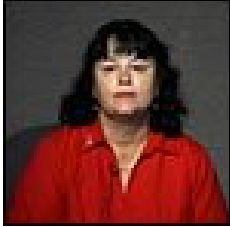


◊ *Into the Light* ◊

Volume 21 Issue 9 Autism Society , Central Virginia September 2013



NEWS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As the school year begins, I have exciting news to share with our membership and the local autism community! But first a little background information is in order.

In the Fall of 2012, the Autism Society Central VA was chosen as one of four non-profits to participate in a 9 month pilot program offered through the Partnership for Non-profit Excellence to identify what the ASCV should do to build capacity to better serve the local autism community. Following this process, our board and staff embarked upon 3 months of Strategic Planning over the summer to further drill down and identify areas for growth over the next 3 years. This was a very exciting process; the board and staff are excited to share the results of the planning in our October newsletter after the board votes on our 2013/2014 budget in September.

During this year long process, it became apparent to me that the role of Executive Director would require much more time devoted to administration and fund development and much less time focused on programs and advocacy. It is for this reason, effective around December 1, that I have decided to assume the new position of Director of Programming and step down from the position of Executive Director. My passion is in the programming and advocacy that the ASCV provides to children, youth, and adults with autism, their families, and our community; remaining in the position of ED would have moved me further away from the work that I love. The ASCV currently offers over 20 programs in the areas of information and referral, education, and recreation. We collaborate with many other agencies and organizations on workgroups and boards to impact public policy affecting individuals with autism and their families. This is the work that I absolutely love and where my focus will continue to be as Director of Programming around December 1!

The board of the ASCV plans to hire a new Executive Director with skills in non-profit management and fund development to begin around December 1. I'll have more news to share about new programs and events planned for the coming year in our October newsletter. Stay tuned!!

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.

2013 OFFICERS AND BOARD:

President: Bill Thompson

Treasurer: Adam Bailey, CPA

Meeting Secretary: Katherine Gray, J.D.

Corresponding Secretary: Tim Jones

Past President: Sandi Wiley

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Norm Geller Ph.D.
Nate Harry CPA
Shannon Haworth
Shawn Kirk
Donna Sabel E. D.
Monique Tinsley, MBA

KEY VOLUNTEER POSITIONS:

Newsletter Editor: Elizabeth Selko

Webmaster: Anthony Wiley

STAFF:

Executive Director: Bradford Hulcher

Outreach Coordinator: Tammy Burns

Asperger's Interest Group Facilitator: Brie King

Child care Supervisor: Deo Smith

SEPTEMBER 13 SOCIETY MEETING:

BUILDING COMMUNITY AND FRIENDSHIPS FOR STUDENTS

Developing community and friendships can be difficult for children with ASD. Learn how to support your child in the process, beginning with the important introduction, to identifying ways to build on your child's interests. Through story sharing and the experience of the presenters, participants will learn strategies to promote community for their child with ASD from early childhood through high school.

Our Executive Director, Bradford Hulcher has presented at the Arc of VA Convention, the I'm Determined Summit, the Strong Roots Conference, and other local and state conferences on lessons learned on this topic in her journey with her son Sam, who is now a young adult.

Tammy Burns, our Outreach Coordinator, will share her family's story and how they work to build community for her son Jared who is fifteen and entering high school this school year.

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: <http://communitysept.eventbrite.com/>

Thank You to the Following Volunteers

Shawn Kirk
Justin Ratliffe
Skills Development Center

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 October newsletter is September 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.

ATTENTION INDIVIDUALS ON ID OR DD WAITING LISTS!

APPLICATION PROCESS FOR INDIVIDUAL AND FAMILY SUPPORT FUNDING OPENS SEPT. 3

The Individual and Family Support Program (IFSP) is designed to assist individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities on the waiting list for the ID or DD Waiver (and their families) to access short-term person/family-centered resources, supports, and services up to \$3,000 per year.

