



April 1, 2011

Join Our Mailing List!

APRIL AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

The United Nations (UN) General Assembly has declared

April 2nd 2011 World Autism Awareness Day.



ABOARD *Autism Weekly*

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>



ABOARD

PRESENTS SATURDAY SEMINAR

AUTISM & SEXUALITY

Helping Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders

Presented by: Shawn McGill

Saturday, April 9, 2011

9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Do to the overwhelming response on this topic we have moved the location of this seminar to be able to accomodate more attendees.

Registration is still open and plenty of seats are now available!

NEW LOCATION

Glenshaw Valley Presbyterian Church

1520 Butler Plank Road

Glenshaw, PA 15116

Parent and clinical consultant in the field of intellectual and developmental disabilities since 1998, Shawn McGill will present an all-day workshop that addresses how we can best support persons on the spectrum to understand and safely express their sexuality. This comprehensive and unique training increases one's knowledge and awareness on how to best prepare your child for puberty, and how to best support them in navigating the many aspects of sexuality. Throughout the day you will learn educational and supportive methods to explain sexual feelings and body changes and to teach about legal and safe sexual expression.

Continuing Education Credits

[Click here to register online!](#)

REGISTER NOW For

save the date!

AUTISM *through* *the* LIFESPAN

A part of the Passavant Hospital Foundation Extending the Care ETC Program Series
Passavant Hospital Foundation Conference Center & Legacy Theatre at Cumberland Woods Village



Presentations and breakout sessions each day

Wednesday, April 13th early childhood to adolescence

research

findings and implications

education

*working with the system to meet
individual needs*

medicine

*primary care, co-occurring
conditions and diagnosis*

Thursday, April 14th transition: adolescence through adulthood

research

review of relevant state
& federal legislation

planning for
independence

employment

Sponsored by:



PASSAVANT HOSPITAL
FOUNDATION

Presented by:



Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic
of UPMC



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upcoming events,
conference and seminars
for 2011!

Save the
Date for

Autism
Outdoors

A FREE
Exploration
of fun things to
do outside.

June 11, 2011

More
Details
to
Come Soon!



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



SOUTH HILLS LOCATION	PITTSBURGH AFFILIATE
110 Ft. Couch Rd., 2nd Floor	5167 Butler Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15241	Pittsburgh, PA 15201
Phone: (412) 831-1223	Phone: (412) 781-3990
Fax: (412) 831-1034	Fax: (412) 781-3966

www.shs-pgh.org



Part of UPMC Insurance Services, Community Care, a recovery-focused non-profit managed care company that manages mental health and substance abuse services, proudly supports the mission of ABOARD. Visit www.ccbh.com.



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

.....Feature.....

Robert MacNeil returns to PBS NEWSHOUR to report on

Autism Today

6-part series airs during Autism Awareness Month

April 18 - 26, 2011

Autism - it's a developmental disorder that has become increasingly prevalent, affecting 1 out of 110 American children. Despite years of study, little is known about its cause and access to treatment varies. Meanwhile, hundreds of thousands of American families hungry for answers struggle to care for the unique needs of children with the disorder. Among them, Robert MacNeil, co-founder of the PBS NewsHour and grandfather of Nick, a 6-year old boy with autism.

"I've been a reporter on and off for 50 years, but I've never brought my family into a story ... until Nick," MacNeil said, "because he moves me deeply."

MacNeil and producer Caren Zucker tell the story of Autism Today in a 6-part broadcast series beginning Monday, April 18, 2011 and a robust online component where viewers can join the conversation. Ms. Zucker has produced many stories on autism and is the mother of a 16-year old son with autism.

Monday, April 18 An introduction to Nick and autism as a whole body experience: MacNeil brings viewers along on a visit with his daughter and grandson Nick in Cambridge, Massachusetts, to see how autism affects the whole family, including his 10-year-old sister, Neely. Nick experiences autism not just as a disorder in brain development but also as physical ailments affecting the whole body.

