



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

August, 2003

Volume 8, Issue 1

## *President's Message*

**AACC-ASA meetings are held on the last Tuesday evening of each month at Ruth Parker Eason School in 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.**

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

**Next Meeting:**

**Tuesday,  
August 26th**

**7:00 pm**

I hope everyone is having an enjoyable summer. Seems like before we know it, it's time to begin focusing again on getting ready to return to school.

My thanks go to the **Baltimore-Chesapeake chapter** for hosting a wonderful **summer picnic**. There were many families from several of the local chapters in attendance, and the weather cooperated to help us all have an enjoyable day at **Cascade Lake**.

On the topic of special summer events, I know that many of our chapter members and their families (including my own) had a very enjoyable time at the recent **Special Day Matinee** held at **The Big Glen Burnie Carnival** This event, hosted each year since 1991 by the **Glen Burnie Improvement Association**, provides an opportunity for families with special needs to attend the carnival at no charge during a mid-week morning. My thanks go to **Barbara Moeller**, President of the Glen Burnie Improvement Association, as well as the large contingent of kind and generous volunteers who helped to make this day a highlight of the summer for many of our families.

On the topic of special events, I want to be sure and offer my congratulations to chapter members **Mike and Linda Golonka** and their son **Jeffrey** for his recent participation as part of the **Oriole Advocates Challengers of the Marley Area Little League team**. His team recently played another Challenger team (from Ridley, Pennsylvania) in a one-inning game at the **White House**, as part of President Bush's "**Tee Ball on the South Lawn**" program.

According to the article in the Maryland Gazette, the team and their families and coaches received a private tour of the White House prior to the game, an autographed baseball and a picture with Mr. Bush, as well as a picnic on

the South Lawn afterward. I'm guessing that Mike and Linda are available to proudly share video footage, photos, and stories about Jeffrey's very special day!!

Over the summer we also made some additions to our **chapter's lending library**. In particular, we have added several resources on the subject of **sexuality education for persons with developmental disabilities**, following the discussion at our May meeting led by **Mary Ann Carmody**. On this subject our lending library now includes the videos "**Roots and Wings**" and "**Making Connections**", as well as several copies of the books "**Changes in You**" for both boys and girls. If you are interested in borrowing any of these materials, or any of the other materials contained in our chapter's lending library, please contact the **Partners for Success Resource Center** at **(410) 222-3805**.

Our **August** meeting will feature a discussion about **dealing with challenging behaviors at home and in school**, and will include a focus on **functional behavioral assessments and applied behavior analysis**. The discussion will be led by **Jane Barbin, Ph.D., BCBA**, a licensed psychologist and certified behavior analyst.

Dr. Barbin is the founder of **Behavioral Directions**, a consulting firm in Maryland and Virginia serving individuals with autism and related disorders. Dr. Barbin was the founding director of the **Ivymount School Autism Program** in Rockville, a center-based education and treatment model program in autism.

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 August 26th.



## Disability Awareness Night at Camden Yards

**Exceptional Parent Magazine** and the **Baltimore Orioles** are hosting a **Disability Awareness Night** at **Camden Yards** on **Thursday, August 21st**. The game begins at **7:05 pm**.

During the **pre-game ceremony**, awards will be presented to the following individuals:

- \* **General Michael Hagee** for his work on the Exceptional Family Member Program
- \* **BJ Surhoff** for his work as an advocate on behalf of children with autism through Maryland's Pathfinders for Autism
- \* **Michael Christianson** for his work as an entertainer of children with life-threatening illnesses
- \* **Tim Bishop** for his work in the League of Dreams program

For this special event, the Orioles have reduced the price of any seat in the ballpark by \$5.

For further information, please contact either **Debbie Weimert** by phone at **(410) 547-6123** or by e-mail at [dweimert@oriolepark.com](mailto:dweimert@oriolepark.com) or **Joyce Noto** by phone at **(410) 547-6178** or by e-mail at [jnoto@oriolepark.com](mailto:jnoto@oriolepark.com)

### 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.

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<b>Melinda Wise, Treasurer</b>	<b>(410) 721-4562</b>
<b>Jean Dunaway, Secretary</b>	<b>(410) 721-1385</b>

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

We have available for purchase **autism awareness ribbon cloisonne lapel pins**. They are currently available for a price of \$6 each when purchased at our meetings and \$7 each when purchased through our web site 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 of their products (books, videos and conferences), our chapter will receive **20% of the purchase price**. 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** by phone at **(410) 222-3805** or by e-mail at [pfsaa@yahoo.com](mailto:pfsaa@yahoo.com). They will provide information about the various ways in which library materials can be obtained.

