



Into the Light

APRIL IS NATIONAL AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH JOIN US FOR OUR 2nd ANNUAL CENTRAL VA AUTISM CONFERENCE!

The greatest benefit of involvement with the Autism Society Central VA will always be our community - networking and learning from parents and individuals on the spectrum who are walking a similar path! On April 16th, our Second Annual Autism Conference, *Autism in the Family: Families & Professionals Caring & Coping Together*, will offer the opportunity to learn from a very special parent, psychologist, author, and speaker.

Dr. Robert Naseef, has been part of the autism community since 1981 when his son was first identified. He became a typical father in 1979. It was a dream come true—those magical first smiles, first steps, first words. Then in 1981, his son stopped talking, stopped playing normally, and began flapping his arms. From those first red flags of autism until now, autism has become the central theme of his life and work, and he shares his expertise through counseling, speaking, teaching, and writing about the impact of autism on families.

Dr. Naseef will present a free preconference session for “dads only” on Friday evening, April 15th (see page 4 for details.) On Saturday morning, April 16th, his keynote, *Being Present: The Family Journey to Acceptance and Resilience*, will inspire and energize family members and professionals. Dr. Naseef will then continue to share information on the following topics during breakout sessions:

- *Special Children, Challenged Parents, Caring Professionals: Building Partnerships*
- *Understanding and Guiding Your Child's Behavior*
- The conference will conclude with a panel presentation of fathers and sons on the spectrum, facilitated by Dr. Naseef.

A resource fair will be open throughout the day.

Learn more and register at <https://ascvannualconference.eventbrite.com>





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!

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Recreational Facilitator: Becky Early

Recreational Facilitator: Tarik McAllister

This newsletter is a publication of: Autism Society Central Virginia.
200 South 3rd 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 March newsletter is April 15th. 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 Board reserves the right to refuse to include any information, organization, business, or group where evidence-based practices are not evident. Ads for personal or organization fundraisers will not be accepted. 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

ASCV NAAM News

The ASCV is excited to have been invited to participate in many awareness events in April in support of National Autism Awareness Month. I want to thank the members and others who have approached us with these ideas and other ways to promote autism awareness and raise funds for the ASCV this April. We are excited to be sharing information at a Motorcycle Ministry Ride in Dinwiddie, Kings Dominion, TGI Friday's Hull Street, and at the Cuddle Up for a Cause "Until the Pieces Fit" 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 and other events!! You can also check out the full listing of our programs and events on our website at <http://ascv.org/meetings-events/>

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, not just in April but year-round!! Here are just a few ways you can help --

- Wear or display the puzzle piece ribbon.
- 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 get involved with the ASCV!
- 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 in Central VA. And make sure to share with all that you contact, "the funds raised here, stay here!"

I am looking forward to seeing you out in the community in April, at our Annual Picnic on May 7th, and at the ASCV 5K Run/Walk on May 28th!! 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!

Becky

Becky Boswell, MBA
Executive Director
director@ascv.org



ASCV RECREATIONAL AND SOCIAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS!

The Autism Society Central Virginia's Recreational and Social Scholarship Program was developed to help children, youth, and adults on the autism spectrum participate in recreational and social activities. Awards are based on financial need and funds available.

To be eligible for this scholarship, an individual must:

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

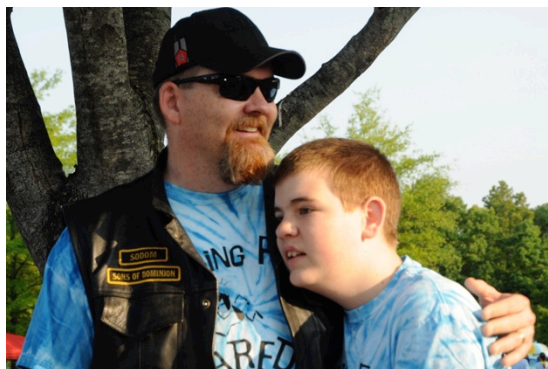
Awards of up to \$300 annually are available. To learn more or apply, visit:
<http://ascv.org/about/recreational-scholarships/>



PRECONFERENCE "DADS ONLY" WORKSHOP APRIL 15th *REVISITING MASCULINITY: FOR FATHERS OF CHILDREN WITH AUTISM*

This workshop explores the unique perspective men bring to parenting a child with autism. As the father of an adult son with autism, Dr. Robert Naseef provides compassion and understanding of the challenges for men and insight into building the father-child relationship. This "dads only" presentation helps develop involvement and support for fathers and offers insight into the family impact.

