



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

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Next Meeting:

Tuesday
May 27th

7:00 pm

Presidents Message

Thanks to everyone who joined us at our April meeting, which featured a special recognition event for our **Hometown Heroes for ASD**. Included in this newsletter is information about the recipients and the individuals who nominated them.

Thanks also to everyone who joined us at our sold-out, nearly standing-room-only **3rd annual Basket Bingo Extravaganza**. We offer our sincere thanks to the many individuals and organizations that made donations to help us achieve this successful event; included in this newsletter is information about these donors. I also want to express my sincere thanks to all of the volunteers who spent many hours preparing for this event, especially **Mindy Wise** and **Cindy Gallagher**.

Thanks also to everyone who joined us at the **Pump it Up** facility in Glen Burnie for their **Bounce for Autism** event. We saw many active children and adults enjoying themselves, and offer our thanks to the management and staff of Pump it Up for their generosity.

Our May meeting will feature a presentation about **animal-assisted interventions for individuals with autism spectrum disorders**, led by **Merope Pavlides**. She is a Certified Pet Dog Trainer and Certified Dog Behavior Consultant and the author of a new book about animal-assisted interventions. I encourage parents and other family members, as well as professionals and other service providers, to join us on May 27th.

At our May chapter meeting we will also hold **elections** for our Executive Board and At-Large Board Members. Included in this newsletter is information about the slate of candidates.

As a reminder, this will be our last meeting for the school year, and we will take our usual summer break. Be sure to mark your calendar for our **summer beach party**, which will be held on **Saturday August 16th** from **1:00 – 5:00 pm**. Watch for details in upcoming newsletters.

A new group, the **Anne Arundel Early Childhood Intervention Family Organization**, is now forming. The organization is for parents and educators of children (birth to five) receiving special education services in Anne Arundel County. This includes the Infants and Toddlers Program, Child Find, Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) and Community Based Services (CBS). The first meeting will be held on **Wednesday May 14th** at **7:00 pm** at Jones Elementary on Hoyle Lane in Severna Park. The purpose of the group is to provide families with support and contact with other families going through the programs, offer educational and social opportunities for families, engage in fundraising for early intervention and early childhood services, and organize volunteer opportunities to assist teachers, technicians and therapists in their work. For further information, please contact the group at **AA_ECI_PTO@yahoo.com**.

Contact us:

By phone: (410) 923-8800

On the web: www.aaccasa.org



Chapter news and notes

Our **meetings** are held on the last Tuesday evening of each month (August - November and January - May) at the Ruth Parker Eason School, 648 Old Mill Road, Millersville. Meetings begin at 7:00 pm 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!!

Our **on-line calendar of events** provides updated information about the many autism-related and disability-related activities and events in our local area. It can be accessed at <http://www.aaccasa.org/calundur.htm>.

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.

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 partnersforsuccess@aacps.org. They will provide information about the various ways in which library materials can be obtained.

Our **chapter networking/support/resource guide**, available at http://www.aaccasa.org/images/Net_workingGuide11-07.pdf, consists of a list of chapter member volunteers who are available to provide information and assistance to family members, friends, professionals, and service providers. If you are a paid member and have experience with any of the topics and would like to provide information and assistance, please contact **Alison Hamilton** at (410) 451-8015 or hamiltonal@verizon.net.

Our **"Where to Start" brochure** provides local resource information for families of children newly diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder or families who are new to our area. It is available on our website at <http://www.aaccasa.org> or by calling our chapter phone line at (410) 923-8800.

Our **web masters** are Barry Conner and Claudine Intner.

2007-2008 Board

President: Linda Carter-Ferrier
Co-Vice Presidents: Alison Hamilton and Jill Zaukus
Treasurer: Mindy Wise
Secretary: Jean Dunaway

Board Members: Doug Shade
Ellen MacAlester
Roxanne Sporrer
Lynne Markowitz
Diana Phillips
Laura Phipps
Claudine Intner
Nancy Snyder

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Memorial contributions

Our chapter gratefully acknowledges the following donations and offers our condolences to the family and friends of their departed loved ones:

In memory of **Everdina Stuterheim**
Susan Buckner

In memory of **Evelyn Reed**
Patsy Hamilton Roy and Maria Frack
Dick and Mary Kilburn Helen Bisanz
Clint and Sheryl Russum J Michael and Marie Casner
Daniel and Roseanne O'Sullivan

In memory of **John (Jack) Williams**
Sandy D'Erasmus Jean Eby
Allan Rosenberger Charles and Mary Barbera
Dr. Pamela Hill Patricia Ryan
Brenda Humm Kevin Maxwell
Katy and Ken Schieman
Shirley and David Boone
Douglas Box and Sheila Harmon
Susan Cecere and John Seward
Ellen and Thomas McGinn III
Susan and Robert Marshburn
Rosemarie and Lawrence Walz
Speech Language Affiliates of Anne Arundel County
Friends and co-workers of son Jack Jr. at the
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services



Support groups

Autism Spectrum Disorder support group of Southern Maryland; contact Terri at (301) 862-7235 or griestbeary@verizon.net or Jennifer at (301) 997-0794 or johnjenb@md.metrocast.net or go to <http://www.orgsites.com/md/asd/supportgroupofsomd>.