\* \* \*

We are sponsoring the sale of two **disability awareness posters** that have been designed by one of our chapter members. These posters illustrate the poems of **John Burns**, a Scottish poet and the father of a daughter with autism. For further information about the posters and how to order them, please go to <http://www.aaccasa.org>.

\* \* \*

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.

\* \* \*

The **Anne Arundel County Resource Guide for Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder** is available at <http://www.aaccasa.org>. The version on our web site is updated to keep pace with changes in resource information. If you have an update for the Resource Guide, please send a message through <http://www.aaccasa.org> or call **(410) 923-8800**.

\* \* \*

Become a **newsletter e-subscriber!** You will receive the newsletter earlier and also help us control our costs. To become an e-subscriber, please send a message through <http://www.aaccasa.org>. If you have questions about e-subscriptions, please call **(410) 923-8800** or send a message through <http://www.aaccasa.org>.



## **"I'm Smart. Tell People." Presentation about teaching students with autism in inclusive classrooms**

On **Friday, August 22nd**, the **Howard and Anne Arundel Chapters of the ASA**, along with the **Mid-Atlantic Chapter of TASH**, will co-host a presentation by **Dr. Paula Kluth**. The presentation will be held from **6:00—8:00 pm** at **Christ Episcopal Church**, 6800 Oakland Mills Road, in Columbia.

**Dr. Kluth** is an independent educational consultant. Her professional and research interests center on differentiating instruction and on supporting students with autism and significant disabilities in inclusive classrooms. She is a former Assistant Professor in the Department of Teaching and Leadership at Syracuse University. She is also a former special educator who has served as a classroom teacher, consulting teacher, and inclusion facilitator. Dr. Kluth is the author of **"You're Going to Love This Kid: Educating Students with Autism in Inclusive Classrooms"** and is the lead editor of **"Access to Academics: Challenging All Students in Inclusive Schools"**.

Her presentation will focus on practical ways of supporting students with Autism Spectrum Disorder and other disabilities within a general education classroom. Dr. Kluth emphasizes the importance of listening to the voices and stories of individuals with autism as we work to support diverse learners in our schools. Her work focuses on differentiating instruction in the diverse classroom, encouraging literacy development, making the classroom comfortable for all learners, and supporting behaviors and bodies of students with a range of needs. Her goal is to show the importance of pushing beyond participation and inclusion to asking schools to understand every student with ASD as complex, as capable, and as a learner.

There is an admission fee of \$10, which may be paid at the door. Please **register** for this event by sending an e-mail to [paulakluth@howard-autism.org](mailto:paulakluth@howard-autism.org) or by calling the **Howard County Chapter** at **(410) 760-5595**. For further information, please contact the Howard County Chapter by phone or go to their web site at <http://www.howard-autism.org>.

## **Disability Awareness Day**

Our County's **Disability Awareness Day** will be held on **Saturday, September 13<sup>th</sup>** from **10:00 am – 3:00 pm** at **Lake Waterford Park** in Pasadena. This event is hosted by the **Anne Arundel County Commission on Disability Issues**.

**Disability Awareness Day** is a fun-filled event for the whole family that combines interactive exhibits, live entertainment, and information on disability issues within the community. In addition to promoting community awareness of disability issues, the event offers a variety of activities and attractions, including a live K-9 exhibition by the Anne Arundel County Police Department, fire safety and prevention demonstrations by the Anne Arundel County Fire Department, and a visit from the Tooth Mobile. Visitors will also have the opportunity to win prizes by completing a disability simulation.

As part of this event, **Anne Arundel County Executive Janet Owens** will be presenting awards to local businesses. Ms. Owens will be recognizing those businesses that have demonstrated their commitment to the community's disabled citizens through employment opportunities and public access.

This year's event also includes a tribute to the **Honorable Warren B. Duckett, Jr.** In addition to his distinguished legal career as a private practitioner, State's Attorney, and Circuit Court Judge, Warren Duckett has also been a champion of the disabled community and a devoted advocate for disability issues.

