



Inside this issue:

Executive Director Message	2
New Look	3
Thank you's	4
Give Back	5
Adult Autism Night Recap	6
Plan To Give	7
Support Group Happenings	8
Pittsburgh Marathon Recap	10
Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community	11
Parent Tips: Picky Eaters	14
Organizational Members	16
Autism ID Cards	18

Community Education Room

We are really enjoying having an extra 55+ seats now available for support and teaching activities! This permanent addition to our office space was made possible by your ongoing support through our walks, online giving, and memorial contributions. We are thrilled to be able to maintain office work, especially your phone calls, while at the same time hosting great speakers and you, our autism connection family.



Let us know if you have a topic you'd like to see addressed in this new space!

Upcoming Workshops:

Grandparent Support Group
Monday, June 23rd, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

I've Been Bullied Too
Thursday, June 26th 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Ongoing dates TBD

Adult Life Doesn't Come with an IEP
Monday, June 30th 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Autism and Sexuality
Saturday, July 12th, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Listen to What I Mean: Why You Need a Communication Guide for Your Child and How to Create One
Wednesday, July 30th 9:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

All event registrations can be found at our website
www.autismofpa.org

VISION:

We envision a community where people with autism achieve their maximum potential as they live, learn and work.

Executive Director Message



Luciana Randall
Executive Director

**“The
Autism
Connection
of PA starts
with you.”**



ABOARD's

**autism
CONNECTION
OF PA**

Dear Readers,

I'm pleased to announce, on behalf of our small-but-mighty team, that we are growing! We've rented a great classroom here in Etna, just across the hall from the office. You'll be seeing new offerings and repeat classes of our most popular topics offered with higher frequency. So far we have hosted four well-attended sessions, from Early Screening to Speech Therapy, and Bureau of Autism trainings, as well as a sexuality class. Look for our new monthly Grandparent Support groups, and some "I've Been Bullied Too" discussions, along with a great training called "Adult Life Does Not Come With an IEP" taught by Dr. C.S. Wyatt, board member and autistic person who teaches full time at Carnegie Mellon University.

This summer we will also be expanding our database capacity so that we can stay up to date with your family and individual happenings, and streamline our mailings, record keeping and donation systems. Thanks to your ongoing support we will all be able to access records from wherever we are working, creating a better experience for callers in need.

Finally, we are increasing our outreach through literature, public relations and advertising. See our new look within this newsletter, featuring all local "talent" - our friends with autism, hired to pose for photographer and friend Martha Rial - plus one fantastically cute granddaughter of a friend making her Pittsburgh debut on the cover. Why advertise? Simply to reach more families of little ones, and more teens

and autistic adults who may see themselves "reflected" in these fabulous faces and call us for support. Check out the new brochure and see who you may know pictured there!

We are all in this expansion phase together. Your ongoing participation makes our events richer, sparks new community partnerships, and raises funds. These all support additional space, better communication and outreach. Thanks once again for strengthening our autism connections in all the many ways you do!

Have a healthy and happy summer and we hope to talk with you soon!

Sincerely,

Luciana M. Randall



If you are worried that your child, a relative, or you have autism, complete the checklist below and discuss with your doctor.

*Some questions are child-oriented; do your best to recall if this is for an adult.

Does not respond to his/her name.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cannot explain what he/she wants.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Has language skills that are slow to develop, or speech is delayed.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does not follow instructions.	<input type="checkbox"/>
At times, seems to be deaf.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Seems to hear sometimes, but not others.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does not point or wave "eye-toe."	<input type="checkbox"/>
Used to say a few words or babble, but no longer.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Throws intense or violent tantrums.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Has odd movement patterns.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is overly active, uncooperative, or resistant.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does not know how to play with toys.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does not smile when smiled at.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Has poor eye contact.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gets "stuck" repeating activities and cannot move on to other activities.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Seems to prefer to play alone.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gets things only for himself/herself.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is very independent for his/her age.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does things "early" compared to other children.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Seems to be in his/her "own world."	<input type="checkbox"/>
Seems to time people out.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is not interested in other children.	<input type="checkbox"/>
WALKS on his/her toes.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shows unusual attachments to toys, objects or schedules (ie. Always holds a string, putting socks on before pants, etc.).	<input type="checkbox"/>
Spends a lot of time lining-up objects or putting things in a specific order.	<input type="checkbox"/>



36 Wilson Street, Suite 100
Pittsburgh, PA 15223



We envision a community where people with autism achieve their maximum potential as they live, learn and work.