Services and items that may be funded through the Individual and Family Support Program may include:

- Professionally provided services and supports, such as respite, transportation services, behavioral consultation, and behavior management;
- Assistive technology and home modifications, goods, or products that directly support the individual;
- Temporary rental assistance or deposits;
- Fees for summer camp and other recreation services;
- Temporary assistance with utilities or deposits;
- Dental or medical expenses of the individual;
- Family education, information, and training;
- Peer mentoring and family-to-family supports;
- Emergency assistance and crisis support; or
- Other direct support services as approved by Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS).

Individual and Family Support Program funds may be provided to individuals or family members in varying amounts, as requested and approved by DBHDS, up to the established annual maximum of \$3000.00 per individual per fiscal year.

For the Fiscal Year 2014 the funding cycle will start September 3, 2013. **Applications must be submitted via online web based application through DBHDS website or paper application through U.S. Mail.** An expanded directions guide has been created to assist people with filling out the application. **Applications will not be accepted via fax or e-mail.** For additional information concerning the IFSP please go to: www.dbhds.virginia.gov/ODS-default.htm

NEWS FROM THE AUTISM SOCIETY, CENTRAL VA BOARD

Finance, Board Development, Outreach, Marketing, and 5K Committees met in August to work on the budget for the upcoming year. The Board of the Autism Society had a final strategic planning meeting in August. We look forward to sharing the final plan with our community in September.

The Autism Society Central VA worked to fulfill our mission to "improve the lives of all affected by autism" in August in the following ways:

Education

- Participated in a Teacher Resource Fair and Panel in Chesterfield County
- Shared information with a local group of dads of special needs children

Services and Supports

- Sponsored an Inclusive Lego Club
- Sponsored an Interest Group for Adults with Asperger's
- Sponsored a Member Pool Party

Advocacy

- Participated in the Arc of VA Convention
- Participated in a Medicaid Waiver Network Meeting on Waiver Consumer Directed Services

VCU BROAD STREET MILE REGISTER TO BENEFIT THE AUTISM SOCIETY!

You'll notice on page eight an ad for the Saturday, September 28 VCU Broad Street Mile event. When you register and designate the Autism Society Central VA as your charity of choice, the Autism Society will receive a portion of the proceeds from your registration! As part of the festivities, we'll have a table with information to raise awareness about autism and the services and supports we offer the autism community.

To register for this event, visit <https://www.vcubroadstreetmile.com/> Please be sure to pick Autism Society Central VA from the drop down menu for the charity you would like to support when you register!

AUTISM SOCIETY SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

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

- | | | |
|------|--------|--|
| 9/10 | 7 p.m. | Board Meeting |
| 9/13 | 7 p.m. | Society Meeting: <i>Building Community and Friendships for Students w/ ASD</i> speakers - Tammy Burns & Bradford Hulcher; register here: https://communitysept.eventbrite.com/ |
| 9/13 | | Asperger's Middle School Social Club Society members, register through eventbrite e-mail |
| 9/14 | noon | Preschool Play Group details and registration here: https://septpreschool.eventbrite.com/ |
| 9/14 | 1 p.m. | Inclusive Lego Club for children of all abilities in grades K - 8; details & RSVP @ https://septlego.eventbrite.com/ |
| 9/22 | | 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 |
| 9/23 | 7 p.m. | Adults with Asperger's/HFA Interest Group (open only to adults w/ Asperger's/HFA) |
| 9/23 | 7 p.m. | Family Members of Adults with Asperger's Syndrome |

ASCV TO OFFER TWO NEW PROGRAMS

During strategic planning that took place with our board over the summer, we identified the need to expand the age ranges of individuals we are currently serving to include individuals who are outside of the "school aged" population we currently serve. We are excited to announce two new programs - one for adults on the spectrum and one for preschoolers on the spectrum.