Arc of Baltimore support group for parents and caregivers of children with developmental disabilities; contact Katrina Clemons at (410) 296-2272 ext 5353 or kclemons@arcofbaltimore.org.

Adult Autism Resource Group; contact Linda Pearl at (410) 769-9500.

Autism-Asperger Association of Calvert County support group; contact (410) 326-5050 or AAACC@asdcalvert.org.

Autistic Self Advocacy Network - Baltimore chapter; go to <http://aspengers.meetup.com/256/calendar/7207155> or <http://www.autisticadvocacy.org> or contact Ari Ne'eman at (732) 763-5530 or info@autisticadvocacy.org.

Anne Arundel County Asperger Syndrome support group; contact Sue Hayward at (410) 544-6661 or go to <http://www.aacaps.org>.

Aspergers Syndrome and autism spectrum disorders support group; go to <http://aspengers.meetup.com/243>.

Army Exceptional Family Member Program support group; contact Martila Seals or Valerie Stanislaus at (301) 677-5590.

Abilities Network epilepsy support group; contact Danielle Wright at (301) 392-3554 ext. 210.

Baltimore Chesapeake Chapter of the Autism Society support group; go to <http://www.bcc-asa.org> or call (410) 655-7933.

Calvert County special needs support group; call Therapeutic Recreation office at (410) 535-1600 ext 2542 or go to <http://www.co.cal.md.us/residents/parks/therapeutic>.

Holistic Moms Network; go to <http://www.holisticmoms.org> or contact Cassandra Alls at cbsunshine@mac.com or (443) 995-2622.

Howard County Asperger's support group; contact Elaine McAuliffe at (410) 730-0068.

Howard County Autism Society support group; go to <http://www.howard-autism.org> or call (410) 290-3466.

Parent support group for children with disabilities and developmental disorders; call Frankly Communicating Speech Language Therapy at (410) 871-2990.

Southern Anne Arundel County autism support group; contact Tammy LeBow at (410) 336-6104.

Sensory Processing Disorder parent support group; contact OT Ventures at (443) 812-6396 or ot_ventures@hotmail.com.

Support group for parents of students with disabilities; contact Bob Brown at (443) 881-2034 or rbrown@hannahmore.org.

Therapy services

Trellis Services is providing free introductory Verbal Behavior sessions for children aged 2-6 at their Love 2 Learn clinic in Hunt Valley on weekdays from 9:30 - 11:30 am in May and June. Each child will receive four 2-hour sessions working 1:1 with an instructor. Parents interested in having their child participate are requested to go to <http://www.trellisservices.com>, click on the "For families" link and print and complete an intake information form; please write "2008 VB scholarship" at the top. Mail the application to Trellis Services, L2L Program, 150 Lakefront Drive, Hunt Valley MD 21030 or fax it to (410) 785.3848. An intake meeting will be held with each family (including the child) prior to acceptance for the free sessions. For further information, please contact **Tara Wagner** at tara@trellisservices.com or (410) 786-3845 x 201.

The **University of Maryland's Hearing and Speech Clinic** is offering a Social Language Group Therapy Program this summer for children with Autism, Asperger's Syndrome and other social language problems ages 10 - 16. Group sessions will target functional communication skills such as improving self-advocacy skills, identifying common interests with others, handling disagreements, using manners, starting conversations, interpreting nonverbal communication, joining in play, and turn-taking. For further information, please contact **Maria Dixon** at (301) 405-8083 or mdixon@hesp.umd.edu.

Based in Washington, D.C., **Celebrate Calm** specializes in working with intense children, including families affected by AD/HD, anxiety, sensory issues, Aspergers, autism, ODD, and OCD. For further information, please go to <http://www.CelebrateCALM.com>.

Mark your calendar - our annual summer beach party will be held on Saturday August 16th from 1:00—5:00 pm.



