



Into the Light

ASCV TO OFFER SIBSHOPS!!!

It gives us great pleasure to announce **Sibshops**, an exciting program just for brothers and sisters (ages 7 to 12) of children with special needs.

Beginning in January 2015, the ASCV will host bi-monthly Sibshops as an opportunity for brothers and sisters of children with developmental disabilities to obtain peer support and education in a fun recreational environment.

Sibshops acknowledge that being the brother or sister of a person with special needs is for some a good thing, for others a not-so-good thing, and for many somewhere in between. They reflect a belief that brothers and sisters have much to offer one another. The Sibshop model intersperses information and discussion activities with recreation and games (designed to be unique, off-beat, and appealing).

Sibshops are not therapy, although the effect may be therapeutic for some children. While Sibshop facilitators always keep an eye open for participants who may need additional services, the Sibshop model takes a wellness approach.

Our Sibshops are open to any sibling, ages 7-12, of a child with a special need. Registration forms and more info can be found on our website at <http://ascv.org/meetings-events/sibshops/>. There is a non-refundable fee of \$10 per session (\$5 for ASCV members). You can register for one or for all three of our Winter/Spring Sibshops.

Hurry and register as space will fill quickly!

Older siblings? Up to three teenage siblings and three adult siblings may volunteer to be leaders in these Winter/Spring 2015 Sibshops. Contact outreach@ascv.org to volunteer to be a part of this exciting new sibling program!





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 in our community. You can help by making a donation today!

BOARD OFFICERS

President: Bill Thompson

Treasurer: Adam Bailey, CPA

Meeting Secretary: Shawn Kirk

Corresponding Secretary: Tim Jones

Past President: Sandi Wiley

BOARD MEMBERS

Mary Bess Bolin

Chele Brandon

Angie Dykes

Norm Geller, Ph.D.

Katherine Gray, Esq.

Nate Harry, CPA

Ashley Payne, Esq.

Donna Sabel, Ed.D.

Paul Warner

STAFF

Executive Director: Becky Boswell, MBA

Program Director: Bradford Hulcher

Outreach Coordinator: Tammy Burns

Recreational Facilitator: Brie King

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 January newsletter is December 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

In the Spirit of Giving ...

Have you heard about “Giving Tuesday”? On **Tuesday, December 2, 2014**, non-profits, families, businesses, community centers, and students from around the world will come together for one common purpose: to celebrate generosity and to give. We have an established day for giving thanks in November. We have two identified for bargain shopping. And now, we have “Giving Tuesday” in early December, a day dedicated to giving back on a global scale.

It’s a simple idea. From the Giving Tuesday website – “Just find a way for your family, your community, your company or your organization to come together to give something more. Then tell everyone you can about how you are giving. Join us and be a part of a global celebration of a new tradition of generosity.”

What a great way to promote the concept of giving across the world, and the Autism Society Central Virginia will of course welcome and appreciate any and all gifts and donations made on December 2nd. But we want you to know that we appreciate your gifts and donations year-round too! We have seen evidence of your generosity throughout the year as you have donated your time and money to our many fundraisers, including our 12th Annual 5K Run/Walk for Autism.

As this year draws to a close, we want to take the opportunity to thank you. It is because of your generosity that we are able to offer the many programs and services that we do to individuals with autism and their families, at any age and any stage, in Central Virginia. We know that we can count on your continued support as you think about giving during this special time of the year, and in the year to come as we endeavor to grow our programs and services to better meet the needs across our geographical region. And we hope that when you consider making year-end tax deductible donations, the Autism Society Central Virginia is always an organization at the top of your list! To all who spread awareness and acceptance, who donate time and gifts, and who share our mission **to improve the lives of ALL affected by autism**, we send our heartfelt thanks for your support!

All the Best to You Always and My Very Best Wishes
for a Healthy and Happy Holiday Season,

Becky

Becky Boswell, MBA
Executive Director
director@ascv.org

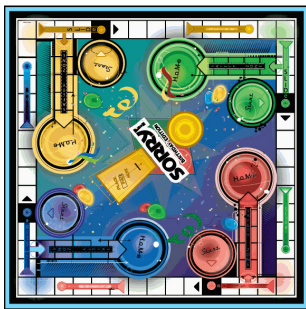


Inclusive Lego® Club Expands to Include Board/Card Games!

Beginning immediately, board games and card games will also be a part of our Inclusive Lego® Club. In addition to hanging out and playing Legos®, children of all abilities in grades K-8 will now have the option to play various board or card games with their peers or with our awesome volunteers.

We offer our Inclusive Lego® & Game Club twice a month – once at the beginning of each month at the Chester YMCA and once at the end of each month at the Downtown YMCA. Both clubs run from 10 am to 12 noon. We are blessed to have some of the best volunteers around the area join us and help facilitate play and conversations!