Tuesday, April 19 Autism Prevalence: Why are the numbers of children with autism increasing? At the UC Davis MIND Institute in Sacramento, California, MacNeil sees the wide range of different behaviors that comprise the autism spectrum. Anthropologist Richard Grinker argues that the rising numbers of children with autism is explained because conditions previously given other names, like mental retardation, are now included in the autism spectrum. Scientist Irva Hertz-Picciotto says the wider definition only partly explains the increased prevalence, pointing instead to a variety of environmental factors.

Wednesday, April 20 Autism Causes: The rise in autism numbers has caused a surge in research to find the causes. For the latest thinking, Robert MacNeil speaks with four leading researchers: Dr. Gerald Fischbach of the Simons Foundation, Dr. David Amaral of the MIND Institute, Dr. Martha Herbert of Harvard University and Dr. Craig Newschaffer of Drexel University.

Thursday, April 21 Autism Treatment: Although children with autism see doctors periodically, they go to school everyday. It is the school system that bears most of the burden of treating children with autism because treatment means education. MacNeil visits two schools in New York - a public school in the Bronx teaching 700 children with autism and a charter school created in

Manhattan as a model of possibilities in educating children with autism. With only 30 students, it can use one-on-one teacher/student ratios employing intensive Applied Behavioral Analysis - the gold standard treatment for autism.

Monday, April 25 Adults with Autism: Although federal law mandates educational services for children with autism, there are virtually no services when they become adults. MacNeil profiles Zachary Hamrick in Mahwah, New Jersey, about to turn 21. As his family contemplates the uncertain future now facing hundreds of thousands of young people like him, his parents ask themselves, "What will happen when we die?"

Tuesday, April 26 Autism Policy: The NewsHour series ends with a discussion of the public policy issues raised in the series, including the enormous discrepancy in the quality and availability of services for children and future adults in what the federal committee that determines research priorities for autism now calls a "national health emergency" with a panel of experts including: Dr. Thomas Insel, Director of the National Institute of Mental Health, Catherine Lord, Professor of Psychology, Pediatrics and Psychiatry at the University of Michigan, Ilene Lainer, Executive Director of the New York Center for Autism - a private advocacy group, and John Shestack, a Hollywood producer and the co-founder of "Cure Autism Now" a former advocacy group.

PBS NEWSHOUR will host an online content hub that will offer easy access to video of all the pieces in the series, as well as web-only features that are part of Autism Today, including:

§ First Look Online: In a brand new online-on-air cross promotion, check the NewsHour's website after each night's broadcast during the week April 18: We'll post the next chapter in the Autism Today series online by 7pm ET.

§ Autism 101 - A primer on autism, how it's diagnosed, the spectrum of disorders, and available resources. We'll also look at the costs of autism, through the lens of the families profiled in the series and others.

§ The Story of Donald - A new look at Caren Zucker and John Donvan's profile of the first child diagnosed with autism as reported in The Atlantic.

§ Live Chat with Experts - Viewers can ask their questions directly to the experts and doctors profiled in the broadcast segments via live text chat moderated by PBS NEWSHOUR digital correspondent Hari Sreenivasan.

§ Ask Robin MacNeil - Hari Sreenivasan will preview the series with Robin MacNeil in a special interview on the Rundown news blog. MacNeil will also answer viewer questions after the series concludes.

§ Join us on Twitter, YouTube and Facebook: We want to hear how you or those you know are coping with autism. Use the Twitter hashtag #autismtoday to ask questions or join the conversation on the series.

PBS NEWSHOUR is seen five nights a week on more than 315 PBS stations across the country and is also available online, via public radio in select markets and via podcast. The program is produced by MacNeil/Lehrer Productions, in association with WETA Washington, DC, and THIRTEEN in New York. Major corporate funding for The NewsHour is provided by Chevron, Bank of America and Intel, with additional support from the William & Flora Hewlett Foundation, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and public television viewers.

Research



Could gait unlock the keys to autism and Asperger's?