Presentations, workshops, seminars, conferences, forums, and public meetings

On **Thursday May 8th** at **7:00 pm**, the **Anne Arundel County Special Education Citizens' Advisory Committee** will host a free presentation entitled "**Executive Dysfunction**". It will be led by Joyce Cooper-Kahn, Ph.D. and held at the Vineyard Community Center on Najoles Road in Millersville. For further information, please contact AASECAC at **(410) 224-3122** or AASECAC@fastmail.fm.

On **Friday May 9th** from **11:30 am – 1:30 pm**, **Abilities Network's Family Empowerment Network** and the **Parents' Place of Maryland** will co-sponsor a free workshop entitled "**Resolving conflicts in special education when things go wrong**". It will be held at the United Way of Charles County on La Plata Road in La Plata. The workshop discusses alternatives that parents have when positive advocacy and collaboration are not working for their child's success. Participants will review applicable laws, procedural safeguards, when to request a resolution session, when to file for mediation, when to file for due process, and how to file a complaint. The importance of precise documentation and record keeping will be stressed, along with useful tips and tools to help manage your child's educational placement. For further information or to RSVP, please contact **Danielle Wright** at **(301) 392-3554 ext. 210** or dwright@abilitiesnetwork.org.

On **Saturday May 10th** from **9:00 am - 12:30 pm**, the **Arc of the Northern Chesapeake Region** and **Abilities Network** will co-sponsor a workshop entitled "**Practical steps to making your marriage work while having a child with special needs**". It will be held at the Mountain Christian Church, New Life Center on Mountain Road in Joppa. For further information or to register, please contact **Anne Cerruto** at **(410) 836-7177 x 383** or acerruto@arcncr.org. Registration is also available online at <http://www.arcncr.org> or by contacting **Linda Townes** at **(410) 836-7177 ext. 376** or ltownes@arcncr.org.

On **Monday May 12th** from **9:00 am – 4:00 pm**, a meeting of the **Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee** will be held at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center on Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, DC. The meeting is open to the public, with attendance limited to space available. Registration is required; the registration website is <https://guest.cvent.com/EVENTS/Register/IdentityConfirmation.aspx?e=a2817fac-3c5d-4094-bdcb-194f8c9f2de0>. The agenda for the meeting and information about the IACC is available at <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/research-funding/scientific-meetings/recurring-meetings/iacc/index.shtml>.

On **Tuesday May 13th** at **7:00 pm**, **CHADD of Anne Arundel County** will host a free presentation entitled "**The neurobiology of ADHD: New brain imaging findings**". It will be led by Vincent Culotta, Ph.D and held at Severna Park United Methodist Church on Benfield Boulevard in Severna Park. For further information, please contact CHADD at **(410) 721-2468** or <http://www.aacochadd.org>.

On **Wednesday May 14th** from **6:30 - 8:00 pm**, the **Social Workers of Anne Arundel County** will host a free presentation entitled "**Helping children with grief and loss**" at Marley Middle School on Davis Court in Glen Burnie. For further information, please call **Mrs. Oidick** at **(410) 761-0088** or **(410) 691-4344 x 276**.

On **Saturday May 17th** from **11:00 am – 1:00 pm** and **Wednesday May 21st** from **6:00 – 8:00 pm**, **Abilities Network** will hold focus groups related to their establishing a **Family Empowerment Network** in Anne Arundel County; both sessions will be held at the library on McKinsey Road in Severna Park. The goal of the Family Empowerment Network is to give families that include a member with a disability the chance to meet each other and learn about resources. The network will be tailored to provide the type of support that families need. In order to provide the support that families want, the focus group sessions will allow families to talk about unmet needs that they have and share ideas that may help meet those needs. For further information or to RSVP, please contact **Ken Case** at **(410) 266-7941** or kcaser@abilitiesnetwork.org.

From **Monday May 19th** through **Thursday May 22nd**, the **Institute for Applied Behavior Analysis** will sponsor a series of seminars on positive practices in behavioral support. The seminars will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn in Owings Mills, and consist of the following sessions: non-aversive behavioral support and basic principles of positive programming; comprehensive functional assessment and advanced support strategies; emergency management and reactive strategies within a non-aversive framework; and assuring staff consistency and the provision of quality services. For further information or to obtain registration materials, please call **(800) 457-5575** or go to <http://www.iaba.com>.

On **Tuesday May 20th** from **6:30 – 8:30 pm**, a presentation entitled "**Social skills for children with Aspergers**" will be held at Barstow Acres Childrens Center on Main Street in Prince Frederick. For further information, please contact the **Calvert County Park and Recreation Department** at **(301) 855-1234 ext 2225** or <https://webtrac.co.cal.md.us>.



