



THE VOICE  
Anne Arundel County Chapter  
of the  
Autism Society of America

April 2005

Volume 9, Issue 9

## President's Message

AACC-ASA meetings are held the last Tuesday evening of each month at Ruth Parker Eason School, 648 Old Mill Road, Millersville. Meetings begin at 7:00 pm.

The meetings begin with introductions and general announcements, along with time for open discussion. A refreshment break is followed by a discussion led by the guest presenter.

Ample time is allowed for questions and follow-up discussion, as well as further opportunity for group support and socialization.

New members and new ideas are always welcome.

Thanks to everyone who attended our March meeting, which featured information about several local recreation programs. If you were unable to attend, or are looking for information about these groups, their contact information is as follows:

Special Olympics Anne Arundel County, **Gregg Meade** at (410) 923-8800 or <http://www.soamd.org>.

Maryland Therapeutic Riding, **Naomi Parry** at (410) 923-1187 or <http://www.mtrinc.org>.

Anne Arundel County Department of Recreation and Parks, Therapeutic Recreation, **Wendy Scarborough** at (410) 222-7311 x 3354 or <http://www.aacounty.org/recparks>.

Challenger Division of Marley Area Little League, **David Miller** at (410) 766-4259 or [davidmiller1961@msn.com](mailto:davidmiller1961@msn.com).

At our March meeting we received a second contribution from chapter member **Penny Reisler** from her new initiative called "Annie's Auctions 4 Autism". For further information about this new service, which allows you to have your items sold through Ebay and provides the option of contributing a portion of your sales to a charity of your choice, please go to [http://www.aaccasa.org/annie\\_auctions\\_for\\_aaccasa.htm](http://www.aaccasa.org/annie_auctions_for_aaccasa.htm)

Penny also shared information about a local company called **Flutterby Sweet Treasures**, run by her aunt **Christi Fratantuono**. The company provides a variety of services, including gift baskets; party or wedding invitations; wedding items (bouquets, garters, unity candles); and cakes for weddings, baby and bridal showers, birthday parties; and party planning. If you mention AACC-ASA when placing an order, Ms. Fratantuono will donate

10% of the final sale price to our chapter. She can be reached at (410) 551-2602 or (410) 971-6807 or at [rmfsmom@msn.com](mailto:rmfsmom@msn.com). I offer our thanks to both Penny Reisler and Christi Fratantuono for their generous contributions to our chapter.

Also at our March meeting I had the opportunity to share information about the new **Autism Spectrum Disorder Awareness and Education Program** that is being developed for use within our school system. You will find a detailed description of this new program in this edition of the newsletter.

I also shared copies of the handouts that are being distributed by the **AACPS Public Information Office** to all employees of the school system during the month of April. My thanks to **Diane Black**, Director of Special Education, for helping to coordinate this initiative for National Autism Awareness month.

Our April meeting will feature a discussion about the Maryland State Department of Education's autism task force report on service delivery recommendations for young children with autism. The discussion will be led by the following AACPS Division of Special Education personnel: **Diane Black, Ed Feinberg, Roxanne Sporrer, Bill Bowers, and Lynne Markowitz**. If you have not yet obtained a copy, the report is available at <http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/NR/rdonlyres/5F4F5041-02EE-4F3A-B495-5E4B3C850D3E/4934/AutismTaskForceMemoandReport.pdf>. It can also be obtained by calling Andy Wilson at MSDE at (410) 767-0858.

Our April meeting will also feature a selection of gluten-free/casein-free refreshments,  
(continued on next page)

*Chapter Phone  
Line:  
(410) 923-8800*

*Next Meeting:  
  
April 26th  
  
7:00 pm*



### Disclaimer:

Please note that all information provided or published by the Anne Arundel County Chapter of the Autism Society of America (AACC-ASA) is for informational purposes only. Reference to any treatment or therapy option or to any program, service, or treatment provider is not an endorsement by the AACC-ASA.

### President's Message (continued)

prepared by chapter member **Doris Smith**. I encourage parents and other family members, as well as professionals and service providers who work with individuals with autism spectrum disorders, to join us on April 26th.

I'm pleased to announce that in addition to having lapel pins and car magnets available for purchase, we also have an **autism awareness bracelet/wristband**. It is made from 100% silicone rubber and is imprinted with the puzzle pattern. At our chapter meetings the bracelets/wristbands can be purchased for \$5 each. Alternatively, you can complete and mail in the order form with \$6 for each bracelet. To obtain an order form, go to <http://www.aaccasa.org/bracelet.html>.

