



# *Into the Light*

## **REGISTER TODAY FOR THE 13<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL 5K RUN/WALK FOR AUTISM! EARLY BIRD PRICING ENDS APRIL 30<sup>TH</sup>!**

Join us Saturday, May 23 at Innsbrook Pavilion for this exciting morning of fun, fellowship, and fitness! ALL THE MONEY RAISED HERE, STAYS HERE to support local individuals and families affected by autism.

The day will kick off at 8am with an opportunity to visit exhibitors, play in our Kids' Zone, and listen to music from Double Clutch!

A 50 Yard Dash for children will take place in the Kids' Zone at 8:30am.

The trolley begins running at 8:30am too – feel free to take a ride! It will also be out on the course during the 5K and can pick up any walker who decides he/she needs a ride to the finish line.

At 9am sharp, the gun will sound for the start of the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual 5K Run/Walk for Autism. We ask that runners line up at the front, followed by those who prefer to walk the course.

At the completion of the 5K, awards will be presented for:

- Largest Team
- Highest Fundraising by a Team
- Highest Individual Fundraiser
- Don Mayfield Team Spirit Award
- Best Team T-Shirt
- Fastest Overall Female
- Fastest Overall Male



Keep an eye out for lots of “characters” supporting this year’s event, including the Chic-fil-A Cow, Ronald McDonald, Rodney Ram, Nutzy, Kickaroo, and Monkey Joe! Refreshments will be available at the finish line for all participants. Food trucks with items to purchase will also be on site, including Kona Ice and the Boardwalk Food Truck!

Don't miss this amazing opportunity to support THE local resource for individuals with autism and their families! Get involved in helping us “improve the lives of all affected by autism.” Register today at <http://ascv.org/ascv-5k/> !



## 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

Past President: Sandi Wiley

## BOARD MEMBERS

Mary Bess Bolin

Norm Geller, Ph.D.

Katherine Gray, Esq.

Ashley Payne, Esq.

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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.  
200 South 3<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219  
(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 June newsletter is May 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

May Greetings!

What an exciting April the Autism Society Central Virginia had! We shared information about autism and the resources of the ASCV all over Central VA during National Autism Awareness Month this year. I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who hosted and/or coordinated an event in April, made a connection for us, attended one of the many awareness programs, or volunteered in any way. We could not hope to make a positive difference for individuals with autism and families in our community without you.

The ASCV works to promote Autism Awareness 365 days a year, and we are working to move beyond Awareness to share the importance of Understanding, Acceptance, and Appreciation for individuals with autism and all those who support them. You will find details in this Newsletter about numerous events in May where you can participate and help the ASCV share information in our community. I hope to see you out there!

May Events with the ASCV:

**Annual Member Picnic and Fun Day** – Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>

**Wine Down Wednesday** – Wednesday, May 6<sup>th</sup> at the Wine Loft in West Broad Village, See flyer insert for details

**13<sup>th</sup> Annual 5K Run/Walk for Autism** – Saturday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> at Innsbrook Pavilion, More information and to register - <http://ascv.org/ascv-5k/>

**Greek Festival** – Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup> at Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Cathedral, More information - <http://www.greekfestival.com/festival.html>

All the Best,

*Becky*

Becky Boswell, MBA  
Executive Director  
[director@ascv.org](mailto:director@ascv.org)



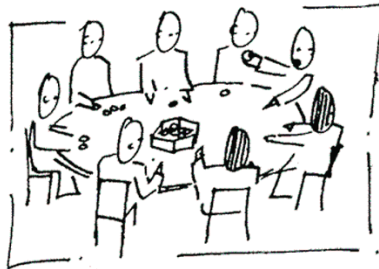
## **May 8<sup>th</sup> ASCV Meeting Round Table Conversations**

Join us Friday, May 8 from 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm for an opportunity to participate in a variety of Round Table Conversations with experts in the field.

We'll explore 4 different topics over the course of the evening; choose up to 2 sessions to attend. Our topics and facilitators are:

- Behavior – Staci Carr, Ph.D., Autism Center for Excellence at VCU
- Employment – Sherrina Sewell, Department of Aging and Rehabilitative Services
- IEPs – Tammy Burns, M.Ed., ASCV
- Home and Community Based Medicaid Waiver – Bradford Hulcher, Medicaid Waiver Mentor, ASCV

Autism Society meetings are free and open to the public. We ask that you register at <https://may8ascv.eventbrite.com>. Members, check your email for registration information for free onsite childcare. Our meetings take place at River Road United Methodist Church, 8800 River Road, Richmond 23229.



