# **EXAUTISM SOCIETY** Improving the lives of All Affected by Autism Central Virginia

October 2015

Volume 23, Issue 9



# Into the Light

# LIFE IN THE COMMUNITY: LEARN, LIVE, WORK, AND PLAY Free Conference & Resource Fair

# for Families, Educators, Service Providers, Students, and Adults with Developmental Disabilities

It's never too early to plan for your child's life after high school; it will be here before you know it! Hosted this year by Reynolds Community College, the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Life in the Community Conference and Resource Fair addresses many of the topics essential to planning a bright future for youth and young adults with developmental disabilities.

Exhibitors who provide services and supports to individuals with developmental disabilities in the areas of employment, recreation, housing, and post-secondary opportunities will be available to speak to attendees throughout the day.

In addition, attendees will have to opportunity to hear nationally recognized experts on the following topics:

Keynote: Help! I Need to Get My Child a Job: Pathways to Competitive Employment for Youth with Developmental Disabilities presented by Paul Wehman, Ph.D., Director of VCU-RRTC (Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Employment)

**My Life My Community- Community Integration and Medicaid Waiver Redesign** presented by Heather Norton, Director, Community Support Services, VA Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS)

**Preparing for Tomorrow: Essential Activities to Encourage Adult Independence Preschool through High School** presented by Carol Schall, Ph.D., Director of Technical Assistance at VCU - ACE (Autism Center for Excellence)

Housing Options Using a Microboard presented by David Johnson, Esq., Advisor to the VA Microboard Association

This conference is free but registration will fill fast! Read more about the conference and register here: https://lifeinthecommunity2015.eventbrite.com

#### Sponsoring Organizations:

Autism Society Central VA Down Syndrome Association of Greater Richmond The Arc of Hanover



#### Into the Light



# **Mission**

To improve the lives of all affected by autism by maximizing the selfsufficiency, 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

#### **BOARD MEMBERS**

Mary Bess Bolin Staci Carr, Ph.D. Katherine Gray. Esq. Erin Jordan Sairaman Kalpathi Shawn Kirk Donna Sabel, Ed.D. Paul Warner

#### STAFF

Executive Director: Becky Boswell, MBA Program Director: Bradford Hulcher Outreach Coordinator: Tammy Burns, M.Ed. Recreational Facilitator: Brie King, M.A. LBA BCBA

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 November newsletter is October 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

**Welcome to our newest ASCV Board Members!** The ASCV is excited to welcome several new Board Members this fall! Each brings unique experience, passion, and motivation to help us fulfill our mission *to improve the lives of ALL affected by autism in Central VA*. I hope when you have a chance to meet them in person, you will help welcome them to the ASCV Family! Here's a little about each of them...



**Staci Carr** received a Master's degree in education from Harvard and a Ph.D. in Developmental Psychology from Virginia Commonwealth University. Since 1993, Staci has been working and conducting research in the field of Autism Spectrum Disorder, specifically addressing Social Skills Training and Social Competence, Quality of Life, Transition to College, and Relationships and Sexuality, and first responder training and preparedness. She has worked in Michigan, New York, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Virginia developing programs to support individuals in a variety of settings with varying abilities. Additionally, Dr. Carr has consulted nationally on issues related to adolescents and young adults with ASD.

**Sairaman Kalpathi** joined the board in July 2015. He received his MBA in Finance and Entrepreneurship from HEC, Paris and Booth School of Business, University of Chicago. Sai has spent over 20 years in the Information Technology industry specializing in products and services for financial services industry in a variety of roles in Software Engineering, Sales and Consulting. He began his career working for Citicorp and is currently employed by Oracle Corporation. With his wife and three children (one four-legged son with a big bark) they thoroughly enjoy Richmond and call it their second home. In his spare time Sai enjoys listening to music and spending time teaching math and science to his children.