Dr Rinehart, a clinical psychologist, has more interest in that process than most. For several years she has been studying the distinctive way of walking apparent in children with autism and Asperger's disorder. The research aims to help clinicians make earlier diagnosis of these two afflictions.

<http://www.theage.com.au/national/education/could-gait-unlock-the-keys-to-autism-and-aspergers0inbx8.html>

Rett Syndrome: Research Increases Information About This Disorder on the Autism Spectrum

[Rett syndrome](#) is a neurological disorder on the [autism](#) spectrum that almost exclusively happens to girls. It is sometimes misdiagnosed as [cerebral palsy](#). Research indicates that [Rett syndrome](#) is linked to a defect in the methyl-CpG-binding protein 2 (MeCP2) gene.

<http://www.empowher.com/rett-syndrome/content/rett-syndrome-research-increases-information-about-disorder-autism-spectrum>

NSU and Immunotec Start Clinical Trial in Autism

Nova Southeastern University (NSU) and the dietary supplement company Immunotec announced today that they will conduct a new research study to determine the effects of a supplement to improve behaviors in children with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

The 2-year study will investigate the effects of a cysteine-rich whey protein isolate in children diagnosed with autism. The primary function of this research is to establish whether taking a 90-day diet of cysteine-rich whey proteins (which comes in a powder form), will have a positive effect on autistic behaviors. Improvements in affected behaviors may result in an enhanced quality of life for both children and their families. During the clinical study, there will be an analysis of the children's exhibited behaviors.

<http://www.newswise.com/articles/nsu-and-immunotec-start-clinical-trial-in-autism>

Of Interest



Are you really aware of autism?

April is Autism Awareness Month! April 2 is World Autism Awareness Day. April 1 and 2 are the "Light It Up Blue" days, a campaign to shine a light on autism by raising awareness across North America. The campaign asks you to show your support, beginning on April 1, by changing outside lights to blue. On April 2 in support of World Autism Day, everyone is encouraged to wear the color blue.

<http://www.battlecreekenquirer.com/article/20110327/OPINION/103270302>

Taking your son/daughter with an autism spectrum disorder to the dentist

Taking your son/daughter on the autism spectrum to the dentist poses many challenges. This article hopes to make you aware of some of these challenges prior to your first visit, as well as provide some useful ways to deal with them. Included in this article are three main areas that are most often in need of attention: preparation, sensory issues and communication.

<http://www.autismsupportnetwork.com/news/taking-your-sondaughter-autism-spectrum-disorder-dentist-22783922#ixzz1HvUDtyxn>

Cop: Parents of autistic kids should prep for crisis

"What you have to realize is that very rarely when facing any situation do officers ever have enough information up front," said Andersen, who works for the Utah Department of Corrections. If a law officer arrives on the scene to encounter a child who is not making eye contact, is not responding to verbal commands but turns and walks away, the officer's first thought might be that he is dealing with someone on drugs, Andersen said. "They will think drugs before they think they are dealing with a kid with autism."

That means it's important for parents to provide pertinent information about a child to school resource officers and their local community-oriented policing program so that if a crisis does occur, they can better deal with the situation.

<http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/money/51507996-79/information-parents-conference-andersen.html.csp>

Dangerous Wandering a Lesser Known Side of Autism

Many parents have stories of autistic children wandering off, running away unexpectedly. Autistic children who've wandered off may not realize they're lost, so it never occurs to them to ask for help finding their way home, said Geraldine Dawson, chief science officer for Autism Speaks. Some may realize they're lost but won't -- or can't -- ask for help because of the speech and social difficulties that come with disorder. Others may even hide or run if approached by a police officer or someone else trying to help.

And while typical [toddlers](#) tend to grow out of wandering and learn that it's important to

tell mom or dad where they're going, autistic children's wandering may persist into adulthood.