On **Wednesday May 21st** from **7:00 – 9:00 pm**, the **Baltimore County Public School's Office of Special Education** and the **Baltimore Chesapeake Chapter of ASA** will co-sponsor a 'make it and take it' event entitled "**Pictures, symbols, and tools**". It will be held at the Timonium Support Building on Greenspring Drive. For further information or to register, please contact the Baltimore Chesapeake Chapter at **(410) 655-7933** or **RSVP@bcc-asa.org**.

On **Friday May 30th**, **Prince Georges County Public School's Department of Special Education, SECAC-PG**, the **Arc of PG**, and **M-NCPPC** are co-sponsoring two free presentations by **Kathie Show**, author of 'Disability is Natural'. The morning presentation will be held from 8:30 am – noon at the Prince George's Ballroom on Pinebrook Avenue in Landover, and the evening presentation will be held from 5:30 – 9:00 pm at the Arc of Prince George's County on McCormick Drive in Largo. For further information or to reserve a seat, please contact **Melonee Clark** at **(301) 925-7050 x 307** or **mclark@thearcofpg.org**.

From **Tuesday June 3rd** through **Thursday June 5th**, **Sensory Street** will present a series of workshops entitled "**Sensory ToolKit**" and "**SI tools for pre-teens and teens**". They will be led by Diana Henry and held at Towson University. For further information or to obtain registration materials, please contact **Ida Zelaya** at Sensory Street at **(410) 653-3867** or **ida@sensorystreet.com**. Information is also available at **http://www.sensorystreet.com**.

On **Monday June 9th** at **6:00 pm**, a reception and series of presentations will be held in conjunction with the opening of the new **Towson University Center for Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders**. The Center was established in February 2008 to form a link between the university and the community of adults with autism. The goals of the Center are to facilitate outreach and programming for adults on the spectrum; resources for professionals, families, employers, and the general public; and education, training, and research opportunities for students and community professionals in order to help adults on the autism spectrum lead fulfilling and productive lives in the community.

The event will start with a reception at 6:00 pm, followed by presentations by Dr. Peter Gerhardt (President of the Organization for Autism Research), Ari Ne'eman (President of The Autistic Self Advocacy Network), Alex Plank (founder of Wrong-Planet.net), and author Zosia Zaks. For further information about the Center or the event, please contact **Lisa Crabtree** at **lcrabtree@towson.edu** or **(410) 704-4330**.

Family events, social events and fundraising events

On **Saturday May 10th** at **10:00 am**, **Marley Elementary School** will hold a fundraising walk, run, and bike event at Bill Bateman's restaurant on Aquahart Road in Glen Burnie. The event will raise funds for Special Olympics to support the Run Jump Throw competition held annually at Ridgeway Elementary School. For further information, please contact the restaurant at **(410) 760-5535** or the school at **(410) 222-6414**.

On **Wednesday May 14th** and **Thursday May 15th** **Port Discovery children's museum** on Market Place in Baltimore is hosting "Discovery Days" for students with special needs. The event includes free admission for students and teachers during two time periods each day: 10:00 am – 12:00 noon and 12:00 noon – 2:00 pm. For further information or to register, please contact Port Discovery at **koglesbee@portdiscovery.org** or **(410) 864-2678**.

On **Thursday May 15th** at **7:30 pm**, the **Down Syndrome Connection** will host a screening of the movie "**Mr. Sky Blue**" at Woods Memorial Church on Baltimore Annapolis Boulevard in Severna Park. For further information, please go to **http://www.downsyndromeconnection.com** or call **(888) 279-2279**.

On **Friday May 16th** at **7:30 pm**, the **Baltimore Chesapeake Chapter of ASA** is hosting a pot luck dinner at the Trellis Services office on Lakefront Drive in Hunt Valley. For further information or to RSVP, please contact the Baltimore Chesapeake Chapter at **(410) 655-7933**.

On **Tuesday May 20th** from **5:00 – 10:00 pm**, the **Rockfish restaurant** on Sixth Street in Annapolis will hold a special evening for families living with an autism spectrum disorder. Special gluten and/or casein-free menu items are available, background music is turned down, and a quiet room is available. Reservations are encouraged. For further information or to make reservations, please call **(410) 267-1800**. A portion of the proceeds is donated to Pathfinders for Autism.

On **Wednesday May 21st**, **Bounce Around** on Airport Park Road in Glen Burnie will hold four sessions at **1:00 pm**, **2:00 pm**, **5:30 pm**, and **6:30 pm** for children with autism spectrum disorders and their siblings. A quiet room is available. Reservations are required. For further information or to make a reservation, please call **(410) 768-8288**.