**Erin Jordan** is an alumnus of the College of William and Mary where she ran track and cross-country and majored in Kinesiology. She moved to Boston after graduation and worked for the New England Center for Children, a day school and residential school for those with Autism Spectrum Disorders. In 2009 Erin had the privilege of moving to Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates where she helped open a classroom for students ranging in ages from 2-6 years old on the spectrum. While in Abu Dhabi she pursued a Master's Degree in Special Education from Simmons College in Boston, MA as a distance learner. Erin has an extensive background in applying the principles of behavior analysis in classrooms serving students with ASD. She is currently taking classes to be able to sit for the National Board Exam to become a Board Certified

Behavior Analyst (BCBA) in the spring of 2016. Erin has a passion to help those affected by ASD and does so in her current role as the Autism Program Coordinator in Henrico County Public Schools. In her free time she enjoys being entertained by her toddler.

We also wish to thanks Ashley Payne for her year of service to the ASCV Board and community and wish her all the best in her new career as a teacher in Richmond City Public Schools!

All the Best,

Becky

# **UNITED WAY**

Thank you for considering the Autism Society Central Virginia in your United Way giving. The ASCV participates in the following Campaigns:

- Commonwealth of VA Campaign #07948
- Central VA Area Combined Federal Campaign #64417
- Local Government and Schools no number; simply designate "Autism Society Central Virginia"

In other United Way or employee giving programs, employees are sometimes able to simply write in our name "Autism Society Central Virginia" to donate in this way. Our EIN number is 46-1250829 if needed.



# SHOP SMILE.AMAZON.COM TO SUPPORT ASCV!

It is hard to believe, but the holiday season is just around the corner. 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 <u>smile.amazon.com</u> 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 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 September 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 *What About Me? Supporting Special Siblings* at Connect for Success Educational Symposium
- Sponsored Special Needs Trusts Workshop and Resource Fair
- Sponsored A Home of Your Own: Housing and Supportive Services Workshop
- Presented at the Region IV Housing Services Workshop at the Richmond Behavioral Health Authority
- Presented to Wells Fargo Advisors, LLC

### Services and Supports

- Sponsored a Sensory Friendly Movie in collaboration with the Byrd Theatre
- Sponsored an Inclusive Lego and Game Club
- Sponsored Sibshops
- Sponsored Adults with Asperger's Interest Group
- Sponsored members to Richmond Flying Squirrels game
- Sponsored an evening at the ArcPark
- Sponsored the Asperger's Middle School Social Club
- Sponsored bowling outing for children, youth and adults with ASD

#### Awareness

- Interviewed for the Alpha Media Radio
- Exhibited at the Autism Speaks Walk
- Exhibited at the Healthy, Wealthy, and Wise RVA Expo

#### Advocacy

- Participated on the DOJ Stakeholder's Group
- Participated on the Governor's 100 Day Challenge Region IV Housing Services and Supports Work Group
- Participated in the Walk and Roll to End the Wait for a Life Like Yours

# SAVE THE DATE

ASCV Members' Annual Holíday Party

Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup> 5:00pm-9:00pm Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens Members will be able to enjoy the GardenFest of Lights, light refreshments, and Santa may even pay us a visit!

**SM** 

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This October, 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.

10/03	10 am	Inclusive Lego & Game Club – Chester, details and registration: <u>https://legochesteroct.eventbrite.com</u>	
10/06	6 pm	<b>Board meeting</b> – New Board Member Orientation, 200 South 3 <sup>rd</sup> Street, Richmond, 23219	
10/10	9 am	Sons of Dominion Poker Run Benefiting the ASCV, Colonial Heights Harley Davidson, more info http://ascv.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Poker- Run-Flyer.pdf	AUTI SOCIE
10/17	10 am	Asperger's Middle School Social Club members, check your e-mail for Eventbrite invitation	CENT
10/17, 10/24		IEP Boot Camp details and registration @ https://iepbootcamp15.eventbrite.com	VIRGI
10/17		VCU Broad Street Mile ASCV is a Non-Profit partner for this event, more info http://ascv.org/event/vcu-broad-street-mile/	осто
10/17		The Courthouse Car Show Benefiting the ASCV, at the Amelia Courthouse Square, Amelia, more info https://www.facebook.com/events/1662897547275956/	CALEN
10/18		Autism Society Bowling Leagues – Shrader Lanes members, check your e-mail for Eventbrite invitation	
10/24	2 pm	Sensory Friendly Movie at the Byrd Theatre, Carytown	
10/24		Martial Arts Word Super Show Benefiting the ASCV, at Hermitage High School	
10/26	7 pm	Parents of Adults with Aspergers/HFA Interest Group at River Road United Methodist Church	
10/26	7 pm	Adults with Asperger's/HFA Interest Group (open only to adults with Asperger's/HFA) at River Road United Methodist Church	
10/31	10 am	Inclusive Lego & Game Club – Downtown, details and registration: <u>https://downtownlegooct.eventbrite.com</u>	