After being diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis (MS) in 1988, Judge Duckett put his twenty years of community service experience to work on behalf of individuals with disabilities. Judge Duckett served as an Associate Judge of the Fifth Judicial Circuit of Maryland until 1995 when he retired on medical advice. Yet, even after retiring, he continued his public service through his involvement on the boards of the YMCA, Ginger Cove, and the Multiple Sclerosis Society, as well as serving as a member of the Anne Arundel County Commission on Disability Issues.

For further information about this event, please contact **Bill Anderson** at **(410) 222-4383**.

## **Special education law advocacy workshop**

On **Tuesday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>**, from **9:00 am – 4:30 pm**, **The Autism Program of Virginia (TAP-VA)**, in association with the **Northern Virginia Chapter of the ASA**, will host a workshop by **Pete and Pam Wright** (of **Wrightslaw**) on special education law and advocacy. It will be held at the **Northern Virginia Community College - Annandale Campus**, in the Ernst Community Cultural Center.

Attendees will receive a copy of the books **"Wrightslaw- Special Education Law"** and **"From Emotions to Advocacy"**, along with a copy of Virginia's special education regulations. The registration fee is \$85, which does not include lunch. For further information, or to obtain registration materials, please contact **The Autism Program of Virginia** by phone at **(800) 649-8481** or by e-mail at [information@autismva.org](mailto:information@autismva.org).



## Parent Advocate Training Program

**The Parents' Place of Maryland** will be conducting a **Parent Advocate Training Program** in September and October. It is free of charge for participants. It is designed for parents of children with disabilities who are interested in developing their knowledge and experience so that they will be better able to help other parents of children with disabilities who are living in their community. The desired goal is that participants will be better able to:

- \* offer information about parents rights under special education laws
- \* provide support to parents as they seek to obtain services for their children
- \* attend IEP and other meetings with parents

The criteria for participation in the program are that participants:

- Be the parent of a child with a disability
- Be committed to supporting other families of children with disabilities
- Be currently involved with a support group or organization
- Be willing to work in ways to support and empower families
- Commit to working with other graduates of the Parent Advocate Training Program
- Commit to attending three school-based meetings to support families within the coming year
- Commit to attending all training sessions

The schedule for this 5-part training program is as follows:

### **Saturday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 am - Noon**

IDEA 97 Regulations (Part I)

Presented by Melissa Alexander, Parent Educator

### **Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 am – Noon**

IDEA 97 Regulations (Part II)

Presented by Melissa Alexander, Parent Educator

### **Saturday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 am- Noon**

Writing successful IEPs / Focus on goals and objectives

Presented by Linda Carter-Ferrier, Parent Trainer

### **Saturday, October 11<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 am- Noon**

Extended School Year

and

Understanding Functional Behavioral Assessments

Presented by Linda Carter-Ferrier, Parent Trainer

(continued on next column)

### **Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 am -12:30 pm**

When advocacy is not enough

Presented by Linda Carter-Ferrier, Parent Trainer  
and

Working with families

Presented by Josie Thomas, PPMD Director

All 5 sessions will be held at the office of the **Parents' Place of Maryland**, located at 7484 Candlewood Road, Suite S, in Hanover.

**Pre-registration** is required. For further information, or to register, please contact **Maureen Howley**, PPMD Workshop Coordinator, by phone at **(410) 859-5300** or **(410) 992-4321** or by e-mail at [Maureen@ppmc.org](mailto:Maureen@ppmc.org) or [mhowley@comcast.net](mailto:mhowley@comcast.net).

## National Disability Mentoring Day

**Secretary of Labor Elaine Chao** has announced that this year's **National Disability Mentoring Day** will be held on **Wednesday, October 15<sup>th</sup>**. Begun in 1999, National Disability Mentoring Day promotes career development for students and job seekers with disabilities through one-on-one job shadowing, group visits to public and private employers, and hands-on career exploration. It is held in October in conjunction with National Disability Employment Awareness Month. This year young people in all 50 states, as well as in Guam, American Samoa, Japan, Italy, Singapore, France, the United Kingdom, and Australia are expected to participate in National Disability Mentoring Day.

"National Disability Mentoring Day is an opportunity for young people with disabilities to gain firsthand exposure to many of the career options available to them," said **Roy Grizzard**, **assistant secretary of labor** for the **Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP)**. "It will also make employers and the general public increasingly aware that people with disabilities represent a largely untapped resource for sustaining our national economy and well-being." Assistant Secretary Grizzard also gave special recognition to the **American Association of People with Disabilities**, which is co-sponsoring National Disability Mentoring Day with ODEP and works with other national organizations to promote career exploration for students and job seekers with disabilities.

