

Autism Monthly NJ

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Happy Spring! April is Autism Awareness Month, so don't forget to spread the word about Autism and the amazing events going on. Read below to catch up on the events and news happening in the autism community and with AFSNJ, like our Walk for a Brighter Tomorrow! Spend a wonderful Sunday afternoon with your family and friends on the boardwalk in Seaside Park. Walk for your family, your loved ones, your neighbors and the friends you haven't met yet.



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](#)

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WALK FOR AUTISM!



Autism Family Services of New Jersey

Walk for a Brighter Tomorrow



BENEFITING THE FAMILY RESOURCE NETWORK

Walk for a Brighter Tomorrow Shore Area Walk

When: Sunday, May 16, 2010

Where: Seaside Park, NJ

Registration 11am - Walk 12pm

Please join Autism Family Services of New Jersey for a 5k walk on the beautiful Seaside Boardwalk as we raise much needed funds & awareness for individuals & their families living with developmental disabilities & chronic illnesses.

For more information please visit www.walkforabrightertomorrow.org



Walk for a Brighter Tomorrow benefits The Family Resource Network which is comprised of Autism Family Services of NJ, Caregivers of NJ, the Family Support Center of NJ and the Epilepsy Foundation of NJ. Money raised will go towards programs and services provided by FRN and its affiliate agencies. For more information visit www.walkforabrightertomorrow.org or www.familyresourcenetwork.org.

Autism Family Services Presents a Series of Autism Awareness Workshops

April 16, 2010 @ 6:30PM-8:00PM

"The Sibling Connection-Creating positive experiences for Siblings"

By: Annette Becklund, MSW, LCSW,

Annette Becklund, LCSW and author of "Warren is Wonderful" speaks from the heart about positive support and interactions with siblings of children on the spectrum. Learn the strategies to providing a healthy happy household where the needs of both children are met. Hear real life examples from the "Sibling Panel."

May 5, 2010 @ 11:00AM-12:30PM

"The N.J. Insurance Reform Act: An Autism Update"

By: Valerie A. Powers Smith, Esq.

The State of New Jersey passed a bill (P.L. 2009, C. 115) requiring health benefits coverage for certain therapies for the treatment of autism and other developmental disabilities. Come hear the specifics around it and how it can affect you. Learn how to seek possible funding through your insurance. There are requirements and some things are not a "definite."
Know the facts.

All workshops will take place at The Family Support Center of New Jersey

2516 Route 35 North, Manasquan, NJ 08736

Registration is Required. Please RSVP to Cheryl at 800-372-6510

with what sessions you would like to attend.

Georgian Court University To Launch Autism Institute

OCEAN COUNTY- A new initiative from Georgian Court University aims to help educators and professionals become more effective in their work with students who have autism.

Education experts at Georgian Court are launching the Autism Institute for Training and Applied Research, a series of training sessions, lectures and discussions for classroom educators, teaching assistants and therapists working with youngsters who have autism spectrum disorders (ASD). A new \$188,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services will fund the program, which begins in December. Participants will meet in eight training sessions held during the academic year and four consecutive sessions during the summer. There is no cost to participants and all sessions align with New Jersey Professional Development Context and Content Standards.

"Specialized training for educators of students with ASD and specialized training addressing the instructional needs of adolescents with ASD are major areas of need," says Lisa Dille, Ed.D, a GCU assistant professor of education.

GCU educators are looking beyond the numbers and textbook definitions to ways they can help. Results from surveys and interviews conducted in 2008 by the GCU School of Education reinforced what college-level professors suspected, that there is a definite need and demand for specialized teacher training, especially as classroom educators work with students who are transitioning into adolescence adulthood.

"Many of the students who were diagnosed early on are now aging up," says Dr. Dille. "How will we meet their needs as they grow into adolescents and adults? Ultimately, if you help teachers, you help families," she adds.

GCU School of Education professors are helping classroom teachers meet the needs of their students in two

ways, through the Selected Strand in Autism Spectrum Disorders, a set of five graduate courses that act as a concentration within the Master of Arts in Education and through workshops developed just for special education instructors.