In closing, let me remind everyone that on **Thursday, April 7<sup>th</sup> from 7:30 – 9:00 pm** our chapter is co-sponsoring a free presentation with the Howard County chapter. The title is "**Successful inclusion practices for children with autism spectrum disorders**" and the presenter is Sonja de Boer-Ott, PhD, BCBA. The presentation will be held in the Severn Room of the Faulkner Ridge Center, located at 10518 Marble Faun Court in Columbia.

### *April is National Autism Awareness Month*

### Special Olympics

The upcoming season for **Anne Arundel County Special Olympics** includes the following sports:

**Track and field:** Wednesday evenings from 5:30 – 7:00 pm beginning March 30<sup>th</sup> at Annapolis High School.

**Bocce ball:** Monday evenings from 6:00 – 7:30 pm beginning April 4<sup>th</sup> at Ruth Parker Eason School in Millersville.

**Softball:** Both skills and teams on Monday evenings from 6:00 – 7:30 pm beginning April 4<sup>th</sup> at Ridgeway Elementary in Severn.

**Power lifting:** Wednesday evenings from 5:45 – 7:30 pm beginning April 6<sup>th</sup> at Merritt Athletic Club, 1981 Moreland Parkway in Annapolis.

For further information, please call **(410) 923-0383** or go to <http://www.soaamd.org>.

### Celebrating Friends

**Celebrating Friends** provides social opportunities for young adults (age 16 and older) with cognitive disabilities who are living at home. The program offers fun, organized activities while promoting socialization and independence. The upcoming schedule of events is as follows:

**Wednesday April 6<sup>th</sup> from 4:30 – 6:30 pm**

#### **Galaxy bowling**

The cost is \$25, which includes transportation, 2 games of bowling, shoes, soda, and a hot dog or slice of pizza. The event can accommodate 6 people.

**Friday April 15<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 – 9:00 pm**

#### **Pizza and sundae night**

The cost is \$25, which includes transportation, dinner, and dessert. The event can accommodate 6 people.

**Saturday April 23<sup>rd</sup> from 1:00 – 6:00 pm**

#### **National Zoo**

The cost is \$20, which includes transportation (zoo admission is free). The event can accommodate 6 people.

**Friday April 29<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 – 9:00 pm**

#### **In-house movie night**

The cost is \$25, which includes transportation, movie, light dinner, and snacks. The event can accommodate 8 people.

For further information or to make reservations for any of the events, please contact **Kerrie Mansfield** at **(410) 923-2882** or [kerrie.mansfield@comcast.net](mailto:kerrie.mansfield@comcast.net). Information is also available at <http://www.celebratingfriends.org>.

### Presentation on medication issues

On **Monday April 11<sup>th</sup> from 7:30 – 9:00 pm**, **Individual Differences in Learning** will sponsor a presentation entitled "**The use of medications to treat social, emotional, behavioral and learning problems in children**". The presentation will be led by Dr. Linda Grossman, Developmental Behavioral Pediatrician, and will be held at the Howard County Board of Education Building on Route 108 in Ellicott City.

Dr. Grossman is Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Head of the Division of Behavioral and Developmental Pediatrics at the University of Maryland School of Medicine. A \$5 donation is appreciated at the door. For further information, please contact **Trish Budd** at [GiftedLDandADHD@aol.com](mailto:GiftedLDandADHD@aol.com).



## Therapeutic recreation programs

The **Anne Arundel County Department of Recreation and Parks, Division of Therapeutic Recreation**, is offering a variety of programs for individuals with disabilities. Their upcoming schedule for spring and summer includes the following:

**Therapeutic riding:** Trained riding instructors teach horsemanship to learning disabled, physically disabled, and mentally challenged youth and adults. Students, using safety equipment, learn to control a horse, both from the saddle and from the horse. Students improve coordination, physical strength, balance, posture, and self-confidence. Classes are available for intermediate riding, for youth with disabilities, and for preschoolers with disabilities. Classes are held at the Oak Crest Farm in Harwood on Mondays beginning April 18th and at the Windsor Stables in Andover on Wednesdays and Thursdays beginning April 20th.

