

◊ *Into the Light* ◊

Volume 22 Issue 2 *Autism Society, Central Virginia* February 2014



May 24, 2014

Registration Opens: February 1, 2014

Get involved:

- Register to run/walk
- Form a team
- Begin a fundraising page
- Find a corporate sponsor for the 5K (sponsorship opportunities are available beginning at \$250. We need your help in helping secure sponsors for the 5K. Who do you know that you could ask?)
- Volunteer

All you need to do is go to www.ascv.org and get started today. Contact us at info@ascv.org if you have any questions or need any assistance.

New for 2014

- Chip Timing – Participants will have the option of choosing chip timing. Only those who are chip timed will have official times for the 5K recorded. Those who do not choose chip timing will not be included on official results, but can time themselves or see their own time on our clock at the finish line.
- Virtual Participants – Are you at the river or beach the weekend of the 5K? You can still be a part of the 5K! Register as a virtual participant and fundraise. You can even form a virtual team!

All funds raised from this event will provide much needed support for individuals with autism and their families in Central Virginia. **All funds raised here, stay here!**

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, CPA

Meeting Secretary: Katherine Gray, J.D.

Corresponding Secretary: Tim Jones

Past President: Sandi Wiley

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

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

Childcare Supervisor: Deo Smith

Thank You to Our Volunteers!

Katelin Nolan
Erin Moore
Aadarsh Nair
Margie Ann Gurganus
Jessica Adams
Ashley Graham
Chris Neilands
Maddy Landa
Jessica Gurganus
Sandi Wiley
Becky Early
Ryan Blumenschine
Courtnee Arrington
Ruthie Gilliland
Jennifer Davis
Jordyn Kent
Catherine-Melissa Fletcher
Caroline Smith
Skills Development Center
Shreya Shetty
Jessica Adkins
Keli Keener
William Hubbs (RVA Beard)
Emily Coman (RVA Beard)
Vera Reed (RVA Beard)
Alex Scott (RVA Beard)
Ashley Scott (RVA Beard)
Mike Mcilyar (RVA Beard)
Elizabeth Heaton (RVA Beard)
Jose DeJesus (RVA Beard)
Nicole DeJesus (RVA Beard)
Maxx Gerard (RVA Beard)
Amy Roberts (RVA Beard)
Stephen Brown (RVA Beard)
Noah DeJesus (RVA Beard)
Ethan Coman (RVA Beard)
Waleed Llyas (VCU SPARKS)
Niki Patel (VCU SPARKS)
Mahreen Azam (VCU SPARKS)
Georgia Galanopoulos (VCU SPARKS)
Eleanor Stickley
Denise Lee

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 March newsletter is February 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.



February 7 ASCV Workshop

What's APPening 2014?

Apple ® announced in December that App Store sales topped \$10 billion in 2013, including a record breaking \$1 billion in December alone, when App Store customers downloaded almost three billion apps. The App Store also reached one million live apps in December. With this many apps available, how is one to keep up? What factors should you look into before trying an app? What are some current apps that might support your family member on the Autism Spectrum? The presenters will show a variety of apps and discuss a process for consideration and implementation of iOS devices.

Mona Pruett is currently a Program Specialist with the VDOE's TTAC at VCU. She has been an occupational therapist for over 30 years providing direct service to infants and young children with multiple disabilities. Mona's primary areas of work include providing support to professionals, families and programs in the benefits and use of assistive technology (AT). She also supports individuals and programs in working with students with autism and intellectual disabilities with a focus on accessing curriculum and developing independence.

Sharon Jones is currently a Program Specialist with the VDOE's TTAC at VCU. Sharon's primary areas of work include providing support to professionals, families and programs in the benefits and use of assistive technology (AT) and developing AT services in educational programs. She also supports individuals and programs in working with children and adolescents with autism and their families. Other interests include infant intervention and early childhood special education with an emphasis on involving families in educational programs. As a program specialist at the Training and Technical Assistance Center, she provides consultation, training and long range planning to professionals working with students with disabilities and their families.

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://whatsappening.eventbrite.com>.