<http://health.usnews.com/health-news/family-health/brain-and-behavior/articles/2011/03/24/dangerous-wandering-a-lesser-known-side-of-autism>

Exercise strategies for people with autism

Often sedentary and hard to motivate, this developmentally disabled population can benefit from reward and routine surrounding fitness goals

Most autistic adults don't understand why people exercise, Ball said. They can't figure out why they should plan for future health, they don't care about societal customs and they don't get the fact that if they don't work out, they stand a chance of dying at a younger age.

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/health/sc-health-0330-fitness-autism-20110330,0,487442.story>

Real 'Idol'

Singer Durbin resonates with autism-afflicted kids

"American Idol's" James Durbin is a rock star - even when he's not singing.

The Season 10 contestant is a fan favorite, especially among kids with autism.

Durbin, a 21-year-old married father of one, has Asperger's syndrome, a form of autism, and local kids are rallying around their newfound inspiration

<http://www.bostonherald.com/news/columnists/view.bg?articleid=1327279&src=rss>

Events/Info



WOW TWO GREAT FUN NIGHTS OUT THAT BOTH BENEFIT ABOARD!
Thank you to our supporters who are hosting these events for ABOARD.

first annual
**Spring Fling
 for Autism**
 at Grazies!
 100 Village Drive, Westford, PA

Featuring:
 The Rozanne Matthews Band
 Pamela Bieh and
 The Warehouse Band
 The Ramp Shakers
 Miss Treddge and Blue Taze

ABOARD Support Group Meeting
 Saturday, April 30, 2011
 For a complete listing of the ABOARD Support Groups please see our website at www.aboard.org!
 From 4 till 9 pm
 Tickets: \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door
 Drink and food specials, raffles, prizes

APRIL AUTISM AWARENESS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ABOARD & Caste Family
 Fund Present....

*The Royal
 Masquerade
 Bowl*

benefitting families of
 Autism Spectrum Disorders

Saturday May 7 9pm
 Prior's Tap & Tavern
 inside Princess Lanes
 540 Weyman Road
 412.682.5557

Tickets (21+)

General Admission \$20-
 includes: 2 drink tickets, Hors
 d'oeuvres, more!
 \$20 before April 18th
 \$25 April 19th-May 6th
 \$30 at the door

costumes & masks
 enthusiastically
 encouraged!

to purchase tickets go to
www.aboard.org
 412.449.0165

[Tickets on sale now](#) to get the early bird special!

[Perspectives Program](#) for this [Research Study](#) for [ASD](#) finish registration.

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.

We look forward to seeing you at the Spring Fling for Autism & Masquerade Bowl!
 Your receipt will be emailed to you.
 Contact the Office at 412-449-0165 for more information!

FBR and AERI Co-Host 9th Annual Autism Awareness Night

PLEASE NOTE DATE APRIL 7th

The 9th Annual Autism Awareness Night is co-hosted this year by Family Behavioral Resources (FBR) and the Autism Education and Research Institute (AERI) on April 7th, 2011 from 6:30pm-10pm at the Doubletree Hotel in Monroeville, PA. Hope for Tomorrow - A Tale of Two Mothers shares unique stories from two women -both of whom are national authors and motivational speakers. Amalia Starr, author of "Raising Brandon" and Claudreen Jackson, wife of the late Pervis Jackson (from Motown group The Spinners) and author of "Inspired by Autism" open their voices and hearts as they talk about their beloved adult sons and experiences in raising their loved ones on the autism spectrum. The stories are as alike as they are different, but common theme remains the same - they have immense love for their sons, and show strength, courage, and resiliency. Their life lessons and perspectives will undoubtedly teach and inspire the audience. This event has always been and is still FREE to the community as part of our commitment to supporting Autism Awareness Month in April. We invite family members, persons on the spectrum, therapists, teachers, paraprofessionals - anyone who need a "cup of comfort and inspiration!" Starr and Jackson will surely remind us that no matter how our loved ones are impacted by the spectrum, there is always "hope for tomorrow." Sponsorship and Exhibitor Opportunities are now available on a limited basis - first come, first serve! Finally, we

have applied for Continuing Education hours and expect to once again be approved to provide this exceptional opportunity to those in need of credit. Should this change, we will notify the community immediately. We hope to see returning guests and new faces this year for our annual event. Join us for an exceptional evening!