**After school recreation for children:** Opportunity for children ages 6 – 16 to participate in group games, crafts, and sports in order to develop better social skills, broaden their recreational interest, and improve their physical fitness. Held at Central Special on Tuesdays and Thursdays and Ruth Eason on Mondays and Fridays from 3:00 – 6:00 pm beginning April 4th.

**Fitness fun for children:** Children ages 6 - 16 achieve fitness and social skills through creative movement and play. Held at both Central Special and Ruth Eason on Fridays from 3:00 – 6:00 pm beginning April 1st.

**Teen club for youth with developmental delays:** Opportunity for teens ages 13 – 21 with disabilities get together with peers for dancing, games, parties, and socialization. Held at both Ruth Eason and Central Special on Fridays from 6:30 – 9:00 pm beginning April 1st.

**Young adult social club:** Opportunity for young adults age 18 and up with disabilities to get together with peers for fun, socialization, and other planned activities. Held at Marley Glen on Fridays from 6:30 – 9:00 pm beginning April 1st.

**Saturday morning recreation program:** Children ages 5 - 14 develop social skills, play adaptive sports, arts and crafts, and other special activities. Held at both Central Special and Ruth Eason on Saturdays from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm beginning April 2nd.

**Swim programs:** Youth and adults with various disabilities participate in instructional swim classes. There are classes for beginners and advanced beginners, as well as for mentally and physically challenged adults. Classes are held at Ruth Eason on Tuesdays or Thursdays beginning April 19th.

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**Mayo Beach and Lake Waterford Park Day Camps:** Mayo Beach Camp in Edgewater serves children in the southern portion of the county and Lake Waterford Park Camp in Pasadena serves children in the northern portion of the county. These day camps are for youth ages 4 through 20 who need a highly structured program with success-based activities. Close supervision and a nurse are available at both camps. Fun activities for all abilities may include adapted sports, arts and crafts, and social skill building. Staff ratio is 1:3. Transportation is available. The camps consist of six one-week sessions, which are held from June 27 through August 5. Camp hours are Monday through Friday 9:00 am – 2:00 pm.

**Mayo Beach and Lake Waterford Park Extended Day:** An extended day program is available at Central Special and Ruth Eason Special during the four weeks in July, to allow Mayo and Lake Waterford campers to participate in extended care until 6:00 pm.

**Sibling Day Camp:** Youth aged 8 – 13 with siblings attending Mayo Beach or Lake Waterford Park Day Camp will have the opportunity to come together with other brothers and sisters to share experiences and issues. Fun activities and adventures with peers. Three one-week sessions are offered: June 27 – July 2, July 5 – July 8, and August 1 – August 5.

**Teen Leadership Camp:** Youth entering 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, or 9<sup>th</sup> grade needing a more structured environment will develop social skills, learn appropriate peer choices, and anger and behavior management in a fun and active environment. The program is offered at both Mayo Beach and Lake Waterford in two one-week sessions: July 18—22, and July 25 – 29.

**After ESY Day Camp:** For youth attending the ESY program at either Central Special or Ruth Eason. Program starts with the end of the morning school program, and runs from 12:30 – 6:00 pm. Dates follow the school's ESY schedule.

For further information about these programs, including fee information, please contact **Wendy Scarborough** at (410) 222-7311 x 3554. Registration material is available at <http://www.aacounty.org/recparks> or by calling (410) 222-7300.

## Presentation on insurance issues

On **Wednesday, April 13<sup>th</sup>** from **7:00 - 9:00 pm**, the **Parents' Place of Maryland** and **Jewish Family Service** will sponsor a free presentation entitled **"Appealing insurance denials"**. It will be held at Jewish Family Services in Owings Mills.

The workshop will cover the appeal process available to families and strategies that can make appeals successful.

For further information or to register, please contact **Rochelle Howell** at (410) 574-3750 or (410) 768-9100 or [Rhowelladvocate@aol.com](mailto:Rhowelladvocate@aol.com).



### Public forums for respite and personal care service providers

The **Maryland Caregivers Support Coordinating Council** has scheduled public forums to give providers an opportunity to discuss barriers to services. Providers are encouraged to bring written testimony summarizing their concerns. The Council will also use the forum to introduce a model of respite care they have developed that attempts to coordinate services among providers while honoring the diverse types of services and funding streams. Providers are encouraged to provide feedback to help further develop the model.