To volunteer, donate or include us in your estate plan, contact us:

412.781.4116
800.827.9385
Support@autismofpa.org
autismofpa.org



**Support
Advocacy
Education**



autismofpa.org

Our New Look!




**All Ages.
All Stages.**

Our mission is to be a lifeline for families and individuals affected by autism providing education, advocacy and support.

Founded by parents in 1996, Autism Connection of PA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, serving thousands of people seeking help for autism concerns. Professional staff, all parents who understand, provide telephone support, weekly autism news, autism-friendly activities, and coordinate more than 75 support groups across Pennsylvania.

autismofpa.org

**Support
Advocacy
Education**

We provide...

- Help with a new diagnosis.
- Support related to issues of education, work, housing, insurance and medical issues, helping you become a stronger advocate for yourself or your family member.
- Information tailored to your specific family, adult or professional needs.
- Accredited conferences, seminars, and on-site training.

Contact us with any autism concerns:
support@autismofpa.org
412.781.4116
800.827.9385



Thank you to our Supporters!

Patricia Henshawe and Jacob Springer

Margot Latchem

Michelle Lubetskey

In memory of Joseph Conner

Jennifer Suppo, Ed.D.

Seton Hill University Bake Sale

Sam Wholey

Bradford Woods Elementary School staff
For Autism Awareness Jeans Day

Dormont Elementary-Keystone Oaks School
District For Autism Awareness Month

Kurt J. Lesker Company

For World Autism Awareness Day

Montour Elementary PTA

Blue Out for Autism

Positive Movements

For the 3rd Annual Frostbite 5k

Schuylkill County Predators

This year, the 2014 Day of Giving was held on May 6th.

Thank you for the donations!

Daniel Abeshouse

Laura Adams

Brenda Batenburg

Colleen Konieczny

Patrick Carfagna

Susan Cohen

Heather Conroy

Stephen Crane

Edward Dzenis

Carolyn Edwards

Katherine Fulton

Lynn George

Renee Georgi

Norman Goodlin

Thomas Gray

Sherwood Grimm

Wendy Hallows

Ethel Harmon

Xiuchang Huang

Teresa Jamison

Victoria Kissinger

Rebecca Klaw

Christina Klein

Ronald Kobelenske

Hannah Krause

Catherine Lalonde

Terry Lerman

Martin Lubetsky

Michelle Lubetsky

Heather Mallet

Jodi Mann

Julia Marple

Laurie Mathie

Robert McLafferty

Cynthia Meeder

Jennifer Modell

Barry Nathan

Robert Parry

Denise Pullen

Diane Raines

Kurt Reinmiller

Anna Ruhl

John Solomon

Regis Switala

Diann Turczyn

Lauren Vales

Denise VanderSal

Patricia Quinn Winter

Jillian Zacks

Does your employer have a gift matching program?

Many companies have programs to match donations or volunteer time from employees.

One of our "babies" grows up and gives back "It feels cool!"

Katie Douglas has two jobs; she works at T.J. Maxx in Gibsonia, and in a variety of labs at UPMC Passavant. She also plays 3rd clarinet in the North Suburban Symphonic Band which is comprised of adult musicians from all walks of life who put together an awesome sound.

Beginning last August, Katie put her skills to work in Project Search, a high school transition program for students with disabilities designed as a combined education and work experience program. She rotated through the Pathology and GI labs, plus the Respiratory Department. Because of her daily striving to hit her individual potential and grow, Katie was chosen as an Outstanding Achiever. She is pictured here with her award and a check for \$100 which she is very generously giving to help people with autism living in our region.

Katie's mom called ABOARD (now Autism Connection) first when Katie was diagnosed 16 years ago as a young toddler. Her mom Joyce says "I think she is the first of our "babies" to grow up and give back!" We think she is right. When asked "how do you feel about giving this money" Katie quickly replies "it feels pretty cool!" We think so too, Katie, and we'll spend your contribution wisely. We're proud of you and know that you have a fun-filled and busy future ahead of you!



