



January 28, 2011

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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>

SpecialCare™ Government Programs Workshop Wednesday, February 9, 2011

6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

ABOARD OFFICE

35 Wilson Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15223

Free but registration is required and limited to 50 seats!

For parents of a loved one with special needs government programs are often a part of their current and future plans. Helen Sims, a Special Care Planner and Jillian Zacks, JD from the financial group of Guyaux Mandler Mah will be facilitating this workshop.

Topics Addressed:

- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Social Security Disability Income (SSDI)
- Medicaid/Medicaid Waivers
- State Specific Programs

- Eligibility requirements
- Benefits available
- Medical Coverage
- Application and Appeal process
- Funding Options

This presentation is designed to be introductory in nature. Parents wishing to have their specific family situation discussed are welcome to schedule individual appointments as needed.

Please note that this program is endorsed by Easter Seals, as well as Exceptional Parent Magazine, a leading publication for families with special needs. We are a resource for education, support, and ongoing service to families with special care needs by providing a team of specialists who offer solutions that coordinate with the overall financial plan, and are consistent with the family's vision and values.

For more information, or to RSVP for this workshop please call 412.562.4439 or register online.

REGISTRATION

Thank you  for sponsoring!



*The Advisory Board on Autism and Related Disorders
(ABOARD) Cordially Invites You to Attend
Our Eleventh Annual Gala.*

February 5, 2011

J Verno Studio

3030 Jane Street, Pittsburgh 15203

7:00 pm Wine Tasting and Auctions

8:30 pm Dinner Stroll and Program

Creative Cocktail Attire

Complimentary Valet Parking

Contact the Office at 412-449-0165 to request an invitation!

**ABOARD is proud to announce the 2011 nominees and
3 finalists for The Grandin Award!**

These three finalists will be recognized and the Grandin award will be presented at ABOARD's Annual Gala on February 5, 2011.

Paul Clifford, Retired Principal, LEA
Owner of Expanded Horizons, LLC
Advocacy for All

Terry Conner
Co-founder: autismresources.com
Spectrum Charter School
SPEAK project coordinator

Bonnie Jamieson, Educational Consultant
The Watson Institute

We congratulate the remaining 2011 nominees:

Doreen Brooks
Todd Dreyer
DeeDee Mikulan
Ashley Masters Overton
Joel Shaul
Karen Ward

Delilah Wilcox
Michelle Wright
Jillian Zacks



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

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NEWSLETTER

Click here to learn about
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and seminars for 2010!



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Phone: (412) 831-1223	Phone: (412) 781-3990
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.....Feature.....

Study Shows Link to Mitochondrial Dysfunction in Children With Autism

According to a study published in Molecular Psychiatry by Dr. Daniel Rossignol ([International Child Development Resource Center](#), Melbourne FL, Aid for Autism) and Dr. Richard Frye (University of Texas), children with autism are more likely to have abnormal function of a key part of the cell called the mitochondria

(<http://www.nature.com/mp/journal/vaop/ncurrent/full/mp2010136a.html>). Mitochondria are best known for producing energy for the cell from oxygen and food. Because of its role in energy production, children with mitochondrial disease are known to have dysfunction in high energy organs, such as the brain. The investigators found that 1 out of 20 children with autism have been found to have severe mitochondrial disease, compared to approximately 1 out of 10,000 individuals in the general population. In addition, the study points out that a much wider number of children with autism, possibly one-third of children with autism, might have milder mitochondrial dysfunction.

<http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/study-shows-link-to-mitochondrial-dysfunction-in->



Rural

Infants sought for University of Pittsburgh autism study

Researchers at the University of Pittsburgh Early Autism Study are seeking infants ages 6 to 16 months who have an older sibling diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder.

http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/news/pittsburgh/s_719484.html

Research



Study finds many children with autism improve social skills over time

[Catherine Lord](#), who is the head of the [University of Michigan's Autism and Communication Disorder Center](#), said that while some previous studies stated 50 percent of 9-year-old children with autism were mostly nonverbal, her study found that 14 percent were nonverbal. Lord presented the findings of her study Monday night at a lecture at MU.

