

January, 2010

Vol 3, Issue 1

Autism Monthly NJ

In This Issue

- Wrightslaw Special Education Training Registration Now Open
- Dinner and a Therapist A Success
- A Letter from Acting Director, Paul Potito
- Autism Society Hosts Online Art Exhibit
- Caring Technologies Discusses Behavior Imaging
- Write to Your Senators and Reps about ABLI Legislation
- Autism, Epilepsy and Seizures Brochure Ready
- The Training Calendar Offers Clearing House of Events

Happy New Year from Autism Family Services of NJ! A new year brings changes, new beginnings and new challenges. Read below to catch up on the events and news happening in the autism community and with AFSNJ!



Autism Family Services of New Jersey

Quick Links

- [Autism Family Services of New Jersey](#)
- [The Family Support Center of New Jersey](#)
- [The Family Resource Network](#)

[Join our Mailing List!](#)

Wrightslaw Special Education Training Registration Now Open!

Wrightslaw Special Education Law and Advocacy Conference

Led by Peter Wright, Esq.
 April 15, 2010
 Maggiano's Little Italy,
 390 Hackensack Avenue, Hackensack, NJ
 (201) 221-2030

Registration and Breakfast 8am-9am
 Event ends at 4:30pm

This program is designed to meet the needs of parents, advocates, attorneys, educators, health care providers, and others who represent the interests of children with disabilities and their families. This conference is not disability specific.

Conference Fees:

Early registration until February 1, 2010 - \$125 per person
 Regular Registration - \$150 per person
 (Registration closes on April 12, 2010)

Registrants will receive breakfast and lunch at Maggiano's and two books,

Wrightslaw: Special Education Law and Wrightslaw: From Emotions to Advocacy.

To Register Online, [please click here](#).

For more information, contact Dana Goldberg at (732) 262-8020 or by email at dgoldberg@familyresourcenetwork.org.

Dinner and a Therapist A Success

AFSNJ & The Matthew Jago School PACE Parent, PPO Organization present:

"Dinner and a Therapist"

Autism Family Services of New Jersey in collaboration with The Matthew Jago School's PACE Parent organization will host the last of a 3-part series, for families affected by Autism on the 29th. The topics covered were creative, positive experiences for siblings and dealing with family stress while raising a child on the autism spectrum. The sessions were hosted by Annette Becklund, LCSW, a clinical social worker and Russell Kormann, PhD of the Rutgers Center for Applied Psychology.

There was a great response once registration was open and the program filled up quickly. If you would like to learn more about Autism Family Services programs or for more information, please call (877) AFS-4477.

Funding for this program is provided by The Horizon Foundation for New Jersey.

[Click here](#) to read an important bulletin regarding Autism Insurance coverage.

A Letter from Acting Director, Paul Potito

After 18 months serving as Autism Family Services of New Jersey's Acting Director, I will be leaving at the end of January. We have implemented initiatives that will serve as a foundation for future growth of the agency.

Our Kidz Korner programs in Berkeley and Toms River have been standardized and are under the very able leadership of Cyndee Smith. These will serve as models as AFSNJ seeks to expand these after-school programs to other parts of New Jersey. The "Dinner and a Therapist" series is taking place over three Friday evenings this month through a grant with the Horizon Foundation. The overwhelming registration response indicates that such a program is ripe for replication in other parts of New Jersey. I thank Debra Egan for her hard work and dedication in bringing this series to fruition.

Our Beach Bash and Seaside Soiree have grown dramatically during the 5 past years despite the economic downturn and there is every reason to believe that we can continue to match the turnout of last year. I thank Heather Comstock, Samantha Griffiths, and Jacqui Moskowitz among a cast of dozens for making this happen. Finally our restructured Advisory Board under Chairman Gahan Pandina has been proactive and supportive in our growth. Their work will continue.

Finally, I wish to thank the many hundreds of families affected by autism with whom I have met or had

conversations during the past year and a half. They are truly inspirational and will assure the continued growth in services and supports for their sons and daughters.

The mission of Autism Family Services of New Jersey will go on and I urge all of you to continue to read this e-zine, visit our Web site, and attend our events. It has been a pleasure working with you and the entire Family Resource Network.

Sincerely,

Paul Potito

Autism Society's Online Art Exhibit is Calling for Entries

Autism Society is looking for submissions of art work of all mediums made by individuals with autism. [Click here to view the exhibit!](#)

How to upload art to the Autism Society online art exhibition:

- 1.) If the art is not already in an electronic format, take a digital photograph of it, or scan the art into a computer as a JPG, GIF or PNG file.
- 2.) Email the art as an attachment to: webmaster@autism-society.org.