On **Thursday May 22nd** from **6:30 – 8:00 pm**, **Book Friends** will hold their meeting at the public library on McKinsey Road in Severna Park. For further information or to reserve a seat, please contact **Chrystal Irving** at **(443) 867-7032** or **Rebecca Raggio** at **(410) 923-5751**.

On **Saturday May 24th** the **Howard County Autism Society** and **AMC Columbia 14** will host a sensory-friendly showing of “**Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian**” at AMC Theatres Columbia Mall for children with special needs. Doors open at 8:45 am and the movie starts at 9:30 am with no trailers. For further information, please contact **Marianne Ross** at **ross-fda@hotmail.com**.

On **Saturday May 31st** Abilities Network will hold their 3rd Annual **Walkabout Abilities** at The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore. Registration begins at 8:00 am and the walk will kick-off at 9:00 am. For further information please go to **<http://www.kintera.org/faf/home/default.asp?ievent=265792>**.

A group of moms with children in Anne Arundel County Infants and Toddlers and ECI programs gets together to meet other moms, share common experiences and resources, and have some food and fun. For further information, please contact **Dawn Dixon** at **dawn1477@comcast.net** or **(410) 721-1748**.

Sports and recreation programs

On **Sunday May 18th** at **12:30 pm**, sign ups will be held for the 2008-2009 season of the “**Eye of the Storm**” **cheerleading squad** for individuals with special needs at the Maryland Twisters Cheerleading facility on Penrod Court in Glen Burnie. Information about practices, fundraising, uniforms and performances will be provided, and applications for new cheerleaders will be accepted. For further information, please contact **Sharon Myrick** or **Donna Conway** at **(410) 766-8729**. Information is also available at **<http://www.marylandtwisters.com>**.

On **Saturday May 31st** at **10:30 am**, a meeting for the **Baltimore Saints**, a hockey program for individuals ages 5 and older with developmental disabilities, will be held at Laurel Ice Gardens. For further information, please go to **<http://www.BaltimoreSaintsHockey.org>** or call **(410) 370-1818**.

On **Saturday May 31st** at **6:00 pm**, **Severna Park Lanes** will hold the opening night of a 14-week session of their **Special Needs Trios League**. For further information or registration materials, please contact Severna Park Lanes at **(410) 647-0811**.

Research studies

Dr. John Vacca, Assistant Professor of Education at **St. Joseph’s University in Philadelphia**, is seeking fathers of young children up to age 8 with an autism spectrum disorder to interview as part of a research study investigating the impact on fathers of having a child with an autism spectrum disorder and how fathers deal with this experience. For further information or to indicate your interest in participating, please contact Dr. Vacca at **Jvacca@sju.edu** or **(610) 660-3175**.

Melanie Mack, a graduate student in the **Psychology Department** of **Western Washington University**, seeks parents of children with autism spectrum disorders to complete an on-line survey as part of her thesis project. The survey asks parents to share their beliefs regarding the cause(s) of their child’s autism and their trust in current research. It also collects data on the sources of information and treatments that parents select. The survey is available at **<http://www.acadweb.wvu.edu/psych/Autismsurvey.htm>**. For further information, please contact Ms. Mack at **mackm2@cc.wvu.edu**.

Jeninne McNeill, a graduate student in clinical and school psychology at **Hofstra University**, seeks parents to complete an on-line survey investigating the reasons they would not seek therapy for their child if the child was demonstrating specific behaviors. It is available at **<http://www.pride.hofstra.edu/~jmcnei3/survey/childtherapy.htm>**. For further information, please contact Ms. McNeill at **jmcnei3@pride.hofstra.edu**.

The **Towson University Center for Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders** is seeking children with high-functioning Autism Spectrum Disorders between 8 and 12 years old, along with their parents, to participate in a research study entitled “**Social participation patterns and preferences: A mixed methods study of children with high functioning Autism Spectrum Disorder**”. The study will look at how children participate in activities when they are not in school and describe their ideas about what they would like to do and who they like to do things with during out of school time. Parents will complete a short questionnaire about their child’s social skills, and the child will complete a booklet about drawings of children participating in a variety of activities. Some children will also participate in a short observation. For further information, please contact **Lisa Crabtree** at **(410) 704-4330** or **lcrabtree@towson.edu**.

The **National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH)** is seeking participants for various studies, including treatment studies, related to Autism Spectrum Disorders at their Bethesda campus. For further information about these studies, please go to **<http://patientinfo.nimh.nih.gov/AutismPediatric.aspx>**.