Adult Autism Awareness Night

Many of our friends gathered for the Adult Autism reception held at Pittsburgh Center for the Arts on Thursday, April 24, 2014. David V. Matthews, author of *Meltdown in the Cereal Aisle* gave a reading, and guests very much enjoyed piano and voice performances.

Adults with autism hosted tables showcasing their fine art, small business, writing and other professional pursuits. It was great to see more and more of their co-workers and mentors attend this fantastic party as the interest in this event grows. Mark your calendars for next April so you can be part of the excitement and great conversations.



Plan To Give

By: Lu Randall, Executive Director, Autism Connection of PA

I received an email today that said in part: "Hey Lu. I received your thank you for the Day of Giving - you're welcome, and I wish I had more to give. Inside was a pamphlet and it says "to include us in your estate planning..." The universe is telling me something. As we speak, I'm having my attorney prepare my estate. (My son had multiple diagnoses, PDD-NOS is primary). When she asked which non profit I sent to name, I told her ABOARD/Autism Connection. Truthfully, no one had helped us more..."

What an awesome sentiment! It is important that our organization "sticks around" for generations to come, and there is no better way to assure that than with planned giving. That may sound mysterious to some, so let me give a few simple examples of how you can include Autism Connection as a beneficiary of money you may leave behind.

1. Retirement accounts are one of the "cleanest" ways to give to any nonprofit. This type of gift is easy to make and can be done at no cost. Just obtain a designated beneficiary form from your retirement plan administrator and name The Autism Connection of PA, 35 Wilson Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15223 as one of your beneficiaries. That's all there is to it. You may also restrict your gift to a particular area of our work - family support, community inclusion, or training and conferences - as you wish!

2. Life insurance can be used as a charitable giving tool. There are many creative ways to use life insurance as a powerful way to multiply your giving many times over.

Thanks to all of our "givers" who keep us going - and growing. We could not do this work without you! Contact us with your planned giving questions, and we will be happy to help you figure things out in order to keep Autism Connection healthy and strong into the distant future.

Support Group Happenings

ALLEGHENY COUNTY

BIOMOMS is meeting on the 1st Monday of each month at the HOPE

Learning Center. Two of their presentations have been “Prioritizing Therapies” and “Alternative Approaches for Treating Autism.”

Lori Scears

lori@biomoms.org

724.413.9821

JUST US PARENTS AUTISM SUPPORT

GROUP meets monthly at the North Hills Christian Church. Scott Bailey, a father of two sons with ASD and a police officer, was a speaker. He is working to help law enforcement and emergency responders recognize and handle situations involving people with ASD. He has a fabulous instructional DVD (Encountering People with Autism).

Lisa Gordon

lisagord1@msn.com

412.443.0142

SUPPORT GROUP FOR PARTNERS/SPOUSES OF THOSE WITH DIAGNOSED OR UNDIAGNOSED ASD

is for spouses/partners of those on the spectrum (diagnosed or undiagnosed). Our new venue is the East Liberty Presbyterian Church at 116 Highland Ave in East Liberty. There is on-street parking that is free after 6, on Penn and on the streets around the church. There is also a pay parking lot behind the Carnegie Library.

Rebecca Klaw and Pam Bram

rebeccaklaw@aol.com

412.247.0599.

I MATTER TOO SIBLING SUPPORT GROUP is a fabulous group for siblings to make posters that represent themselves, watch movies and figure out what they think of autism!

Tammie Sauers

tammiesa@gmail.com

724.351.2582

PRECIOUS NEEDS STORE

3625 Bakerstown Rd. 15007

COMMUNITY OUTINGS GROUP FOR ADULTS WITH HFA/AS

This group meets at Panera, Pirates games and other facilities like the Tech Shop. “There is lots of conversation, high fiving and eating taking place. Members exchange phone numbers and find each other on facebook.”