Camp Sequoia Open House

Camp Sequoia is an innovative overnight summer camp for children ages 8-18 who are diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome, high-functioning Autism and high-functioning PDD-NOS. The focus of our camp is building social skills through a traditional camp program combined with utilizing the principles of the Social Thinking curriculum. Located on the campus of a prestigious boarding school in Pottstown, PA (40 miles northwest of Philadelphia) Camp Sequoia serves a segment of campers diagnosed with ASD who are bright, creative kids who need help developing their social cognition. We offer two separate 3-week sessions, a full 6 week season and a "First Timers" week for campers who are new to the overnight camp experience. We are hosting an Open House on Saturday April 23rd, please RSVP if your family would like to attend. 610-771-0111

FBR and AERI Bring William Stillman to Western PA - FREE WORKSHOP!

Oftentimes parents, caregivers and educators are at a loss about how best to support individuals with autism because they are overwhelmed by out-of-control, aggressive "behaviors," inundated with disrespectful prognoses and clinical jargon, or confused by technical information. This workshop is the perfect introduction for participants to begin to discern the functions of mental health issues from autism. William Stillman demystifies such perplexing challenges using language, examples and anecdotes that are concrete and understandable for all. Join us April 26, 2011 from 9AM-4PM at the Four Points Sheraton for this FREE event! Registration begins at 8:30AM. For a registration form, visit www.familybehavioralresources.com or send email to autismservices@familybehavioralresources.com. Events also listed on our Facebook page!

Westmoreland IU & University of Pittsburgh Greensburg Autism Conference Wednesday, May 4, 2011

The First Annual Autism conference sponsored jointly by the Westmoreland IU and UPG offers practical ways to respond to youth on the Spectrum. The opening keynote presentation by Dr. Nancy Minshew will focus on understanding the cognitive and physical basis of autism. Dr. Minshew, Director of Pitt's Autism Center of Excellence will review her 25 plus years of research on brain connectivity and information processing for persons on the spectrum. Afternoon sessions feature practical responses to "Sensory Processing", "Social Skills Training", "Responses to Agitation, Escalation & Meltdown", and "Career Development/Employment Experiences". Sessions on "Parent Partnership Development" and "Advances in Assistive Technology" are also scheduled. Contact Ms. Kelly Heitchue, (724) 836-2460 Extension 2324
www.wiu.k12.pa.us

DASH Advocacy Training

DASH is presenting a skill building training for disability advocacy groups at six different locations from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Different Advocacy Approaches and Advocacy with State and Local Government. To enroll, email Lan Do at Ldo@drnpa.org. The training is held on April 4 at the Disability Empowerment Center in Lancaster, on April 13 at Abilities in Motion in Reading, on April 26 at the Luzerne County Annex Building, on May 9 at the Three Rivers Center for Independent Living, on May 10 at Voices for Independence in Erie, on May 23 at Vision for Equality in Philadelphia.

Children with Hyperactivity & Autism Research Study For more information please contact:
David Maloney at 412-235-5407 or maloneydj2@upmc.edu

The UPMC Center for Autism & Developmental Disorders at Merck Child Outpatient Clinic is conducting a study to examine the use atomoxetine and/or parent training vs. placebo for symptoms of ADHD in children with Autism Spectrum Disorders. It includes 10 management sessions and an optional 24 week follow-up involves monthly visits to our outpatient clinic. This is open to children 5-13 years of age who are not on medication or are on medications that are not working well.