For more information about Disability Mentoring Day, please go to <http://www.aapd-dc.org/> and click on the link for DMD. For more information about local events associated with DMD, please contact **Stacy Brown**, **Program Director, Office for Students with Disabilities** at the **University of Maryland**. She can be reached by phone at **(301) 314-7239** or by e-mail at [sbrown@ds9.umd.edu](mailto:sbrown@ds9.umd.edu).



## Applied Research Conference

The **Organization for Autism Research (OAR)** will host an **Applied Autism Research and Intervention Conference** on **Friday, October 24th** and **Saturday, October 25th** at the **Key Bridge Marriott** in **Arlington, Virginia**. The conference is part of a three-day schedule of events culminating in a "Run for Autism" on Sunday, October 26th.

During the first day, attendees will hear about the latest practices in intervention, early education, and transition from a host of speakers, including:

- \* **James Mulick, Ph.D.** - the efficacy of treatments and their best outcomes
- \* **Michael Fabrizio, MA, BCBA** - fluency-based instruction
- \* **Brenda Myles, Ph.D.** - education strategies for individuals with Asperger Syndrome
- \* **Joanne Gerenser MA, CCC-SLP** and **Suzanne Letso, MA, BCBA**, - education issues and the practice of Applied Behavior Analysis
- \* **Edward Carr, Ph.D.** - positive behavior support for autism

On the second day, workshops will focus on education topics such as "**Essential components of an ABA program**" and "**Supporting students with Autism and Aspergers in inclusive settings.**" The conference will conclude mid-afternoon with a panel presentation and information exchange featuring four professionals who currently run schools for persons with autism and related developmental disabilities.

For further information about the conference, including registration information, please go to the **OAR web site** at <http://www.researchautism.org> or contact them by phone at **(703) 351-5031**.

## New autism support group

**Kristie Farley** has been appointed **Lead Facilitator** for a new **Autism Support Group** at the **Black Mental Health Alliance for Education and Consultation, Inc.**

She is recruiting parents, caretakers, legal guardians, and extended family members to join the group, which will meet on **Wednesdays from 6:00 – 7:00 pm** at 733 West 40th Street, Suite 10 in **Baltimore**.

For further information, please contact the **Black Mental Health Alliance** by phone at **(410) 338-2642** or by e-mail at [bhealthall@aol.com](mailto:bhealthall@aol.com). **Ms. Farley** can be reached by phone at **(410) 448-2306** or by e-mail at [knauik@aol.com](mailto:knauik@aol.com).

## Circle of Support conference

The **9th annual Circle of Support conference** will be held on **Saturday, November 8th** at **Hylton High School** in **Woodbridge, Virginia**. **Dr. Temple Grandin** will be the keynote speaker; her topic will be "**An inside view of Autism**". Workshops are also planned on many topics, including the following:

- \* Choosing the right job for people with Autism/Asperger's
- \* Parent advocacy
- \* Sexuality and developmental disabilities
- \* Visual supports in the home
- \* Sensory integration and communication
- \* The gluten-free diet

The registration fee is \$25. For further information, or to obtain registration materials, please contact **Jan Russell, Family Support Coordinator** of **The Arc of Greater Prince William** by phone at **(703) 670-4800** or by e-mail at [russellj@erols.com](mailto:russellj@erols.com).

## New disability group

The **Community Coalition for Education Options (CCEO)** is a newly formed group of families of children with a variety of disabilities (ranging from mild to severe, high to low functioning, and across the age span). The group is **working to preserve a full range of educational placements for children with disabilities** in both public and non-public schools throughout Maryland. It has been organized in response to the movement within Maryland and nationwide to promote full inclusion at the state and county levels for students with disabilities.

The definition of **full inclusion** being used by CCEO is that all students, regardless of handicapping condition or severity, are taught in the regular education classroom of their home school with their age and grade peers for the full day, with support services provided within that classroom and all services being taken to the child in that setting.

CCEO believes that the Maryland State Board of Education and local education boards across the state are being pressured to institute a policy of full inclusion for all students. CCEO further believes that the IEP should remain the driving force in determining the placement of each individual student. They support inclusion when it serves the educational and social needs of that individual child, and recognize that students thrive in many different types of educational environments. They support the continuum of educational options for students whose needs cannot be met within the general education classroom.

