



Into the Light

SAVE THE DATES!

ANNUAL CONFERENCES FOR 2014/2015

November 15, 2014 *Life in the Community*

The Autism Society Central VA is pleased to partner again with the Hanover Arc and the Down Syndrome Association of Greater Richmond for our third annual *Life in the Community: Learn, Live, Work, and Play*, a free conference and resource fair for families, self-advocates, disability professionals, school personnel and anyone interested in learning about life after high school. Our keynote speaker, Pat Carver, is a nationally recognized expert in building community through Circles of Support and is the founder of Community Drive, Inc. Her dedication began over four decades ago with the birth of her brother and the subsequent recognition that his being "special" meant being set apart. Since then, Pat has passionately advocated for social justice, especially among citizens who experience cognitive or intellectual disabilities.



April 18, 2015 *First Annual Autism Awareness Month Conference*

We are excited to begin planning for our first annual conference for National Autism Awareness Month! Our keynote speaker for this conference will be Jennifer O'Toole, founder of *Asperkids*. Jennifer was diagnosed as an Aspie in adulthood, is the mother of three Asperkids, the wife of an Aspie, an award-winning educator and author of the internationally-celebrated "Asperkids" book series. The conference will include breakout sessions to address issues for children across the spectrum.



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!

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This newsletter is a publication of: Autism Society, Central Virginia.
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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 newsletter is June 15. 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 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

As you read this newsletter, we will have just completed our 12th Annual 5K Run/Walk for Autism. Year after year, this event continues to be an opportunity for families and friends to come together to share awareness about autism and have fun, all the while raising funds for the Autism Society Central Virginia (ASCV). With over 1000 individuals registered, over 80 teams and hundreds of individuals raising money, and 100+ volunteers, the 5K continues to be the largest awareness and fundraising event of the year for the ASCV. However, this event does not happen without some very dedicated people working diligently for months behind the scenes.

I look forward to sharing our team totals and award winners with you in the July Newsletter. But this month, I would like to take the opportunity to thank the members of the 2014 ASCV 5K Race Committee. **Donna Sabel** is a Member of the ASCV Board and has been Chair of the 5K Race Committee for the past three years. Her leadership has been invaluable in raising the bar every year in publicity and sponsorships, and in fundraising totals! **Jessica Corbett**, of Echelon Event Management, has managed the Race logistics both before and on the day of the event for us for many years. **Karen Singleton** has also served on the 5K Committee for several years and continues to bring great insight and enthusiasm to the committee. **Tammy Burns**, ASCV Outreach and Volunteer Coordinator, joined the committee this year and has helped us garner new sponsors and coordinate the many details so important in an event this size. It's amazing what these individuals have accomplished once again this year, and I am so grateful for their continued dedication to the ASCV!

All of the funds raised from the ASCV 5K Run/Walk for Autism, and all of our fundraising efforts throughout the year, are used to provide training, education, recreational and social opportunities, scholarships, information and referral, and advocacy for individuals with autism and families in our community. The funds raised here, stay here!

Thanks again to our 5K Race Committee Members and to ALL that supported the Autism Society Central Virginia 12th Annual 5K Run/Walk for Autism!!

All the Best, Becky

Becky Boswell, MBA
director@ascv.org



SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

RECREATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

The Autism Society Central Virginia's Scholarship Program was developed to help children, youth, and adults on the autism spectrum participate in recreational and social activities. Examples of qualifying activities could include, but are not limited to: day camps, overnight camps, social skills groups, recreation leagues, bowling, etc. **Awards are based on financial need and funds available. Partial scholarships may be awarded.**

To be eligible for a scholarship, an individual must:

- be diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder
- reside in Metro-Richmond or a surrounding county.

A Committee will review all applications; scholarships will be awarded based upon the amount of funds available and the information provided on the application. The Scholarship Committee will consider financial limitations of the individual and/or family. Although membership in the ASCV is not required to apply for a scholarship, the Committee will give preference to those families and individuals demonstrating financial need who are ASCV members. For additional details and an application form, visit <http://ascv.org/about/recreational-scholarships/>

MEMBERSHIP SCHOLARSHIPS

This spring, the Scholarship Committee recommended that the ASCV Board consider including annual membership dues (in cases of extreme financial need) to the ASCV Scholarship Program. The Board unanimously approved this addition at their May meeting. The goal of this scholarship is to allow individuals / families who are experiencing difficult financial times, or for whom membership would place a financial burden, to still be able to participate in ASCV member-only events.