Make sure to check your Wednesday emails or our website for the most up-to-date information and registration links for Inclusive Lego® & Game Club as well as other events that are happening at the ASCV.



January 9, 2015 ASCV Meeting Exploring Home and Community Based Medicaid Waivers

Medicaid Waivers can provide services and supports, such as respite, assistive technology, residential supports and more for children and adults with developmental disabilities to live in the community. ELIGIBILITY IS NOT BASED ON PARENTAL INCOME. During this free workshop, the following topics will be covered:

- What services are available
- How to decide which waiver you need
- Who does the screening
- How to get screened
- How to appeal

Bradford Hulcher, ASCV Program Director and Medicaid Waiver Mentor, will also provide tips on ways you can advocate to end the waiting lists for Medicaid Waivers in Virginia.

The workshop will be held from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm at River Road United Methodist Church, 8800 River Road, Richmond, VA 23229. The workshop is free and open to the public; pre-registration is required at <https://waiversinva.eventbrite.com>. ASCV members look for an emailed invite to sign up for free childcare for this meeting.

ADVOCATING FOR THE AUTISM COMMUNITY

The ASCV works diligently to represent the voice of the autism community with local and state policymakers. We serve on many local and state work groups, committees, coalitions, and advisory councils to insure that the needs of our community are represented in conversations and decisions impacting individuals with autism and their families. We'll highlight the work of one of these groups each month.

Developmental Disabilities Advocacy Coalition

The DD Advocacy Coalition was formed about a year ago under the guidance of the Arc of VA. Composed of individual/family advocacy organizations from across the state, the Coalition meets quarterly face-to-face to stay current on issues of importance to the developmental disabilities community. Members of the Coalition include affiliates of the Arc, the Autism Society, the Down Syndrome Association and other groups. The Coalition collaborates to develop advocacy strategies to address legislative and policy issues such as Medicaid Waiver waiting lists, restraint and seclusion of children in public schools, closure of Virginia's training centers, Medicaid waiver redesign and much more.

On January 26, the DD Advocacy Coalition will sponsor DD Advocacy Day at the General Assembly! Planning is still in the works but includes a rally in the morning at the Bell Tower and visits to our local delegates and senators. The Autism Society Central VA will sponsor two vans for our members who wish to travel together to participate in the event! The vans will depart at 9am, one van from the Midlothian area and the second from River Road United Methodist Church in Henrico, with both arriving at the Capitol by 10am in time for the rally. We'll participate in events of the day, visit legislators and have lunch together. Buses will leave the Capitol at 2 p.m. to return to their points of origin. Look for an Eventbrite soon to register for this event!

SHOP SMILE.AMAZON.COM THIS HOLIDAY SEASON TO SUPPORT ASCV!

As you work on your holiday shopping this year, remember to SMILE – Amazon Smile that is! 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 VA Chapter" and 0.5% of your purchase will go directly to the ASCV to help support local individuals with autism and their families.



NEWS FROM THE AUTISM SOCIETY CENTRAL VIRGINIA BOARD

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

Services and Supports

- Sponsored a sensory friendly movie in collaboration with the Byrd Theater
- Sponsored 2 Inclusive Lego Clubs
- Sponsored Adults with Asperger's Interest Groups
- Sponsored Parents of Adults w/ Asperger's Interest Groups
- Sponsored Preschool Music group
- Sponsored bowling leagues for children, teens, and adults
- Sponsored an ASCV Member's Night at VCU Women's Basketball

Advocacy

- Participated on VCU ACE Advisory Council
- Participated on Virginia Autism Council
- Participated on the DBHDS Integrated Day Work Group
- Participated on the DBHDS Department of Justice Stakeholder's Group

Awareness

- Shared resources at Circle of Support Conference

Education

- Co-sponsored the 3rd Annual Life in the Community Conference
- Co-presented workshop on Medicaid Waivers
- Participated on panel on advocacy for the Area Planning and Services Committee (APSC) for Aging with Lifelong Disabilities

**PLEASE CONSIDER DESIGNATING
AUTISM SOCIETY CENTRAL VA IN YOUR GIVING!**

Commonwealth of VA Campaign #07948

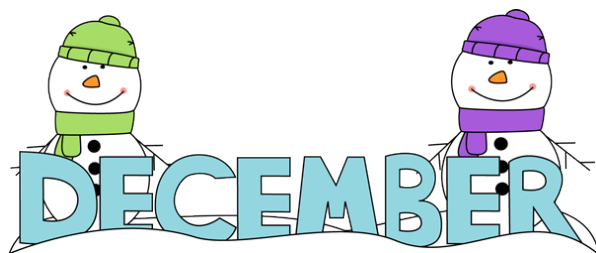
Central VA Area Combined Federal Campaign #64417

Local Government and Schools - no number; simply designate "Autism



This December, 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.

