



Into the Light

THROUGH THEIR EYES: A PANEL OF SIBLINGS OF INDIVIDUALS WITH AUTISM JANUARY 6th SOCIETY MEETING

It is estimated that more than 3.5 million Americans have an autism spectrum disorder (Buescher et al., 2014). Many of these individuals have typically developing brothers and/or sisters. Being the brother or sister of a person with autism is seen by some as a good thing, for others a not-so-good thing, and for many, somewhere in between. Siblings will often have the longest-lasting relationship with an individual who has a disability – one that could easily exceed 65 years.

Throughout their lives, these brothers and sisters will share many – if not most – of the same concerns that parents of children with autism experience, as well as issues that are uniquely theirs. Join us on Friday evening, January 6th to hear and learn from the experts themselves, a panel of local siblings, as they share their unique perspective on life growing up as a brother or sister to an individual with autism.



Siblings will answer questions from the moderator and, if time allows, will take questions from the audience.

This presentation is appropriate for parents and providers, as well as siblings in grades 3 through adulthood. Learn more and register at <https://ascvsiblings.eventbrite.com>

Siblings



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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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 February newsletter is January 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

Help the ASCV Climb the Giving Tower!!

On **Tuesday, November 29, 2016**, non-profits, families, businesses, community centers, and students from around the world came 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 (Black Friday and Cyber Monday), and now one dedicated to giving back on a global scale, "Giving Tuesday."

What a great way to promote the concept of giving across the world, and the Autism Society Central Virginia is proud to participate in Giving Tuesday every year! But this year, the giving opportunity continues past Tuesday, November 29th. The ASCV is excited to be participating in a new opportunity, the Giving Tower Holiday program, from November 22nd to December 31st!

In this new program, each donation is a brick in a virtual tower and collectively, friends and donors will help build the world's largest building, the CrowdRise Giving Tower. YOU can be a part of building the ASCV tower at this link -- <https://www.crowdrise.com/autism-society-central-virginia-holiday-challenge/fundraiser/autismsocietyofcentr>

As we endeavor to grow our programs and services in 2017 to better meet the needs in our community, we ask that you consider putting the ASCV at the top of your giving list this holiday season! And when you help us climb the 2016 Giving Tower, you will also put us in the running for some great additional bonus prizes! 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



The Individual and Family Support Program Funding Period for FY 2017

The Individual and Family Support Program (IFSP) is designed to assist individuals on the waiting list for Developmental Disability (DD) Medicaid waivers to access short-term resources, supports, and services that will help them remain in their own community homes. Applications for the 2017 Funding Period are being accepted now on a first-come, first-serve basis. The maximum amount of request per individual for 2017 is \$1000 and, to be eligible for this program, and individual must be on the DD Waiver Wait List.

The application can be accessed from the IFSP tab found at the bottom of this webpage:
<http://www.dbhds.virginia.gov/individuals-andfamilies/developmental-disabilities/community-support-services>

To be considered, applications must be completed and mailed to:
DBHDS/IFSP, 1220 Bank Street, Richmond, VA 23129.

DBHDS will not accept applications that are faxed, emailed, or hand delivered. If you need help completing the application, or need assistance in completing the application in another language, please call the IFSP staff at 804-225-3810 or 804-663-7277.

IMPORTANT INFO

ABLEnow Opens in December

ABLEnow accounts are a new way for individuals with disabilities to save money and pay for qualified disability-related expenses. For the first time ever, that means tax-advantaged savings, usually without endangering eligibility for the means-tested benefit programs (i.e. SSI, SSDI, Medicaid Waivers) critical to the health and well-being of many with disabilities. Contributions to ABLE accounts can be made by anyone, from the account owner to family, friends, and loved ones – allowing more people to play a part in creating a better quality of life for individuals with disabilities. Learn how you can start your savings account when ABLEnow opens this December by visiting this website: <https://www.able-now.com/>



Save the Dates! 2017 ASCV Learning Opportunities

Mark your calendars for our Winter/Spring learning opportunities:

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| January 6 | <i>Through Their Eyes: A Panel of Siblings of Individuals with ASD</i> |
| February 3 | <i>Diploma Options with the VA Department of Education</i> |
| March 3 | <i>Annual Recreation Resource Fair</i> |
| March 31 / April 1 | <i>IEP Boot Camp</i> |
| May 5 | <i>Friendship Building Skills with Amanda Randall, M.Ed, BCBA, LBA, Self Determination State Coordinator at James Madison University</i> |



Developmental Disabilities Waivers Public Forum Information Sessions

The Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) will be conducting public forums for providers, families, individuals, and CSB/BHAs on the Developmental Disabilities (DD) Waivers. These sessions will provide a brief overview of the three new DD Waivers: *Community Living*, *Family and Individual Supports*, and *Building Independence Waivers*.

