



# **UPDATED**

## **April Autism Awareness Month Calendar of Events Special E-BLAST**

### **DUBOIS**

**April 7, 14, 21 & 28, 2011-6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.**

**Autism Awareness Lecture Series**

**DuBois Middle School Auditorium**

In honor of Autism Awareness Month, a lecture series related to topics in autism will be held at the DuBois Middle School Auditorium on Thursday evenings in April, 6-8 pm. Free and open to the public, geared towards parents, caregivers, therapists, teachers, support staff and anyone interested in learning about autism. Refreshments will be served. Sponsored by The ASD Parent Group of DuBois. Child care available. Please contact Uzma Shah 814-913-1988 or [uzmashah@aol.com](mailto:uzmashah@aol.com) for additional information.

**April 9, 2011-11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Autism Awareness Fair**

**DuBois Mall, Rt 255, DuBois, PA**

This event is designed to allow parents and caregivers of an ASD child to connect with service providers in the Clearfield, Jefferson, and Elk Counties, while allowing providers and local agencies to display their offerings and answer questions. April 9, 2011; 11-3, DuBois Mall, Rt 255, DuBois, PA. Contact Uzma Shah, 814-913-1988, [uzmashah@aol.com](mailto:uzmashah@aol.com) or Kelly King, 814-653-2671, [seeking@usachoice.net](mailto:seeking@usachoice.net)

### **ERIE**

**April 8-12, 2011; 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

**Fourth Annual Community Art Show**

**Barber National Institute, 100 Barber Place, Erie, PA 16507**

The Barber National Institute's Art Show celebrates the artistic possibilities of all individuals and believes in the importance of creative expression. Pieces include painting, drawing, photography, sculpture, collage, or mixed media. Participants will be divided into three categories: student, adult amateur and adult professional. Monetary awards will be awarded to the winner of each category. Children and adults, whose lives have been touched by a disability, as well as local amateur and professional artists, were encouraged to submit artwork for the show. Contact: Judy Baker, (814) 874-5603. Website:

<http://www.barberinstitute.org/events/artShow/index.php>

**April 30, 2011**

**ASA Northwestern PA 10th Walk**

**Presque Isle State Park - Rotary Pavilion**

Registration Time: 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Walk Begins: 11:00 a.m. promptly

Entry Fee: Registration donation of \$20.00

Kids 14 and under walk FREE

Registration forms and team registration forms available at [www.nwpa-asa.org](http://www.nwpa-asa.org).

For more information call (814) 455-3540

Face painting, Autism Merchandise, Jumping Inflatables (weather permitting), Themed Basket Auction

## **Johnstown**

**April 2, 2011; 10:00am - 1pm**

**Kappa Delta Rho's Annual Autism Walk to benefit ABOARD**

**University of Pittsburgh's New Wellness Center**

**450 Schoolhouse Road, Johnstown, PA 15902**

To register contact Brandon Strenko @ [bss18@pitt.edu](mailto:bss18@pitt.edu)

The members of the Iota Alpha Chapter of the Kappa Delta Rho National Fraternity, at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown, would like to invite everyone to our annual Autism Walk! This event is to support community awareness and raise money for ABOARD. Come join us on April 2, 2011 University of Pittsburgh's New Wellness Center to enjoy good fun, food, raffle, great exercise, and a chance to support an even better cause!

**April 9, 2011-11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

**Autism Awareness Family Fun Day**

**Davidsville Christian School**

**197 Pender Road, Johnstown, PA 15905**

Come and support Autism Awareness in our community. Information booths and various vendors will be set up. A Magic Show, provided by B. Happie Entertainment, will start at 12:00. DJ Jammin' Jeff will be providing music starting at 1:00 p.m. Following the Magic Show and DJ, there will also be an Easter Egg Hunt (weather permitting)!! Other various activities include: Face painting, craft tables, Cotton Candy, Popcorn, a bake sale, concession stand, and a basket raffle!! T-Shirts supporting Autism Awareness will also be on sale for \$10.00. Remember this event is for EVERYONE!! Together we can spread Autism Awareness!!! For more information, to make a donation, or if you would like to be apart of the Autism Awareness Fun Day, please contact Cresta Micik @ 814.535.5219 or or Heather Cronin at 814.479.2002.

