



# *Into the Light*

## **APRIL IS NATIONAL AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH : BECOME A MEMBER OF AUTISM SOCIETY CENTRAL VIRGINIA TODAY!**

I joined the Autism Society Central VA (ASCV) almost 20 years ago when my son, Sam, was first diagnosed with autism. The incidence of autism was about 3 in 10,000. The Society was composed of about 8 - 10 parents and one grandparent and met at Children's Hospital. The chapter library was state of the art! We had the latest and greatest from TEACCH and Lovaas; the entire library fit in one small box! There were no paid staff, just a very small group of dedicated parents looking to support each other.

Today the incidence of autism is 1 in 88. The Society has 2 full time and 2 part time staff; holds monthly meetings drawing more than 100 folks at many events; has a lending library of over 600 materials; has a newsletter circulation of over 700 recipients; responds to several hundred I & R calls and e-mails each month; holds weekly social opportunities for children, youth, and adults with ASD; serves on several local and state work groups and advisory councils; and holds an annual 5K Walk/Run for Autism.

The most important benefit of involvement in the Autism Society has not changed - networking and learning from parents and individuals on the spectrum who are walking a similar journey! For my family, membership in the Autism Society is priceless for that simple reason!

Household membership in the Autism Society Central VA is \$25 a year; for just over \$2 a month, you'll receive the following benefits in just April and May (with many more throughout the year!):

- FREE monthly bowling for children, youth, or adults with ASD
- Monthly Newsletter
- FREE tickets to a Flying Squirrels game
- FREE tickets to a Richmond Kickers game
- FREE picnic with lunch, moon bounces, and games
- Access to lending library of over 600 materials
- FREE gift (bumper or fridge magnet or lapel pin)

Please join the ASCV this month and become a part of our growing and caring community. Learn more about membership here: <http://ascv.org/membership/>

*Bradford Hulcher*  
*Program Director*



## 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.

## Donate

Your gift will help support autism education, awareness, advocacy and most importantly, enable us to assist families and individuals living with autism. You can help by making a donation today!

## 2014 OFFICERS

President: Bill Thompson

Treasurer: Adam Bailey, CPA

Meeting Secretary: Shawn Kirk

Corresponding Secretary: Tim Jones

Past President: Sandi Wiley

## 2014 BOARD MEMBERS

Chele Brandon

Norm Geller, Ph.D.

Nate Harry, CPA

Donna Sabel, Ed.D.

Katherine Gray, Esq.

Mary Bess Bolin

## STAFF

Executive Director: Becky Boswell, MBA

Program Director: Bradford Hulcher

Outreach Coordinator: Tammy Burns

Recreational Therapist: Brie King

Childcare Supervisor: Deo Smith

This newsletter is a publication of: Autism Society, Central Virginia.  
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 May newsletter is April 15. You may send your contributions to the above address or email contributions to [info@ascv.org](mailto: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 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

Have you heard? It's April ... and that means it is National Autism Awareness Month! The Autism Society Central VA (ASCV) is excited to have been invited to participate in many awareness events this month, several of which are fundraisers designed just to benefit our families! I want to thank the members who have approached us with these ideas and other ways to promote autism awareness and raise funds for the ASCV in April. We are excited to be sharing information at Vineyard Vines, Moe's Southwest Grill, Kings Dominion, and at a large vendor fair in Colonial Heights, among other places! Please take a close look at the newsletter for details on when and where we will be all month and plan to join us at these events!!

I also want to remind you that autism awareness doesn't only happen in April. We hope you will help us share information about the resources and social and educational opportunities the ASCV provides for individuals with autism and families year-round!! Here are just a few ways you can help –

- Share our newsletter with others.
- Forward our weekly E-Blasts to anyone you think might be interested in the activities we offer, and encourage them to become a member!
- Ask your employer if they match contributions and designate the ASCV as the recipient of your donations.
- Contact me if you hear of organizations or companies that are looking for community partners! I am always happy to share about the many opportunities we have for volunteers and the numerous ways the ASCV can put donations to great use for individuals with autism and families.