Heather Conroy

heather.a.conroy@gmail.com

724.787.5194

ARMSTRONG COUNTY—FREEPORT AREA AUTISM SUPPORT GROUP

This group is facilitated by a teacher who is also a parent of an adult son with ASD. What a great opportunity to meet and share information and stories.

Carolyn Van Cott

cvcl@verizon.net

412.491.1804

Support Group Happenings continued

MERCER COUNTY (PACT) PARENTS OF AUTISTIC CHILDREN TOGETHER

This group of parents takes this opportunity to discuss their boys hitting and biting themselves and other health issues. This is an opportunity for them to compare notes with each other to see if “the children’s behavior is ‘normal’. Turns out they have many ‘normal’ behaviors but at much older ages!”

Lorri Sheakley
nojudge2000@yahoo.com
724.699.0966

CLEARFIELD COUNTY DUBOIS ASD PARENT GROUP

This parent group meets at different places each month, Autism Fair at DuBois Mall, Eat ‘n Park, and Dickenson Center. Their meetings include discussions about special education issues and the various autism services.

Kelly King
seeking@usachoice.net
814.653.2671.

FAYETTE COUNTY (HALO)

May was the second meeting for this group. The speaker from WJS of Uniontown discussed BHRS services which some of the families were just starting to partake.

Kimberly Elayazra
halo4autism@yahoo.com
724.245.8489.

**Call Marie Mambuca at
Autism Connection of PA at
412-781-4116 if interested in attending
or starting a support group!**

2014 Pittsburgh Marathon Run for a Reason Team

Autism Connection of PA was honored once again to be a participating charity in the Dick's Sporting Goods Pittsburgh Marathon's Run for a Reason Program. Once again, our runners exceeded their fundraising goal by raising over \$21,000 for Autism Connection of PA! Our runners trained and fundraised for their events and received incentive prizes of team shirts, Pirate tickets and a raffle of prizes generously donated by local businesses.



A very special thank you to all of our runners who worked so hard:

Carrie Ace, Kristin Artinger, Elana Barkowitz, Shawn Bell, Seashal Belldina, Rebecca Boerst, Gwendolyn Brunner, Chris Buckley, Shannon Gaghan, Steven Gaghan, Jennifer Gajdos, Jennifer Hodzic, Suzie Hull, Chelsea Johnston, Lindsay Lanigan Herr, Maya Lyles, Roderick Lyles, Mark Mancini, William Masters, Steph McFerron, Jodi McGough, Amy Michalesko, Kim Miller, Kristen Ober, Jennifer Rodgers, Vincent Rossi, Jennifer Salamon, Michael Salamon, Roman Salamon, Lisa Siegal, Mark Speicher, Jennifer Vogt, Deb Warner, Melinda Webbe, Sarah Widener



2014 Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community



Autism Connection of PA participated in the Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community, at Stage AE on the North Shore of Pittsburgh, on May 17, 2014. The weather was perfect. There was entertainment, food, games and lots to see on the walk route. Thanks so much to those of you who attended and walked with friends, family and co-workers. We appreciate your time and efforts, and hope that you had a great morning! And to the many of you who supported a walker or made a donation, we thank you!

We would like to thank all of the teams that supported us this year!

A special Thank You to Diane Catterall and Donna Enzerra for obtaining free meal coupons from McDonald's corporate office, which were given out to all participants on walk morning!



**Just a Lil Team
Marino Marauders
Patti & Stan Hasselbusch Family Fund
Team Ethan
Team Hooks
Team Hurley
Team Kennedy
Team RESN
Team Spencer
Walk for Jean
WeCare
WPAL**



FAMILY BEHAVIORAL RESOURCES
FAMILYFOCUSED THERAPY



Family Behavioral Resources offers **Specialized Autism Services** for individuals of all ages diagnosed on the autism spectrum. FBR is proud to offer **individualized, evidence-based programming**. Our **Autism Team**, led by **Board Certified Behavior Analysts**, mentor and train clinicians who treat and support consumers and their families.