The forums will be held as follows:

**Tuesday April 12<sup>th</sup> from 10:30 am - 12:30 pm**  
Accokeek Library, Prince George's County

**Thursday April 21<sup>st</sup> from 10:00 am - noon**  
University of Maryland Cooperative Extension Service,  
Boonsboro

Providers who cannot attend are asked to send comments to **Sue Vaeth**, Maryland Department of Aging, 301 W. Preston Street, Room 1007, Baltimore, MD 21201.

For further information, please contact **Connie Urquhart** at **(410) 767-5624** or go to <http://www.dhr.state.md.us/oas>.

### Dad's Night Out

On **Friday April 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm**, the first gathering of a **Dad's Night Out** for fathers of individuals with autism spectrum disorders will be held at the Rocky Run Tap & Grill, 6480 Dobbin Center Way in Columbia. The group will meet in the bar, and depending on group preferences, will stay in the bar or adjourn to a table in the restaurant.

For further information, please contact **Rich Camer** at [rhcamer1@starpower.net](mailto:rhcamer1@starpower.net).

### Conference on emergency preparedness for individuals with disabilities

On **Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 am – 3:00 pm**, a conference on emergency preparedness for individuals with disabilities will be held at Anne Arundel Community College, CALT Building, West Campus. The conference is intended for individuals with disabilities, and their families and advocates, as well as service providers and agencies, first responders and emergency management personnel, business and government personnel, and volunteers and members of civic groups. To register, please call **(410) 222-8040** or send an e-mail to [fdcope-land@aacounty.org](mailto:fdcope-land@aacounty.org).

### Project Access conference

On **Friday April 15<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm**, the third annual **Project Access conference** will be held at Howard Community College. The theme of this year's conference is "**Transitioning the high school student with disabilities to the postsecondary level**". The conference will feature a keynote presentation by Kristen Cox, Secretary of the Maryland Department of Disabilities. It will also feature presentations on many topics, including the following:

- \* Student involvement in extracurricular activities
- \* Access to electronic information technology in education
- \* Career development for students with disabilities
- \* The Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS)
- \* Choosing a path to success
- \* Maryland Youth Leadership Forum
- \* Entry point! A postsecondary science internship program
- \* An innovative approach to communication and relationship
- \* Social skills training for adolescents and young adults with developmental disabilities
- \* The new SAT
- \* Best practices at college and university disability support services offices
- \* Helping the reluctant writer
- \* Mental health issues in the transition to college
- \* Problem based learning

For further information, including registration fees, or to obtain registration materials, please go to <http://www.howardcc.edu/projectaccess/conference.cfm>.

### Social outing at Build-A-Bear

On **Sunday April 17<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm**, chapter member **Dori Storin** will lead a social outing to the **Build-A-Bear workshop** at Annapolis Mall.

As part of National Autism Awareness Month, throughout the month of April Build-A-Bear Workshop will donate a portion of the proceeds from the sale of Nikki's Bear II to National Alliance for Autism Research (NAAR). Additionally, guests can purchase special Huggable Hero satin hearts for \$1. The money raised from the sale of these hearts will also be donated to NAAR.

If you would like to participate, please contact Ms. Storin at **(410) 729-0594** or [Doristor11@aol.com](mailto:Doristor11@aol.com). So that she can make a group reservation (which requires a minimum of six people), she asks that people interested in attending contact her no later than **Monday April 11<sup>th</sup>**. Please provide your name and the number of people in your group, as well as your phone number.



### Book reading and signing

On **Monday, April 18<sup>th</sup>** at **7:30 pm** at the Barnes and Noble in Long Gate Shopping Center in Ellicott City, the Howard County Chapter of ASA is sponsoring a free book reading and signing of **“Autism through a sister’s eyes: A young girl’s view of her brother’s autism”** by **Eve Band, PhD** and **Emily Hecht**. For further information, please go to <http://www.howard-autism.org>.

### Transition information

On **Tuesday April 19<sup>th</sup>** at **7:00 pm**, the **Anne Arundel County Public Schools** and the **Disability Support Services of Anne Arundel Community College** will co-host a college night for students with disabilities. The event will be held at Anne Arundel Community College, in Room 283 of the Careers Building. There will be an opportunity to learn about transitioning into colleges and the workplace, as well as presentations from DORS (Division of Rehabilitation Services) and One-Stop Employment Centers.

For further information, please contact **Michele Dilegege**, AACPS Transition Specialist, at **(410) 222-5481**.