I am looking forward to seeing you out in the community in April, at our Annual Picnic on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, and at the ASCV 5K Run/Walk on May 24<sup>th</sup>!! I have already started gathering members and donations for my team, Becky's Buddies, and I hope you are gearing up for this year's event too!! It looks to be our biggest 5K yet!! Please let me know how you plan to spread awareness this April – I'd love to hear from you!

All the Best, Becky  
[director@ascv.org](mailto:director@ascv.org)



## NEWS FROM THE AUTISM SOCIETY CENTRAL VIRGINIA BOARD

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

### **Education**

- Presented a Medicaid Waiver Workshop for Henrico County Parent Resource Center
- Presented a Medicaid Waiver Workshop for St. Joseph's Villa

### **Services and Supports**

- Sponsored a Recreation Resource Fair
- 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
- Sponsored a bookstore @ Commonwealth Autism Service Annual Conference

### **Advocacy**

- Participated on the Developmental Disability Coalition
- Participated on the DBHDS Waiver Redesign Subcommittee on Eligibility
- Participated on the VA Autism Council
- Participated on the Boy Scout Work Group on Autism

### **Awareness**

- Exhibited at the Henrico County Public Schools Transition Fair
- Exhibited at John Tyler Community College
- Exhibited at the REELABILITIES FILM FESTIVAL

## **ASCV MEMBERS - SAVE THE DATES!**

Members, please watch for Eventbrite invitations in your e-mail to register for these FREE events!

### **Autism Awareness Night with the Richmond Kickers**

April 19, 5 p.m., City Stadium

Up to 100 free tickets for ASCV Members

### **Annual Autism Society Member Picnic @ Roslyn**

Saturday, May 3

Moon bounces, games, food, free for ASCV members!

### **Autism Awareness Night at the Diamond with the Richmond Squirrels**

Saturday, May 10, 6:05 game

Up to 200 free tickets for ASCV members

Fireworks after the game for those who would like to stay

ASCV Info Table on the concourse

In April, 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](mailto:info@ascv.org).

4/1	7 pm	<b>Board Meeting</b>
4/4	7 pm	<b>Society Meeting: <i>Getting to Yes</i></b> details and registration @ <a href="https://getting2yes.eventbrite.com">https://getting2yes.eventbrite.com</a>
4/4		<b>Asperger's Middle School Social Club</b> Society members, register through Eventbrite e-mail
4/6	4 - 7 pm	<b>Vineyard Vines Autism Awareness Event</b> @ Stony Point Fashion Park; 10% of sales go to ASCV
4/11	5 - 8:30 pm	<b>Moe's Share Night Village Shopping Center</b> 7011 Three Chopt Road RVA <b>must bring coupon on page 8</b>
4/12	10 am - 3 pm	<b>Until the Pieces Fit Vendor and Awareness Event</b> @ Colonial Heights Middle School; to benefit ASCV
4/12	11:30 am	<b>Preschool Play Group</b> details and registration @ <a href="http://asdpreschool.eventbrite.com">http://asdpreschool.eventbrite.com</a>
4/12	12:30 pm	<b>Inclusive Lego Club</b> for children of all abilities in grades K - 8; details & RSVP @ <a href="http://inclusivelegoapril.eventbrite.com">http://inclusivelegoapril.eventbrite.com</a>
4/13		<b>Autism Awareness Day @ King's Dominion</b>
4/19		<b>Autism Awareness Day @ Richmond Kickers</b> free tickets for ASCV members
4/24		<b>Medicaid Waiver Workshop @ Dominion School</b> for Autism ; register @ <a href="http://medicaidwaiversva.eventbrite.com">http://medicaidwaiversva.eventbrite.com</a>
4/27		<b>Bowling League for Elementary School Students</b> <b>Bowling League for Middle/High School Students</b> <b>Bowling League for Adults on the Spectrum</b> Free for Autism Society members; see e-mail invitation for time, location and to register
4/28	7 pm	<b>Adults with Asperger's/HFA Interest Group</b> (open only to adults w/ Asperger's/HFA)
4/28	7 pm	<b>Family Members of Adults with Asperger's Syndrome</b>