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 January in the following ways:

Education

- Provided a workshop on Medicaid Waivers to families and staff at St. Joseph's Villa
- Sponsored a workshop on *Really Understanding the IEP: It isn't as tough as you think*
- Participated on the bi-monthly meeting of the VA Autism Council
- Participated in a workgroup on including boys with autism with the Boy Scouts of America

Services and Supports

- Sponsored a Preschool Playgroup
- Sponsored an Inclusive Lego Club
- Sponsored an Asperger's Middle School Social Club
- Sponsored 3 bowling events - for children, for teens, and for adults w/ ASD
- Sponsored the Adults with Asperger's Interest Group
- Sponsored the Parents of Adults w/ Asperger's Interest Group

Advocacy

- Participated on the Region IV START Advisory Council
- Supported families in giving public comment on proposed changes to the autism programs at the Hanover County School Board meeting
- Participated on the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) Department of Justice Settlement Agreement Stakeholders' Group"
- Participated at the DD Advocacy Day at the General Assembly
- Attended the Arc of VA's Catalyst for Change Awards Dinner and Legislative Reception
- Participated in a VA Department of Education (VDOE) Special Education Advocacy Meeting

Awareness

- Exhibited at the Henrico County Public Schools Transition Fair

AUTISM SOCIETY FEBRUARY CALENDAR

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

- 2/4 7 p.m. **Board Meeting**
- 2/7 7 p.m. **Society Meeting: *What's APPening?*** Speakers: Mona Pruett & Sharon Jones, VCU TTAC; register here: <https://whatsappening.eventbrite.com>
- 2/7 **Asperger's Middle School Social Club**
Society members, register through eventbrite e-mail
- 2/8 11:30 p.m. **Preschool Play Group** details and registration here: <http://musicpreschool.eventbrite.com>
- 2/8 1 p.m. **Inclusive Lego Club** for children of all abilities in grades K - 8; details & RSVP @ <http://inclusivelego.eventbrite.com>
- 2/17 7 p.m. **Adults with Asperger's/HFA Interest Group** (open only to adults w/ Asperger's/HFA)
- 2/17 7 p.m. **Family Members of Adults with Asperger's Syndrome**
- 2/23 **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 time, location and to register

SAVE THE DATE - MARCH 7 !

7TH ANNUAL RECREATION RE- SOURCE FAIR!

Mark your calendars for this great event that the ASCV sponsors each year! You will have an opportunity to talk to over 30 representatives from organizations that sponsor social and/or recreation opportunities for children, youth and/or adults with autism spectrum disorder. Watch for additional information in your March newsletter or the weekly e-mail blast!

CHECK OUT OUR NEW AND IMPROVED WEBSITE!

Please take a moment to visit our website at www.ascv.org. Tammy Burns, Outreach Coordinator, has worked with a professional group over the past several months to come up with a new clean, crisp look. The ASCV website and our 5K website have been folded into one. You'll find tons of new photos from our events and the 5K. Ever wanted to know more about the board and staff of the ASCV? Visit the site to read their bios and see their pictures. Please check out the new site @ www.ascv.org and let us know what you think!

Community Events/ Meetings of Interest

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

Feb. 4 **Special Needs Jump** at Jumpology 5 p - 7 p; fee and reservations required; all ages; <http://www.jumpology.us/>

Feb. 11 **Richmond Special Education Advisory Committee** open to the public; 6 p - 8 p @ Holton Elementary School

Feb. 12 **Chesterfield County Special Education Advisory Committee** topic: Transition Outcomes; open to the public; 5 p.m. @ the Fulghum Center

Feb. 18 **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

Feb. 25 **Henrico County Special Education Advisory Committee** topic: Resource Fair; open to the public; 6:30 p. - 8:30 p.; Longdale Elementary School

Feb. 26 **Henrico County Public Schools Transition Fair** @ Tucker High School; 5 p. -7 p.; open to the public

A SPECIAL THANKS TO AN OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER: ANTHONY WILEY

The Autism Society, Central VA could not have accomplished all we have for children, youth, and adults with autism and their families were it not for the generosity of our amazing volunteers. Up until mid-2013, the ASCV was run by one full time staff person and many dedicated volunteers.

One such volunteer is Anthony Wiley who has maintained our website with hundreds of hours donated to the design and updating of the site over the last several years. As we make the change to our new website, we want to recognize the gift of time and talent that Anthony has contributed to the ASCV and our community!



Autastic Avenues

Our mission is to meet the social/emotional, educational and community needs of children and their families through effective education, training, and treatment programs.

We offer services for children to include social skills groups, executive function homework coaching, speech therapy, tutoring, consulting, and more. Children of all ages are welcome, preschool to young adult. We also offer staff development and presentations

Robin McCallister and Tracy Scott
E-mail: autasticavenues@gmail.com
www.autasticavenues.com
Find us on Facebook!
Contact us! We can help!!