To be eligible for a membership scholarship, an individual/family must submit a letter to the ASCV Scholarship Committee explaining:

- the need for scholarship, and
- what membership in the ASCV would mean (or means) to the individual and/or family.

Approved scholarships will be awarded for annual membership dues (\$25). Applicants may apply each year but there is no guarantee of annual renewal. Letters may be emailed to info@ascv.org, or mailed to ASCV Scholarship Committee, P.O. Box 29364, Richmond, VA 23242.

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

- Presented Medicaid Waiver Workshop @ Henrico County PRC

Services and Supports

- Sponsored Membership Annual Picnic
- 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
- Partnered with the Byrd Theatre for first Sensory Friendly Movie

Advocacy

- Participated on the Advisory Council for the Autism Center for Excellence at VCU
- Participated on the DBHDS Individual and Family Support Program Work Group
- Participated on DBHDS Waiver Redesign Subcommittee
- Participated on the Arc of VA's Advocacy Committee
- Participated on the Virginia Autism Council
- Participated in the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services DOJ Settlement Agreement Stakeholder's Group
- Participated in the DD Coalition Meeting

Awareness

- Exhibited at Henrico County Parks and Rec Therapeutic Rec Event
- Exhibited at Ft. Lee
- Sponsored the 12th Annual 5K Run/Walk for Autism



Amazon has introduced a simple and automatic way for you to donate to the Autism Society Central Virginia every time you shop, and at no cost to you! Just shop at **smile.amazon.com**, the charity support side of Amazon.com, and designate the Autism Society of America Richmond, VA as your designated charitable organization, and Amazon will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to the ASCV.

If you have an existing Amazon account, all of your account settings are the same, you just shop through **smile.amazon.com** instead of Amazon.com. On your first visit to AmazonSmile, before you begin shopping, you will need to select a charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases. When you search charities – just search Autism Society Central Virginia and a percentage of your purchase will go directly to the ASCV and help support local individuals with autism and their families.

In 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.

6/3	7pm	Board Meeting
6/7		Inclusive Lego Club details and registration @ http://ascvinclusivelego.eventbrite.com
6/14		Autism Awareness Night @ the Diamond; Society members, see email for info on free tickets
6/22		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 time, location and to register
6/23	7 pm	Adults with Asperger's/HFA Interest Group (open only to adults w/ Asperger's/HFA info and register @ http://adultsas.eventbrite.com
6/23	7 pm	Family Members of Adults with Asperger's Syndrome; info and register @ http://parentsofadults.eventbrite.com

**AUTISM
SOCIETY
CENTRAL
VIRGINIA**

**JUNE
CALENDAR**

Autism Society Partners With Byrd Theatre For Sensory Friendly Movies

Watching a movie in a theater can put those on the spectrum in sensory overload. A sensory friendly movie offers a movie theater experience with a few accommodations; the sound is turned down, the lights are turned up, and movie trailers are not shown. Sensory friendly movies were first initiated by AMC theaters nationwide but, without a local AMC theater, sensory friendly movies have not been available in our community. Until now!

We are very excited to partner with the Byrd Theatre to offer a monthly sensory friendly movie experience to our community. A sensory friendly movie will be offered once a month on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon. Admission is \$1.99 per person. Popcorn, candy, soda, and water are available for purchase but those with dietary restrictions are welcome to bring their own refreshments (no ice cream or glass bottles allowed.)

We are very grateful to the Byrd Theatre and General Manager Todd Schall-Vess for offering this opportunity to our families! Please visit our website (www.ascv.org), our Facebook page, and watch your weekly e-mail blasts for information on upcoming sensory friendly movies.