**AUTISM  
SOCIETY  
CENTRAL  
VIRGINIA**

**APRIL  
CALENDAR**



# April 4 Society Meeting

## Getting to Yes:

### **Parental / Student Rights & the School Division's Obligations in the Special Education Process**

This presentation will focus on what the state and federal special education laws and regulations require from school divisions during the special education processes and what rights the parent and the student have with regard to those requirements. Specific areas to be covered include prior written notice (PWN), parental consent (including what happens if a parent agrees with only portions of a proposed IEP, or if the parent refuses to sign the newly proposed IEP or eligibility document, independent educational evaluations (IEE), progress measurement of annual IEP goals, and dispute resolution options (early resolution procedures, mediation, complaints, due process). The presentation will also explore how parents and students can build effective partnerships between themselves and the individuals involved in the special education process to ensure that the student receives a free appropriate public education (FAPE). There will be ample time for participants to ask general questions related to the special education process and the presenter will also remain available after the presentation time to answer any student specific questions in a more confidential environment.

"Hank" Millward is currently employed by the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) as the Coordinator of Complaints and Family Involvement. His duties include providing technical assistance and training on the federal and state special education laws and regulations to the citizens and school divisions. Mr. Millward is also responsible for investigating complaints filed by parents alleging that their school division failed to comply with some aspect of these laws and regulations. Additionally, Mr. Millward has been charged with the oversight of all of VDOE's activities related to family involvement.

Prior to coming to the VDOE, Mr. Millward held various positions, most notably as a special education teacher, special education director, Assistant Principal and Principal. He is a sibling, a parent, and a grandparent of individuals with a disability. He most enjoys working with students who have emotional disabilities and/or behavioral disorders.

The meeting, held at River Road UMC, 8800 River Rd, RVA from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., is free and open to the public but registration is required: <http://getting2yes.eventbrite.com>

The Skills Development Center is looking to hire a part time employee to work with adults with autism Monday through Friday. (No evenings or weekends) Experience with ABA strategies and other disabilities are preferred. Employee will work under the direct supervision of the Program Director. If you are interested, send your resume to [sdinfo@thesdc.org](mailto:sdinfo@thesdc.org). For more information, please visit our website at [www.theSDC.org](http://www.theSDC.org).



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## Community Events / Meetings of Interest

- April 1      **Special Needs Jump** at Jumpology 5 p - 7 p; fee and reservations required; all ages;  
<http://www.jumpology.us/>
- April 4      **Special Nights for Special Needs** children with special needs age 10 and under  
 @ the Children' Museum @ Central; adapted materials, special activities, a cool-down  
 space and reduced number of visitors; free from 5:30 - 7:30
- April 8      **Richmond Special Education Advisory Committee** meets at Holton Elementary  
 from 6 p. - 8 p.; open to the public
- April 9      **Chesterfield County Special Education Advisory Committee** topic: Autism Services;  
 open to the public; 5 p.m. @ the Fulghum Center
- April 15     **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
- April 22     **Henrico County Special Education Advisory Committee** topic: *HCPS Resources and  
 Presentation of the Special Education Annual Plan*; open to the public; 6:30 p. - 8:30 p.;  
 Brookland Middle School

## Elizabeth Selko, Volunteer Extraordinaire!!

Elizabeth Selko is "retiring" from her position as our volunteer newsletter editor. Elizabeth, a past Board President of the Autism Society Central VA, has served as our volunteer newsletter editor for the past decade. Each and every month, Elizabeth has faithfully formatted the newsletter, picked it up from the printer, prepared it for bulk mailing, and delivered it to the post office. We cannot thank Elizabeth enough for her many hours of dedicated volunteer service to our community!



**LOOKING FOR IDEAS TO RAISE AUTISM AWARENESS DURING APRIL?**

CHECK OUT THE IDEAS IN OUR MARCH 2014 NEWSLETTER HERE:

<http://ascv.org/resources/ascv-monthly-newsletter/>

**SEND US YOUR PICTURES OF YOU AND YOUR FAMILY AT OUR APRIL ASCV EVENTS OR  
 CELEBRATING NATIONAL AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH,  
 AND WE MAY USE THEM IN NEXT MONTH'S NEWSLETTER!!!**

# APRIL FUNDRAISERS FOR THE AUTISM SOCIETY CENTRAL VIRGINIA

Meet ASCV Board Member and Moe's Employee, Shawn Kirk, @ this event!