OUR SCOPE OF SERVICE INCLUDES:

Autism Services

Child Abuse Prevention Committee

Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT)

Family Support Groups

BHRS/Wraparound Services

DBT Groups

Summer Programs (STAP)

Social Skill/Play Groups

Psychological Testing and Evaluations

Outpatient Mental Health Services

Supports Coordination (Adult Autism Waiver)

Community Outreach

FBR offers Family Support Groups and Social Skill/Play Groups in areas where needs have been identified. All support groups at FBR are proudly hosted in collaboration with and support from ABOARD's Autism Connection of PA.

1-866-4-FBR-ASD

www.familybehavioralresources.com



Behavioral Health Services



AERI provides individualized behavioral health services across Pennsylvania and several other states across the nation specific to the needs of the person being served. Our programs serve consumers, their families and surrounding community throughout the lifespan and across all environments.

AERI OFFERS:

- ✓ Adult Autism Services
- ✓ Behavioral Consultation and Intervention Service (BCIS)
- ✓ Bullying Prevention Programs
- ✓ Distinguished Speakers Bureau
- ✓ Emotional Support Classrooms
- ✓ Family Based Mental Health Services
- ✓ Intellectual and Developmental Disability (IDD) Services
- ✓ Psychological Testing
- ✓ Transition and Higher Education Services, which includes our nationwide college support program, AHEADD

Committed to education. Grounded in research. Driven by hope.
Together, we will find the answers.

1-866-727-AERI (2874)

www.aerionline.com

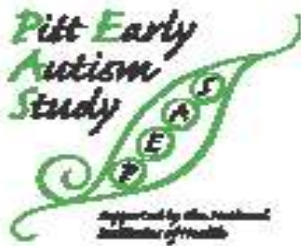


Pittsburgh Early Autism Study

How Babies Move and Communicate

Our research study is seeking infants up to 3 months of age who have an older sibling diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder (ASD) or an older sibling who is considered typically developing. Pregnant women who already have a child can also inquire.

Beginning at 2.5 months of age, we will observe your baby reaching for and playing with toys. We will follow infants until 3 years of age to assess how early motor skills relate to the development of communication and language. We will also administer standardized developmental measures at some visits. Project visits will take place in your home.



To learn more or for any questions, please contact us at:

412-624-9355 or
icl@pitt.edu
www.pitt.edu/~icl



AUTISM SERVICES AT PRESSLEY RIDGE

Our Autism Services teach communication & social skills through education & therapy for children with autism spectrum disorders so they may flourish in their homes, schools, & communities.

- Highly Trained and Devoted Staff
- Comfortable & Developmentally-Appropriate Environment
- Based on Child's Age, Ability, Strengths, and Needs

Please contact Central Admissions at (888) 777-0820 or visit www.PressleyRidge.org for more details.

Now Open for Enrollment School for Autism, Extended School Year, & Therapeutic Social Groups!



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412-363-8388
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

nathanspeech@aol.com
www.NathanSpeech.com

If interested in advertising in the this quarterly newsletter, please contact Jennifer Salamon at 412-781-4116

Parent Tips: Picky Eating

By Diana Wolf, MA, BCBA, Verbal Beginnings

Chicken nuggets, French Fries, chips, cookies, and juice. Chicken nuggets, French Fries, chips, cookies, and juice. The cycle repeats over and over again; breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Day after day after day. Sometimes, you'll try to switch out the regular chocolate chip cookies with reduced sugar or regular potato chips with veggie chips to try to get some nutritional value in him. But you don't succeed. He'd rather not eat anything for days, than even taste anything new. And going out to eat... Forget it! There has to be some solution to this problem, but all my pediatrician says is give it some time, he'll grow out of it.

Feeding Myths

Myth #1: If you withhold food from your child, he will eventually come around and eat anything you offer him.

Truth: Children with Autism that experience feeding problems are not motivated by food and sometimes don't feel hunger. Withholding food from a child is a very dangerous, inappropriate, and ineffective strategy to fixing feeding problems.

Myth #2: If she tries something and doesn't like it, she will never like it.

Truth: Research shows that it takes 10-20 tastes of a food to determine preference. Tasting a food means chewing it fully and swallowing it (Birch & Marlin, 1982).

Myth #3: Feeding problems are all about oral motor skill deficits and sensory sensitivity.