# **OCTOBER COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES**

- 10/01 **Young Life Capernaum Hanover** a faith based opportunity for middle and high school students with intellectual and developmental disabilities to experience fun, to develop fulfilling friendships and to challenge their limits while building self-esteem; for info: email@alexbrito.org
- 10/02 **Special Night for Special Needs** at Children's Museum Chesterfield; 5:30 pm, for info: http://www.c-mor.org/events/special-nights
- 10/03 **Annual "Celebrating Families" Carnival** for children and adults with disabilities and their families; clowns, jugglers, petting zoo, carnival games, live music, and more; Mechanicsville; for info contact Joanna at 804-746-4303 x 360
- 10/05 Skyzone special needs night; <u>http://www.skyzone.com/richmond/Calendar</u>
- 10/06 Jumpology special needs night; <u>http://www.jumpology.us/Calendar</u>
- 10/07 **Chesterfield County Special Education Advisory Committee** topic: *Related Services*; meets at 5 pm @ the Career and Technical Center, 13900 Hull Street Road, room 256; open to the public; contact 804-639-8918 for more info and info on making public comment
- 10/08 **Richmond Asperger's Meet-up** <u>http://www.meetup.com/aspergers-397/</u>
- 10/10 **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 <u>willkir77@gmail.com</u>
- 10/19, 10/20 **Milk River Pop Up Workshop** integrated career-focused support for artists with special needs through professional studio practice and exhibition opportunities; at VMFA Studio School; for info contact <u>milkriverarts@gmail.com</u>
- 10/20 **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
- 10/21
   West End/ Northern Chesterfield Asperger's Meet-Up

   http://www.meetup.com/aspergers-397/
- 10/24 Game on Aspergers see 10/10 info above for details
- 10/26, 10/27 Milk River Pop Up Workshop see 10/19, 10/20 info above for details
- 10/28 **Gaviota Group** support group for Latino families with autism; meets at the Sacred Heart Center, 1400 Perry Street, Richmond, 23224; RSVP @ 804-646-0145

# WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCES

10/13 **Reading is Understanding – A Deeper Look at Comprehension and ASD** free webcast from VCU ACE. For the majority of students with ASD reading is a challenge. Although often able to decode words, comprehending the text read or expressing what they are able to understand may prove difficult. In this webcast we will discuss the importance of comprehension and share research-based and promising practices to be used during the instruction and informal reading assessments of verbal and nonverbal students with ASD; register here: <u>http://www.vcuautismcenter.org/te/webcasts/details.cfm?webcastID=341</u>

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

# **Thank You To Our Volunteers**

"Our deeds determine us, as much as we determine our deeds." ~George Eliot

James Francis Jared Artis Jesse Anderson Lovicia Newsome Jahquise Jordan Keli Keener Molly Johnson Skills Development Center McKinley Williams E.J. Kochis Lydia Call Nancy Andelin Erica Flynt Michelle Zirin Reny Wilcher Travis Faber Kristin Davidson Georgia Galanopoulous Lance Cheng Leslie Lambert Avery Tabb Dean Lee Matt Stiegman Evan Albrecht

We would love to add your name to this list. We are always looking for individuals, 18 and older, who would like to get involved. Contact Tammy at <u>outreach@ascv.org</u> to find out how you can volunteer for the ASCV too!