DMAS is interested in your feedback and/or concerns about the current emergency regulations for the DD Waivers and any recommendations you might have to improve the permanent proposed regulations.

DMAS leaders will:

- Provide updates on the approved process and outline for drafting new regulations;
- Identify areas that will be clarified from the emergency regulations;
- Review the new amendments to be submitted to CMS; and
- Consider questions, comments, and changes needed for the new regulations based on those expressed during this forum.

The metro Richmond session will take place Thursday, January 15, 2017 from noon to 2:00pm at the Virginia Housing Development Authority, 4224 Cox Rd, Glen Allen. Registration is required. Register at: <https://dmastraining.adobeconnect.com/ddwaivers010517/event/registration.html>



New ASCV Scholarship Program Added for 2017

The ASCV has offered a Recreation and Social Scholarship Program to area children, youth, and adults with ASD since 2013. To be eligible for these scholarships, an individual must have a diagnosis of autism and reside in Metro-Richmond or a surrounding city/county. Scholarships for ASCV Membership are also available for families experiencing difficult financial times or for whom membership would place a financial burden.

Beginning in January 2017, the ASCV will offer an additional scholarship opportunity, open only to ASCV members. The Education and Enrichment Scholarship Program is designed to improve the quality of life for individuals with autism and their families/caregivers. This award may be used by the individual and/or family members/caregivers towards educational enrichment opportunities. A total of up to \$300 per membership is available per calendar year. Examples of qualifying activities include conference registration, workshops, webinars, tuition, and fees related to educational endeavors related to ASD. Additional information will be posted on our website in late December.



15th Annual 5K Run/Walk for Autism Mark the Date - Registration Opens February 1, 2017

We are excited to be celebrating a milestone anniversary this year – the **15th** Annual ASCV 5K Run/Walk for Autism will take place on Saturday, May 27, 2017! Plans are underway to make this our biggest and best 5K yet, including a 15th Anniversary 5K Run/Walk for Autism **full color** t-shirt for all registrants in 2017!!

The ASCV 5K registration will officially open on February 1, 2017. At that time, you will be able to register yourself, start a team, and officially begin your fundraising page! To honor our 15th year, we will also be offering several special pricing incentives:

- Register for the 2017 5K between February 1 and February 15 at the 2016 Early Bird Prices!
- 2017 Early Bird pricing will run from February 16th through April 15th.
- After April 15, 2017, registration will be at full 2017 rates.

Watch for other upcoming announcements about special ways we will be celebrating the 15th year of this special event!! And plan to join us on May 27th for the party!



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:

Education

- Presented a 3 part series *Transition to Adulthood with ASD: What Parents and Guardians Need to Know*

Services and Supports

- Co-sponsored *Wings for All*
- Sponsored a Sensory Friendly Movie in collaboration with the Byrd Theatre
- Sponsored Inclusive Lego and Game Clubs
- Sponsored Adults with Asperger's Interest Group
- Sponsored Parents of Adults with Asperger's Group
- Sponsored Asperger's/HFA Teen Social Club
- Sponsored Sibshops
- Sponsored a bowling outing for children, youth, and adults with ASD

Advocacy

- Participated on the VCU ACE Region 1 Community Partners Advisory Committee

Awareness

- Exhibited at Kendra Scott fundraising event
- Exhibited at Wells Fargo Advisors Diversity & Inclusion Fair

SHOP SMILE.AMAZON.COM TO SUPPORT ASCV!

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 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 Virginia" and 0.5% of your purchase will go directly to the ASCV to help support local individuals with autism and their families.



This December and January, 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.