<http://www.columbiamissourian.com/stories/2011/01/24/autism-study/>

Autism: The Latest Medical Breakthroughs

Autism spectrum disorder is a thoroughly researched area of neurological and behavioral studies. The results of extensive research are directly applied on test groups of children to study and understand the efficacy of the research results. The latest medical breakthroughs address potential solutions for autism treatment. The autism breakthroughs are also geared towards developing a better understanding of diagnosing autism symptoms that may or may not be an integral part of the autism spectrum.

<http://www.newsmax.com/FastFeatures/autism-treatment-autism-symptoms/2011/01/21/id/383573>

Do People With Autism Experience Emotions?

In Part 4 of our [Breakthroughs: Autism](#) series, [Dr. Susan Bookheimer](#), professor of cognitive neuroscience at UCLA, explains that there are no major superficial differences between the autistic and the non-autistic brain. Moreover, "individuals with autism certainly have emotions"-as "anyone who has a child with autism knows."

<http://bigthink.com/ideas/26657>

Of Interest



Autism Group TACA Appoints New CEO Janine Ingram

After 10 years of hard work and extreme growth, I am thrilled to bring Janine Ingram on board as CEO to help lead TACA through the next decade. The next stages of growth for TACA's mission and the families we serve will require enormous planning and execution. Janine brings over 20 years experience in the non profit world and a personal connection to autism through her nephews.

<http://www.ageofautism.com/2011/01/autism-group-taca-appoints-new-ceo-janine-ingram.html>

Key Components of an Effective School-Based Autism Program

As part of its commitment to the autism community, Rethink Autism (<http://www.rethinkautism.com>) is offering a free online webinar, "Key Components Of An Effective School-Based Autism Program," for school district leaders, teachers and parents on [Wednesday, Feb. 2 at 1p EST / 12p CST](#) and [Tuesday, Feb. 8 at 3p EST / 2p CST](#), presented by Jamie Pagliaro, who is the Executive VP at Rethink Autism and Founding Executive Director, NY Center for Autism Charter School.

The webinar will identify seven key components that research and practitioners agree are necessary to effectively support students with autism. It will provide a framework for district leaders to allocate resources, for teachers to coordinate direct services, and for parents to advocate, in a collaborative effort to improve supports for students on the autism spectrum.

<http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/key-components-of-an-effective-school-based-autism-program-114636504.html>

Military Families Seek Injunction Against Department of Defense Over Therapy Denied to Children With Autism

Military families have filed a motion for an injunction to mandate that the Defense Department's insurer, TRICARE, cover medically necessary care needed by military families' children with autism. The motion seeks a mandate that TRICARE cover the cost of Applied Behavior Analysis therapy, or ABA, which is effective in treating children with autism spectrum disorder.

According to the military families, without ABA therapy at an early age, children with autism will suffer irreparable harm. The motion alleges that numerous studies and medical professionals confirm the effectiveness of ABA therapy, yet the Defense Department continues to reject military families' claims for the therapy, relying on shifting rationales.

<http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/military-families-seek-injunction-against-department->



Events/Info

ACT Today! Grant Applications

ACT Today! is now accepting Grant Applications. Please visit their website to learn more about deadlines and to download the 2011 Grant Application. _

<http://www.act-today.org/act-today-grant-program.php>

ABOARD Support Group Meeting

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

Just Us Parents - Autism Support Group

Find support, encouragement and help in your parenting of a child on the Spectrum Autism, PDD-NOS, Aspergers. Meet other parents; Support one another; Share information and ideas; Get resource information; Meeting the needs of those who attend.

Location/Address Panera Bread Company at 7217 McKnight Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237

(Across from Ross Park Mall)

Time 7pm to 9pm

Monthly The Support Group meet once a month.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 7

Contact Name Astrid Camille Arroyo and Maureen Wirth

Contact Phone 412-358-0393 or 724-625-0284

Contact Email la.bella@verizon.net or mhwirth@gmail.com

GET CONNECTED!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

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.