Preschool Play Group

Beginning this month, we will offer a monthly Saturday play group for preschoolers on the spectrum at a local library. Preschoolers will have an opportunity to explore fun stations for 30 minutes under the facilitation of Brie King, CTRS and volunteers. Up to 10 preschool children can register for the play group. For additional information or to register, visit <https://septpreschool.eventbrite.com/>

Adult Bowling League

Currently, we offer two monthly bowling leagues for Society members - one for elementary school students and one for middle/high school students. Beginning this month, we will add a bowling league for adult Society members on the spectrum, meaning adults who have graduated or exited high school. For members participating in any of our bowling leagues, up to 2 free additional games a week and 20% off food and beverages are offered as league benefits. Autism Society members have been sent an eventbrite invitation for further information or to register.

Community Events/ Meetings of Interest

Sept. 3 **Special Needs Jump** at Jumpology 5 p - 7 p; fee and reservations required; all ages; <http://www.jumpology.us/>

Sept. 7 **Sensory Storytime** for children w/ ASD @ Gayton Library @ 10:30 a.m.; for ages 3-6; repeats on 9/14 & 9/21; for info: Erin @ 290-9636

Sept. 12 **Richmond Asperger's Meetup** 7 p.m.; River City Diner, Parham Rd; RSVP @ <http://www.meetup.com/aspergers-397/>

Sept. 14 **Buddy Break** a free respite care program for children with special needs ages 3-21 and their siblings ages 3-11; 10 a. - 1 p.; sponsored by Trinity Lutheran Church, 2315 N. Parham Rd., ; RSVP to 804-270-4626

Sept. 17 **Westend/Northern Chesterfield Asperger's**

Meetup @Positive Vibe Cafe, 6:30- 8:30; RSVP at <http://www.meetup.com/aspergers-397/>

Sept. 17 **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

Sept. 19 **Asperger's Support Meeting** meets 6:30 p.m. at Midlothian YMCA; 804-908-7246 or email RobinDavis@RichmondAutism.Org

Sept. 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; pre-registration required; contact bfrank.ResourceConnectioninc@gmail.com

Sept. 21 **Buddy Break** a free respite care program for children with special needs ages 3-21 and their siblings ages 3-11; 10 a. - 1 p.; sponsored by Southside Nazarene Church; 804-778-7800 ext. 247 or BuddyBreakSouthsideVA@gmail.com

Is Your Child On The ID, DD, or EDCD Waiver & Receiving Medicaid? Learn about Health Insurance Premium Programs (HIPP)

Are you aware that that the Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) offers programs that may allow you to maintain your child on your private insurance and pay all or part of your health insurance premium?

1. **HIPP For Kids** program is a premium assistance program that may be available to children under the age of 19 years of age who are eligible for Medicaid that pays their entire health insurance premium.
 - What makes me eligible for HIPP for Kids?
 - A household member must be eligible for Medicaid and be less than 19 years old
 - Must have/be able to get insurance through your employer
 - Health insurance must meet program criteria
 - Health Insurance Criteria - the insurance must provide comprehensive medical coverage and your employer must pay at least 40% of the total cost of the health insurance premium.
 - Is there a cost to enroll in HIPP for Kids? No
2. **HIPP** program is a premium assistance program that may be available to people with Medicaid that helps pay part or all of their health insurance premium.
 - What makes me eligible for HIPP?
 - A household member has to have Medicaid full coverage
 - Must have/ be able to get insurance coverage through your employer
 - Health insurance must meet program criteria, including cost effectiveness.
 - Cost Effectiveness Criteria means that it costs the Medicaid program less to pay for your health insurance costs than to directly pay for all your medical costs; this is done by comparing the average cost for your Medicaid eligible family member to the cost of your insurance premiums.
 - Is there a cost to enroll in HIPP? No

