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Autism Monthly NJ

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Although summer is almost over, Autism Family Services doesn't want to give up on those Summer days and nights just yet! Make sure you read through the newsletter to learn about the exciting beach events we have in store!



**Autism Family
Services of
New Jersey**

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Big Weekend Coming up for for AFSNJ!



At long last, the signature events of Autism Family Services of New Jersey will take place this weekend. On Friday, September 11, the 5th Annual Seaside Soiree will be held on the beach of Ocean Place One in Long Branch, beginning at 6:00. The event features the Billy Lawlor Band, a Jersey shore favorite. Good food, drinks, and a bon fire will also be featured. A J Crew fashion show is scheduled as well as a silent auction. This fundraising event still has tickets remaining at \$150 per person. Please visit our Web site (www.autismfamilyservicesnj.org)

or call (609-392-4900) as soon as possible. Proceeds from this event help us to present the 5th Annual Beach Bash.

The Beach Bash, taking place on September 13th on the 7th Ave beach in Belmar, has been a highlight on the calendars of all who have attended in the past and includes beach activities, swimming, food, crafts, a live DJ, and recreation programs. A feature of the day is the return of Surfer's Healing, a world renowned group of professional surfers specializing in work with children and adults with autism.

Quick Facts:

Seaside Soiree - \$150 per person; September 11 (proceeds enable us to host the Beach Bash). Find more information by [clicking here](#).

Beach Bash - free! Please pre-register by [clicking here](#).

Surfer's Healing camp- registration was handled by Surfer's healing, Inc., and all slots have been filled.

We'll see you on the beach!

DDD E-Newsletter (DDD Today) Contains Valuable Information

For the past 2 years, the Division of Developmental Disabilities has circulated a free e-newsletter, highlighting DDD news, policies, community agencies, and important information for all served by or eligible for services by the Division. Named DDD Today, this free publication is available by [clicking here](#). Sign up for a free subscription. You can access all previous issues on line and provide feedback and comment to DDD. A revised Web site will be available in mid-September.

Register Now for the National Caregivers Conference



NATIONAL CAREGIVERS CONFERENCE

Changing the Face of Caregiving

Please join us on Thursday, October 29, 2009 at the Woodbridge Hotel and Conference Center to meet new people from around the country, spend time catching up with old friends, and return home with a refreshed outlook on caregiving.

The first 40 paid registrants will receive a free copy of Luncheon Speaker, Carol D. O'Dell's Book, *Mothering Mother: A Daughter's Humorous and Heartbreaking Memoir*.

For more information about how you can be a part of this fantastic event please call the Family Support Center of NJ (732) 528-8080 and a staff member will be ready to assist you.

Visit www.nationalcaregiversconference.org regularly for event updates!

AFSNJ Seeks Walk Team for Walk for a Brighter Tomorrow

The Family Resource Network, the parent organization of Autism Family Services of New Jersey, is seeking walkers for the annual walkathon, scheduled for October 11 at Roosevelt Park in Edison. The 5K walk will have mascots, refreshments, and interactive games and activities. Please visit the website, www.walkforabrightertomorrow.org for more information.



This year we need a large showing of AFSNJ families. Deb Egan of our Manasquan Office is coordinating our team this year, so please contact her for more information at Debra.Egan@FSCNJ.org or 732-528-8080. Thanks, and let's make this year our best showing ever!

Governor Corzine Signs Landmark Insurance Bill



August 13, 2009, will long be remembered by parents of children with autism and other developmental disabilities as a day of hope for many families raising children with autism. After years of failed attempts, the Insurance Reform Act, legislation that will mandate insurance coverage for certain treatments, was signed into law.

Physical Therapy, Speech Therapy, Occupational Therapy, and certain behavioral therapies, ABA being the chief among them, will be covered for children up to age 21 and at no more than \$36,000 per year. The legislation takes effect in February of 2010. Only State-regulated insurers are mandated to comply, however. Self-insured or Federally regulated programs are not covered by this law.