# **Thank You For the Following Donations**

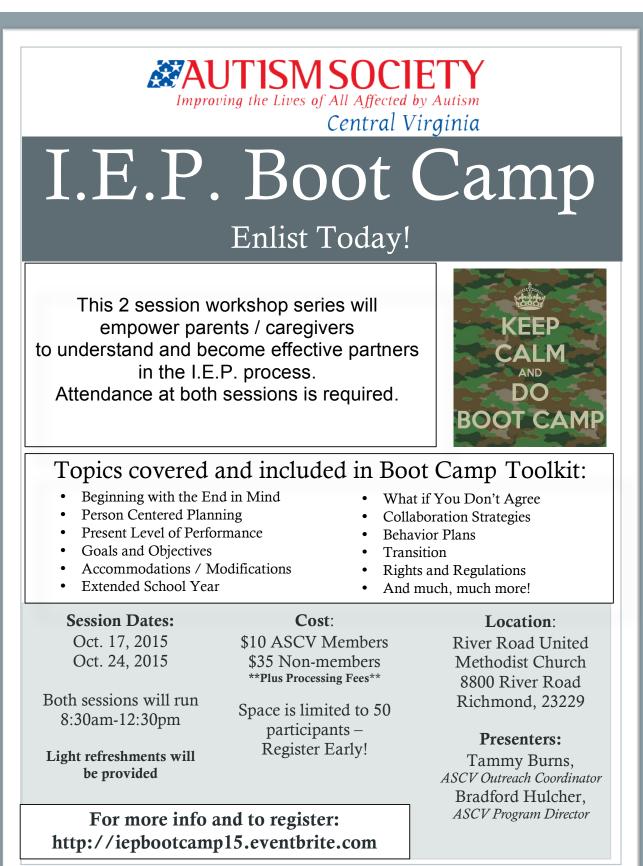
All donations stay in the Central Virginia area to support individuals and families affected by autism.

Elisabetta Gaiani Ann-Marie Long The Damast Family Brandon Kaufmann Byrd Theatre **Richmond Flying Squirrels** John Parker Brett & Rivi Rochkind The Bergan Family Menlo Integrative Training Natalie Davis The Griffith Family JC Cardente The Yurkanin Family Shannon Gray Kimberly Hartz Foster The Thorpe Family Jennifer Warren The Lohmann Family Nick Kiousis and Family Barbara & Michael Crowley Bill & Betty Thompson Nancy Harper

Susan Gross Maryann & Don Thompson Melissa Jones FerrellGas The Wyatt Family Uptown Alley The Norkunas Family

The following donations were made in memory of James "Jim" Miller: Jeanie Connor Judy & Tom Roberts Sandra Briggs Pegram & Bonnie Johnson Nancy Howard The Whitehurst Family

The following donation was made in memory of Jennifer Blais: Chesapeake Housing on the Bay



info@ascv.org



## **Presented By:**



Grandmaster V. K. Kim Founder of Martial Arts World

#### Tickets: In Advance: \$10.00 At The Door: \$15.00

(All tickets are valid from 9 AM to Event Finish)

All Proceeds Derofft: AUTISM SOCIETY Improving the Lives of All Affected by Autism

# Purchase Tickets at:



Ashland 804-79<mark>8-5176</mark>

Chester 804-748-9587

Chesterfield 804-594-6771

Glen Allen 804-501-0202

Hanover 804-789-9067

Hopewell 804-452-6676

Midlothian 804-763-4184

Powhatan 804-598-2575

West End 804-673-5200



#### **Masters of Ceremonies:**





Inst. Gretchen Beeson GM of MAW West End

01 Dr. Cynthia Schmidt nd Professor of law at UCF STOCICI LUCITOS:



Chief Master Loseph Diamond Producer & Director of The IBUR Connection



Senfor Master Keith Winkle Senior Vice Chairman of Martial Arts World



Instructor Mike Thomas Senior Vice President of Government Relations

When: GOO FM Saturday October 24th, 2015 Where: Hermitage High School - Gymnasium 8301 Aungary Spring Boad - Centico, VA 23228