12/05	9 am	Preschool Music Group details and registration: https://preschoolmusicgroupascv.eventbrite.com
12/05	10 am	Inclusive Lego & Game Club – Chester info & registration https://legoclubchesterascv.eventbrite.com
12/06	evening	Tacky Light Bus Tour ASCV members, check your e-mail for Eventbrite invitation
12/14		Bowling Leagues for children, youth and adults w/ ASD; free for ASCV members; check your e-mail for Eventbrite invitation
12/20	10 am	Inclusive Lego & Game Club - Downtown details and registration: http://inclusivedeclego.eventbrite.com



**AUTISM
SOCIETY
CENTRAL
VIRGINIA**

**DECEMBER
CALENDAR**

Have You Checked Out the ASCV Website Lately?

New Resources are always being added to our website, so be sure to check our Resource List frequently! We have also recently added several new pages in an effort to illustrate how your donations to the Autism Society Central Virginia make an impact in our community! When you have a chance, please check out the pages under the new “Get Involved” tab, including the side tab, “What Do My Gifts Fund?” As always, we welcome your feedback and value your input on all of our current activities. Please let us hear from you on how the ASCV makes a difference in your or your family’s life as we would love to share your stories with others!

WWW.ASCV.ORG

DECEMBER COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES

- 12/01 **Sky Zone Special Needs Sensory Night** <http://www.skyzone.com/richmond>
- 12/02 **Young Life Capernaum City** faith based social group for middle/high school students w/ disabilities and peers; for info: citycapernaum.rva@gmail.com
- 12/04 **Young Life Capernaum Westend** faith based social group for middle/high school students w/ disabilities and peers; for info: westendcapernaum@hotmail.com
- 12/05 **Special Night for Special Needs @** Children's Museum Chesterfield; 5:30 pm for info: <http://www.c-mor.org/events/special-nights>
- 12/09 **Special Needs Jump** <http://www.jumpology.us/Activities.aspx>
- 12/09 **Girls under the Umbrella of ASD Part 2: Interventions and Practical Strategies Across the Lifespan FREE webinar from VCU ACE**; Dr. Lori Ernsberger; for info and to register: <http://www.vcuautismcenter.org/te/webcasts/details.cfm?webcastID=305>
- 12/11 **Young Life Capernaum Hanover** faith based social group for middle/high school students w/ disabilities and peers; for info: clint.dowda@gmail.com
- 12/11 **Richmond Asperger's Meet-up** <http://www.meetup.com/aspergers-397/>
- 12/16 **West End / Northern Chesterfield Asperger's Meet-up**
<http://www.meetup.com/aspergers-397/>
- 12/16 **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; info 897-5867
- 12/18 **Capernaum All Area Christmas Party** – Chesterfield, City, Hanover, Henrico; for more info contact any of the Capernaum groups listed above

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

ASCV MEMBERS

On Saturday, **December 6th** we will once again celebrate the holidays by chartering buses and riding through the city for the Tacky Light Tour. Buses will be departing from River Road United Methodist Church that evening at 6:30 pm and returning by 8:30 pm.

There is limited space still available, so register soon if interested. If you have registered and find you are unable to attend PLEASE let us know as there will be a waiting list.

We hope you will be able to celebrate with us!

A Great Big Thank You to Rebecca Robertson, Managing Director—Investments, and Steve Martin, First Vice President—Investment Officer of the Robertson & Martin Financial Consulting Group of Wells Fargo Advisors, LLC for sponsoring our Holiday Event this year!



Thank You Senator Watkins, Senator McEachin and Senator-Elect Dance for Attending the Legislative Session at the Life in Community Conference!



INVEST IN THE FUTURE OF THE AUTISM SOCIETY CENTRAL VA

Explore all the many ways to give:

Employee/Matching Gifts – Maximize the impact of your gift through employer-matched funds. Many companies match their employees' charitable contributions. Companies may also match gifts from employee spouses, retirees, and Board members.

Honorary – Celebrate a birthday, anniversary, or other special occasion with a gift honoring a spouse, friend, family member of loved one.

Memorial – Memorial gifts may be made to the ASCV to celebrate and honor the life of a loved one.

Planned Giving – Receive tax and other financial benefits while giving to the ASCV. Plan a gift for the future by working with a financial advisor to set up an IRA Charitable Rollover, trust or bequest, or beneficiary designation on a life insurance policy.

Unrestricted Giving – Give a cash donation that allows us to fund ongoing and new programs.