Truth: Although some children exhibit oral motor skill delays or oral sensitivity, which may have led to a reduction in food variety, often times there's a behavioral component which needs to be addressed prior to working on desensitization and skill acquisition.

90% of children diagnosed with Autism have feeding problems. (Kodak & Piazza, 2008)

Why do children have Feeding Problems?

Parents often can't figure out why their child who was eating all sorts of different foods at 1, all of a sudden began narrowing down his diet to only a handful of foods at his current age. The direct cause of feeding problems is unknown, although multiple variables play a role in food selectivity. Below is a list of a few.

Variable 1: Experiencing pain or discomfort during mealtime. This can occur from a medical condition (e.g., reflux), deficits in oral motor functioning which result in gagging (e.g., inability to properly chew food), or accidental choking.

Variable 2: Watching someone else have a bad reaction to a food. Examples: Mom or dad express dislike for certain foods. Or if the child witnessed someone choke or vomit from eating.



Parent Tips: Picky Eating (continued)

By Diana Wolf, MA, BCBA, Verbal Beginnings

Variable 3: Children with Autism strive from routine and rituals. There is an insistence on routines and a resistance to change in the Autism community. Possibly attributed to language delays or deficits, children with Autism find it comforting to know the expected and seem to develop what could be equivalent to a phobia of trying new foods.

How to Fix Picky Eating

Tip #1: Set a schedule for meals and snacks (NO SNACKING IN BETWEEN). This will increase the motivation of eating foods presented during meal and snack times because the child will have time to build up his appetite. On the same note, if the child is thirsty, offer water, not juice or milk. Anything other than water could become too filling and ruin his/her appetite.

Tip #2: Minimize distractions. Present meals and snacks in a location that is away from any distraction (e.g., toys, TV, etc.). If the child is not concentrating on the food and is constantly running around or engaged in another activity, he is less likely to eat everything presented to him or will not be receptive to any interventions you may want to try.

Tip #3: Model foods that you want your child to eat. If she sees you eating, she may be more willing to try it.

Tip #4: Eating is a demand! A lot of times, parents will ask the children if they want to eat or what they want to eat. It has become a vicious cycle of trying to avoid tantrums over foods. It's easier to keep the peace and avoid the tantrum. But are you helping your child in the long run? Sometimes we must withstand a few tantrums to show that eating is a demand and if they comply with the demand (or follow our directions) they will get something fun.

Tip #5: Tap into motivation. Children who have feeding problems often times will not feel hunger or find food motivating or rewarding. For that reason, we need to find something that they really enjoying doing or playing with and reserve that object or activity until after they had followed your direction to eat. Some examples of current powerful reinforcers (motivators) include iPads, TVs (mini-DVD players are great for meal times), stickers, coloring, DS systems, etc. Each child's reinforcers will be different so it's important to pick out the right one. Just remember, they can't have access to the fun toy any other time or else motivation will be lost.

Tip #6: Reward > Demand. Start out slow. Make it really easy for them to earn their reward. You want them to be successful! It could be as simple as eating 1 bite of a new food for 30 minutes of their favorite iPad game or a piece of their favorite dessert. Once you are getting successful bites, build on that success and increase the demand (e.g., 2 bites = 15 minutes of iPad time). Usually, the demand will need to be reduced when the next new food is introduced. It's like starting all over again.

Diana Wolf is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst, who has been practicing Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) with children diagnosed with Autism and other developmental disabilities since 2005. She received her Master of Arts degree in Applied Behavior Analysis from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County and her training from the Kennedy Krieger Institute. In 2011 she co-founded Verbal Beginnings, a company dedicated to providing high quality home-based ABA Therapy. For more information about picky eating or information on how to access home-based Feeding Therapy from a BCBA contact Diana at diana@verbalbeginnings.com or call (888) 344-5977

***Thank you to the following 2014
Organization members with Autism
Connection of PA.
Memberships for 2014 are still being
accepted!***

