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 breakouts 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](https://ascvannualconference.eventbrite.com)
BOARD OFFICERS

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Treasurer: Adam Bailey, CPA
Compliance Officer: Megan Sullivan Kirby

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Recreational Facilitator: Brie King, M.A. LBA BCBA
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.

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!
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
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.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Location Details</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>04/03</td>
<td><strong>Special Night for Special Needs</strong> at Children’s Museum Central; 5:30 pm, for info:</td>
<td><a href="http://www.c-mor.org/events/special-nights">http://www.c-mor.org/events/special-nights</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>04/04</td>
<td><strong>Skyzone</strong> special needs night; <a href="http://www.skyzone.com/richmond/Calendar">http://www.skyzone.com/richmond/Calendar</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>04/05</td>
<td>** 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</td>
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<tr>
<td>04/09</td>
<td><strong>Game on Aspergers</strong> 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 <a href="mailto:willkir77@gmail.com">willkir77@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>04/12</td>
<td><strong>Jumpology</strong> special needs night; <a href="http://www.jumpology.us/Calendar">http://www.jumpology.us/Calendar</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>04/12</td>
<td><strong>I’m Determined Family Night</strong> sponsored by Hanover County Parent Resource Center; RSVP to Kelly at 365-4596 or <a href="mailto:Hanoverprc@hcps.us">Hanoverprc@hcps.us</a></td>
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<td>04/13</td>
<td><strong>Chesterfield County Special Education Advisory Committee</strong> topic: <em>Medicaid Waivers</em> 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</td>
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<tr>
<td>04/14</td>
<td><strong>Asperger’s Support Group</strong> 7pm – 9pm at River City Diner</td>
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<td>04/19</td>
<td><strong>Monkey Joe’s Special Needs Night</strong> from 5 pm-7 pm; kids ages 2-12 with special needs free; closed to public; siblings welcome $5; info 897-5867</td>
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<tr>
<td>04/19</td>
<td><strong>Asperger’s Support Group</strong> 7pm – 9pm at River City Diner</td>
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<tr>
<td>04/23</td>
<td><strong>Game on Aspergers</strong> see 04/14 info above for details</td>
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<tr>
<td>04/27</td>
<td><strong>Gaviota Group</strong> support group for Latino families with autism; meets at the Sacred Heart Center, 1400 Perry Street, Richmond, 23224; RSVP at 804-646-0145</td>
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### 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!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Location Details</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>04/09</td>
<td><strong>2016 Ride 4 Autism</strong> to benefit the ASCV</td>
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<tr>
<td>04/10</td>
<td><strong>Autism Awareness Day at King’s Dominion</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>04/14</td>
<td><strong>TGIFriday Bartender Flair Show</strong> to benefit the ASCV</td>
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<tr>
<td>04/24</td>
<td><strong>Hanover Yoga</strong> classes to benefit the ASCV</td>
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<tr>
<td>04/30</td>
<td><strong>Until the Pieces Fit</strong> benefiting the ASCV</td>
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</table>

More info on each of these can be found at [http://ascv.org/meetings-events/](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 Elgourchchal
- 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 Stieghmann
- 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 Piquet
- 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
Autism Awareness Day at Kings Dominion

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

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

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
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.
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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$5 Self-Advocate (Adult w/ ASD)</td>
<td>$25 Household</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Name(s):

Address:

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:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$50</td>
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<tr>
<td>$100</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Please specify amount

Payment information:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Payment Method</th>
<th>Mastercard</th>
<th>Visa</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Check          | __________ | _______

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)
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.