Governor Corzine signed the legislation at Children's Specialized Hospital in New Brunswick. Eric Joice, Executive Director of the Family Resource Network, was among the 200 in attendance, which included many parents, legislators, and Assembly Speaker Joe Roberts, sponsor of the bill. There was a good deal of media coverage at and after the event, and Autism Family Services took part in lengthy interviews with New York and Philadelphia media.

The Infant Brain Imaging Study (IBIS) is Looking for Participants

Twin and family studies have shown that younger brothers and sisters of children with autism are at a higher risk of developing autism than those children who do not have relatives with this condition. Information gained about early brain development in children with autism may improve methods of early detection and intervention for infants who may be at risk for developing autism. Earlier identification and treatment may lead to better outcomes for these young children and their families.

The Center for Autism Research, The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, aims to identify very early brain features that may be characteristic of infants at risk for autism. They are actively seeking to enroll families who have a child with an autism spectrum disorder and an infant sibling 6 months old or younger for the Infant Brain Imaging Study (IBIS). Developmental evaluations and MRI scans of your infant's brain will be completed at 6, 12, and 24 months of age. Compensation for participation will be provided, and travel arrangements can be made for families traveling from further distances.



To learn more about participating in this study, please contact the study coordinator at 1-866-570-6524 (toll free) or autism@email.chop.edu.

"Dinner and a Therapist" Series



For the past few months we have been telling you about a grant received from The Horizon Foundation of New Jersey to conduct parent training and support in raising a child with autism. Our plans have finally come together and we are pleased to announce them for the first time in this month's Autism Monthly e-newsletter.

In January, Autism Family Services of New Jersey will conduct a 3-part series, to be held on Friday evenings (dates to be determined) and to include child care on site and dinner. All workshops will be held at the Matthew Jago School in Woodbridge (Central Jersey). Dr. Russell Kormann of the Rutgers Center for Applied Psychology will have a two-part presentation dealing with family stress and ways to deal with it. Annette Becklund, LCSW, a clinical social worker in private practice, will conduct a workshop on positive support and interactions with siblings of children on the spectrum.

Registration is limited to 35 individuals and we need to have those accepted for admission attend all sessions. Pre- and post-tests will give us an indication of our success and we will then look for funding to provide the series throughout the state. Admission, child care and dinner will be free of charge. To register, please contact (732) 528-8080.

Changes at Kidz Korner

The after school programs, better known as Kidz Korner, have undergone structural changes over the course of the summer months. The program now is under the auspices of Autism Family Services of New Jersey. Cyndee Smith-Policastro long time teacher in our Toms River program, has been named Coordinator of Kidz Korner, and will work out of our Shore Area Office for up to 10 hours per week. The Toms River program, with a contract for up to 6 students between 6 and 12 years of age, will continue 2 afternoons per week from 2:30 to 5:30, and Susan Roseander will serve as that location's teacher. The Berkeley Township program, serving up to 12 individuals between the ages of 5 and 18, will meet 5 days per week, 3:00-6:00, at Central Regional Middle School in Bayville, a new location. Judy Dilzer will serve as teacher and long time staff member Lucy Lanza will be an aid in the Berkeley program.

Our Middlesex County program at Lakeview School, Edison, is contracted for up to 10 students, 5 days per week, from 4:00 until 6:00. However, DDD has been very slow to utilize this program and we are looking for ways to stimulate their approval of additional students. We are currently revisiting our Newark program, which has become the victim of major United Way cuts. During the fall we will be finalizing a curriculum and operations manual to bring uniformity and consistency to these programs. We will also be looking to develop new programs, utilizing a parent-pay and district fee-for-service model. Please continue to read this e-zine for updates.

It is important to note that all admissions are controlled strictly by DDD. A parent will need to access Kidz Korner through their case managers at DDD. AFSNJ or FRN has no control over admission.

Thank you for reading Autism Monthly NJ! If you have any information you would like included in our e-zine, or know of anyone that would like to be added to our listserv, please email me at dgoldberg@familyresourcenetwork.org or click the "Join Our Mailing List" button on the top right side of the newsletter.

Sincerely,

Dana Goldberg
Autism Family Services of NJ
and The Family Resource Network

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