Information and registration for this workshop may be found here:
<https://dadsworkshop.eventbrite.com>. **This free workshop is open to fathers/stepfathers/male guardians of individuals with autism. Registration for this Pre-conference event does NOT register you for the Saturday, April 16th conference.**



10th ANNUAL ASCV MEMBER PICNIC AND FUN DAY

Autism Society members are invited to join us for our 10th Annual Spring Member Picnic, Saturday, May 7th, 12:00pm-3:00pm. As an Autism Society member, you and your IMMEDIATE family will enjoy:

- Free lunch for those registered
- Inflatables for the kids
- Games and activities – volleyball, soccer, bubbles, etc.
- A petting zoo with a variety of animals
- Community helpers and their vehicles up close and personal

ASCV members check your e-mail for the Eventbrite registration! Registration closes April 30th!



WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCES

- 04/12 **A Strange Story from a Strange World: My Life and the William and Mary Neurodiversity Student Group** Joel Carver is a rising Junior at the College of William and Mary and a Neurodiversity advocate; free webcast from VCU ACE; register <https://vcuautismcenter.org/te/webcasts/details.cfm?webcastID=346>
- 04/15 **Revisiting Masculinity: For Fathers of Children with Autism** This free workshop, for dads only, explores the unique perspective men bring to parenting a child with autism. As the father of an adult with autism, Dr. Naseef provides compassion and understanding of the challenges for men and insight into building the father-child relationship. This presentation helps develop involvement and support for fathers and offers insight into the family impact. Details and registration at <https://dadsworkshop.eventbrite.com>
- 04/16 **2nd Annual Central Virginia Autism Conference: Autism in the Family: Families & Professionals Caring and Coping Together** sponsored by the Autism Society Central VA; info and registration: <https://ascvannualconference.eventbrite.com>
- 04/25, 4/26 **Clinical Training Workshop Using the Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule-2** sponsored by VCU VTCC and St Joseph's Villa; \$395; information and registration at <http://www.cvent.com/d/mfqz9j>
- 05/10 **Disability Trust / Estate Planning** speaker: Ms. Paula Peaden (Parker, Pollard, Wilton & Peaden, P.C) practices law primarily in the area of wills, estate planning, disability planning, and elder law; sponsored by Hanover PRC; RSVP to 365-4596 or hanoverprc@hcps.us
- 05/21 **Transition Forum for Parents and Students: On Track for Postsecondary Success** The program will consist of three 45 minute sessions for parents and students. Topics will range from dorm life to how to communicate with your \ professors, to the difference between high school and college study strategies, etc. \$50 per family at Randolph Macon College; to register: jtrammel@rmc.edu

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

NEWS FROM THE AUTISM SOCIETY CENTRAL VIRGINIA BOARD

In March 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 Movies in collaboration with the Byrd Theatre
- Sponsored two Inclusive Lego and Game Clubs
- Sponsored Adults with Asperger's Interest Group
- Sponsored Parents of Adults with Asperger's Group
- Sponsored the Asperger's/HFA Teen Social Club
- Sponsored a Bowling outing for children, youth and adults with ASD
- Sponsored a Recreation Resource Fair
- Sponsored Sibshops

Awareness

- Hosted the Richmond Premiere of *The Family Next Door*
- Interviewed on WWBT Noon News
- Interviewed on VA This Morning
- Exhibited at Reelabilities Film Festival

Advocacy

- Participated on DBHDS New Individual and Family Design Advisory Committee (NIDAC)
- Participated on DBHDS Department of Justice Settlement Agreement Stakeholders' Meeting



**2016 5K Run/Walk
for Autism**

<http://ascv.org/ascv-5k/>

**Register!
Volunteer!
Sponsor!**

This 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.

04/05	6 pm	Board Meeting , 200 South 3 rd Street, Richmond, 23219
04/06	10 am	Exploring Home and Community Based Waivers Workshop hosted by The Founders Center; register at https://vamedicaidwaivers.eventbrite.com
04/09	10 am	Inclusive Lego & Game Club – Chester , details and registration: https://chesterlegoapril.eventbrite.com
04/15	6:30 pm	Revisiting Masculinity: For Fathers of Children with Autism (workshop for dads only) info & registration: https://dadsworkshop.eventbrite.com
04/15		Asperger's/HFA Teen Social Club free for ASCV members in grades 6-10; members, check your e-mail for Eventbrite invitation
04/16		2nd Annual Central VA Autism Conference <i>Autism in the Family: Caring and Coping Together</i> info & registration: https://ascvannualconference.eventbrite.com
04/17	2 pm	Sensory Friendly Movie at the Byrd Theatre, Carytown
04/17		ASCV Bowling Leagues – Shrader Lanes, members, check your e-mail for Eventbrite invitation
04/25	7 pm	Adults with Asperger's/HFA Interest Group (open only to adults with Asperger's/HFA)
04/25	7 pm	Parents of Adults with Asperger's/HFA Interest Group
04/30	10 am	Inclusive Lego & Game Club – Downtown , details and registration: https://downtownlegoapril.eventbrite.com

