



Dear Community,

Since taking the position as ABOARD's new executive director a few weeks ago, I have enjoyed reading and reflecting on what ABOARD is all about: families helping families. That 14 of them got together 15 years ago to help their children, and have since grown the organization to what it is today, is impressive.

An organization's quality is created by its constituents, not by a person who sits behind a desk in the office. So here's to all of our families, providers, physicians, therapists, psychologists, teachers and other supporters of people on the autism spectrum. You continue to make ABOARD what it is today - an organization that stands out in terms of quality information and solid referrals that reach thousands of people in need each year.

This success is due to the hard work of support group leaders, board members and office staff who make donor dollars (ABOARD's sole source of support) stretch to meet the ever-increasing needs of people on the spectrum.

We frequently cite the alarming increase in autism, which now occurs in at least 1 in 110 births. As the numbers rise, so does the demand on ABOARD's time and resources. Staff calendars are already filling through the end of February with meetings or events with goals to inform and to improve lives of those on the spectrum. Outreach to struggling families, a biomedical conference, issues related to behavior and the law, and education about the possible ties between mitochondrial disorders and autism - these are only a few of the topics we plan to address this year.

So please party with us at our Gala on February 6th. Walk with us on May 21st at the Highmark Walk for a Healthy Communities - or walk FOR us in your local area if you cannot make it to Pittsburgh. Consider an honorary donation to ABOARD as a gift option to for that person who "has everything". Let us help you raise awareness and funds within your synagogue, church, high school, or workplace. Do whatever you do best in order to pitch into the cause, just as our original families did "way back in the 90's."

Other families need your help.

Thank you for being part of ABOARD's mission and for your continued support. Please contact our office any time to discuss concerns, or to tell us what you need in terms of information or support in 2011 and beyond.

Best wishes for living well with autism in the new year!

Lu Randall

Executive Director

[Luciana Randall Appointed New Executive Director of ABOARD Press Release](#)

OUR MISSION

www.ABOARD.org

ABOARD IS DEDICATED TO MAXIMIZING THE SOCIAL, EDUCATION AND VOCATIONAL POTENTIAL AND POSSIBILITIES OF PENNSYLVANIA CHILDREN, ADOLESCENTS AND ADULTS WITH AUTISM AND RELATED DISORDERS. THROUGH FAMILY SUPPORT, INFORMATION DISSEMINATION, EDUCATION & TRAINING, AWARENESS BUILDING AND COLLABORATION, WE PROVIDE HOPE AND HELP TO PENNSYLVANIANS CONFRONTED WITH THE CHALLENGES OF AUTISM.

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Advisory Board on Autism and Related Disorders | 35 Wilson Street, Suite 100 | Pittsburgh | PA | 15223