Resources

YEA (Youth Empowerment Alliance) is a project through the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council that provided leadership skills and community resources to youth and young adults with disabilities. YEA newsletters and curriculum are available at <http://www.md-council.org/resources/yea.html>. The curriculum, entitled "Taking control of your life", consists of units on self-advocacy, the IEP process, services/resources, and employment. For further information, please contact **Linda Nelson** at (410) 767-3670 or (800) 305-6441.

The **Rehabilitation Services Administration's** website includes a list of State Liaisons for vocational rehabilitation programs, supported employment programs, and independent living programs. The list can be found at <http://www.ed.gov/policy/speced/guid/rasmpid-state-liaisons.html>.

Susan Delaine has written a book entitled "**Balancing the bowl**", a cookbook and resource guide for food allergies and autism diets. She is the parent of a young man with severe allergies on the autism spectrum. For further information about the book, please go to <http://www.balancingthebowl.com>.

The **New England ADA Center** and **No Limits Media** have released a series of brief videos featuring students with disabilities sharing their strategies for successfully staying in school, graduating and getting jobs. The students reveal their struggles with self-reporting their disability, and negotiating accommodations in school and at work. They are available at <http://adapfiveenvironments.org/neada/site/student>.

Family Navigators are family members who have had the experience of raising a child with intensive needs. The purpose of this position is to assist families whose children have intensive needs relating to developmental disability and/or mental health issues to navigate the local and State system to ensure that your child has the supports he/she needs. The program is coordinated through the Governor's Office of Children and administered by each county's Local Management Boards (LMB). The Family Navigators for our local area are as follows:

Anne Arundel County—The Family Tree (410) 266-5105
Baltimore City—Families First (410) 662-5500 x 286
Baltimore County—Villa Maria Continuum (410) 252-4700
Calvert County—ARC of Southern Maryland (410) 535-4461
Charles County—Family Connection Center (301) 885-1334
Howard County—MD Coalition of Families (410) 730-8267
Prince George's County—The Family Tree (301) 909-2138
St. Mary's County—Family ACCESS Center (301) 863-6664

Basket Bingo donations

Our thanks to the following groups and individuals for their monetary donations:

Millersville Elementary School PTA
Old Mill Middle School South
Arundel High School
The Becherer Family The Knoblich Family
The Denison Family The Smith Family
Mr. William Shenk Ms. Joyce Basch
Clark Construction Denison Landscaping
Greencrest Contracting Company
Ft. Meade Officers Wives Club
Kinderdance of the Chesapeake

Our thanks to the following sponsors for their donation of items for basket fillers, door prizes, and raffle items:

Southwest Airlines Walt Disney World Company
Zachary's Jewelers Hamilton Photography
Tranquil Touch Ridgely Retreat
Hershey Gardens Jennifers Flowers
Blockbuster Costco
BG Car Wash About Time Cleaning Service
U.S. Now Nail Spa Four Seasons Grill
Greene Turtle Restaurant Jasper's Restaurant
Buddy's Crabs and Ribs Great Grapes Wine Festival
Rockfish Restaurant Cheeseburger in Paradise
McCormick and Schmick Restaurant
John's Italian Deli – Sharon Lowman
Matt Stover Foundation B.J. Surhoff
U.S. Navy Lacrosse Baltimore Blast
Baltimore Ravens Washington Capitals
Bowie Baysox DC United Soccer
Big Vanilla Premier Fitness
98 Rock – Josh Guerke Annapolis Symphony Orchestra
Milkshake Band Baltimore Symphony Orchestra
Joanne Lingle Ellen MacAlester
Roxanne Sporrer Jeremiah and Crystal Marshall
Brian and Denise Flynn Wendy Bogarde
Jean Rezac Cathy Powers
The Hamilton Family The Fiume Family
The Shade Family The Dunaway Family
The Hamilton Family The Appel Family
The Ferrier Family The Wise Family
Jessica Kenealy - "True" salon
Patrice Meyer – Airbonne Representative
Sharon McCabe – Hairadise
Brycia Kiewlak – Stampin Up
Dan Ramsey – Turner-Whiting Construction
Robin Smith – Creative Memories
Denise Rulo – Cookie Lee Jewelry
Elks Lodge Staff
Penny Walker and Cindy Gallagher—Longaberger Consultants



Slate of candidates for May 2008 elections

Co-President: Alison Hamilton (2009)

Alison is the parent of three children, including a 7-year-old daughter on the autism spectrum and 4-year-old twins. She serves as newsletter editor for The Autism Project and is on the board of Annapolis Mothers of Multiples. She worked as a journalist and has a Masters degree in Social Work.