CPC Family Support Network...Helping Each other put the pieces of the puzzle together

The CPC Family Support Network through Community Psychiatric Centers invites families and friends of children with autism to join us on Wednesday, February 9 at 6:30 p.m. to discuss "Identifying and Dealing with Stims and Behaviors," led by John Carosso, Psy.D, and Robert Lowenstein, M.D., at the CPC Greensburg office, 814 E. Pittsburgh Street. To RSVP or for more information contact Desiree at 724.875.1675 or dpollard@zoominternet.net or visit www.cpcwecare.com. Childcare will be provided.

Including Samuel: Documentary Film Screening 2/13

In honor of February's Jewish Disability Awareness Month please join the Agency for Jewish Learning, the Jewish Community Center and the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh in a community film screening of Including Samuel: A Documentary by Photojournalist Dan Habib. Conversation to follow.

Jewish Community Center of Greater Pittsburgh
(5738 Forbes Ave., Kaufmann Building, Room 204)

Sunday, February 13, 1:00pm - 3:30pm

Individuals requiring special accommodations call 412-521-1101 x3206 or email tsteinberg@ajlpittsburgh.org.

L.I.V.I.N.G. Ministry will be distributing free coats to individuals for the next 4 weeks.

These coats were donated by Burlington Coat Factory and are in used, but good condition. The coats vary in sizes, and there are about 500 total coats (men's, women's, and kid's coats). I have attached (2) flyers that detail how we are going to handle the distribution. Basically, individuals will have to call our offices and sign up for a specific time to get the coats. These individuals will also need to make their own arrangements to get to where we are storing the coats. L.I.V.I.N.G. Ministry will not be able to provide rides for individuals. Because of the limited supply of coats, we are limited each individual to only (1) coat. I know many people will try and come and say "I want a coat for my grandson, or neighbor, etc...", but we will not give coats for that. Have them register those people and bring them and they can pick out whatever coat they want. As service provides, you guys can also register and get (1) coat for any specific client of yours. You can also bring your clients once they are registered and have then chose the coat they want. If you guys have any questions, feel free to email me or call me at 412-586-4663. Thanks!www.livingministry.org

Challenger Baseball For Challenged Children

Ladies and Gentlemen, Moon Township Little League is once again offering baseball to challenged children within your organization. It is open to mentally or physically challenged boys and girls between the ages of 4 and 23. We can accommodate any child. They can use a buddy to play if necessary. I have attached a flyer and a copy of the rules. If you could please pass this along to anybody who can reach out to those parents and children I would appreciate it. The children can come from any township or borough. They do not have to live within the Moon or Crescent Townships. These kids will be registered in Little League and will play according to their Challenger Division Rules. They will play Tee Ball and will use with a soft compression baseball. We have played this last Spring and Fall and all the children enjoyed playing and as well as making new friends. We had a range from the age of 4 to the age of 18. There are no outs or runs recorded in the game so there are no losers. Only winners. If you think you would need hard copies of the flyers and rules please let me know and I can get them to you. If you or any parent would have any questions please feel free to e-mail or call me on my cell phone (412-398-1385).

Highlands Hospital Community Awareness Kick-Off Event

In June 2010, Highlands Hospital entered into a consulting agreement with Cleveland Clinic Autism Development Solutions (CCADS) to collaborate in the development of the Highlands Hospital Center for Autism. Join Highlands Hospital and CCADS Autism experts to preview the center for autism's development, mission and philosophy. The event will be held at Pleasant Valley Country Club located at 440 Pleasant Valley Road, Connellsville, PA 15425 from 6:30pm-7:30pm. This event is free and open to the public. Pre registration is not required. Inquiries can be addressed to afreger@highlandshospital.org.

Competence and Confidence Partners in Policymaking for Emerging and Established Leaders (C2P2/EEL) is:

A leadership development training program for individuals with disabilities who want to develop their leadership, effective communication and team building skills to become more effective in their given career. Both Emerging Leaders -young adults with disabilities, ages 18 to 30, who are beginning their careers;

And Established Leaders- individuals with disabilities who are experienced in their chosen field are eligible to apply for the training.