**AUTISM
SOCIETY
CENTRAL
VIRGINIA**

**APRIL
CALENDAR**

SHOP AT LIDS IN APRIL AND GIVE BACK TO THE ASCV

LIDS is an American retailer specializing in athletic headwear. LIDS has several locations in Central VA, including Chesterfield Town Center, Short Pump Town Center, and South Park Mall. Here are 3 ways LIDS is celebrating National Autism Awareness Month:

1. Every LIDS store will have a donation canister at the register with proceeds designated for the Autism Society.
2. At the point of sale, every customer will have a round up option and a flat donation option, even if they are paying with a credit card, to benefit Autism Society Affiliates.
3. If a customer wants to have the special puzzle graphic embroidered on a hat or clothing, \$7 from each sale will be donated to the Autism Society.

For more information on LIDS, visit their website at www.lids.com



APRIL COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES

- 04/03 **Special Night for Special Needs** at Children's Museum Central; 5:30 pm, for info: <http://www.c-mor.org/events/special-nights>
- 04/04 **Skyzone** special needs night; <http://www.skyzone.com/richmond/Calendar>
- 04/05 **Autism Night Out: How the Pieces of the Puzzle Fit in Our Community!** Hosted by the Henrico County Public Schools for Henrico County families; 6 pm at Hermitage High School; RSVP to 328-8117
- 04/09 **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
- 04/12 **Jumpology** special needs night; <http://www.jumpology.us/Calendar>
- 04/12, 4/20 **I'm Determined Family Night** sponsored by Hanover County Parent Resource Center; RSVP to Kelly at 365-4596 or Hanoverprc@hcps.us
- 04/13 **Chesterfield County Special Education Advisory Committee** topic: *Medicaid Waivers* meets at 5 pm at 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
- 04/14 **Asperger's Support Group** 7pm – 9pm at River City Diner
- 04/19 **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
- 04/19 **Asperger's Support Group** 7pm – 9pm at River City Diner
- 04/23 **Game on Aspergers** see 04/14 info above for details
- 04/27 **Gaviota Group** support group for Latino families with autism; meets at the Sacred Heart Center, 1400 Perry Street, Richmond, 23224; RSVP at 804-646-0145

JOIN US AT A LOCAL CELEBRATION!

Please consider attending the following events planned to raise awareness and resources for ASCV during National Autism Awareness Month!

- 04/09 **2016 Ride 4 Autism** to benefit the ASCV
- 04/10 **Autism Awareness Day at King's Dominion**
- 04/14 **TGIFriday Bartender Flair Show** to benefit the ASCV
- 04/24 **Hanover Yoga** classes to benefit the ASCV
- 04/30 **Until the Pieces Fit** benefiting the ASCV

More info on each of these can be found at <http://ascv.org/meetings-events/>



Thank You To Our Volunteers

Davis Long
 Jlynn Holland-Cecil
 Haiduong Tran
 Kauana Batista
 Kim Tran
 Riham Elhassan
 Helen Boateng
 Ashlynn Bell
 Valerie Vu
 Avery Tabb
 Christina Longmire
 Evan Jenkins
 Patrick O'Connell
 Sean Kaviani
 Alex Lavallis
 Nassim Elgourchal
 Chris Kowal
 Quintin Newcomer
 Nancy Andelin
 Donna Sabel

Madison Nahrup
 Kristin Davidson
 Octavia Bunton
 Hillary Dimig
 Deidre Miller
 Becky Early
 Tom Long
 Christina Del Bueno
 Matt Vozar
 Hayden Vozar
 Deja Taylor
 Derek Gallina
 Will Rixmann
 DJ Tatum
 Dean Lee
 Matt Stiegmman
 Sidney Shuman
 Lisa deGroot
 Staci Carr

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 outreach@ascv.org 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.