Co-President: Linda Carter-Ferrier (2010)

Linda has been a board member and officer for several years. She is the parent of two sons on the autism spectrum, ages 12 and 15. She serves on several statewide committees related to students with disabilities.

Vice President: Jill Zaukus (2009)

Jill is the parent of three children, including two sons, ages 7 and 5, on the autism spectrum. She has a BS degree in physical therapy and has worked in acute care hospitals, outpatient, and home care. She has also worked with children with many different disabilities in the school setting.

Treasurer: Mindy Wise (2010)

Mindy has served on the board for several years as Treasurer and Vice-President. She is the parent of three children and two step-children; her 16-year-old stepson is on the autism spectrum. She has a degree in Early Childhood Education and has worked in the childcare and education fields for 18 years.

Secretary: Cindy Shay (2010)

Cindy is the mother of 7-year-old boy/girl twins; her son is on the autism spectrum. Cindy is an attorney practicing in business and health care law. She also has an MBA and a B.S. in Business Administration, and worked as a Certified Public Accountant in the insurance industry.

At-Large Board Members:

Lynne Markowitz (2009)

Lynne has served as the Assistant Program Manager for the Infants and Toddlers Program for many years. She coordinates services for young children on the autism spectrum and has many years of experience working with this population.

Diana Phillips (2009)

Diana is the parent of two children, including a 6-year-old son on the autism spectrum. She has experience organizing large volumes of documents. Prior to having children, Diana worked as a paralegal.

Claudine Intner (2009)

Claudine is the parent of three boys, including a 6-1/2-year-old son on the autism spectrum. She has worked as a teacher and graphic designer. Currently she is an at-home mom and artist.

Laura Phipps (2009)

Laura serves as the Social Skills Specialist for students with High Functioning Autism and Aspergers Syndrome. She has a Masters degree in Social Work with a clinical specialty in families and children. She worked as director and coordinator of the St. Andrew by the Bay preschool, which provided a community-based preschool services program. She has two children, including a 22-year-old son with disabilities.

Nancy Snyder (2009)

Nancy has many years of experience working with students on the autism spectrum. She serves as Chairperson of the Special Education Department at a county middle school. Nancy works as part of a school team teaching social skills, coping skills, and self-advocacy skills.

Jean Dunaway (2010)

Jean served as Secretary for several years. She works with students on the autism spectrum as a Community-Based Services Instructional Technician for students with autism.

Ellen MacAlester (2010)

Ellen is the parent of three children, including two sons, ages 11 and 16, with Aspergers Syndrome. She works as a nurse in home health. She has served as Cubmaster and advisor for a Venturer's Crew (a Boy Scout-sponsored group); both groups include children and youth with special needs.

Doug Shade (2010)

Doug has been a board member for many years, providing assistance with many projects and activities. He is the parent of a 12-year-old son on the autism spectrum. He works professionally as a Mechanical Engineer and a Technical Writer.

Denice Rulo (2010)

Denice is the parent of 6-year-old twin boys on the autism spectrum. She worked as a criminal investigator for the State of Maryland, and has a Bachelors degree in Sociology. She volunteers at Millersville and Folger-McKinsey Elementary Schools.

Cheryl Antlitz (2010)

Cheryl has a 5-1/2 year old son on the autism spectrum and is expecting her second child. She heads the Parent Group at her son's school. She has a BSN in Nursing and works with a DAN physician assisting with children on the autism spectrum.

Christine Ambrose (2010)

Christine is a freelance writer, editor, and instructional designer and the parent of two boys, ages 12 and 6. Her youngest son is on the autism spectrum. Her editing and writing projects include curriculum development for The American Red Cross Babysitter's Training course and a series of social stories for children with autism. She volunteers in the autism class at Pasadena Elementary School.

Note: Dates indicate expiration of terms of office.



Hometown Heroes for ASD

This year's Hometown Heroes are a varied group; all of them have been the friends, family members, teachers, mentors, and advocates our children greatly need. We thank them for the difference they have made. The full text of each nomination is at <http://www.aaccasa.org>.

Glenn Carr, volunteer, Pathfinders for Autism

"His great warmth and dedication set him apart."

Nominated by: Dawn Koplos, Executive Director

Tyler John Ambrose, sibling

"He is friendly and kind to every child with autism."

Sarah Zaukus, sibling

"I thank her for the friendship and kindness she shows."

Nominated by: Christine Ambrose, parent

Joan Vosbury, Teaching Assistant, Millersville ES

"She helped us open a door I thought we'd never get through."