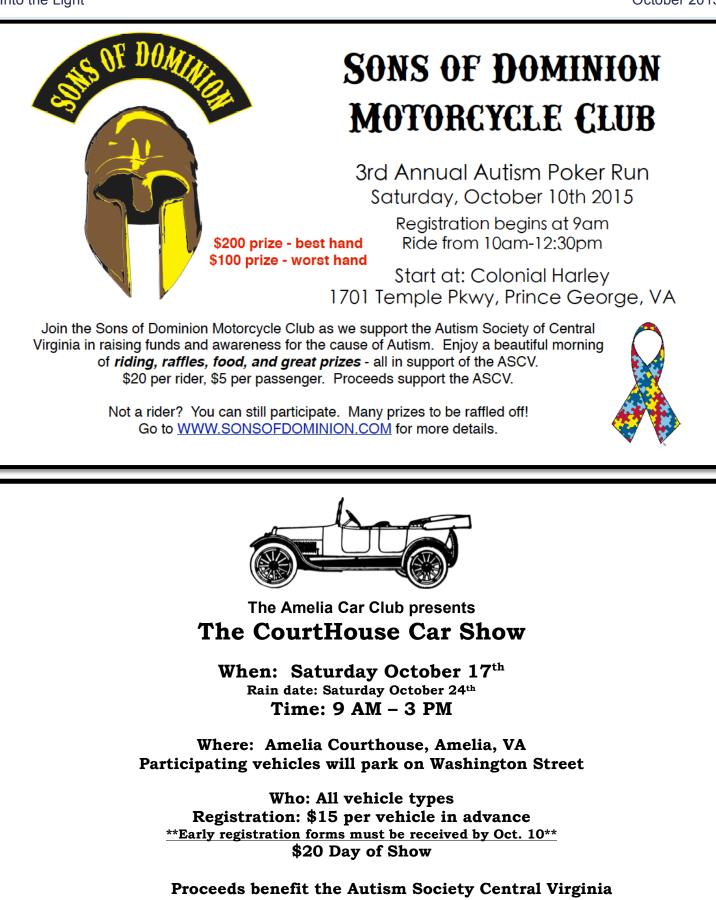
Sponsored By:







#### Into the Light



(434) 390-2984



# Learn, Live, Work, and Play! Free Conference & Resource Fair

For Students & Adults with Developmental Disabilities, Families, Educators & Service Providers

# Saturday, November 7, 2015 8:30am – 4:00pm

Help! I Need to Get My Child A Job: Pathways to Competitive Employment

# Keynote by: Paul Wehman, Ph.D., VCU-RRTC

Community Integration & Medicaid Waiver Redesign Heather Norton, VA. Dept. of Behavioral Health & Developmental Services

### Preparing for Tomorrow:

Essential Activities to Encourage Adult Independence Preschool - High School

Carol Schall, Ph.D., VCU-ACE

**Housing Options Using a Microboard** 

David Johnson, Esq. VA Microboard Association

# **RESOURCE FAIR**

25+ vendors providing services for living, working, learning & playing

-NEW LOCATION -

**Host Sponsor** 

**Reynolds Community College** 

1651 E. Parham Road - Richmond, VA 23228

Massey Technology Center & Burnette Hall

# The Conference is FREE; registration at: www.LifeInTheCommunity2015.eventbrite.com

## SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS:

Autism Society Central Virginia - info@ascv.org (804-257-0192) Down Syndrome Assoc. of Greater Richmond- Dsagreducation@gmail.com (804-525-7731) The Arc of Hanover - info@hanoverarc.org (804-798-2400)

## **AUTISM SOCIETY** *Improving the lives of All Affected by Autism*

Central Virginia

#### **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 Virginia. 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 Virginia 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
- Discounted workshops and conferences
- Free ASCV sponsored social/recreational activities

Membership Levels:			
\$5 ~ Self-Advocate (Adult w/ ASD) \$25 ~ Household \$1500 ~ Lifetime			
Name(s):			
Address: Phone #			
City: State: Zip:			
E-mail address:			
Additional Donation:			
\$25\$50\$100 please specify amount			
Payment information:			
Check (made payable to Autism Society Central Virginia) 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: $\Box$ by mail $\Box$ electronically			
Which free gift may we send you: $\Box$ car magnet $\Box$ refrigerator magnet $\Box$ no gift needed			
New Members, how did you hear about the ASCV? $\Box$ family $\Box$ friend $\Box$ internet $\Box$ other			
Please mail, email, or fax with payment to: Autism Society Central Virginia			

200 South 3<sup>rd</sup> Street Richmond, VA 23219 <u>outreach@ascv.org</u> (email) (804) 290-0286 (fax)

# Autism Society Central Virginia

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If you are currently receiving this newsletter via USPS and would prefer to receive it in fullcolor electronically, just email us at <u>info@ascv.org</u> and let us know!

Improving the lives of all affected by autism by maximizing the self-sufficiency, independence, and quality of life for all living with autism. Any age. Any stage.