For further information about this group, please contact **CCEO** by e-mail at [eduopt@verizonmail.com](mailto:eduopt@verizonmail.com). They also have a web site: <http://www.groups.yahoo.com/group/cceo..>



## Participants needed for research study

The **National Rehabilitation Hospital** is developing a **computerized play environment to teach pre-schoolers identified as having autism to pay attention to faces**. They need the help of children with autism, typically-developing children, and parents, as well as others familiar with autism in pre-schoolers, to design an appealing play environment.

Participation involves **one session** that will take place at **National Rehabilitation Hospital** or at the **Catholic University of America**, and lasts about **one hour**. During this session, the child will try out the play environment, a 'pod' adapted from a helicopter kiddie ride in which a computer monitor and an eye-tracking camera are installed. Adults and older children will be asked to evaluate the 'pod'.

They are looking for participants from the following groups:

- \* Typically-developing preschool-aged children and their parent(s)
- \* Children with autism up to 7 years of age and their parent(s) and siblings
- \* Adults experienced with young children with autism (such as clinicians and teachers)
- \* Adults with autism or Aspergers

They especially invite families and adults who are members of minority groups to participate in this project. There is no payment for participation. Each child will receive a small toy or book.

For further information, please contact **Maya Coleman** or **Maisley Paxton-Jones** at (202) 877-1936, or send an e-mail to **Cheryl Trepagnier, Ph.D.**, at [cheryl.trepagnier@medstar.net](mailto:cheryl.trepagnier@medstar.net).

## Teenage siblings of individuals with special needs sought for new project

**Don Meyer, Director** of the **Sibling Support Project** of the **Arc of the United States**, is seeking input from **teenaged brothers and sisters (ages 13 – 19)** of people with special needs for a new project: a **book by and for teenage sibs of kids with special needs** to specifically address the interests and concerns of this group. The book will be published by **Woodbine House**, the nation's leading publisher of books for families of people with special needs.

For further information about the project, including how to participate, please contact **Don Meyer** by phone at (206) 297-6368 or by e-mail at [donmeyer@siblingsupport.org](mailto:donmeyer@siblingsupport.org). Further information about the **Sibling Support Project** is available at <http://www.thearc.org/siblingsupport/>.

## Participants needed for survey research study

The **Departments of Educational Psychology** and **Special Education** at the **University of Texas at Austin** are conducting a survey research study to gain information about the **use of the treatments, therapies, and programs** being used by parents of children with autism. The study involves completing an **on-line survey** that contains a list of the known treatments and indicating which treatments you (as the parent of a child with autism) are currently using or have used in the past. The survey is anonymous and can be completed in about **10-15 minutes**.

To access the on-line survey, please go to <http://edpsych.edb.utexas.edu/~vgreen>. For further information, please contact either **Vanessa Green, Ph.D.**, Department of Educational Psychology, by phone at (512) 471-0792 or by e-mail at [vgreen@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:vgreen@mail.utexas.edu) or **Jeff Sigafos, Ph.D.**, Department of Special Education, by phone at (512) 475-8572 or by e-mail at [j.sigafos@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:j.sigafos@mail.utexas.edu).

## Baby hair needed for autism research study

**James Adams, Ph.D.**, of **Arizona State University**, is conducting a research study of the **level of mercury, toxic metals, and essential minerals in the baby hair of children with autism compared to non-autistic children**. The study is open to any child in the United States who meets the following criteria:

- \* Born in the years 1988-1999
- \* Has a sample of the "first-cut" baby hair between 12 and 24 months
- \* Can provide a copy of vaccination records up until the first haircut, including manufacturer's name and lot number (available from pediatrician)
- \* For children with autism, a written diagnosis of autism per DSM IV criteria by a certified professional
- \* For non-autistic children: a) normal development, b) no asthma, severe allergies, Type I diabetes, or other autoimmune disease; c) no first or second degree relatives with ASD/PDD/ADD/ADHD; and d) normal vaccination schedule up to age of first haircut

Participants will be asked to fill out a **one-page medical history** and a **one-page evaluation of the severity of their child's autism**. Participants will receive the results of their child's hair analysis, a \$20 gift certificate to Toys 'R' Us, and a copy of the study findings. If you are interested in participating, please send your **e-mail address or mailing address** to **Professor James Adams** via e-mail (at [Jromdalvik@aol.com](mailto:Jromdalvik@aol.com)) or via regular mail (**P.O. Box 876006, Tempe, AZ 85287-6006**.)