Equipping teachers to reach students and their families is critical, according to GCU educators who want to help instructors bolster students' social skills and social communication. "There's a need for continuous services at school, at home and in other settings," Dr. Dille says.

For more information about the Autism Institute for Training and Applied Research, visit www.georgian.edu, email ldille@georgian.edu or call the Georgian Court University School of Education at 732-987-2753.

Asperger's Group Develops Monday/Wednesday Openings

Asperger's Adult Support Group is now accepting applications for their William Paterson Monday/ Wednesday Group scheduled to begin this spring. This is a free support group. The program will place major emphasis on developing meaningful social relationships, enhancing employability skills, and promoting involvement within the community at large.

Participants will meet twice a week for a total of five hours, lunch included. One on one support will also be provided for those who need. Applicants must be 21 years or older, have a clinical diagnosis of Asperger's Syndrome, and must be a New Jersey resident.

For more information contact Nancy O'Reilly, Program Supervisor via email at nancy.o'reilly@yai.org or by telephone (845)358-5700 ext: 147.

Gymboree Rainbow Learners Program

Please join Gymboree Play & Music of Ocean on Wednesday, April 7th at 3:45pm for an Open House. Introduce you, family and physical or occupational therapists to a variety of ways Gymboree can positively impact your child's life.

Gymboree Play & Music has been enriching children ages 0-5 for over thirty years. Their programs consist of parent involvement which encourages them to understand each child's development resulting in a special bond between you and your child with Autism or Asperger's Syndrome.

Gymboree's new program, "Rainbow Learners," has been developed by teachers trained in Applied Behavior Analysis. The curriculum places major emphasis on the following: Social Interaction, Turn-Taking, Concept Development, Parallel Play, and Art & Music experiences while creating a community of parents, caregivers and teachers with the shared knowledge of children with ASD.

Please call 732-493-1993 for more information or visit www.gymboreeclasses.com.

1st Annual Disabilities Awareness Day at Old Bridge Regional Schools

Old Bridge Regional School in Middlesex County held the annual "1st Disabilities Awareness Day" How proactive a move, and what better a way to educate students and encourage them to embrace diversity and "be a buddy" to someone with a disability.

Children were trained in comprehensive, timed segments to understand what it is like to have a disability from the person's point of view. Children from kindergarten to 5th grade were glued at each presenter's table and left with more tolerance, education, and compassion for their fellow peers with disabilities. They asked questions and shared stories about people they knew with Autism and that it's alright to be a little different.

Blow Bubbles for Autism!

HOW TO BLOW BUBBLES FOR THE RECORD SCHOOLS AND BUSINESSES NEEDED:

In honor of Autism Awareness Month, send bubbles of hope to the skies above for families dealing with autism, and break the Guinness World Record for People Blowing Bubbles Simultaneously for One Minute! We need 35,000 people! Can you help?
All you need are wands and bubble juice ...

WHEN: Thursday, April 29, 2010 @ 10am

How To Register for the Record

1. E-mail us at bubbles4autism@yahoo.com or at facesautism@yahoo.com and ask us for a participation form, witness forms and autism information.
2. Encourage bubbles blowers to donate ONE DOLLAR, and make sure that your bubble blowing is counted by designating witnesses. Send us your signed witness forms and donations.
3. BLOW BUBBLES! All Proceeds benefit FACES, a non-profit which helps local families facing autism with programs and events.

Schools, businesses, groups and clubs all welcome to participate!!!

Sponsored by
Millennium Radio and Cape Bank

The Governor's Council for Medical Research and Treatment of Autism

Dear Members of the Autism Community:

As outlined in its establishing legislation (P.L. 2007, c.168), the Governor's Council for Medical Research and Treatment of Autism is charged with creating a Center of Excellence in Autism where, "where basic and applied biomedical research, diagnosis and treatment for autism shall take place." The establishing legislation can be viewed in its entirety at, http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/2006/Bills/PL07/168_.PDF.