For additional information, visit

http://www.dmas.virginia.gov/Content_pgs/rcp-hipp.aspx

Conferences, Workshops, and Webcasts

Sept. 10 **Much Ado about DSM 5** an overview of the changes in the diagnostic criteria for ASD, according to the DSM-5, the meaning of these changes for school psychologists and individuals currently diagnosed under the former diagnostic criteria and the relevance these changes have in the lives of families and individuals with ASD from a person-centered point of view; free webinar from VCU ACE; Dr. Carol Schall; to register:

<http://www.vcuautismcenter.org/training/webcasts/upcoming.cfm>

Sept. 20 **Temple Grandin/Jed Baker Conference** sponsored by Future Horizons; fee; for info: <http://fhautism.com/attend-a-conference/virginia-sept-20/>; ASCV members contact us at asacv@aol.com for special member rate

Sept. 20/21 **Verbal Behavior Workshop - It's Just Good Teaching: Everything you wanted to know about Verbal Behavior but were afraid to ask** Verbal Behavior intervention packages that can get children talking, listening, engaging socially and most importantly, becoming active members in their communities; @ George Mason University; fee; for info and to register: <http://kihd.gmu.edu/events>

Oct. 8 **Standard Diploma Credit Accommodations for Students with Disabilities** free webinar from VCU ACE; to register:

<http://www.vcuautismcenter.org/training/webcasts/upcoming.cfm>

Oct. 16 **Autism Spectrum Disorder in Young Children** an overview of autism and tips for interacting with children and parents; Christine Holland w/ Commonwealth Autism Service; free; 6:30 p.m. Gayton Public Library

Oct. 18/19 **Insight 2013** Speaker Peter Gerhardt, Ed.D. will present sessions on youth with autism and transition and sexuality; sponsored by the Autism Society, VCU ACE, and VCU TTAC; <http://www.vcu.edu/ttac/>

Nov. 4/5 **PECS Level 1 Training: Basic** designed to teach participants the theory behind the Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS) and the protocols for how to appropriately implement the six phases of PECS; Richmond; \$395; for info: <http://www.pecsusa.com/listing.php>

Conferences, cont.

Nov. 16 **Life in the Community Conference and Resource Fair** keynote: "Belonging" with David Pitonyak, Ph.D.; additional sessions on Transition, Guardianship, Behavior, and Social Security; sponsored by the Autism Society, Down Syndrome Association of Greater Richmond, and Hanover Arc; free; register: <http://lifeinthecommunity.eventbrite.com/>

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



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VCUBROADSTREETMILE.COM

The VCU Broad Street Mile provides a turnkey fundraiser for local charitable organizations! Please support

Autism Society Central VA
and select our organization as your charity partner when you register at VCUBROADSTREETMILE.COM.

Thank You For The Following Donations

Mary Ann Wolfgang
Adam Bailey
Tim Jones
Monique Tinsley
Lady Stunnaz Old School Car Club
Hungary Creek Recreation Association
Sista2Sista VSU
Kimberly Barton
Brendan Moran
Paul Quel
Kelly and Russ Fender
Kenneth and Norma Westledge
Lindy, John and Adeline Wyatt

Robert Dunbar in Memory of
Wendy Wells Houston

Directions to ASCV meetings River Road United Methodist Church

From the East:

-64 West to Exit 181 Parham Road South
*Drive 2 miles till you reach a traffic light for River Road. Be in the left hand land and turn left onto the on ramp. At the stop sign turn right on to River Road
**Go approximately .2 miles and the church will be on your right.
Turn right onto Doverland Road. Turn right into the church parking lot. To the back left of the church is a door that says "office". Go into this door and meetings are held inside at the first door on your right.

From the West:

I-64 east to Exit 181 Parham Road South.
Follow all directions that are written above for coming from the east. *

From the North:

I-95 South to I64 west then follow the same directions as written above under the East.*

From the South:

I-95 North to 1150 Chippenham Parkway North. Go over the Willey Bridge crossing the James River. At the first light turn right on to the on ramp for River Road. At the stop sign turn right on to River Road. Follow directions above at the **

Autism Society, Central Virginia
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