OMK Regional Team Meeting for Pittsburgh/Western PA

will take place on Friday, April 8th at 11:00 AM. We will have a working lunch (sorry, I can't pick up the tab this time so lunch is pay on your own). Venue for this meeting will be at the Club on the Air Reserve Base, Coraopolis. Terry Stuart has coordinated this for us so please contact Terry with any questions concerning venue. Non-DOD attendees need to send their names to Terry at terrance.stuart@us.af.mil. Non-DOD attendees must come with Drivers License and Proof of Insurance. Terry's phone number, should you need it, is 412-474-8544. At our last meeting, we discussed holding a Speak Out for Military Kids Weekend Training in the region. Tentative date is May 14 - 15. Different attendees were going to check out various venues. 814.865.2264 E-mail: sjs52@psu.edu, Web: www.operationmilitarykids.org

Helping Others through the Power of Education (HOPE) events:

Strong Communities Celebration and Resource Fair

Thursday, June 16, 2011, 1:00 pm - 7:00 pm, Carnegie Music Hall at the Carnegie Museums of Art and Natural History, 4400 Forbes Avenue, Oakland

All families, caregivers, youth, and children served by DHS are welcome to attend FREE!! resource fair, admission to the art and natural history museums, talent show, workshops, keynote speaker [Carlos Ojeda Jr.](#), youth art show
PLUS FREE parking, food, raffles, chair massages
Contact: Alexis Miller 412-350-6697

Cool Think Youth Leadership Training

Saturday, June 18, 2011, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm, Downtown location TBA
All youth 16-25 years old served by DHS are welcome to register (registration required)
FREE!! Leadership development training provided by Cool Speakers [Cool Think Trainings](#)
Including keynote speaker [Carlos Ojeda Jr.](#), breakout sessions, game show, cool prizes, breakfast and lunch. Contact: Alexis Miller 412-350-6697

The Watson Institute Summer Programs - Still Accepting Applications!

The Watson Institute operates summer programs for children and teens diagnosed with ASD. We are still accepting applications for our WISP, STAT, and ACCLAIM programs. For more information about our programs, visit us online at www.thewatsoninstitute.org, or contact us at (412) 749-2889.

Autism Charity Ball

A Charity Ball to support Dickinson Center's Autism Program. Possibilities (Autism Center with Dickinson) supports 6 counties in Northwestern PA. The Charity Ball is June 3rd (Friday) at the Red Fern in St. Marys, PA. Call or email Jen Dippold at 814.834.2602/ jennifer.dippold@dmhc.org for ticket sales or to make a contribution.

Next Families First session is NEXT TUESDAY at Kencrest South -- Come Join us! DOES YOUR CHILD HAVE DEVELOPMENTAL DELAYS OR SPECIAL NEEDS?

Would you like to increase your understanding and participation in your child's Individual Family Service

Plan (IFSP)/Individual Education Plans/(IEP) development?

Would you like to learn how to access services and supports to enhance your child's development?

Stop feeling overwhelmed and reduce stress by increasing your knowledge of Early Intervention

Find direction, information and support from families who know.

Families First

* FREE INFORMATION SESSIONS

Learn the Early Intervention System.

Join other families and team members.

Become an active participant in your child's team.

*For parents of children from Birth up to Age 5.

4/5/2011

Kencrest South

504 Morris St

Philadelphia, PA 19148

9AM-11AM

5/6/2011

*Philadelphia Regional Conference on Developmental Disabilities

3535 Market St, Philadelphia, PA

5/12/11

*Transitions Brunch or Transitions Reception

School District of Philadelphia's Education Center
440 N Broad St
Philadelphia, PA 19130
Room 1075
Brunch 10AM - 12:30PM
Reception - 5:00-7:30PM (light meal at 5PM, session starts at 5:30)
Sessions conducted in English and Spanish simultaneously

Need a session at a location near you in a language other than English?

We'll work with you.