## **GLENSHAW**

**April 11, 2011-6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.**

**River Speech & Educational Services Inc will provide a parent training on behavior!**

**River Kids Gym**

**3390 Suite 230 Saxonburg Blvd. Glenshaw, PA 15116**

Title: Implementing Rules & Rewards for Every Child

Presenters: Kelly Harrah & Megan Vrcic

Topics: Why Kids Misbehave, Rules, Positive Reinforcement, Adapting Reinforcements for children with Autism and Special Needs

Cost: \$15 a person or couple

\*Child care is not available

Register: Call 412 767-5967 or email [msriverspeech@gmail.com](mailto:msriverspeech@gmail.com)

## **HARRISBURG**

**April 2, 2011-10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

**World Autism Awareness day event at the State Museum.**

We're looking for groups to set up tables with information for the event. I thought it would be great to have our local support group participate. We're working on getting passes done that would allow us to have some individuals attend the event and visit the museum for free.

There is no fee of course for our event, but the passes would allow folks to visit the museum for free (the state museum now charges a \$5 admission fee for the museum). Also, if you have any members who make autism awareness-specific items that they would like to display, that would be great too. Elizabeth (Lisa) Kimball| HSPPS

Department of Public Welfare, Office of Developmental Programs, Bureau of Autism Services , 625 Forster Street, Room 605 | Harrisburg, PA 17120, Phone: 717.425.5677 | Fax: 717.265.7761

[www.autisminpa.org](http://www.autisminpa.org) [www.dpw.state.pa.us](http://www.dpw.state.pa.us)

## **MONROEVILLE**

**April 30, 2011**

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

**Doubletree Hotel in Monroeville, PA**

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-9pm 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!

**April 16, 2011-9:00 A.m. - 12:00 p.m.**

**The Allegheny County Office of Intellectual Disability invites to join us for a presentation by Dr. Kathryn McFadden.**

**CCAC Boyce Campus**

The Allegheny County Office of Intellectual Disability invites to join us for a presentation by Dr. Kathryn McFadden, the parent of a child with Autism and a Neuropathologist with UPMC. Dr. McFadden will discuss the characteristics of Autism, brain development, and research findings. For additional information, to request accommodations, or to register, please contact Susan Kennedy at 412-237-6587.

## **PHILADELPHIA**

**April 2, 2011; 6:00 p.m.**

**Autism Awareness Night at Please Touch Museum**

For one special night, Please Touch Museum will open its doors just to children with autism and their families. The museum will be closed to the general public. Come out and enjoy a night of hands-on, sensory-friendly fun for the whole family! Dozens of autism-related organizations will also be in attendance to give out helpful information to attendees. Register on our website: <http://www.varietyphila.org/events/details/2nd-annual-autism-awareness-night-at-please-touch-museum/> There is a \$20 registration fee PER FAMILY (up to 5 family members + TSS). Questions? Please contact Marissa Tabak at [marissatabak@varietyphila.org](mailto:marissatabak@varietyphila.org) or (267) 261-2113

**April 3, 2011; 8:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.**

**5th Annual 5K Autism Walk for Awareness at Plymouth Meeting Mall**

Get your family, co-workers, and neighbors together and come walk the mall to raise awareness for autism. It will be a morning of food, entertainment, music, and exercise! WPVI/6ABC Reporter Amy Buckman will be the Master of Ceremonies! Arts and crafts, moon bounces, and more fun for the kids! Autism-related organizations will also be there to provide helpful information. Proceeds will go towards sustaining and expanding Variety's Autism Initiative. \$25 minimum to walk. See website for more details about prize structure and team fundraising. To register, please go to <http://www.varietyphila.org/events/details/varietysoinh-annual-autism-walk-for-awareness-resources-and-education/> Questions? Please contact Marissa Tabak at (267) 261-2113 or

[marissatabak@varietyphila.org](mailto:marissatabak@varietyphila.org)

**April 8, 2011; 9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

**4th Annual Autism Expo: A Support and Resource Fair for Parents**

**The School District of Philadelphia Education Center, 440 N. Broad Street,  
Philadelphia, PA 19130**

The Julia Ward Howe School in collaboration with the Office of Specialized Instructional Services cordially invites..... parents, guardians and family members to meet : Providers, Legislators, Advocates, and Parent Supports. Refreshments will be served.

**April 22, 2011; 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

**Autism Awareness day at Sesame Place**

Variety's most popular event is back again! Children with autism and their families are invited to attend an exclusive day of fun at Sesame Place! The park will be closed to the general public. Please note that this year it is on FRIDAY. There is a \$25 registration fee PER FAMILY (up to 5 family members + TSS). Please check our website for specific cost info and to register: <http://www.varietyphila.org/events/details/sesame-place-autism-day/>

## **PITTSBURGH**

**April 9, 2011; 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

**AUTISM & SEXUALITY**

**Helping Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders**

**Presented by Shawn McGill**

**The ABOARD Office, Pittsburgh, PA 15223**

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.

