



May 13, 2011

Join Our Mailing List!



Advisory Board on Autism & Related Disorders

412.781.4116 or toll free: 800.827.9385

ABOARD'S MISSION:

There is considerable debate throughout the autism community about the cause of autism and issues such as vaccination, diet, inclusion, and appropriate therapies. Legislative acts can also influence services to those with autism. Our policy is to inform. We trust that individuals will assimilate the information we provide and make the best decision for their children and clients.

> The entire mission statement can be found at http://aboard.web.officelive.com/aboutus.aspx



Now is the time to register!

Go to www.walkforahealthycommunity.org and select ABOARD as the organization that you would like to support. You can register as an individual walker, team leader, or make a donation. Pre-register and donate \$25 to receive a t-shirt on walk day! ABOARD incentive prizes include ABOARD t-shirts, hats, amusement park tickets, and more! For details, check out the ABOARD walk page.

http://aboard.web.officelive.com/HighmarkWalk2011.aspx

And the walk is just the start of a fun day for the family. Stop by the ABOARD tent at the Venture Outdoors Festival at Point State Park. The festival starts at 11am and includes fishing, kayaking, and biking!

Walk Details:

WHERE: Heinz Field, Pittsburgh

WHEN: Saturday May 21, 2011

REGISTRATION: starts at 7:15am

5K WALK START: 9:00am

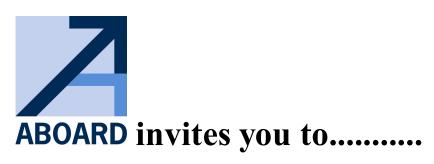
ONE-MILE FUN WALK START: 9:15am

The Walk for a Healthy Community presented by Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield will benefit 67 local health and human service agencies in Southwestern PA, including ABOARD. Because all costs are underwritten by Highmark, **ABOARD receives 100% of the money that is collected.**

Call 412-781-4116 or email <u>autismwalk@aboard.org</u> with any questions.

ABOARD and the families that we serve thank you for your support.





AUTISM OUTDOORS!

Saturday, June 11th from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm

Rain or Shine! At Allegheny Commons Park next to Lake Elizabeth (behind the National Aviary) on Pittsburgh's North Side.

A FREE event provided by Venture Outdoors for people with autism and their families. Activities will include:

KAYAKING - CLIMBING WALL - BIKING - GEOCACHING (treasure hunting with GPS)









Snacks and drinks provided RSVP not required, but appreciated to help us arrange for enough supplies.

To register go to www.aboard.com

To volunteer or sponsor call ABOARD at 412.449.0165 or email autismoews@aboard.org.

Presented by Venture Outdoors for the families of Advisory Board on Autism and Related Disorders (ABOARD)





Join ABOARD at this FREE fun filled day!

OPEN TO ALL FAMILIES WITH ASD bring the entire family, staff & care givers!

Click Here to Register!

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ABOARD

NEWSLETTER

What's Happening at ABOARD and all our upcoming events, conference and seminars for 2011!



Today's eblast is provided free to the families through the support of our sponsor!



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSOR FOR HELPING PROVIDE THIS SERVICE TO OUR FAMILIES FOR FREE!

<u>ABOARD IN THE NEWS.....</u>

The Royal Masquerade Bowl Supports Autism Charity

The Caste Family Fund and ABOARD hosted a fundraising event at Princess Lanes/Prior's Tap & Tavern in Whitehall on Saturday night.

Caste, a relatively new member of ABOARD, became familiar with the organization while looking for support for his autistic son.

"We were looking for people who had been through it," he said.

He was introduced to ABOARD by <u>Carolyn Komich Hare</u>, who works with high-functioning autistic adults.

"I felt it was a well-run, highly competent non-profit," Caste said. "Because (ABOARD) was started through parents, it has deep experience and history."

While recognizing the importance of national organizations such as <u>Autism Speaks</u>, Caste urged people to consider contributing to local organizations like ABOARD.

"It's like the difference between federal and local income tax," Caste said. "Your federal tax goes to who-knows-what, but your local tax goes to the local community."

Caste also began the Caste Family Fund this past year. When considering starting a new non-profit, Caste said, he realized that there were already many good local non-profits that need support.