Conducted by the Institute on Disabilities at Temple University
Funded by Philadelphia's Department of Behavioral Health/Intellectual disabilities
Services and Elwyn SEEDS (Special Education for Early Developmental Success)

REFRESHMENTS · PRIZES · REIMBURSEMENT FOR CHILDCARE**for qualified participants
only

The Central Westmoreland Transition Council is holding a "Parent Night" on April 6, 2011 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Private Industry Council Office (PIC), which is located behind Clairview School on Donohoe Road in Greensburg. We invite you to attend this informational event and believe you will obtain a variety of resources that will benefit you and your child as they reach [adulthood](#). There are at least 25 vendors that will be present.

Western PA Coalition of Education Advocates Take the Survey

Take part in the IDEA National Survey Project and share your experiences with special education!

<http://www.ideasurvey.org/>

All disabilities are welcome! We are interested in children with all disabilities. The IDEA survey is not limited to the disabilities on which the sponsoring organizations focus. We also have surveys for all members of the community. There are several surveys available. In each survey, answer only the questions that you wish.

Parent Survey: A survey for parents whose children with disabilities receive or received special education services. (This means your child has or had an IEP.)

Special Education Denied Survey: A special survey designed for parents whose requests for special education and an IEP have been denied. If your child ultimately received special education services, please complete the Parent Survey.

Attorneys, Advocates, Professionals Survey: A survey for attorneys, advocates, and other professionals who work to help children obtain appropriate special education services.

Questions? If you have questions about the IDEA survey, please contact Jessica Butler,

Coordinator (jessica@jnba.net) of the IDEA National Survey Project (and member/attorney of COPAA).

Autism Awareness Month Parent Advocacy Training

Workshop for Parents of Children with Autism. Parents will have the opportunity to learn more about the services offered by the Pressley Ridge Day School as well as Perfect Fit Canine's service dog program for children on the autism spectrum. These dogs can enrich the lives of children with autism as well as help them gain independence. April 19, 2011, 5pm-7pm at Pressley Ridge Day School Johnstown 445 Schoolhouse Road. To RSVP please call 814.262.9514 or email cadams@pressleyridge.org.

Inspiring Hope: Living a Full Life With Disability

Three young adults - Chaz Kellem, Joe Kleppcik and Chris Mielo -- talk about living successful and fulfilling lives despite the challenges of their disabilities (rare bone disorder, Asperger Syndrome, and paraplegia). Thursday April 14, 7-9 pm, at Canon Mac High School auditorium (314 Elm St. Ext. Canonsburg PA 15317). All are welcome! Presented by Canon Mac Special Families Network. Information: CMSFNInfo@gmail.com or call Rose Baumann at 412-996-3230.

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN
www.walkforahealthycommunity.org



Select ABOARD as the organization that you would like to support.



Come out and walk for ABOARD!

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

Call 412-781-4116 or email autismwalk@aboard.org with any questions.
ABOARD and the families that we serve thank you for your support!

*Spring will be here soon and it's time to start thinking about supporting ABOARD at the 9th annual Walk for a Healthy Community presented by Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield. This year's fundraiser benefits 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.***

To register, go to www.walkforahealthycommunity.org and select ABOARD as the organization that you would like to support. Would you like to be a team leader? On the website you can register as an individual walker, team leader or just make a donation. Pre-register and donate \$25 to receive a t-shirt on walk day!

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

PITTSBURGH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
COMMUNITY PARTNERS CONCERT WITH
BOYZ II MEN
JUNE 23, 2011 • 7:30 PM • HEINZ HALL

PSO

LOH

LARAIA

Join the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra and Resident Conductor Lawrence Loh for the eighth annual PSO Community Partners Concert. This year's performance features the sounds of Boyz II Men and the winner of the renowned 2011 Sphinx Competition, Paul Larcia. The PSO's Community Partners Concerts have raised more than \$539,000 for partnering nonprofit groups since they began in 2004.

Pittsburgh Symphony Community Partners Concert Featuring BOYZ II MEN

Location: Heinz Hall

Thursday, June 23, 2011 at 7:30 PM

**REGISTER NOW For
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.

Cost: \$2100.00 for two weeks

*This workshop is specifically designed to meet IEP, Transition,
and Vocational Goals.*

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