**YOU MUST BRING THIS  
COUPON WITH YOU!**



**Let Moe Help Your Group Make  
Mo' Money!**

Just **bring** this flyer with you and  
when you place your order,

**15 % of your purchase will go to  
your organization.**

**Offer Good 5:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.**

**Autism Society Central Virginia**

**Friday April 11th, 2014**

Gluten-free options available!

**Offer good on the date and times specified  
above at the Moe's located at Village  
Shopping Center 7011 Three Chopt Road •  
Richmond, VA**

15% donation is based on pretax totals of orders purchased with  
the presentation of this card.  
©2013, Moe's Southwest Grill, Inc.

**AUTISM AWARENESS EVENT  
TO BENEFIT THE  
AUTISM SOCIETY CENTRAL VA**

**SUNDAY, APRIL 6, 4 P.M. - 7 P.M.  
10 % OF SALES TO BENEFIT THE ASCV**



**vineyard vines®**

**@ STONY POINT FASHION PARK**

**Until the Pieces Fit**  
Fundraiser for: **AUTISM SOCIETY**  
Improving the Lives of All Affected by Autism  
Central Virginia

**Where: C.H. Middle School  
Parking Lot**

**500 Conduit Road Colonial Heights**

**When: Saturday, April 12  
10:00am – 3:00pm**

**(\*Rain Date Sunday, April 13, 2014 from 12pm to 5pm)**

**Over 50 Vendors**

**Homemade Crafts Face Painting  
Direct Sales Balloon Animals  
Food Fun Free Admission**

**Presented By:  
Queen B Events and Karen Isik**



# Autism Awareness Day at Kings Dominion



**Sunday, April 13, 2014**

## **DISCOUNTED TICKETS**

Online savings available on single day admission tickets.

\$34.00 tickets

Ages 3 and up

Children 2 and under FREE

Purchase Your Tickets Online TODAY!

To order your tickets for Kings Dominion just go to [www.kingsdominion.com](http://www.kingsdominion.com) and in the top right corner put in the promo code:

**KDASCV**

This day at the park includes:

- GLUTEN FREE FOOD OPTIONS
  - QUIET AREAS
- SPECIAL BOARDING PASS PROGRAM FOR INDIVIDUALS
- WITH AUTISM AND THEIR FAMILIES (<https://www.kingsdominion.com/plan-a-visit/tips-for-guests-with-autism-spectrum-disorder>)
- AUTISM SOCIETY CENTRAL VIRGINIA EXHIBIT UNDER THE EIFFEL TOWER  
RAISING AWARENESS AND ACCEPTANCE



**May 24, 2014 at 8:00 am**

All funds raised from this event will provide much needed support to individuals with autism and their families in Central Virginia.

Funds raised here, stay here!



**MAKE SURE TO REGISTER, JOIN A TEAM,  
AND/OR START A FUNDRAISING PAGE  
[WWW.ASCV.ORG/ASCV-5K/REGISTER](http://WWW.ASCV.ORG/ASCV-5K/REGISTER)**

#### Conferences, Workshops, and Webcasts

April 8 **Understanding Challenging Behavior and the Need for Social Skills Training**  
free webcast from VCU ACE; details and registration @  
<http://www.vcuautismcenter.org/training/webcasts/details.cfm?webcastID=269>

For additional information on autism conferences and workshops in VA, visit [www.autismtrainingva.org](http://www.autismtrainingva.org)

#### Vocational Rehabilitation: Categories 1 & 2 now open

The Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services has opened another category under its Order of Selection. An Order of Selection is put into place when there are insufficient funds to serve all eligible individuals. Over the last year, only Category 1, individuals with the most significant disabilities, have been served. Category 2 opened as of February 14 and eligible individuals are moving off the waiting list. Spread the word!