### Book club meeting

On **Thursday April 21<sup>st</sup>** from **7:00 – 8:30 pm**, a **new book club** will hold their first meeting at the public library located at 45 McKinsey Road in Severna Park. The book club is for persons with disabilities who are 18 years of age and older and are generally independent in their self-care.

Participants choose a book or magazine article to discuss at the book club. They don’t have to be able to read. If the person can comprehend the material, someone can read the book to them and they can bring it with them to discuss with the group. If the person draws, they can bring their picture and share the story behind their drawing.

Students in need of community service hours or college students studying in the field are encouraged to attend and participate in the book club.

For further information and to reserve a seat, please call **Chrystal Irving** at **Service Coordination** at **(410) 923-5751**.

### Charity golf tournament

On **Monday May 2<sup>nd</sup>** from **10:30 am – 5:30 pm**, **Special Olympics Anne Arundel County** will host the Eddie Woods Memorial Golf Tournament. It will be held at the South River Golf Links in Edgewater. For further information, please contact **Larry Day** at **(410) 224-3979** or go to <http://www.soamd.org>.

### Workshop on assessment, diagnosis, and intervention

From **Friday April 29<sup>th</sup>** to **Monday May 2<sup>nd</sup>**, **Drs. Stanley Greenspan and Serena Wieder** will present a workshop entitled **“Assessment, diagnosis and intervention for developmental and emotional disorders, autistic spectrum disorders, multisystem developmental disorders, regulatory disorders involving attention, learning, and behavior problems, cognitive, language, motor, and sensory disturbances”**. This four-day event will be held at the Hilton McLean in Tysons Corner, Virginia.

The sessions will focus on the following areas:

- \* Assessment, diagnosis, and intervention planning
- \* Intervention using the DIR (Developmental, Individual-Difference, Relationship-Based) model and Floortime
- \* Advanced clinical seminars, featuring a new diagnostic manual for infancy and early childhood

Registration fees vary, based upon the number of days attending and participant status (regular or student). For further information, or to obtain registration materials, please contact the **Infancy and Early Childhood Training Course** at **(301) 320-6360** or go to <http://www.stanleygreenspan.com>

### Maryland Therapeutic Riding fundraising event

On **Saturday April 30<sup>th</sup>** from **11:00 am – 2:00 pm**, **Maryland Therapeutic Riding (MTR)** will hold their 3<sup>rd</sup> annual **“Walk ‘n’ Roll”** event at Quiet Waters Park in Annapolis.

For further information, or to obtain a pledge sheet, please contact MTR at **(410) 923-6816** or <http://www.HorsesThatHeal.org>.

### Public forum on ADA

On **Tuesday May 3<sup>rd</sup>** from **8:00 am – 5:30 pm**, the **National Council on Disability (NCD)** is sponsoring a public forum about the **Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA)**. It will be held at the auditorium (formerly the DC Council Chambers) of One Judiciary Square, 441 4th Street, NW, 1st Floor North, Washington, DC. People with disabilities, their families and their advocates are asked to provide testimony on the ADA’s impact in the areas of telecommunications, employment, public services, and public accommodations operated by private entities, as well as general comments about the ADA.

For further information, please contact **Patricia Jackson**, Lockheed Martin Services, Inc., at **(703) 208-5042** or [Patricia.Jackson@lmco.com](mailto:Patricia.Jackson@lmco.com).



### Family Involvement Conference

On **Tuesday May 3<sup>rd</sup>** **Family Works** will host the eighth annual **Family Involvement Conference**. The theme of this year's conference is "**Connecting for student success**". The conference will be held at the Baltimore Convention Center.

Highlights of the conference include the following:

- \* Strategies that promote working partnerships between parents, teachers, students and the community
- \* The role of parents in "No Child Left Behind" and Maryland's plan for implementation
- \* Parent involvement programs and strategies
- \* Networking with parent involvement leaders

The registration fee is \$50. For further information or to obtain registration materials, please contact **Wylea Chase** at **(301) 840-3214**.

### Workshop on language skills

On **Friday May 13<sup>th</sup>** and **Saturday May 14<sup>th</sup>** **Communication Enrichment Services** and **George Washington University's Speech and Hearing Center** will co-sponsor a workshop on the **Affect-Based Language Curriculum (ABLC)**. The two-day workshop will be led by Diane Lewis, MA, CCC/SLP and be held at the University System of Maryland Shady Grove Center in Rockville. It is designed for both professionals and parents.