Emerging Leaders

- Will attend all five leadership development training sessions

- Will participate in a summer internship- we will help emerging leaders find an internship site, the requirement is to complete 80 hours at a work site- our experience last year is that most are volunteer positions.

- Will be matched with an experienced leader with disabilities -these are the program's established leader participants who will serve as individual mentors

Established Leaders

- Will attend three leadership development training sessions, tailored to enhance your leadership skills

- Will mentor and coach a future leader with disabilities

The training is provided at no cost to the individual, if a participant is 40 or more miles away from the training site we will provide free overnight sleeping room accommodations, reimburse participants for transportation costs, provide meals during the training and provide accommodations for the participant based on his or her support needs. All we ask is a commitment of your time and effort to build your leadership skills and use your skills in the field of your choosing.

Guy Caruso, Ph.D.
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8500 Brooktree Road, Suite 100
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724-934-1142 Work - 724-933-1658 Fax
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<http://disabilities.temple.edu>

Canon-Mac Special Families Network Presents The 2nd Annual Summer Activity Fair

Canon-Mac High School (314 Elm St. Ext. Canonsburg, PA 15317). Connect with organizations that provide recreational programs, summer camps and ESY services for students. Families from ALL area school districts are welcome! For more information email CMSFNinfo@gmail.com or call Ellen Cicconi at 724-743-0244.

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Social You/Sexual You: Growing Up Together for Daughters and Sons with Special Needs

A three-part program for families with children with physical or developmental disabilities to explore social and sexual development. Parents and their children (ages 10 to 18) will learn about the physical, emotional, and social changes of puberty including hygiene, self-care, communication and social skills. The first session is for parent or caregivers only. Cost is \$50 per family February 1, 8, and 15, 2011. Magee-Womens Hospital of UPMC. To register call 412-802-8299.



The Royal
Masquerade
Bowl

a cocktail party
benefiting families with
Autism Spectrum Disorders

Presented by:
ABOARD &
Caste Family Fund

Save the date
Sat May 7
9pm

at Prior's Tap and Tavern
inside Princess Lanes



Contact the Office at 412-449-0165 for more information!



HIGHMARK.
WALK
FOR A HEALTHY COMMUNITY
Organizations Unite to Make a Difference

Save The Date!

Saturday, May 21, 2011

Heinz Field, Pittsburgh, PA

We are one of 69 organizations participating in the 2011 Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community.

Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield underwrites 100 percent of the cost of the event and funds raised directly benefit the participating organizations.

Mark your calendar, find those walking shoes and look for more information to come soon!



This Valentine's Day www.highmarkforahealthycommunity.org

Show your love while supporting Autism Awareness with these *Limited Edition* cherry red [Autism Awareness Puzzle Pieces](#) made in the USA by glass artist Janine Stillman.

Available only until 2/28/11.

(an 18" black magnetic cable choker is included in this special promotion)

\$30 each plus shipping (and tax for CA residents)

Contact the Office at 412-449-0165 for more information!

The "Romantic" Puzzle

A cherry red puzzle piece adorned with scrolls of beautiful gold/orange/pink dichroic glass suspended from a silver or gold plated hanging loop.



The "Contemporary" Puzzle
A cherry red puzzle piece adorned with splashes of beautiful gold/orange/pink dichroic glass and polka dots suspended from a silver or gold plated hanging loop.



CLICK HERE TO MAKE A PERSONAL DONATION TO ABOARD!

Support Autism Awareness Dichroic glass puzzle piece

jewelry and gifts www.designsbvia9.com

Your donation qualifies as a charitable deduction. ABOARD is registered with the Pennsylvania Department of State Bureau of Charitable Organizations. To receive a copy of the official registration and financial information, please call 800-732-0990

ABOARD will receive a donation of \$10 for each puzzle purchased.

within Pennsylvania or visit www.dos.state.pa.us.

Autism...

Together we can solve the puzzle!

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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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