There are three ways to make direct donations:

Online: With our online donation form you can make donations with paypal – it's fast, free and secure! <http://ascv.org/membership/donate/>

By phone: (804) 257-0192

By mail: If you prefer to mail your donation, please send your check to:
Autism Society Central Virginia
P.O. Box 29364
Richmond, VA 23242

Your gift will help support autism education, awareness, advocacy, research, and most importantly, enable us to assist LOCAL families living with autism. The Autism Society Central Virginia is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Donations are tax-deductible.

Thank You To The Following Volunteers

*"Everybody can be great, because everybody can serve."
~Martin Luther King, Jr.*

Hayley Crittenden
California Torry
Tia Campbell
Jlynn Holland-Cecil
Christine Owen
Mitchell Woo
Kelly Dooley
Jingwan Liao
Xavier Moore
Zenifer Moore
Will Weaver
Mihyun Lee
Brianne Kelly
Joan Rodriguez
Daryl Warren
Natasha Gary
Bryttan Chandler
Ashley Payne
Eleanor Stickley
Shawn Kirk
Chuck Hulcher
Kyle McKenna
Sam Hulcher
Reid Eaton
Nick Taylor
Trey Inge

Skills Development Center
Justin Ratliffe
Sam Michael
Dung Nguyentran
Isabel Sullivan
Valerie Hewitson
Jordyn Kent
Donna Jones
Brittain McNeel
Becky Early
Melanie Matlock
Maggie Watts
Brittain McNeal
Donna Jones
Ryan Suyama
Mitchell Hecht
Matt Blackshaw
Phill Williams
Donna Sabel
Alex Montejo
Kelly Galloway
Rebecca Servinsky
Jasmine Johnson
Amber Murray
Alex Price
Niki Patel
Waleed Ilyas
Mahreen Azam
Becky Griffith
Justin Hamlet
Holly Whitt
Will Weaver
Drew Harrison
Noopur Bhati
Helen Bough
Cody Wilson
Sarah Sybert



Thank You For the Following Donations

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

Sons of Dominion Motorcycle Club
 Richmond moms.com
 The Wine Loft at West Broad Village
 Synapse
 Steven Lowrie
 Kissy Gordon
 Lora Farley
 Andrew Jeretina
 Jumpology
 Butler Photographic Artistry
 Regency Women's Club
 Ellsworth McLean
 Bryan Rowe
 Dianne Corsello
 Gregory Workman
 Phillip Sandino
 Paul McNamara
 Aja Shenay Wells
 Dupont
 Davidson Roofing Company
 Lloyd Zelazny, DDS
 Cherie Wilkinson
 Karen Kibler
 Lipstock Lasik & Cataract Center
 Gwynne Brown
 McKesson Foundation (matching funds)

Unique 4 Life
 Karmen Purdel
 Daniel Bowen
 Cheryl Curbeam
 Brendan Moran
 HillPhoenix
 Tim & Robyn Hofmeyer
 Bernadette Jones
 Southern Smokin' BBQ
 Markel Corporation
 Betty Anne Flynn
 Eric Schmude
 Cezar Fusha
 Anissa Rodriguez De Ruiz
 Zivoile Viliusiene
 Donald Moyer, Jr.
 April Barnett
 Theodora E. Von Hohenstaufen
 Debra Stevens
 Crystal Clark
 Caitlyn Edgerton
 Lori Ann McMichael
 Susan Allison
 Karen Griscom

The following donations were made in memory of Geri Allen:

Jared Butler
 Jeremy Karmolinski

A Very Special Thanks to all of our friends at the Richmond Area Martial Arts World locations for their hard work leading up to and during the Competition and Exhibition held to benefit the ASCV on October 25th! Proceeds from the event are still being tallied, but it appears that MAW raised approximately \$15,000 for the ASCV in 2014! We look forward to our continued partnership with them as we work together to spread the "Yes, I Can!" spirit and achieve our mutual goal of maximizing the lifelong potential of ALL individuals in the entire Central VA community!





**Transition to Adulthood with ASD:
What Parents and Guardians Need to Know**

**Date: February 2, 9, & 16
Must attend all 3 sessions**

Time: 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

**Location:
River Road UMC
8800 River Road
Richmond, VA 23229**

Transition to Adulthood with ASD: What Parents and Guardians Need to Know is a **free** workshop designed to provide an overview of important factors and topics to consider as individuals with ASD enter the adult world.

Topics covered include:

- Age of majority
- Disability benefits and planning
- Post secondary readiness, education, and training
- Employment
- Housing and residential supports
- Life in the community

Must Pre-Register @ <http://transitiontoadulthoodasd.eventbrite.com>
Limited Seating
No Registration Fee / No Onsite Registration



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

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

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

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Richmond, VA
Permit No. 132

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 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 P.O. Box 29364, Richmond, VA 23242. Deadline for entry is the 15th of each month.

Ad Rates:

\$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.