ABLC was developed on the concept that affect and engagement "fuel" the development of true communication and language skills. In the workshop, participants will learn the theoretical framework of ABLC and will learn how to develop their own curriculum. The curriculum is appropriate for use with individuals whose language skills are between birth and 48 months.

The registration fee is \$400. For further information, or to obtain registration materials, please contact Diane Lewis at **(301) 258-1004** or [ablc2004@hotmail.com](mailto:ablc2004@hotmail.com).

### New service provider: spaces still available

**Dori Storin**, a tutor and licensed daycare provider in Anne Arundel County, still has spaces available for the following services for children with an autism spectrum disorder: one-on-one tutoring in the child's home, shadowing at the child's school, socializing the child in public, and full/part-time and hourly care in her licensed home for children ages 2 to 12.

For further information, please contact **Ms. Storin** at **(410) 729-0594** or [Doristor11@aol.com](mailto:Doristor11@aol.com).

### Public hearings on education in Maryland

The **Governor's Commission on Quality Education in Maryland** has scheduled a series of public hearings. Each of the hearings will be held from **7:00 – 9:00 pm** as follows:

#### Thursday May 12<sup>th</sup>

Montgomery College, Globe Hall Auditorium  
20200 Observation Drive, Germantown

#### Tuesday May 17<sup>th</sup>

Cambridge-South Dorchester High School Auditorium  
2475 Cambridge Bypass, Cambridge

#### Wednesday May 18<sup>th</sup>

Greater Waldorf Jaycee Hall, Militia Room  
3090 Crain Highway, Waldorf

#### Thursday May 19<sup>th</sup>

Hagerstown Community College, Kepler Theater Building  
11400 Robinwood Drive, Hagerstown

#### Tuesday May 24<sup>th</sup>

Baltimore City Community College, Fine Arts Theatre  
2901 Liberty Heights Avenue, Baltimore

#### Wednesday May 25<sup>th</sup>

C. Milton Wright High School Auditorium  
1301 N. Fountain Green Road, Bel Air

#### Thursday May 26<sup>th</sup>

Largo High School, Multipurpose Room  
505 Largo Road, Upper Marlboro

The public hearings are designed to gain input about issues prior to the release of the Commission's findings and recommendations in September. Speakers are asked to address the following questions:

1. How can Maryland enhance the role and accountability of teachers and administrators in schools?
2. How can Maryland build stronger linkages between schools and their communities?
3. How can Maryland maximize best-practice models in education from around the world?
4. How can Maryland best prepare its youngest children for school success?

Written testimony may be sent by email to <http://www.gov.state.md.us/mail/tdefault.asp>. For further information, please go to <http://www.gov.state.md.us/GCQE/gcqe.html>.



## **New Autism Spectrum Disorder Awareness and Education Program**

**By Linda Carter-Ferrier**

I have both the pleasure and honor of participating in the development of a new program that is being planned for use in our school system. What follows is a description of the key information about the program.

There are several reasons that the program is being developed. The first is because of the lack of empathy in typical peers for students with Autism Spectrum Disorders. A program is required that will “build a bridge” so that peers will be able to reach out and connect with students with Autism Spectrum Disorders. The second is because of the lack of sufficient knowledge and understanding in educators (both general ed and special ed) about the unique needs of students with Autism Spectrum Disorders. A program is required that realistically supports educators’ needs to understand Autism Spectrum Disorders, which will then lead to enhanced interactions with and instruction of students with Autism Spectrum Disorders. The third is because students with Autism Spectrum Disorders lack the skills and abilities to connect with peers appropriately and effectively. Explicit instruction in social skills is required, along with integrated opportunities throughout the day in the school environment to promote social competence and successful interactions and relationship development with peers.

To be effective, the program will be tied to the school systems’ initiatives in the areas of Least Restrictive Environment (LRE), diversity, and Positive Behavior Intervention Support (PBIS). The program will involve input from and participation of typical peers and student leaders. This is essential because the program developers need to know about their perceptions and how to meet those perceived needs. Their direct involvement is also needed because they are key stakeholders. The program will also involve input from and participation of students with Autism Spectrum Disorders and their families. Incorporating ideas and information based on their direct experiences will personalize the impact and content of the program, providing a foundation to build a program geared toward school success.

This program is viewed as a stepping stone to a larger disability awareness program that encompasses both general disability awareness concepts and specific information about other disabilities (Down syndrome, cerebral palsy, hearing impairment, vision impairment, etc.)