"So we decided to throw our weight behind existing non-profits and focus on our fundraising power," he said.

http://baldwin-whitehall.patch.com/articles/the-royal-masquerade-bowl-supports-autism-charity#photo-5969435

Masquerade Bowl event to benefit children with autism

"It's so upsetting to see your child struggle like that," Caste said. "What we learned from that is you can become very isolated as a family."

As Ritchie and Caste did research on the disorder, they found support from local organizations, such as the Etna-based Advisory Board on Autism and Related Disorders, ABOARD.

"The one thing that really helped us were the people," Caste said. "You can't feel like you're going at it alone."

http://www.yoursouthhills.com/node/18470



This research was presented Wednesday during a press conference at the International Meeting for Autism Research (IMFAR) in San Diego.

Teen Boys With Autism at Risk of Being Bullied: Study

Their inability to manage stress and emotions raises vulnerability

-- Among teen boys with an <u>autism spectrum</u> disorder, those who are considered high-functioning are confronted with a greater degree of bullying behavior than their "typically developing" peers, new research indicates.

http://health.usnews.com/health-news/family-health/brain-and-behavior/articles/2011/05/11/teen-boys-with-autism-at-risk-of-being-bullied-study

Fever During Pregnancy, Diabetes and Obesity May Raise Autism Risk

But study finds births by C-section didn't seem to have any impact any impact. In the first study, researchers looked at <u>data</u> from research on 1,000 kids taking part in the population-based Childhood Autism Risks from Genetics and Environment (CHARGE) Study, which included 462 with an autism spectrum disorder, 136 with other development disorders and 265 typically developing kids between 2 and 5. The researchers also examined mother's reports of influenza or fever during pregnancy. http://health.usnews.com/health-news/diet-fitness/diabetes/articles/2011/05/11/fever-during-pregnancy-diabetes-and-obesity-may-raise-autism-risk

Autism Takes an Economic Toll on Mom's Job, Income: Study

Families with a child with autism spectrum disorder earn 27% less, researchers find Autism takes a grim economic toll on families, resulting in substantial underemployment and lost income among mothers, University of Pennsylvania researchers find. This means that health care costs for a child with autism, however high, are only part of the equation, and the labor market squeeze on families should be considered whenever policymakers fund autism care, researchers suggest.

http://health.usnews.com/health-news/family-health/brain-and-behavior/articles/2011/05/11/autism-takes-an-economic-toll-on-moms-job-income-study

Research



Autism May Be More Common Than Thought

Researchers Suggest Many Undiagnosed Kids Have Mild Autism
A "startling" one in 38 children has <u>autism</u>, South Korean and U.S. researcher find.
The estimate is far higher than CDC's estimate of one in 110 children, as the study found many school kids have mild, undiagnosed autism. The elaborate study searched for 7- to 12-year-old children with <u>autism spectrum disorder</u> (ASD) among 55,000 children in a community outside Seoul, South Korea. Largely funded by the advocacy organization Autism Speaks, the study was led by Young Shin Kim, MD, PhD, MPH, of Yale University.
"They came up with the startling number that one in 38 children has an autism spectrum disorder," Geraldine Dawson, PhD, chief science officer for Autism Speaks, tells WebMD.

"This raises an important question for the U.S.: How many kids in the general education classroom actually have an ASD but

http://www.webmd.com/brain/autism/news/20110509/study-autism-may-be-more-common-than-thought

<u>Autism on the Rise, but Cholesterol May Help: Studies</u>

One of those studies, from Ohio State University medical center, suggested that adding cholesterol to some children's diets may decrease the symptoms of Autism "It's possible that too low of a cholesterol may be one of the causes of autism in a subgroup of children with autism," according to the lead author, Dr. Eugene Arnold. http://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/Autism-on-the-Rise-but-Cholesterol-May-Help-Studies-121607284.html

Month child conceived, autism risk linked

A study involving 6.6 million California children in the 1990s and 2000s linked the month a child is conceived and the risk of autism, researchers say.