## Thank You To The Following Volunteers

*Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in.*

*~Author Unknown*

Rebecca Early  
 Sandi Wiley  
 Denise Lee  
 Eleanor Stickley  
 Nancy Andelin  
 Katie Collins  
 Keli Keener  
 Jennifer Fjelstead (VCU SPARKS)  
 Georgia Galanopoulous (VCU SPARKS)  
 Colin Gibson (Pi Kappa Alpha)  
 Phil Williams (Pi Kappa Alpha)  
 Sean Lee (Pi Kappa Alpha)  
 Ryan Suyama (Pi Kappa Alpha)  
 Jeff Caesar (Pi Kappa Alpha)  
 Alex Waller (Pi Kappa Alpha)  
 Alex Satoski (Pi Kappa Alpha)  
 Ben Merrit (Pi Kappa Alpha)  
 Josh Black (RVA Beard)  
 Megan Black (RVA Beard)  
 Gordan Glover (RVA Beard)  
 Will Hubbs (RVA Beard)  
 Dash (RVA Beard)  
 A. Brown (RVA Beard)

Alex Montejo (Alpha Xi Delta)  
 Taylor Mayfield (Alpha Xi Delta)  
 Kelly Galloway (Alpha Xi Delta)  
 Shauna Anderson (Alpha Xi Delta)  
 Summer Griffin (Alpha Xi Delta)  
 Jean Lua  
 Ashley Graham  
 Krystal Woods (BPSA VCU)  
 California Torry ((BPSA VCU)  
 Alexis Broggins (BPSA VCU)  
 Champrea Frye (BPSA VCU)  
 Catherine – Melissa Fletcher  
 James Meyenberg  
 William Cloutier  
 Gillian Saul  
 Maria Medina  
 Courtney Arrington  
 Sam Hulcher  
 Skills Development Center  
 Henrico County Parks and Rec

## Thank You For the Following Donations

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

Helen Zuelzer  
 Lisa Keene  
 Eric Schmude  
 Dennis & Debra Rowan  
 Hank & Michelle Keiper

*The following donations were made in memory of Thomas Emmett O'Dea:*

Mary Rooss  
 Cindy Funkhouser  
 Virginia Webber  
 Wynne Cummings  
 Cecile Fleming  
 Woody & Judy Daly Seamone  
 Beth Harshman  
 Adair Grandchamp



## Family + Autism+ Community+ RCG= Making a Difference



Does your child need help in any of the following areas???

- ✓ Social Skills
- ✓ Communication
- ✓ Developing and Maintaining Routines
- ✓ Behavior Management Skills
- ✓ Family Training

Then look no further....

Recognizing Children's Gifts (RCG) Behavioral Health Network is here to help!! We offer individualized One-on-One In-home and Center Based ABA services for your child and family!

For more information contact us as:

[www.rcghealthnetwork.com](http://www.rcghealthnetwork.com)

[info@rcghealthnetwork.com](mailto:info@rcghealthnetwork.com)

804.897.1753



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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 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](http://www.ascv.org)**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

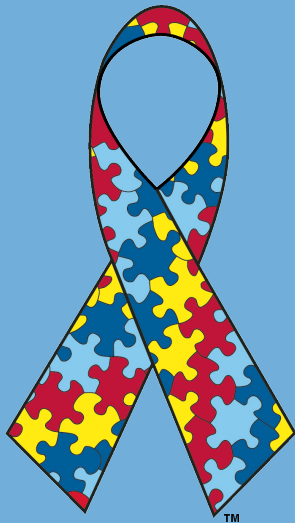
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Which free gift may we send you: \_\_\_ car magnet \_\_\_ autism pin \_\_\_ refrigerator magnet

**Please mail or fax w/ payment to:**

Autism Society, Central VA  
P.O. Box 29364  
Richmond, VA 23242  
(804) 290-0286 (fax)





## Would you like to place an Ad in “*Into The Light*”?

Our newsletter reaches over 600 families, professionals and educators on a monthly basis. If you would like to place an advertisement, please email it to [info@ascv.org](mailto:info@ascv.org) or mail it to us at P.O. Box 29364, Richmond, VA 23242. Deadline for entry is the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.

### Ad Rates:

\$25.00 1/8 page

\$50.00 1/4 page

\$75.00 1/2 page

\$100 full page

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

*Non-Profits / Long Term Ads may have negotiated discount rates with Board approval.*

## Autism Society Central Virginia

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