The proposed components of this program are as follows:

- \* A “core content” component that consists of an activity, lesson, or presentation which takes about 15 minutes.

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- \* A “recommended additional” component that consists of activities, lessons, and presentations which can be selected to supplement the “core” component and expand the time to between 30 – 60 minutes.
- \* A “resource list of additional materials” that are available for loan from the Partners for Success Resource Center. These can be selected to supplement the “core” component in addition to or instead of the items in the “recommended” component. The list will include descriptions of each item to identify the appropriate grade group(s).
- \* Supplemental material for educators (both general ed and special ed) to provide them with an understanding of, and information about, working with and teaching students with Autism Spectrum Disorders.

The three targeted grade groups for the material will be elementary school, middle school, and high school. The materials will be developed to be used by a variety of presenters (guidance counselor, special educator, general educator, etc.) and to a variety of audiences (whole school, grade group, grade team, individual class, etc.).

The proposed timeline is to have the program ready for an initial rollout as part of the new teacher orientation meetings in mid-August of 2005. The program will also be piloted in the 2005-2006 school year in a selected number of elementary, middle, and high schools.

The following individuals are participating in the development of this program:

- \* Diane Black, Director of Special Education, AACPS
- \* Mary Tillar, Out of Home School Placements Coordinator, AACPS
- \* Linda Carter-Ferrier, President, Anne Arundel County Chapter, Autism Society of America
- \* Susan Marshburn, Nonpublic placement specialist, AACPS
- \* Frank Wise, Chair, AA County Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee
- \* Joe Dickson, Director of Hannah More Type II Autism Programs –partnership
- \* Sandy D’Erasmus, Teacher Assistant, Hannah More partnership program
- \* Carla Bunner, Social worker, Hannah More partnership program
- \* Lou Norbeck, Guidance counselor, AACPS

If you have any questions about the program, or would like more information, please contact me at (410) 551-0655 or [theferriers@earthlink.net](mailto:theferriers@earthlink.net).

***April is National Autism Awareness Month***



Anne Arundel County Chapter  
 Autism Society of America  
 P.O. Box 1304  
 Millersville, MD 21108

Postage  
 here

**\*\* Chapter News and Notes \*\***

We have available for purchase **autism awareness puzzle ribbon cloisonne lapel pins** and **car magnets**, as well as autism puzzle piece **bracelets/wristbands**. They are available for \$5 at our meetings and \$6 by mail; order forms are available at <http://www.aaccasa.org>.

We are participating in the **Future Horizons Affiliate Program**. Through this program, when you follow the link at <http://www.aaccasa.org> to the Future Horizons web site and purchase any Future Horizons-published books and videos or purchase a conference registration, our chapter will receive **40% of the purchase price**. We will also receive 20% of the purchase price on any non-Future Horizons books and videos. By making your Future Horizons purchases through our web site you will help fund our chapter's projects and activities.

Our **lending library** is located at the **Partners for Success Resource Center**, Oakwood Elementary School, Portable "B", 330 Oak Manor Drive, Glen Burnie. To see a full listing of the items available from our lending library, as well as related items available from the Partners for Success library, please go to <http://www.aaccasa.org>. To request an item, please contact **Partners for Success** at **(410) 222-3805** or [pf saa@yahoo.com](mailto:pf saa@yahoo.com). They will provide information about the various ways in which library materials can be obtained.

Subscribe to our **e-mail action alert** by sending a message through <http://www.aaccasa.org>. It is an easy way to learn the latest information about Federal, State, and local legislative initiatives, lobbying efforts, or other action items related to autism and disabilities.

**Anne Arundel County Chapter  
 Autism Society of America  
 P.O. Box 1304, Millersville, MD 21108  
 (410) 923-8800 <http://www.aaccasa.org>**

**Linda Carter-Ferrier, President (410) 551-0655**  
**Melinda Wise, Vice President/Treasurer (410) 647-0114**  
**Jean Dunaway, Secretary (410) 721-1385**

**AACC-ASA Options Policy:**

All information provided or published by the Anne Arundel County Chapter of the Autism Society of America (AACC-ASA) is for informational purposes only. Reference to any treatment or therapy option or to any program, service, or treatment provider is not an endorsement by the AACC-ASA. You should investigate alternatives that may be more appropriate for a specific individual. AACC-ASA assumes no responsibility for the use made of any information published or provided by the AACC-ASA.