Staci Carr
 Lisa Keene
 Mary Bess Bolin
 Aja Wells
 Paul McNamara
 Gregory Workman
 Phillip Sandino
 Tracey Matthews
 Joseph James Laut
 Paul Warner
 Lorrie Hunt
 David Faris
 Bonnie Gouldin
 Laura Dustin
 Brian Ross
 Elizabeth Youngblood
 Deborah Cook

Jack Redfield
 Michelle Harrington
 Barbara Piguet
 Laura Neale
 Garret Grim
 M C Wiedeman
 Cynthia Bradford
 Eunice Graham
 Lois Rowland
 Nanette Lally
 Albert Friedrichs
 Dominic Venuto
 Mary Gliot
 Sylvia Fetty
 Dale Lucy
 Dorothy Fountaine

Demis Steward
 Sheena Haywood
 Constance Vicente
 Virginia Wayside Furniture
 Nicole & Charles Harris
 Larry Scarborough
 Kitty Gray
 Bill Thompson
 Marianne McGhee
 Richmond's Italian Festival
 Lisa McAlexander
 Virginia Craft Brews



Cross Bearers Motorcycle Ministry

sponsors



Cook-out following the ride
for all participants at the
Dinwiddie Ruritan Club
15610 Courthouse Road
Dinwiddie, VA 23841

Donation: \$20
per bike
\$10 for each
additional rider

"Ride 4 Autism 2016"

Commemorative pins
for the first
100 registered riders

in support of

Autism Society Central Virginia

Date: April 9, 2016

"Non bike riders welcome to eat for a \$10 donation"

To make monetary donations to this fund raiser
visit us at www.crossbearersmm.org (Ride 4 Autism Info. Page)

*****All proceeds will be donated to Autism Society Central VA*****

Autism Awareness Day at Kings Dominion

Gluten Free Food Options
Quiet Areas
Special Boarding Pass Program



ASCV Exhibiting Under the Eiffel Tower
Raising Awareness and Acceptance

Sunday, April 10, 2015

DISCOUNTED TICKETS

Online savings available on single day admission tickets.
\$34.50 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 and in the top right corner of the
website put in the promo code: **KDASCV**



Bartender Flair Show

benefitting



Thursday, April 14, 2016
6pm – 9pm

Raffles, Giveaways, and Fridays Finest Flair Show!
 Contact Lisa Dean @ 804-387-1078 for info on how to donate items for the raffle
 or to purchase a seat or table

Fundraiser to benefit the
AUTISM SOCIETY
 Improving the Lives of All Affected by Autism
 Central Virginia

Until the Pieces Fit

3rd Annual Craft Show

Presented by
 Cuddle Up for a Cause
 Karen Isik and Linda Johnson

Over 100 Vendors!

Food Fun Direct Sales
 Homemade Crafts

Free Admission
Saturday, April 30, 2016
 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM
 (rain or shine)

Colonial Heights Middle School Parking Lot
 500 Conduit Road, Colonial Heights 23834

Visit the event Facebook page:
 3rd Annual - Until the Pieces Fit - Autism Fundraiser/Craft Show



FAMILY PRIORITY

In-Home Applied Behavior Analysis Services

Family Priority, a leading provider of ABA services in Virginia, has expanded to the Richmond region. Our highly qualified staff consists of BCBAs, BCaBAs, and behavior assistants. We develop evidenced-based interventions that are individualized to meet the unique needs of each child. Services can include Language Acquisition, Behavior Reduction, Essential Life Skills, and Social Skills Training. Family Priority is a Tricare and Medicaid provider and will accept private insurance and self-pay.

Serving Greater Richmond : 9201 Arboretum Pkwy Suite 160 Richmond, VA 23236 (P) 804-912-1338

Serving the Peninsula: 105 Bulifants Blvd. Suite C Williamsburg, VA 23185 (P) 757-645-3860

Serving Northern Virginia: 11350 Random Hills Rd. Suite 240 Fairfax, VA 22030 (P) 703-537-0700



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: _____

(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 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: ☐ by mail ☐ electronically

Which free gift may we send you: ☐ car magnet ☐ refrigerator magnet ☐ no gift needed

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

Please mail, email, or fax with payment to:

Autism Society Central Virginia
200 South 3rd Street
Richmond, VA 23219
outreach@ascv.org (email)
(804) 290-0286 (fax)

Autism Society Central Virginia

200 South 3rd Street
Richmond, VA 23219

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Permit No. 132

Address Service Requested



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

Our newsletter reaches over 700+ 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 200 South 3rd Street, Richmond, VA 23219.

Deadline for entry is April 15th.

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.