Conferences, Workshops, and Webcasts

Feb. 11 **Inclusion - Making the Marriage Work, Part 2** FREE strategies for the unstructured time within the school day, environmental supports, social supports, and communication supports. Dr. Barbara Webb will also discuss strategies for managing behavioral challenges. Register @ <http://www.vcuautismcenter.org/training/webcasts/upcomin g.cfm>

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 For The Following Donations

Betty Ann Flynn
Eric Schmude
Vivian Bradshaw
Garland and Agnes Taylor Gray Foundation
Hazel Stewart
The Friendship Group, c/o Sandra Flemming
Jennifer Driscoll
Amy French
Brendan Moran
Joseph Tregaskes DMD MS Inc
Harman, Claytor, Corrigan & Wellman, P.C.
Jesselle Christenson
Virginia Department of Education Office of
Special Education Program Improvement
Kimberly McCaulley
Mark Lewis in Memory of Sharon Utz
Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Walker in Honor of
Eli Barnum

The Following Donations Were Made in Memory of Marienae Carolucci

Phyllis Sato
Judy and Ron DaPrano
Executive Alliance of Richmond
MFO Mastermind Group of Lisa and Chris Joseph
Douglass Kirby
Martha Magnan
Re/Max Commonwealth (Friends and Coworkers
of Elizabeth Joseph)
Edith White

The Following Donations Were Made in Memory of Anthony Wayne Whittaker

Ludwig Preinesberger
Janet Lester

AUTISM SOCIETY WISH LIST

Looking for a way to help our community? We have a need for the following items:

- Wii Games
- 4 Wii controllers

Please contact Tammy at outeach@ascv.org or 804-257-0192 if you wish to donate these items!

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 lane 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 **



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 VA. 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 VA 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
- Access to ASCV lending library
- Free ASCV sponsored social/recreational activities; discounted workshops

Membership Levels:

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

Names(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 amt.

Payment information:

Check (made payable to **Autism Society**) Visa Mastercard

Name on card: _____ Expiration: _____

Card #: _____

CVV# (security code on back of card) _____ **or join online at www.ascv.org**

Signature: _____

Please mail or fax w/ payment to:
Autism Society, Central VA
P.O. Box 29364
Richmond, VA 23242
(804) 290-0286 (fax)

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



RAIN After School



Autism After School and Virginia's Public Schools

- There are currently 14,624 students identified on the Autism Spectrum in Virginia's public schools.
- Most of these students do not have an after school program that meets their specific needs.
- Many will age out of traditional daycare with nowhere to go.

What is Autism?

Autism is a developmental disorder that effects the brain's development of social and communication skills. It is contained within a spectrum and classified by a varying set of behaviors that effect each person differently. There is no known cause.

For more information, contact:

RAIN
1121 Gaskins Rd.
Richmond, VA. 23238
804-754-0000

"The reason I like coming? Simple, the people here just get me."

- Peter, High School Student

RAIN After School—"One of A Kind"

RAIN After School, scheduled to open January 6, 2014, is one of a kind in the state of Virginia. Currently there are no other after school programs designed specifically for children on the Autism Spectrum for after school activities that also include their "neuro-typical" peers. Modeled after our successful summer camp, Camp Free2BMe, RAIN's after school program model is a scaled down version of camp using a peer to peer approach.

Purpose of Peer to Peer

The peer to peer support program provides many opportunities for general education students, as well as the students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Students learn to relate to people with different needs & develop an increased understanding of individual differences. Student responsibility is also encouraged.

Peer mentors will be matched with a student with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and asked to assist them during their after school time with socialization and independence skills. We are not asking kids to stop being kids or stop spending time with their peer group, we are asking them to



Register now for RVAAccess, an exciting new program bringing soccer to children with special needs!

Open to boys and girls ages 4-19, fall and spring sessions at Hensley Park (Midlothian) and The Collegiate School (West End) are healthy, informative and FUN!

Each session is tailored to the individuals' needs ranging from fun activities to small sided games. Paired with Buddies and using an assortment of large and small soccer balls, hula hoops, cones and games, athletes learn soccer skills in a fun and supportive group environment.

Through the generous support of private donors, RVAAccess is a COST-FREE program!

Register now at RichmondKickers.com or contact Carter Blair at 804-644-5425 x 311 or cblair@richmondkickers.com.

RVAAccess



soccer through love & support



Register Now!
RICHMONDKICKERS.COM