## ASA and CDC launch national autism awareness initiative

The **Autism Society of America (ASA)** and the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)** have partnered in a major new initiative aimed at boosting awareness of the **importance of early screening and intervention for autism**. The program, known as **ChildScreen**, is designed to encourage parents with a child showing signs of developmental delays to seek help for their child, even before a clinical diagnosis of autism has been made.

The program was announced on July 18th by **U.S. Health and Human Services (HHS) Deputy Secretary Claude Allen** at the **ASA National Conference**. An announcement was simultaneously made by **HHS Secretary Tommy Thompson**, who said: "The number of people diagnosed with autism is on the rise. The impact on families as well as autism's profound effect on the nation's educational and health care systems points to the need for a better understanding of this troubling condition."

**Lee Grossman, Chair** of the **ASA Board of Directors**, explained the importance of the new initiative. "Our nation is in the midst of a national health emergency, and we are thrilled to be partnering with the CDC on this important initiative. We believe this initiative will help countless parents ensure their children's autism is identified in its early stages so that intervention can begin immediately and outcomes for these individuals can be significantly improved."

For more information about **ChildScreen**, visit the **ASA web site** (<http://www.autism-society.org>) and click on the photo of Claude Allen.

## Information about teens with developmental disabilities

The **Maryland Family Networks** web site contains a newly reformatted and updated **Teens and Young Adults resource page** which includes three new publications written and produced by **Teens First**, a support group by and for teens with developmental disabilities in Harford County.

This group, for teens ages 13 to 21 with disabilities, promotes self-advocacy, community volunteering, fundraising, and self-awareness workshops. The group, under a grant from Family Networks, produced the three new publications: **Teen First Tips**, **Transition Brochure**, and **Your Life Plan**.

To access the Teens and Young Adults resource page and the three new publications, please go to <http://www.family-networks.org/teens.cfm>.

## Job Announcement

**Abilities Network** has announced openings for the following positions:

### Autism Waiver Services Program Coordinator:

Assures comprehensive services to families with a child on the autism waiver are provided in line with Agency mission. Hires, supervises and ensures on-going training of staff. Ensures quality services and customer relations are provided through leadership and support of supervised staff. Monitors plans of care and participates in policy/procedure development. Assures regulatory compliance. Provides networking services and serves as Agency representative at meetings/coalitions. Monitors expenditures of staff.

### Behavioral Support Counselor – Autism Waiver Services:

Provides supportive services to children with autism and their families and caregivers through Autism Waiver Services Program. Prepares and modifies individual plans to assist with children's progress. Responsible for obtaining family information and maintaining documentation of progress as outlined by the individual plan. Provides educational services for family and caregivers as necessary. Maintains records and performs activities requires by regulatory accrediting and state agencies. Actively promotes quality services.

For further information, please contact **Debora Lakein, Assistant Director, Family and Children's Services** at **Abilities Network** by phone at **(410) 828-7700** or by e-mail at [dlakein@abilitiesnetwork.org](mailto:dlakein@abilitiesnetwork.org).

## Information on emergency preparedness for children with special needs

The **American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)**, in conjunction with the **American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP)**, has developed a **special information packet** regarding emergency preparedness for children with special health care needs. The information includes a policy statement from the AAP and the ACEP, as well as blank **emergency information forms** and sample emergency information forms and instructions for parents on using the form. It also contains other helpful resource information.

The special information packet is available at <http://www.aap.org/advocacy/emergprep.htm> or by calling the American Academy of Pediatrics (**Susan Tellez**) at **(847) 434-7395** or the American College of Emergency Physicians (**Elaine Jastram**) at **(972) 550-0911, ext. 3140**.

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

Postage  
here



### Membership Application

Clip and return with check to:  
Anne Arundel County Chapter  
Autism Society of America  
P.O. Box 1304, Millersville, MD 21108

*Join us!*

*Dues are only  
\$10 per year!*

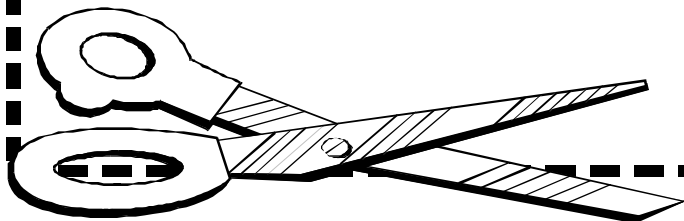
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Interest:  Parent  Self-Advocate  Friend  Relative  Professional



Clip and return with your check  
payable to "AACC-ASA"