Lead study author Ousseny Zerbo, a fifth-year doctoral student at the University of California, Davis, School of Medicine, says researchers used records of children born from January 1990 through December 2002 from the state of California Office of Vital Statistics. http://www.upi.com/Health_News/2011/05/10/Month-child-conceived-autism-risk-linked/UPI-47241305074214/#ixzz1M3eOn2dg

Researchers See A 'Picture' Of Threat In The Brain That May Lead To New Model Of Neuroinflammation

A team of researchers is beginning to see exactly what the response to threats looks like in the brain at the cellular and molecular levels. This new information, including the discovery that a model of social stress can increase inflammation among brain cells, should provide new insight into how the stress response affects inflammatory and behavioral responses. It may also provide new targets for drugs treatments in the continuing struggle to curtail depression and anxiety.

http://www.bmedreport.com/archives/27366

Education



Due for mainisticanning to succeed, additional resources necaed, survey mids

Regardless of their views, the teachers generally expressed confidence in their ability to handle autistic students, while at the same time observing that not all of the children were adequately prepared for the demands of a general education environment. Overall, the participants suggested that more resources were needed to help promote social interaction between autistic students and their healthy peers. Also necessary: continued support from special education teachers and training in how to meet the demands of individual education plans, they said.

http://health.usnews.com/health-news/family-health/brain-and-behavior/articles/2011/05/11/most-teachers-favor-inclusion-for-autistic-students

Autism spectrum students get welcome at more colleges

Autistic kids can't succeed at college? Try telling that to the many colleges and universities that have recently established special programs to help students with Asperger syndrome and other autism spectrum disorders. More than a dozen colleges in the U.S. now have such programs, according to College Autism Spectrum. "Colleges are seeing more people with autism spectrum disorders, the kinds of people who, in the past, wouldn't have gone on to college," Felicia Hurewitz, director of the autism support program at Drexel University, told the Philadelphia Inquirer. "We have a lot of diversity. Neurodiversity is the newest."

http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-504763_162-20061046-10391704.html

Students with autism given presidential award

The Independence High School Falcon Autistic Solar Team (FAST) was recognized Monday by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Six FAST students were given a prestigious presidential award for their work promoting environmental awareness. The student group travels to other schools to demonstrate how solar technology works.

http://www.kget.com/news/local/story/Local-students-with-autism-given-presidential/OmFj4ClujUKVa5iW-DuvLA.cspx

Yoga creates calm for children with autism

Yoga instructor works with 25 Broward special-needs schools. Autistic children who have trouble relaxing are finding peace through "pretzel" and "superman." These yoga poses and a dozen others, performed in sequence each day at Coconut Creek Elementary School, offer students in the school's autism classes a way to calm themselves when the stresses of life - such as loud noises in the cafeteria, bright classroom lights or a skinned knee - agitate them. "It helps me when my back hurts," said River Zartler, 10. "We lay down on our mats and close our eyes."

http://www.sun-sentinel.com/health/fl-hk-autism-yoga-20110509,0,5193371.story



<u>Update on Vaccine Court Publication Raises Questions</u>

I just heard from a representative from the Public Relations department at Pace University School of Law. She wondered why a press release cited in my earlier blog would say that members of their law school had been involved with the investigation into and presentation of "Unanswered Questions From the Vaccine Injury Compensation Program: A Review of Compensated Cases of Vaccine-Induced Brain Injury," when there was no such involvement in either the investigation or the presentation.

Naturally, I doublechecked the press release I'd received, and realized there were actually two separate releases, one sent on the 6th and one sent on the 9th of May. Both had the same people listed as contacts.

http://autism.about.com/b/2011/05/10/update-on-vaccine-court-publication-raisesquestions.htm

Analysis Finds Evidence of Autism in Many Vaccine Injury Cases

At a midday news conference Wednesday in front of the red-brick U.S. Court of Federal Claims building in Washington, where the vaccine court hears its cases, authors of the report emphasized that their study was only preliminary. With further research on the more than 2,500 claims that have won compensation in vaccine court, they said, more evidence of inoculation-related autism would be certain to turn up.

"We think this is the tip of the iceberg," said Mary Holland, a research scholar at the New York University law school and one of the study's four co-authors.

http://www.fairwarning.org/2011/05/analysis-finds-evidence-of-autism-in-many-vaccine-injury-cases/

Autistic Oakdale man connects through his painting

For Altman, a 34-year-old Oakdale resident who is autistic, art has allowed him to connect with other people in ways that his family says he never did before. Autism, a developmental disorder, limits his ability to speak and relate to others.

http://www.courier-

journal.com/article/20110511/ZONE06/305110029/1047/SCENE/Autistic-Oakdale-man-connects-through-his-painting?odyssey=mod%7Cnewswell%7Ctext%7CEntertainment%7Cs







For a complete listing of the ABOARD Support Groups please see our website at www.aboard.org!