12/03	10 am	Inclusive Lego & Game Club – Chester , details and registration: https://declegocheater.eventbrite.com
12/04		ASCV Member Holiday Party
12/11		Bowling Event for children/youth/adults with ASD; free for ASCV members; check your email for Eventbrite invitation and registration
12/17	2 pm	Sensory Friendly Movie - <i>The Polar Express</i> at the Byrd Theatre, Carytown
01/06	7pm	Monthly Society Meeting: Through Their Eyes: A Panel of Siblings of Individuals with Autism learn more & register at https://ascvsiblings.eventbrite.com
01/06		Asperger's/HFA Teen Social Club (Grades 6-10) free for ASCV members; check your email for Eventbrite invitation and registration
01/07	10 am	Inclusive Lego & Game Club – Chester , details and registration: https://janlegocheater.eventbrite.com
01/10		ASCV Board Meeting 200 South 3 rd Street, Richmond
01/14	10 am	Sibshop details & registration: http://ascv.org/meetings-events/sibshops/ ; registration closes 1/9 at noon
01/22		Bowling Event for children/youth/adults with ASD; free for ASCV members; check your email for Eventbrite invitation and registration
01/21	2 pm	Sensory Friendly Movie at the Byrd Theatre, Carytown
01/23	7 pm	Parents of Adults with Asperger's/HFA Interest Group
01/23	7 pm	Adults with Asperger's/HFA Interest Group (open only to adults with Asperger's/HFA)
01/28	10 am	Inclusive Lego & Game Club – Downtown , details and registration: https://janlegodowntown.eventbrite.com

**AUTISM
SOCIETY
CENTRAL
VIRGINIA**

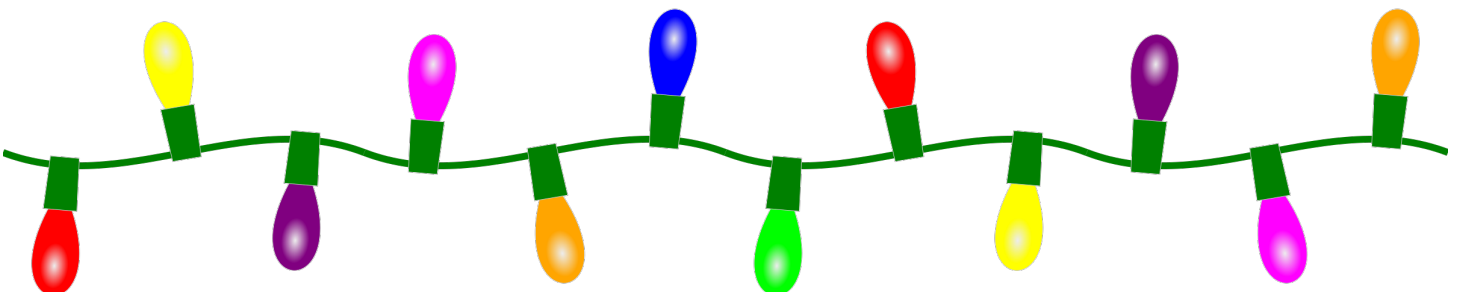
**DECEMBER/
JANUARY
CALENDAR**



DECEMBER / JANUARY COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES

(Dates provided as published by sponsoring organizations; contact organizations for confirmation)

- 12/04 **Special Night for Special Needs** at Children's Museum Short Pump; 5:30 pm, for info: <http://www.c-mor.org/events/special-nights>
- 12/05 **Hanover County Special Education Advisory Committee** meets at 7 pm at Hanover County School Board Office, 200 Berkley Street, Ashland; Topic: *Transition from School to Adulthood*; open to the public
- 12/06, 01/03 **Jumpology** special needs night; <http://www.jumpology.us/Calendar>
- 12/08, 01/12 **Asperger's Support Group - Northside**, meeting for adults with Asperger's / HFA and parents of children with this diagnosis, 7pm – 9pm at River City Diner, Parham Rd.
- 12/09 **Sensory Friendly Family Performance: A Christmas Story** FREE sensory friendly performance from the VA Repertory Theater for children with autism and other sensory, social, or learning disabilities; details & registration here: http://va-rep.org/sensory_friendly.html
- 12/12, 01/09 **Sky Zone Special Needs Sensory Friendly Night** <http://www.skyzone.com/richmond>
- 12/13 **Richmond Special Education Advisory Committee** 12 pm-1:30 pm; open to the public; call 780-7710 for the location of the meeting
- 12/13, 12/14 **Sensitive Santa Event** free; sponsored by Easter Seals UCP & Allianz Worldwide Partners; for info and to register: sarah.mercer@eastersealsucp.com or 804-353-2571
- 12/20, 01/17 **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
- 12/20 **Asperger's Support Group – West End / Northern Chesterfield**, meeting for adults with Asperger's / HFA and parents of children with this diagnosis, 7pm – 9pm at Positive Vibe Café, 2825 Hathaway Road, Richmond
- 12/28, 01/25 **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
- 01/10 **Richmond Special Education Advisory Committee** 6 pm-7:30 pm; open to the public; call 780-7710 for the location of the meeting
- 01/11 **Chesterfield County Special Education Advisory Committee** meets at 5 pm at the Career and Technical Center, 13900 Hull Street Road, room 256; open to the public; topic: *Understanding Poverty*; open to the public; contact 804-639-8918 for more info and info on making public comment
- 01/24 **Henrico County Special Education Advisory Committee** meets at 6:30 pm at Brookland Middle School; topic: *Dyslexia/Dysgraphia*; open to the public



WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCES

- 12/05 **Navigating Independent Community Housing for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities** free workshop on accessing supports and funding for integrated independent housing; 6pm; Richmond Public Library, 101 E. Franklin St., Richmond, VA 23219; RSVP at region4iihinfo@gmail.com or 804-325-4145
- 12/04 **"From PossAbilities to Practical Applications" Disability Education Conference** learn more: <http://dsagr.org/present-et-urna-turpis-sadips/>

SUPPORT THE ASCV THROUGH GOODSHOP

Consider shopping through Goodshop for all your online shopping! Goodshop will donate up to 20% of your purchase when you shop at thousands of stores like Target, Macy's, and more. Just use the link - <https://www.goodsearch.com/goodshop?charityid=804672> - when you shop! Goodshop also offers tons of deals and coupons, so you can save money while you support the ASCV!



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SAVE THE DATE

The 15th Annual 5K Run/Walk for Autism will occur on Saturday, May 27, 2017!!



Run/Walk
May 27, 2017

Contact director@ascv.org for Sponsor info now!

Thank You To Our Volunteers

Petra Stockhaus
 Kristin Herman
 Dave Herman
 Eleanor Herman
 Kyleigh Jordan
 Erin Jordan
 Kim Gregg
 Mike Stank
 Donna Sabel
 Cameron Sabel
 Micheal Saxon
 Judi Saxon
 Sam Hulcher
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 Devin Roman
 Savannah Holshouser
 David Hebel
 Danya Piggee
 Robyn Guillory

Mr. Kern's Deep Run Class
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 Tanya Ley
 Samantha Hutchinson
 Davis Long
 Tom Long
 Shravya Shetty
 Josh France
 George Richardson
 Sam Dixon
 Sidney Shuman



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.

Melissa Vasconcelos
Tasha Thomas
Georgina Rose T. Lutz
Terry Nealy
Ma Angela Foz
Shenita Williams
Sharon Brenner
Anne Harrison
Veronica Quinley
Becky Goodpasture
Mario Sanpablo
Kathryn Russell
Warren Snead Jr.
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Lisa Keene
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Jeffrey Burchett
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Mark Rondina
Michael Gobbi
Gregory Workman
Aja Wells

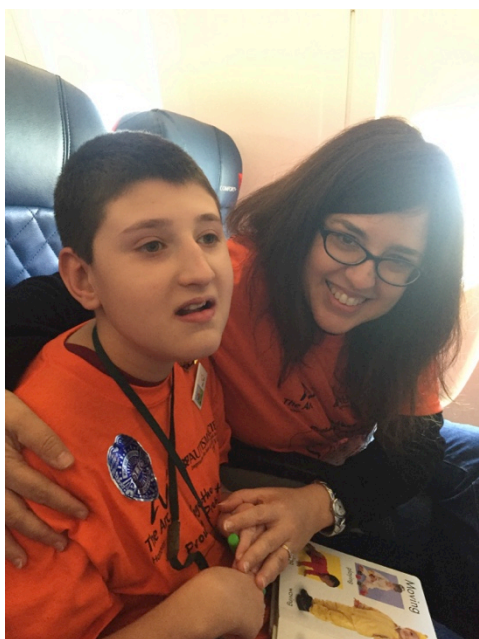
Julie Magill
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Thomas Gregory
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Mary Bess Bolin
William Janke
Paul Warner
Cheyniqua Holland

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 15th! Martial Arts World raised over \$30,000 for the ASCV in 2016! 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!



Some Recent ASCV Events

Here are a few pictures of our Wings for All Event and our recent trip to the Pumpkin Patch.



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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

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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 and payment is Jan. 15th.

Ad Rates:

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The Board reserves the right to refuse to place an advertisement.