Autism Society online art exhibition rules and procedures:

- 1.) Please do not send original art, as submissions cannot be returned.
- 2.) Submit [Art Permission Statement](#) to have art exhibited.
- 3.) All art submitted for display in the Autism Society online art exhibit will be reviewed by the Autism Society at its sole discretion for taste and propriety.
- 4.) Due to space constraints, depending on the number of accepted submissions we receive, art will be displayed for a period of time and then replaced with other artwork.
- 5.) By submitting art, respondents agree to allow the Autism Society to use submitted art for fundraising purposes.
- 6.) All individuals with autism spectrum disorder are invited to submit.

Caring Technologies / Talk Autism Discuss Behavior Imaging



Families needed for TRICARE Remote ABA Therapy Assessment: Caring Technologies / TalkAutism is supporting leading ABA therapy providers who treat TRICARE beneficiaries to use B.I. CARE to assess its effectiveness in the delivery and supervision of remote ABA therapy. Participating families and providers receive

free use of Behavior Imaging technology. If you feel your or another family may be interested, please [click here](#).

Telemedicine & e-HEALTH Journal featured Behavior Imaging in describing the role of telemedicine to improve autism treatment and diagnostic evaluations. To view this article [click here \[PDF\]](#).

New Education Use(s): As a result of one of the NIH study clinical sites, Caring Technologies / TalkAutism has partnered with the Idaho Department of Education to deliver Behavior Imaging solutions to every special education classroom in the State. Special Education teachers and administrators will improve access to training, curriculums and specialists while revolutionizing the alternate assessment process. For more information on our work in special education, check out www.bicare.com/schools

Behavior Imaging solutions are being used by a variety of Military, educational and clinical organizations to improve outcomes and expand clinical and developmental execution. Caring Technologies / TalkAutism have developed a [90-second video](#) that summarizes solutions.

If you are interested in learning more about Behavior Imaging solutions and clinical partnerships please contact Brad Mauzerall to schedule a call/webinar (208.629.8778) or visit www.caringtechnologies.com.

Write to Your Senators and Representatives to Cosponsor ABLE Legislation

The Achieving a Better Life Experience Act (ABLE) of 2009 (S 493/HR 1205), which is supported by over 40 national disability organizations, has been introduced in both the Senate and House. The ABLE Act will give individuals with disabilities and their families the ability to save for their child's future just like every other American family, and help people with disabilities live full, productive lives in their communities.



The ABLE Act will allow individuals with disabilities to create a disability savings accounts or "ABLE Accounts" that would accrue interest tax-free. The account could fund a variety of essential expenses for the individual, including medical and dental care, education, community based supports, employment training, assistive technology, housing and transportation. Importantly, the legislation prohibits amounts held by, or paid or distributed from, any ABLE accounts from being treated as income or assets when determining eligibility for benefits provide by any federal benefits program.

Asset development is one step toward improving economic self-sufficiency, and the legislation's focus on encouraging asset development will greatly incentivize people with disabilities to live more productive lives through earning and saving resources for their future.

[Please ask your Senators and Representatives to cosponsor this important legislation.](#)

Autism, Epilepsy and Seizures Brochure Ready for Distribution

The Daniel Jordan Fiddle Foundation, Autism Family Services of NJ and the Epilepsy Foundation of NJ recently completed a brochure to assist families and professionals in identifying and responding to the potential for seizure disorders in children and adults with autism and epilepsy. The brochure has received wide distribution in its first weeks of release and has been featured in a workshop at the recent Autism NJ Annual Conference and on the Web sites of Autism Speaks and POAC. Downloadable copies are available on our website (www.autismfamilyservicesnj.org) or by contacting us at 800-376-2345. The Foundation's Director, Linda Walder Fiddle, serves on the Advisory Board of AFSNJ.



Autism Family
Services of
New Jersey



EPILEPSY
FOUNDATION®
NEW JERSEY
Not another moment lost to seizures™

DJF® The
Daniel Jordan Fiddle
Foundation
A National Autism Organization: Granting A Future To Adolescents And Adults®



The Training Calendar Offers a Clearinghouse of Community Events

In an effort to spread awareness about workshops, conferences and other training opportunities the Family Support Center of New Jersey has launched The Training Calendar. We invite professionals to post information on activities, lectures, trainings, or other events for caregivers and the people they are caring for on www.thetrainingcalendar.org. We also invite families and caregivers to view the trainings available in their area.

Previously The Training Calendar had been administered by the Progressive Center for Independent Living. We applaud their foresight in developing this clearinghouse program.

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

[Forward email](#)

 **SafeUnsubscribe**®

This email was sent to contact@refinedwebdesign.com by ppotito@autismfamilyservicesnj.org.

[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Email Marketing by



Autism Family Services of New Jersey | 1 AAA Drive | Suite 203 | Trenton | NJ | 08691