As the Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) and the Council prepare to create a Request for Applications (RFA), for the development of an integrated, statewide Center of Excellence in Autism, we would like to hear from members of the New Jersey Autism community regarding what they believe should be the goals and essential components of such a center. Therefore, I would like to encourage you to submit comments, suggestions and/or recommendation for a Center of Excellence in Autism in the State of New Jersey. In your statement please provide your contact information so that it is possible for us to contact you, if need be.

Please e-mail me your comments by Monday April 12th to, mike.gallo@doh.state.nj.us.

Please note that you may also send your statement to me by mail to the following address:

Michael A. Gallo Jr., Ph.D.
Executive Director
Governor's Council for Medical Research and Treatment of Autism
DHSS
PO Box 364,
Trenton, NJ 08625-0364

Thank you for your time and assistance.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Gallo Jr., Ph.D.
Executive Director
Governor's Council for Medical Research and Treatment of Autism

New Program Designed to Educate Business about Autism

Children's Specialized Hospital and Kohl's Department Stores Collaborate to Launch This New Comprehensive Autism Awareness Campaign

(Haga clic aqui par aver este comunicado de prensa en Espanol.)

PRNewswire/- Children's Specialized Hospital, New Jersey's preeminent provider of pediatric rehabilitation services and the largest comprehensive children's rehabilitation system in the country, has created and launched Make Friends with Autism. This brand new multilevel program is the first of its kind anywhere in the country. Make Friends with Autism is designed to educate our business partners and communities about autism and provide the tools necessary to support positive community partnerships. This program is made possible by the Kohl's KidsAbilities program at Children's Specialized Hospital through the generosity of the Kohl's Cares for Kids program.

The announcement was made today at PSE&G Children's Specialized Hospital in New Brunswick by Amy B.

Mansue, president and CEO, Children's Specialized Hospital; Lew Ferrero, district manager, Kohl's Department Stores and Jim Watkins, news anchor, WPIX News.

As the number of children on the spectrum continues to grow, more individuals with autism are seeking community inclusion and health care providers are encouraging families and patients to make community connections. Make Friends with Autism offers a bilingual (English-Spanish) multi-media approach that provides significant resources for businesses, recreation providers and families with children who have autism.

"With an increasing number of families impacted by autism, it's important for these families to feel accepted in their own communities," said Amy B. Mansue, president and CEO, Children's Specialized Hospital. "Children's Specialized Hospital recognized the importance for all people to participate in community activities, including people with autism and their families. We hope with Make Friends with Autism, we can help make a positive progression in the acceptance of these individuals.

With a website, documentary and downloadable resources and materials, Make Friends with Autism seeks to:

1. Provide useful information to help people understand Autism Spectrum Disorders
2. Help families with children who have autism prepare for safe and successful community outings

ASD: Focus on the Family (ACT 48 Credits Offered)

Date: April 30, 2010
Time: 8:00 am - 4:00 pm
Place: La Salle University

Cost:
\$35 - Parents and Students
\$55 - All Others
Free - Children

[Click here to register.](#)

Presented by: Green Tree Partnerships and La Salle University

About : ASD - Focus on the Family

The conference will look at ASD from the perspective of the family. Presentations will speak directly to the concerns of families that include those on the Autistic Spectrum.

One of the goals of this annual conference is to provide a family-friendly forum for people living on the Autism Spectrum and their families, where they can share their experiences and obtain needed information.

A Focus on the Children - Exciting Children's Programs

For the first time, children are invited to attend the conference free of charge and engage in a fun children's program designed by La Salle University students.

- A Fun and Gentle Parent/Child Yoga Class - Presented by Stages Yoga
- A Musical Performance - Presented by Green Tree School Students
- Free Childcare Services & Programs - Provided by La Salle University

Please review the conference brochure for more information about registering children [by following this link.](#)

For more information, please call Lavinia Awosanya of Event Mood, Corp. at (609) 518-1259 or send an email to info@eventmood.com.

Find Us on Facebook and Follow FRN on Twitter!



[Become a fan of Autism Family Services of NJ on facebook!](#)



[And follow The Family Resource Network on Twitter!](#)

Call in to Receive the Autism, Epilepsy and Seizures Brochure

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.



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

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