Perspective Program: Intervention Research Study for Adults with ASD

The Perspectives Program at the University of Pittsburgh is developing new non-drug interventions to meet the unique needs of adults with autism spectrum disorders. Individuals with Autism, Asperger's Syndrome, or Pervasive Developmental Disorder NOS, between the ages of 16-40, are now being accepted into the program. All participants will receive one of two new experimental interventions, Cognitive Enhancement Therapy or Enriched Supportive Therapy, at no cost. Participants must be able to come to the University of Pittsburgh on a regular basis. A new session is beginning soon. To enroll or find out more information contact 1-866-647-3436 or autismrecruiter@upmc.edu.

Joni and Friends - Through The Roof Seminar: "Welcoming All God's Children: Steps for Inclusion in the Church"

Saturday, May 21, 2011 9am- 1pm at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, 616 N. Highland Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15206 •"Impact of Disability: A Fifty Year Journey From Exclusion to Church Inclusion - A Siblings' Perspective" Keynote Speaker: Deb Petermann, Joni and Friends Ohio •PLUS - 8 Workshops focused on ways to include families affected by disability in the Church. •A Pastor Forum will follow from 1 - 3pm. Please contact Rev. Calvin Clark if you are interested or need more information. 724-678-6390 or calclark@livesrestored.org.

Pittsburgh Local Task Force (LTF) May Meeting

The Pittsburgh LTF on the Right to Education works to improve educational services for children with IFPs in Pittsburgh Public Schools. This month's meeting is on Tuesday. May 24 at 6:00 pm at

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ACHIEVA, 711 Bingham Street, South Side. The guest speaker is Pittsburgh Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Linda Lane. For more information, please email ltf2pgh@gmail.com.

HOPE

*helping others through the power of education presents: a free workshop for caregivers...spin the wheel to wellness financial intellectual physical spiritual emotional interpersonal occupational monday, may 23, 2011

9:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m

one smithfield street lower level

is this workshop for you?

are you a caregiver who has a child or children involved with DHS services?

are you looking to meet & chat with other caregivers & family members?

are you interested in learning about:

health & nutrition?

relaxation?

budgeting issues & financial planning?

finding the power of your voice?

seating is limited, so please register by may 13th to:

maya lyles maya.lyles@alleghenycounty.us 412-350-3351

The spin the wheel of wellness is a free workshop for caregivers to spend some time focused on physical/health wellness, financial wellness, and interpersonal wellness. The day will consist of dynamic speakers, relaxation activities, raffles, a continental breakfast, lunch and networking time to meet with other caregivers from Allegheny County.

isn't it time for you to take some time for you?

seating is limited, so please register by may 13th to:

maya lyles maya.lyles@alleghenycounty.us 412-350-3351

Allegheny County Department of Human Services, attn: maya lyles

one smithfield street, suite 400 pittsburgh, pa 15222*

Wesley Spectrum Creative Arts Music Recital

The Wesley Spectrum Services Creative Arts Program is proud to announce the 4th Annual Music of the Heart Recital, a celebration of the children and young adults served through the Wesley Spectrum Creative Arts Program. This year's recital will be held at 2:00 on Sunday, June 12 in the Katz Performing Arts Center at the Jewish Community Center of Pittsburgh. Current members of the program demonstrate their skills and passion for the arts through instrumental playing, singing, dancing and digital media. Donations will be accepted to benefit the Creative Arts Program.

Sensory Friendly Films

 $Kung \ Fu \ Panda \ 2$

Saturday, June 4, 2011

10:00 am

AMC Theatres® and The Autism Society have teamed up to bring families affected by autism a special opportunity to enjoy their favorite films in a safe and accepting environment on a monthly basis.

With Sensory Friendly Films, the movie auditoriums will have their lights brought up and the sound

turned down. For tickets to this unique experience, please visit the theatre's box office the day of the event.

AMC Waterfront 22 300 West Waterfront Dr. West Homestead, PA 15120

The Watson Institute Summer Programs - Still Accepting Applications!