## **The Virginia Lifespan Respite Voucher Program**

The Virginia Lifespan Respite Voucher Program was created to provide reimbursement vouchers to home-based family caregivers for the cost of temporary, short-term respite care provided to their family members with disabilities (children and adults, including elderly persons). To apply for the program:

- You must be a Virginia caregiver of a child or children, or an adult or adults, who reside full-time in your household.
- You may receive up to \$400 in vouchers per family per year. The primary caregiver for the person receiving care must apply for the funds.
- You may not use voucher funds to reimburse household expenses or daycare; for example, so that the caregiver can go to work.
- You may be eligible, but funds are limited. Not everyone who applies will be approved.

Learn more and find an application here: <http://www.vda.virginia.gov/respiteservices.asp>.

## NEWS FROM THE AUTISM SOCIETY CENTRAL VIRGINIA BOARD

**In April 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 Theatre
- Sponsored Inclusive Lego and Game Clubs
- Sponsored Bowling Leagues for children, teens, and adults
- Sponsored Adults with Asperger's Interest Group
- Sponsored Parents of Adults with Asperger's Support Group
- Sponsored Asperger's Middle School Social Club

### **Advocacy**

- Participated on the DBHDS Community Engagement Work Group
- Participated on the Region IV Children's Crisis Services Workgroup
- Participated in the REACH Advisory Council
- Presented to Region IV ID Director's Meeting
- Participated on Richmond Community Engagement Meeting
- Participated on the VCU ACE Advisory Council
- Presented at the Housing and Supportive Services Consortium
- Participated in the CCCS Health and Well-Being Workgroup

### **Education**

- Sponsored 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Central VA Autism Conference
- Presented at the Fort Lee Exceptional Family Member Support Group Meeting

### **Awareness**

- Exhibited at the Chesterfield County Transition Fair
- Interviewed for WWBT Noon News
- Participated in WWBT Call 12
- Participated in the Ride4Autism
- Presented at Innsbrook Forum
- Presented at Capital One
- Presented at VCU SPARK
- Participated in King's Dominion Autism Awareness Day
- Presented at Atlee Christian Academy
- Presented at Hanover Rotary
- Exhibited at "Until the Pieces Fit" Craft/Vendor Fair, Colonial Heights
- Attended Hopewell Community Day / Easter Egg Hunt
- Exhibited at TGI Friday's, Chesterfield
- Exhibited at Vineyard Vines, Stony Point
- Sponsored ads on GRTC buses
- Sponsored ads in the Richmond Times Dispatch Autism Awareness Special Section

This May, 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).

5/02		<b>Annual ASCV Member Picnic &amp; Family Fun Day</b> free for ASCV members; check your email for Eventbrite invitation
5/06	6:30 pm	<b>Wine Down Wednesday</b> fundraiser, The Wine Loft in West Broad Village, Short Pump; see flyer insert
5/08	7 pm	<b>Asperger's Middle School Social Club</b> free for ASCV members; <b>registration required</b> – check your email for Eventbrite invitation
5/08	7 pm	<b>Monthly Chapter Meeting</b> ; <i>Round Table Topics</i> ; info and registration: <a href="https://may8ascv.eventbrite.com">https://may8ascv.eventbrite.com</a>
5/09	10 am	<b>Sibshops</b> info and registration <a href="http://ascv.org/meetings-events/sibshops/">http://ascv.org/meetings-events/sibshops/</a>
5/17		<b>Bowling Leagues</b> for children, youth and adults w/ ASD; free for ASCV members; check your email for Eventbrite invitation
5/18	7 pm	<b>Adults with Asperger's/HFA Interest Group</b> (open only to adults with Asperger's/HFA)
5/18	7 pm	<b>Parents of Adults with Asperger's Group</b>
5/20		<b>5K online registration closes</b> at 11:59 pm
5/22	10 am – 7 pm	<b>Packet Pick-Up for 5K</b> registrants pickup bib numbers, t-shirts and goodie bags; watch your email for more info
5/23	8 am	<b>13<sup>th</sup> Annual 5K Run/Walk for Autism</b> at the Innsbrook Pavilion
5/30	10 am	<b>Inclusive Lego &amp; Game Club – Downtown</b> details and registration: <a href="https://legomay.eventbrite.com">https://legomay.eventbrite.com</a>
5/30	2 pm	<b>Sensory Friendly Movie</b> at the Byrd Theatre, Carytown
5/30	11 am- 10 pm	<b>Richmond Greek Festival</b> benefitting the ASCV this day, 30 Malvern Avenue, Richmond 23221