Community Events / Meetings of Interest

- June 2 **Hanover County Special Education Advisory Committee** topic: *Annual Report to the Superintendent*; 7 pm. – 8:30 pm @ the Hanover County School Board office; open to the public
- June 2 **Special Needs Jump** at Jumpology 5 pm - 7 pm; fee and reservations required; all ages; <http://www.jumpology.us/>
- June 6 **Special Nights for Special Needs** children with special needs age 10 and under @ the Children' Museum @ Chesterfield; adapted materials, special activities, a cool-down space and reduced number of visitors; free from 5:30pm - 7:30pm
- June 7 **Special Olympics Fun Run** free 25 meter race for children ages 2 – 12; lunch provided; learn more and register here: <http://tinyurl.com/SummerGamesFunRun2014>
- June 10 **Richmond City Special Education Advisory Committee** open to the public; Holton Elementary School; 6 pm – 8 pm
- June 11 **Chesterfield County Special Education Advisory Committee** topic: *Annual Report*; open to the public; 5 pm @ the Fulghum Center
- June 17 **Monkey Joe's Special Needs Night** from 5 pm to 7 pm.; kids ages 2 - 12 w/ special needs free; closed to the public; siblings welcome \$5; 11304 Midlothian Tnpk, Richmond; 897-5867

Conferences, Workshops, and Webcasts

- June 17 **Understanding Challenging Behaviors and the Need for Social Skills Training** free webcast with Jed Baker, Ph.D.; offered by the Autism Center for Excellence at VCU; info and registration here: <http://www.vcuautismcenter.org/training/webcasts/details.cfm?webcastID=269>
- June 26 **Employment and Supplemental Security Insurance for Transition Age Youth** Students and families worry about losing their Social Security benefits if they enter the workforce. This webcast will provide information about how Supplemental Security Insurance (SSI) cash benefits are affected by paid employment and emphasizes how favorably the SSI program treats earned income. Work incentives such as the Student Earned Income Exclusion and Impairment Related Work Expenses are introduced and examples are provided. Free; offered by the Center on Transition Innovations at VCU: register @ <http://www.centerontransition.org/training/upcoming.cfm>
- June 28 **Special Needs Ministry Basics** free workshop for church staff, church volunteers and parents on getting started with a special needs ministry or “revving” up what you are already doing so that your faith community to be inclusive for all abilities; info and registration here: <http://specialneedsministrybasics.eventbrite.com>
- July 31-Aug 2 **Arc of VA Sate Convention** info and registration here: <http://www.thearcofva.org/news-events/2014-state-convention/>

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

Thank You To The Following Volunteers

*We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give.
~Winston Churchill*

Rebecca Early
Christina Omland (SPARKS)
Chloe Berry (Alpha Xi Delta)
Ally Geary (Alpha Xi Delta)
Brittany Miller (Alpha Xi Delta)
Alex Rossi (Alpha Xi Delta)
Stephanie Strano (Alpha Xi Delta)
Ryan Robertson (Kiwanis)
Gil DeBiasi (Kiwanis)
Zipporah Levi-Shackleford
Kayla Scherrer
Spenser Bettinger
Shawn Blaze
Katie Collins
Keli Keener
Sam Hulcher
Kelly Domaleski
Allison Thurman

Victoria Scriven
Jennifer Fjelsted
Tyler Rust
Cecelia Parrish
Christopher Chan
Melanie Matlock
Kerry O'Conner
Erik Biehler
Allison Meyer
Luke Kiczales
Brett Burns
Erin Rosencrance
Darian Hicks
Eleanor Stickley
Tim Jones
Tiffany Robertson
Skills Development Center

Thank You For the Following Donations

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

FerrellGas
Patricia Blyer
Vineyard Vines Retail, LLC
Eric Schmude
Essex Intermediate School
SPARK VCU
Queen B Events (Until the Pieces Fit)
Karen Isik
Jeben Marshall

*The following donations were made in memory of
Ruth Hutto:*
Carolyn Narr
Irene Anderson
Allene Dabbs

*The following donations were made in memory of
Lois Hood Skelton:*
Ted & Peggy Grivetti
Gabriele Inge



Annual Picnic – May 3, 2014

Tons of FUN on such a lovely day!



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

info@rcghealthnetwork.com

804.897.1753



Paid Advertisement



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: _____

How would you prefer to receive your newsletter: ___ by mail ___ electronically

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)

Autism Society Central Virginia

P.O. Box 29364
Richmond, VA 23242-0364

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Address Service Requested



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 or mail it to us at P.O. Box 29364, Richmond, VA 23242. 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

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

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