Faye Kim, Kennedy Krieger Institute

"Teachers have asked for Miss Faye masks to wear at school."

Jennifer Szalankiewicz, Special Educator, Millersville ES

"The folks at Millersville had the wisdom to look down the hall when they needed someone."

Nominated by: Alison Hamilton, parent

Patrick Stevens, home therapist

"The kids refer to him as Jacob's friend and that's what he will always be in the heart of my son."

Nominated by: Denice Rulo, parent

Sarah McGraw, Special Educator, Solley ES

"She has supported, challenged, and loved him."

Jessica Jones, home therapist

"She truly gives all that she has to us."

Nominated by: Jill Zaukus, parent

Lauren Riley, Speech Language Pathologist

"I am grateful for the time she gives."

Jennie Hannebohn, Sarah Conkle and Geoffrey Conkle

"They willingly became a part of our family and helped to create what we call Lara's Village."

Ellen McFarland, Valeria Kristianova, Ryan McEvoy, and

Linda Jacob, special education team, Point Pleasant ES

"It has been a privilege to learn from them."

Nominated by: Teresa Rimel, parent

Ellen McFarland, Special Educator, Point Pleasant ES

"Her name is synonymous with autism awareness!"

Nominated by: Sarah Wold, Special Educator, PPES

Elissa Lively, Developmental Specialist, ITP

"There is never a wrong time to ask her a question."

Nominated by: Camille Juerakhan, parent

Duane Denison, grandparent

"I could not do it without him, emotionally or financially."

Nominated by: Ashley Denison, parent

Pat Gagliano, Teaching Assistant, Old Mill Middle South

"The smiles she receives from her students are signs of the adoration they have for her!"

Nominated by: Kim Cook, Old Mill Middle South

Krystal Varney, in-home support technician

"One of the most important things she has done with Kayla is become her friend."

Nominated by: Wanda Gleason, parent

Rep. James King, owner, Rockfish Restaurant

"I hope his work makes other people aware that there are reasons why some children have difficulties."

Nominated by: Alisa Greenwood

MaDonna Holsopple, Developmental Specialist, ITP

"When your son is diagnosed with ASD and you feel lost and confused, there is no better guide."

Nominated by: Carolyn Fiume, parent

Kristina Dennsteadt, Teacher, Marley ES

"She is determined to utilize students' strengths to maximize their academic achievement."

Meghan Murphy, Special Educator, Marley ES

"Our students would experience greater barriers in the school environment if not for her dedication, expertise and advocacy."

Nominated by: Donna Williman, Principal, Marley ES

Jennifer Vosburg, Special Educator, Hebron-Harman ES

"She is a cherished advocate for all children with ASD."

Nominated by: Kassia Serrano, parent

Teresa Rimel, parent

"Our students and staff are grateful for her efforts to make PPES a truly inclusive and safe environment for everyone."

Nominated by: Ellen McFarland, Special Educator, PPES

Linda Carter-Ferrier, Parent and Advocate

"We would absolutely be lost without her."

Michele Einolf and Mary Frank, Speech Language Pathologists, Old Mill HS and Old Mill MS South

"They empower students on the spectrum to reach their full potential."


Nancy Snyder and Wanda Gleason, Old Mill Middle South

"Their patience, inventiveness, and creativity opened the world to Alexa."

Alexa Appel, Teenager with Asperger's

"Teachers say that her fellow students have benefited from being in class with Alexa."

Nominated by: Michelle Appel, Parent



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

Postage
here

We have available **autism awareness merchandise**, including puzzle ribbon lapel pins and car magnets, autism puzzle piece bracelets and wristbands, as well as many other wonderful items. They can be purchased at our meetings or by using the order forms at <http://www.aaccasa.org>.

We participate in **Affiliate Programs** with **Future Horizons** and **Autism Asperger Publishing Company**. Through these programs, when you follow the link at <http://www.aaccasa.org> to their web sites to make purchases, our chapter receives a portion of the purchase price.

The **Garyworld** online store (<http://www.cafépress.com/garyworld>) promotes the original artwork of chapter member Gary Schmedes Jr., including such characters as Monster Chicken and his girlfriend, Monstrous Hen. Gary and his family are generously donating a portion of the profit from the sale of these items to our chapter.

Donation commitment

Beth Strasnick, one of our chapter members and the parent of a child with autism, has initiated a fund-raising effort to help our chapter's awareness, education, support, and advocacy efforts.

Beth has committed to donate \$250 to AACC-ASA for every referral through our group that results in a sale, and to increase the donation to \$500 if she sells your home and helps you buy a new home.

Beth Strasnick

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