The Watson Institute is still accepting applications for our acclimation to college program, ACCLAIM. We are offering ACCLAIM at Robert Morris University, CCAC Allegheny Campus, and Carlow University. For more information about our programs, visit us online at www.thewatsoninstitute.org, or contact us at (412) 749-2883

Travel Awareness: So Much More Than Transportation

Join us on Monday, May 16th from 6:00-9:00 pm at UCP Community Service Center, for a UCP Kids Event on Travel Awareness! Because our 2008 workshop on Travel Awareness was so popular, Ms. Michelle Holsopple from Allegheny Intermediate Unit has offered to provide new information for people of all ages. This workshop will be interactive and will include hands-on travel skills exercises. To register or for more details please <u>click here</u> or call 412-683-7100 ext. 1030. Act 48 and Social Work credits available!

LIFE SAVING FOR OUR SPECIAL NEEDS STUDENTS

Wednesday June 1 at 7pm in South Allegheny High School Auditorium. Guest Speaker: Cynthia Garfold for the Western PA Search and Development Center. She will give valuable information on opening communication between special needs children and first responders, as well as, other important topics and Q&A. Sponsored by The Glassport Crime Watch and South Allegheny High School's Special Needs Department. This presentation is FREE to all.

The Pennsylvania Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education is pleased to announce the following videoconference.

Title: Transition to Kindergarten Videoconference

Date: May 19, 2011

Times: 9:00 am - 12:15 pm

Location:

PaTTAN Harrisburg

PaTTAN KOP

PaTTAN Pittsburgh

Downlinks across the state

Please visit our online registration system for an updated list of available sites.

Description:

This video conference will review the legal requirements as well as successful practices for transition from Preschool EI services to School Age Services

Presenters:

Bureau of Special Education (BSE) & Office of Child Development, Bureau of Early Intervention (BEIS) staff

Target Audience:

Preschool Early Intervention Administrators and staff, Intermediate Unit and School District Administrators, and Families

Credits Offered: Act 48 & Infant Toddler Training Hours

Registration Information:

You may register directly on-line by visiting www.pattan.net and entering the Registration On-line page.

For Content Related Information and Questions please contact Deb Daulton at ddaulton@pattan.net

For General Registration Information and Questions please contact Distance Learning Center, 800-446-5607, ext. 6884 or dlc@pattan.net or Linda Rhine at lrhine@pattan.net.

Special Needs Activity Program S.N.A.P.

Is a fun and interactive class for children with special needs. Our purpose is to increase the participants' activity, as well as comfort level, with fitness both on land and in the water. This unique program will allow children of all abilities to experience the joy of physical activity and sport! ***SPACE IS LIMITED*** *Please be prepared for water activity on June 11th & June 25th To Register Please Visit The Community & Recreation Center at Boyce Mayview Park www.livesmarterplayharder.org 412-221-1099 412-221-6964(F) Saturday: June 4th, *June 11th, June 18th *June 25th: Ages 6-11 - 9-10AM and Ages 12-18 - 10-11AM - 4 Classes: \$35.00

Here is a way to see a great show & support ABOARD all in one night!



Pittsburgh Symphony Community Partners Concert Featuring BOYZ II MEN

Location: Heinz Hall

Thursday, June 23, 2011 at 7:30 PM

TICKETS ON SALE NOW

- Tickets may be ordered in any of the following ways:
- calling the PSO Box Office at 412.392.4900 or toll-free: 1.800.743.8560
- ordering online at pittsburghsymphony.org/communitypartners
- coming to the PSO box office in person (600 Penn Ave., in Heinz Hall)

23845 ABOARD - Advisory Board on Autism and Related Disorders

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING ABOARD!!!!!!

[save the date]

JOEY TRAVOLTA

FILM WORKSHOP

For Students and Young Adults, ages 14-25

July 18-29th, Monday through Friday from 10a.m.-3p.m.

This workshop is specifically designed to meet social, communication, IEP, transition, and/or vocational goals.

Please contact us with any questions you may have regarding payment schedules and other sources of funding.

[call or email AHEADD for more information] 877.AHEADD.1 (877.243.2331) | www.aheadd.org | admin@aheadd.org







United Way of Allegheny County Contributor Choice Agency Number 9817



Join our page or join our cause!

Find us on Facebook

You can also

add a CAUSE Toolbar so every web search will help ABOARD generate funds!http://apps.facebook.com/causes/toolbar



GOODSEARCH.COM or GOODSHOP.COM - Select "ABOARD

OUR MISSION

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.

412 - 781 - 4116 or 800 - 827 - 9385

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