that you feel your time spent was meaningful and enjoyable!

All the best,

Becky

Becky Boswell, MBA
Executive Director
director@ascv.org



**Autism and Chesterfield First Responders
Community Connection Fair
Saturday, June 10th
9am-noon at Sycamore Square in Midlothian**

This fun, free, and educational community event is being hosted by the Autism Society Central VA to provide an opportunity for individuals with autism, and other intellectual and developmental disabilities, and their families to meet and interact with first responders in a positive and encouraging environment.

First responders, including Chesterfield Fire, Sheriff, Police, and K-9 Search and Rescue will be on hand at this event to meet and interact with those in attendance. They will also be offering activities that help educate community members about safety and how to respond in an emergency, including a “fire house” where families can practice what to do in the event of a fire, and information on Project Lifesaver, Child ID Kits, and Address Flagging in the Chesterfield County Database System.

Other fun activities families can enjoy at this community connection fair include: inflatables, carnival games, crafts, face painting, door prizes, and a visit from the Chic-fil-A Chester Fire Cow.

Please see the flyer in this newsletter for more information! We hope to see you there!



VCU-ACE Offers Free Online Course for Parents

VCU Autism Center for Excellence (VCU-ACE) has a free self-paced course available for parents and caregivers called The Parent Playbook. This course helps parents with parenting and caring for children with ASD, provides information on how autism is defined, and shares resources for supports and services throughout the lifespan. Parents will also learn about the Foundational Five evidence-based strategies that form the cornerstone of best practices!

Learn more here: https://vcuautismcenter.org/te/courses/parent_playbook.cfm



The ASCV Adults' Group Speaks Out!

At the April Adults with High-Functioning Autism/Asperger's Meeting, the topic of Autism Awareness was discussed. Those in attendance were asked to share what they wanted the community to know about them and others living with autism. Their responses were powerful and we are honored to share them below. At the May Adults' meeting, we hope to discuss getting these and other thoughts and ideas on video so that we can share them with our whole community!

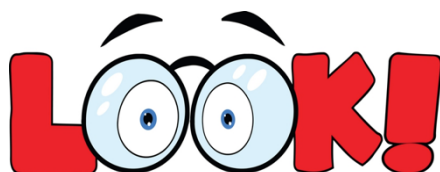
- You are just you and you should not be defined by a disability label.
- People with disabilities can work if the right supports are put in place.
- We want to be treated just like everyone else.
- I don't want to be cured.
- Autism does not define me, but it is a part of what makes me unique.
- Being on the spectrum makes it easier to think outside of the box.
- Don't insult my intelligence just because I have autism.
- Autistics enjoy doing things just like everyone else does.
- Autistics are able to have meaningful relationships with other people.
- Autistics are some of the best and most hardworking individuals.
- Just because it has not been done does not mean that I cannot do it.
- Autistics can make great athletes and great team players.

ASCV Scholarship Programs Apply Today!

The Autism Society Central Virginia (ASCV) is pleased to offer three types of scholarships for 2017. Qualifying households and/or individuals may apply for any or all of the following scholarships:

- **Recreational and Social Scholarship** – award of up to \$300 annually per individual on the autism spectrum
- **Education Enrichment Scholarship** – award of up to \$300 annually per household holding current ASCV membership
- **Membership Scholarship** – award of up to \$25 annually per household

More information on these scholarship opportunities can be found on our website at <http://ascv.org/about/recreational-scholarships/recreational-and-social-scholarship/>



NEWS FROM THE AUTISM SOCIETY CENTRAL VIRGINIA BOARD

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

Education

- Hosted *Teaching Individuals with ASD Skills for Building Relationships and Friendships*
- Presented an *Autism 101* workshop at Bon Air Juvenile Correction Center
- Hosted *A Home of Your Own: Housing Resources for People with Developmental Disabilities Services and Support* workshop

Services and Supports

- Sponsored a Sensory Friendly Movie in collaboration with the Byrd Theatre
- Sponsored an Inclusive Lego and Game Club
- Sponsored Adults with Asperger's Interest Group
- Sponsored bowling for children, youth, and adults with ASD
- Sponsored Asperger's/HFA Teen Social Club
- Sponsored Childcare for Monthly Program Meeting
- Sponsored Sibshops
- Hosted Spring Picnic and Family Fun Day

Advocacy

- Participated on VCU-ACE Region 1 Community Partners Group
- Attended VA Autism Council Meeting

Awareness

- Interviewed on VA This Morning news segment on WTVR6
- Interviewed on WWBT12 Noon News
- Interviewed on WRIC8 Noon News
- Hosted 15th Annual 5K Run/Walk for Autism

WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCES

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 06/08 | Disclosing Disability in the Workplace free webcast from VCU-RRTC; 2pm-2:45pm; register at http://vcurrtc.org/training/webcastDetails.cfm/392 |
| 06/13 | Inclusion: How Do We Make it Meaningful free webcast from VCU ACE; 3:30 pm; learn more and register https://vcuautismcenter.org/registration/webcast/step1.cfm?webcastID=397 |
| 06/22 | PEATC's 2017 Parent Institute free workshop; learn more and register https://www.eventbrite.com/e/peatcs-2017-parent-institute-tickets-31602963314 |
| 07/13 | Disclosing Disability in the Workplace free webcast from VCU-RRTC; 2pm-2:45pm; register at http://vcurrtc.org/training/webcastDetails.cfm/392 |
| 07/13-07/15 | 49th Annual Autism Society National Conference ; Milwaukee Wisconsin <i>Your Quality of Life Conference</i> . Learn more https://www.autism-society.org/get-involved/conference/ |

This June, 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.

06/01		Richmond Greek Festival , ASCV exhibiting; learn more at www.greekfestival.com
06/09	6:30pm	Understanding DD Waivers – Supports for Persons with Developmental Disabilities workshop; learn more and register at https://ddwaiverjune9.eventbrite.com/
06/10	9am	Autism and Chesterfield First Responders Community Connection Fair ; see flyer on page 11 of this newsletter
06/11		Bowling Event for children/youth/adults with ASD; free for ASCV members; check your email for Eventbrite invitation and registration
06/17	2pm	Sensory Friendly Movie at the Byrd Theatre, Carytown
06/19	1pm	Psychotropic Medications – A Review free workshop in partnership with Region IV REACH; learn more and register: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/psychotropic-medications-a-review-tickets-34210051184
06/24	10am	Inclusive Lego & Game Club – Downtown ; details and registration: https://maylegochester.eventbrite.com
06/24		ASCV Night at the Richmond Flying Squirrels , free for ASCV members; check your email for Eventbrite invitation and registration
06/26	6:30pm	Elderly or Disabled with Consumer Direction (EDCD) and Technology Assisted Waivers free workshop; learn more and register: https://cccpluswaiver.eventbrite.com/
06/26	7 pm	Adults with Asperger's/HFA Interest Group (open only to adults with Asperger's/HFA)

**AUTISM
SOCIETY
CENTRAL
VIRGINIA**

**JUNE
CALENDAR**

Connect with the ASCV Through Social Media



FOLLOW US ON
Instagram



JUNE COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES

(Dates provided as published by sponsoring organizations; contact organizations for confirmation)

- 06/02 **Jumpology** special needs night; see calendar at <http://www.jumpology.us/Pricing-Hours>
- 06/02 **Special Night for Special Needs** at Children's Museum Chesterfield; 5:30pm; <http://www.c-mor.org/events/special-nights> for more info
- 06/04 **Chuck E. Cheese's Sensory Sensitive Sunday** 9am-11am, 10430 Midlothian Turnpike, 23235; for more info contact 804-330-9865
- 06/05 **Sky Zone Special Needs Sensory Friendly Night** <http://www.skyzone.com/richmond>; for more info 804-379-2500
- 06/09 **Asperger's Support Group - Northside** meeting for adults with Asperger's / HFA and parents of children with this diagnosis; 7pm – 9pm at River City Diner, Parham Rd.
- 06/19 **Monkey Joe's Special Needs Night** from 5pm-7pm; kids ages 2-12 with special needs free; closed to public; siblings welcome \$5; info 897-5867
- 06/20 **Asperger's Support Group – West End / Northern Chesterfield** meeting for adults with Asperger's / HFA and parents of children with this diagnosis; 7pm – 9pm at Positive Vibe Café, 2825 Hathaway Road, Richmond
- 06/28 **Caminos Group** support group for Latino families with autism; meets at the Sacred Heart Center, 1400 Perry Street, Richmond, 23224 from 10am-12pm; RSVP at 804-646-0145

Now Enrolling *at*

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- ★ Low Staff Ratios
- ★ Individualized Instruction
- ★ Most Insurance Accepted

*Multiple locations in Richmond
Contact us for more info*

www.thefounderscenter.org
804-355-1011

Thank You To Our Volunteers

Mrs. White's Cosby High School Class
 Jesse Anderson
 Ryan DeRossett
 Turner August
 Katie Dunbar
 Kyle Schlue
 Thom Sommerville
 Bella Stephens
 Carolyn Mitchell
 Jenn Snyder
 Daniela Barrera
 Carleen Scott
 Joy Ochieng
 Sophie Rice
 Amber Burns
 Bianca Jenkins
 Courtney Harrison
 Alyssa White
 Alice Rother
 Michelle Redd

Rachel Rohrer
 Shanice Benn
 Bach to Rock
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 Stephen West
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 Allison Thurman
 Staci Carr
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 Peter de Groot
 Sandi Wiley
 Nancy Andelin
 Laurel Kovalchick
 Blake McLean
 Will Wieckmann
 Duncan Thurston
 Tien Comlegoglu
 Maybelle Singson
 Austin Matney

We would love to add your name to this list. We are always looking for individuals, 18 and older, who would like to get involved. Contact Tammy at outreach@ascv.org to find out how you can volunteer for the ASCV too!