Abram's Bed maker of The Safety Sleeper™	Glade Run Lutheran Services	Paula Teacher & Associates, Inc.
ACHIEVA	Goodwill of Southwestern PA	Pediatric Therapy Professionals, Inc.
AERI Behavioral Health Services	Green Acres Contracting Co., Inc.	Pediatric Therapy Specialists, Inc.
Alliance Health, Inc. (Allegheny)	IKOR of Western Pennsylvania	PLEA
Augmentative Communication Consultants, Inc.	InVision Human Services	Shamrock Solutions, Inc.
Barber National Institute	Julian Gray Associates	TEIS Early Intervention Provider
The Children's Institute of Pittsburgh	Ligonier Valley Learning Center	Total Learning Centers
Early Intervention Specialists	Metz Lewis Brodman Must O'Keefe, LLC.	Tri-Medical Rehab Supply, Inc.
The Early Learning Institute (TELI)	The Monarch Center of Autism - a division of Bellefaire JCB	Value Behavioral Health of Pennsylvania
Family Behavioral Resources	NHS Human Services	The Watson Institute
Familylinks, Inc.	PA Connecting Communities	Wesley Spectrum Services
Fayette County Behavioral Health Administration	PACE	Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic
	Passavant Memorial Homes Family of Services	Westmoreland Case Management and Supports



2014 Organization/Corporate Partners Membership Form

Your membership has benefits! It supports our work in meeting the needs of Pennsylvanian families challenged with autism spectrum disorders. It also keeps your organization “front and center” in the minds of those very families.

Members will be acknowledged in our quarterly newsletter, a link on our website to yours, and discounted exhibitor rates at our conferences. If you would like to include your logo on your listing on our web page, please e-mail it to jennifer@autismofpa.org.

Organization/Corporate Partners Membership Dues: \$200

For remainder of 2014 (discounted from \$400 full year rate)

Please complete the following:

Organization _____

Primary Contact Name _____

Address _____

Phone # _____ Fax # _____

E-mail _____ Website _____

Send completed form with payment info. to:

(checks payable to Autism Connection of PA)

ABOARD's Autism Connection of PA, 35 Wilson St., Suite 100, Pittsburgh, PA 15223

Fax: 412-781-4122 or email Jennifer Fulton - jennifer@autismofpa.org – phone 412-781-4116

Credit Card (VISA, Master Card) _____ Card # _____

Name as it Appears on Card _____ CID# _____

Statement Billing Address _____

Expiration Date _____ Authorized Signature _____

Dear Readers,

Summer is here, your kids are getting older, and that can mean more freedom and maybe new acquaintances. With that in mind, please contact us to get your Autism ID Cards. Designed by an autistic adult (and I use that phrase in response to requests from some autistic adults who prefer it) these should be carried in wallets or purses, preferably clipped to a county ID or driver's license.

Autism is an invisible disability that can sometimes be confused with other issues. Police may have their attention drawn to a person with autism due to symptoms, or situations may arise out of social confusion caused by autism. While it is not a defense for a criminal charge, putting autism front and center with documentation may not hurt and may help with issues involving police officers, judges, and rare but very complicated incarceration situations.

Please keep your or your child's signed diagnostic evaluations up to date with copies available in case of unexpected trouble. Anyone with autistic behavior or verbalizations that may catch the attention of police should also consider meeting with a criminal defense attorney specializing in disability, as prevention. Talk with him or her about your life, about any times your actions have been misunderstood, and about concerns related to potential future legal issues. If law enforcement ever enters the picture, having a lawyer who knows you already can be critical.

We hope you have a wonderful summer with great experiences, and that all this "serious talk" is just cautionary. Call us to let us know how things are going - including your successes - and let us know if you need ID cards or anything else.





Upcoming Events in the Fall:

- . Ballet Classes**
- . Rowing**
- . More Community Room Events and Support Groups**
- . Fall Conference**

AUTISM CONNECTION OF PA

Primary Business Address

Your Address Line 2

Your Address Line 3

Phone: 555-555-5555

Fax: 555-555-5555

E-mail: someone@example.com.org

We are on the web!

www.autismofpa.org

MISSION:

The Autism Connection of PA provides a lifeline for families and individuals affected by autism.

We provide advocacy, education and support.

VISION:

We envision a community where people with autism achieve their maximum potential as they live, learn and work.

Education - Advocacy - Support



ABOARD's

autism
CONNECTION
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ABOARD's Autism Connection of PA is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization.

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