**AUTISM  
SOCIETY  
CENTRAL  
VIRGINIA**

**MAY  
CALENDAR**



## MAY COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES

- 5/01 **Special Night for Special Needs** at Children's Museum Chesterfield; 5:30 pm, for info: <http://www.c-mor.org/events/special-nights>
- 5/04 **Hanover County Special Education Advisory Committee** topic: Inclusion; meets 7 pm at Hanover County School Board Office, 200 Berkley Street, Ashland; open to the public; attendance encouraged
- 5/04 **Sky Zone Special Needs Sensory Night** <http://www.skyzone.com/richmond>
- 5/05 **Jumpology** special needs night; <http://www.jumpology.us/Calendar>
- 5/09 **Game on Aspergers** from 2-4 pm at the Clover Hill Public Library (small meeting room), 6701 Deer Run Drive, Midlothian. Adults 18 and older with Asperger's have fun playing games and hanging out. Free. Info: 804-335-6634 or [willkir77@gmail.com](mailto:willkir77@gmail.com)
- 5/12 **Young Life Capernaum City** faith based social group for middle/high school students with disabilities and peers; for info <https://citycapernaumrva.wordpress.com/>
- 5/13 **Chesterfield County Special Education Advisory Committee** topic: *Mental Health Panel*; meets at 5 pm at the Career and Technical Center, 13900 Hull Street Road, room 256; open to the public
- 5/14 **Richmond Asperger's Meet-Up** <http://www.meetup.com/aspergers-397/>
- 5/14 **Young Life Capernaum Chesterfield** faith based social group for middle/high school students with disabilities and peers; for info [chesterfieldcapernaum@gmail.com](mailto:chesterfieldcapernaum@gmail.com)
- 5/14 **Young Life Capernaum Hanover** faith based social group for middle/high school students with disabilities and peers; for info [clint.dowda@gmail.com](mailto:clint.dowda@gmail.com)
- 5/19 **West End/ Northern Chesterfield Asperger's Meet-Up**  
<http://www.meetup.com/aspergers-397/>
- 5/19 **Monkey Joe's Special Needs Night** from 5 pm-7 pm; kids ages 2-12 with special needs free; closed to public; siblings welcome \$5; info 897-5867
- 5/23 **Game on Aspergers** from 2-4 pm at the Clover Hill Public Library (small meeting room), 6701 Deer Run Drive, Midlothian. Adults 18 and older with Asperger's have fun playing games and hanging out. Free. Info: 804-335-6634 or [willkir77@gmail.com](mailto:willkir77@gmail.com)
- 5/26 **Henrico County Special Education Advisory Committee** meets at 6:30 pm at Brookland Middle School; topic: *Resources in Henrico; Behavior Support*; open to the public
- 5/26 **Young Life Capernaum City** faith based social group for middle/high school students with disabilities and peers; for info <https://citycapernaumrva.wordpress.com/>





## ASCV RECREATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The ASCV knows the importance of social and recreational opportunities for individuals on the spectrum. The ASCV Recreational 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 this scholarship, an individual must:

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

To apply or learn more, visit <http://ascv.org/about/recreational-scholarships/>



## SAVE THE DATE

### ASCV MEMBERS' NIGHT AT THE RICHMOND FLYING SQUIRRELS



Saturday, June 13<sup>th</sup>

Make sure to watch your email for an Eventbrite invitation that will include all of the details and registration information.

## WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCES

- 5/12 **Parent Coaching: Teaching Parents Strategies to Promote Their Child's Development** free webcast from VCU ACE; info and registration: <http://www.vcuautismcenter.org/registration/webcast/index.cfm>
- 7/12 – 7/14 **MOVE** a VA Department of Education Youth & Parent Institute for African-American males with disabilities; empowering African-American males with disabilities to overcome barriers, become self-determined, and to graduate high school, college and career ready; application due date: May 22; for info <http://www.imdetermined.org/youth/move/>

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



## Thank You To Our Volunteers

*"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."  
~Helen Keller*

Hagan Aldridge  
Michelle Zirin  
Joyti Khokhar  
Rayyan Damaj  
Izumi Miyazaki  
William Cloutier  
Brett Burns  
Erik Biehler  
Courtney Sadler  
Emily Jackson  
Shauna Anderson  
Lauren Hyde  
Camile Miller  
Jessica Morgan  
Chandler Powers  
Rebecca Servinsky  
Abby Wierschem  
Becky Early  
Skills Development Center

Gray Little  
Tennessee Park  
Tanner Feldman  
Jake Feldman  
Randy Harris  
Buddy Stolze  
Riley Hanson  
Katy Lerner  
Sam Hulcher  
Kyle McKenna  
Ryan DeRossett  
Nancy Andelin  
Sandi Wiley  
Alan Thurman  
Kristin Davidson  
Travis Faber  
Cody Wilson  
Will Weaver  
Amber Burns

Kristina Vincente  
Lauren Murtha  
Amanda Summers  
Hannah Summers  
Georgia Galanopoulous  
Jill Butler  
Amanda Riddle



## Thank You For the Following Donations

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

Brendan Moran  
Unique 4 Life  
Lipstock Lasik & Cataract Center  
Cezar Fusha  
Eleanor Stickley  
Nicole and Charles Harris  
Aetna Foundation (Matching Funds)  
Shantae Graves  
Karl Koenig  
Eddie Fields  
Janelle Martinez-Nunez  
Kathy Shaw  
Phillip Plump  
Pamela Travis

Deedra Manning  
Tiffany Moody  
Heavens Saints Motorcycle Ministry  
Network of Enterprising Women

*The following donations were made  
in memory of Dottie Janette Gunter:*  
John Smierciak  
Jane Grigg

# **Thank You To Our Annual Autism Conference Sponsors, Speakers, and Exhibitors**



## **2015 Conference Sponsors**



## **2015 Conference Speakers**

**Jennifer O'Toole  
Dawn Hendricks, Ph.D.  
Justin Creech, PBSF  
Sam Hulcher  
Cameron Sabel  
Will Kirchhoff  
Jared Burns**

## **2015 Conference Exhibitors**

**Autastic Avenues  
BeneCounsel, Inc.  
Center for Family Involvement  
Dominion Waiver Services  
Family Insight  
Friendations  
Grafton Integrated Health Network  
Heart and Mind Therapy Services  
It Burns a Lovely Light  
Martial Arts World  
Medical Home Plus  
My Imagiville  
Northstar Academy  
Richmond Autism Integration Network  
Richmond House  
Skills Development Center  
The Faison School for Autism  
The Founders Center of Commonwealth Autism  
VCU ACE  
VCU TTAC**



**Wednesday, May 6, 2015 at 6:30 pm**

**The Wine Loft in West Broad Village, Short Pump**

**The \$10 cover charge goes directly to the ASCV**

**Come network with our awesome Sponsors**

**RichmondMom.com,**

**Enjoy delicious FREE appetizers and**

**Generous glasses of wine at a great discount,**

**And participate in a Raffle drawing for awesome prizes!**

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

**804.257.0192**



**NORTHSTAR**  
ACADEMY

## ***2015 Summer Programs***



***Serving students with disabilities ages 5-22***

***Open to the public!***

- ***Academic Program***
- ***Fun in the Sum-mester***
- ***Extended Day***

***Visit [www.northstaracademy.net](http://www.northstaracademy.net) for  
Summer Catalog Information.***

***Contact Cindy Culley at  
[cculley@northstaracademy.net](mailto:cculley@northstaracademy.net) with questions.***



### 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Which free gift may we send you: ☐ car magnet ☐ refrigerator magnet

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

**Please mail, email, or fax with payment to:**

Autism Society, Central VA  
200 South 3<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Richmond, VA 23219  
[outreach@ascv.org](mailto:outreach@ascv.org) (email)  
(804) 290-0286 (fax)

# Autism Society Central Virginia

200 South 3<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Richmond, VA 23219

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## 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](mailto:info@ascv.org) or mail it to us at 200 South 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Richmond, VA 23219. Deadline for entry is the 15<sup>th</sup> 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.*