- Learning Objectives
- Brief overview on sexuality
- Brief overview on ASD
- How intellectual and developmental disabilities can affect sexuality
- Proactive measures with sexuality(label the body, teaching all people ways to say "no" understanding private vs. public behavior, relationships, dating and consent)
- Challenging behaviors that may be associated with sexual expression, sexual frustration or lack of understanding
- Specific handouts and resource list to aid in teaching human sexuality

Continuing Education Credits

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AOTA OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY  
PA EDUCATORS ACT 48  
SOCIAL WORKERS

**[Click here to register online!](#)**

**April 9, 2011; 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

**Autism Awareness Day**

**Shoppes at Northway Mall**

Join staff from the Barber National Institute's BHRS program as they host Autism Awareness Day. The event will feature many free activities for children such as crafts, balloon animals, games and temporary tattoos! Youngsters can play a game of corn hole for the chance to win a prize. We will have information about autism and the Barber National Institute, and professionals from our organization will be available to answer questions from parents. We will also provide employment information for anyone who may be interested in career opportunities.

**April 13 -14, 2011**

**Autism through the Lifespan**

**Passavant Hospital, Pittsburgh PA**

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 13<sup>th</sup> 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 14<sup>th</sup> 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



Register: <http://www.aheadd.org/ATL.html>

**April 15, 2011**  
**Autism Awareness Month Parent Advocacy Training**  
**Pressley Ridge**  
**5500 Corporate Drive, Suite 400**  
**Pittsburgh, PA.**

Do you ever feel unprepared at your child's IEP meeting or intimidated by school officials? Pressley Ridge, in partnership with Autismlink, is holding a free training led by Rebecca Moyes, Regional Education Coordinator for Autism and nationally and internationally respected speaker. Rebecca will take the mystery out of the IEP. You will leave this training feeling well prepared for your next IEP meeting and with some great advocacy tips. For more information please call 412.872.9420, email [lcubellis@pressleyridge.org](mailto:lcubellis@pressleyridge.org), or visit [www.pressleyridge.org](http://www.pressleyridge.org).

## **ZELIENOPE**

**April 12, 2011; 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.**

**"Alternative Concepts for Individuals with ASD - A Speaker Panel Event"**

**Parents in Toto Autism Resource Center**

**143 S. Main Street, Zelenople, PA 16063**

Perfect Fit Canines will be presenting "A Service Dog, Completing the Puzzle of Autism" which will discuss how a service dog is a valuable tool when helping an individual with autism. Sebastian, one of the goodwill canine ambassadors, will be accompanying them for the presentation. Perfect Fit Canines is a non-profit organization located in Southwestern Pennsylvania and was founded by Susan and Jim Wagner. Mr. Wagner has over 15 years working with Autistic children and is a specialist in his field. Mr. Wagner holds a Master's Degree in Adolescent Counseling from Indiana University of Pennsylvania and Under Graduate Degrees in Organizational Behaviorism and Psychology from Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA.

Dr. Tony Manes will be speaking and answering questions on the relationship between Chiropractic and Autism. Dr. Manes is the owner and clinic director of Complete Chiropractic Health located on Rochester Road in Cranberry Twp. Dr. Manes received his undergraduate degree in Biology from Northwestern College and moved on to graduate Summa Cum Laude from Palmer College of Chiropractic in Davenport Iowa. Dr. Manes has treated thousands of patients both domestically and abroad in India where he saw a variety of Chiropractic cases.

Christine Doolittle will be presenting "Nutritional Strategies for Treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorders". The presentation includes a brief overview of nutritional modalities in the treatment of autism spectrum disorders and an exploration of how digestive health, brain function, nutrient deficiencies, food sensitivities, inflammation and environmental factors affect behavior and function. Christine is a Registered Dietitian, Board Certified Specialist in Sports Dietetics, and a Certified LEAP Therapist specializing in Nutrition Therapy for disordered eating, sports nutrition, weight management, disease management, food allergies and sensitivities.

She received her Bachelor of Science degree in Foods and Nutrition from Indiana University of Pennsylvania and her Master's degree in Nutrition, with an emphasis on Exercise Science and Risk Factor Management, from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.



Registration appreciated by Tuesday, April 5th to [Karen@parentsintoto.org](mailto:Karen@parentsintoto.org) Donation  
\$5/Member; \$10/Non-Member

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

Phone: 412-781-4116 or 1-800-827-9385 Fax: 412-781-4116  
[WWW.ABOARD.ORG](http://WWW.ABOARD.ORG)

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