**Thank You To All Of The Incredible Volunteers
 Who Helped Make The
 15th Annual 5K Run/Walk For Autism
 A Huge Success!!!**



Thank You For the Following Donations

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

MAW Chesterfield
Allison Millard
Laura Sirimongkhoun
Thomas Dale Autism Catchment Program
Larry Scarborough
Vineyard Vines
Karen Isik & Cuddle Up for a Cause
Michael Gobbi
Aja Wells
Paul McNamara
Gregory Workman
Mary Bess Bolin
Smithfield Foods
Courtney Stanton
Christine Rankin
Teresa Girard
Dana Chandonnet
Ashleigh Kennedy
Leslie Messick
Jamie Greene
Jeanne Sharkey
Cathy Whitley
Jason & Sarah Stephenson
Sarah Lynn Tracy
Eric Schmude
Mamie Mayo

*The following donations were made
in memory of Kim Tuyen Le:*

My-Hanh Pham
Thao Thi Tran
Hoang M. Nguyen
Tung T. Nguyen
Hanh Nguyen T. Nguyen
Van Hoa Nguyen
Hoa Quynh Tran
Khoa D. Tran
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Hoa Thinh Don Viet Bao, Inc.
Vinh Ha
Dinh Nguyen
Alex Nguyen
Andy Boettcher
Minh-Duc Le
Sue-Sue & Sy Luu
Anh Huy & Trang Khanh
Patricia Gladin

Thank You



Autism and Chesterfield First Responders Community Connection Fair

Individuals with autism and their families/caregivers are invited to this FREE event. Come out and meet and build relationships with Chesterfield County's Fire, Police, Sheriff and Rescue first responders!

Don't miss this fun and valuable event!

Date: Saturday, June 10, 2017
Time: 9am – noon
Location: Sycamore Square Shopping Center
 1220 Sycamore Square Drive
 Midlothian, VA 23113
 (in the parking lot near the old Martin's store)

For More Information:
 outreach@ascv.org
 804-257-0192

Chesterfield Fire & Life Safety House

First Responder Vehicles

K9 Search & Rescue

Fire Cow from Chick-fil-A Chester

Games

Face Painting

Project Lifesaver

Child ID Kits

Chesterfield Database Address
 Flagging Forms

And much, much more!!

**In
Partnership
With**





Evan Lamont Curbeam
Agency Owner

T: 804-732-6800
F: 804-895-6800

Serving Central Virginia

Call me for the protection you need and the service you want.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT



June 24th

**ASCV MEMBER NIGHT AT THE
RICHMOND FLYING SQUIRRELS**

ASCV members, check your e-mail this month for an Eventbrite invite for free tickets to the June 24th Flying Squirrels baseball game! The game starts at 6:05 pm, and is followed by fireworks for those who wish to stay. The Registration/Cancellation deadline is June 18th.

AQUATICS ARE FOR EVERYONE.

ESPECIALLY CHILDREN WITH AUTISM.

Our specially-designed *Autism Swims* program helps children with ASD feel confident in the water. And just as importantly, outside of it. Visit swimrichmond.org to learn more.



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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 Virginia. 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 Virginia 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
- Discounted workshops and conferences
- Free ASCV sponsored social/recreational activities

Membership Levels:

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

Name(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 amount

Payment information:

___ Check (made payable to **Autism Society Central Virginia**) ___ 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 ☐ refrigerator magnet ☐ no gift needed

New Members, how did you hear about the ASCV? ☐ family ☐ friend ☐ internet ☐ other _____

Please mail, email, or fax with payment to:

Autism Society Central Virginia
200 South 3rd Street
Richmond, VA 23219
outreach@ascv.org (email)
(804) 655-0484 (fax)

Autism Society Central Virginia

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Would you like to place an Ad in *"Into The Light"*?

Our newsletter reaches over 700+ 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 and payment is June 15th.

Ad Rates:

\$50.00 1/4 page (\$45 non profit)
\$75.00 1/2 page (\$68 non profit)
\$100 full page (\$90 non profit)

Long term ad discounts: 6-11 months 10% discount, 12 months or longer 15% discount

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