

The Sun

Newsletter

July-September 2010

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Our Mission

Autism Delaware is a community of people with autism, their family members and friends, and professionals who work in the autism field.

Our mission is to improve the lives of people with autism and their families. We will educate, advocate and raise public awareness in order to promote lifelong opportunity and acceptance for people with autism in their communities.

We serve the entire state of Delaware.



Lower Delaware and Autism Delaware Come Together

Last fall several parents and some Sussex Consortium staff came to Newark to look at POW&R, visiting various job and volunteer sites. They were very excited about what they saw, and invited us to give a presentation in Sussex that several Lower Delaware Autism Foundation (LDAF) staff and board members attended. LDAF has long intended to use their resources to develop services for adults and were eager to learn about POW&R. What they learned led them to open discussions about a merger of the two organizations—opening a new chapter of autism services in Delaware and paving the way for adult services in Sussex County.

It's true that Autism Delaware has had a greater presence in New Castle and Kent Counties than Sussex, both because of distance and because Sussex had LDAF. The two organizations have joined forces to advocate on common issues over the past three years, getting to know and trust each other. As the need for adult services emerged, we all recognized that we have a common mission – to improve the lives of individuals with autism. Both organizations also share the constant need to raise money for operations in an increasingly difficult economic landscape; and finally, we both recognize the public confusion over two autism groups.

When looking at these issues, the LDAF board decided to approach Autism Delaware about a possible merger, with the

intent to put their resources into developing POW&R downstate. The Autism Delaware board was very excited about this opportunity for all the reasons above, plus the ability to truly be a statewide organization. The two boards quickly developed the John/Rob negotiating teams and met over the spring. LDAF's representatives were their president, John Willey and attorney Rob Gibbs. Autism Delaware was represented by president, Rob Gilsdorf, attorney, John Fisher-Gray, and Theda Ellis. Proposals and counter proposals were made and quickly agreed upon. Key components of the agreement to come together include the following:

- Five board members of LDAF will join the Autism Delaware board, which will increase to 20, then pare back to 15 over the next five years.
- LDAF programs for individuals will remain intact, based on funding availability. This includes the four-day summer camp for children, the summer swim program, and the golf program.
- Two LDAF fundraisers will continue as Autism Delaware fundraisers to support operations, including the Autism Ball and Auction and the Race for Autism. Our plan is to expand the run to coincide with the upstate Walk for Autism.

(continued on page 3)



The Sun

A publication of Autism Delaware

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Director's Column

Theda Ellis, Executive Director

My favorite event each year is our Volunteer Recognition Dinner, where the board, staff and our volunteers meet at beautiful Bellevue Hall. Autism Delaware would not be nearly what it is without our dedicated volunteers.

We awarded three Outstanding Community Leaders awards to people who have made contributions to the larger community. Sharron Cirillo was acknowledged for her support of POW&R, where she helped Big Ben's Shredding become a non-profit. Sharron was also the inspiration behind Beauty and Baseball.

Prince and Marsha Johnson were recognized for opening their beautiful restaurant once each month just to us for a parent coffee hour. For the past two years families have been meeting at Prince on Delaware – savoring a rare moment of quiet and being made to feel special.

Dan Nestor and Karen Marshall of Sir Speedy have long been our business partners. Dan and Karen have provided training on new software, watched out for us during our re-branding process, and published *The Sun* when staff was on medical leave – which helps educate the entire autism community.

Outstanding Volunteers to Autism Delaware were also recognized at our dinner. Over the past year, Melanie Matusheski (pictured right) has helped staff every event, starting with GoFISH! in the fall, the Autumn Auction, the Walk and the Drive for Autism. She helped us develop a system for recruiting, training and thanking volunteers and if that weren't enough, she's a frequent contributor to *The Sun*.

Dale Oberender

has arranged skating parties in Milford for the past two and a half years. Every party has had 40-80 people skating, so it has become an important community and public awareness event for folks downstate. As an active member of both LDAF and Autism Delaware, Dale also set the stage for the collaboration that developed into our recent merger.



Bowling is an important upstate social event. Immanuel Jackson first met us while working at the Price's Corner Bowling Alley. This year he joined the golf committee, and worked tirelessly preparing for the Drive. Immanuel spent countless hours in the office to support this event.

Sarah Young has been a volunteer with the Teen/Tween groups for the past two years. She has volunteered her Friday nights, and has just become a paid facilitator. Sarah is also a talented photographer, so she has taken photos for us at many events. We'll really miss her next year as she returns to school to become an occupational therapist.

All of us at Autism Delaware appreciate the talents these volunteers have offered over the past



year. They all make things happen to improve the lives of people we know and love who happen to have autism.

A Service of Autism Delaware



PRODUCTIVE OPPORTUNITIES
FOR WORK AND RECREATION

Katina Demetriou (302) 824-2252 (cell)
Project Director (302) 224.6020, ext 207
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Lower Delaware and Autism Delaware Come Together

(Continued from Cover)

- Autism Delaware is committed to having POW&R fully operational downstate by summer 2012.
- Melissa Tice Martin, Executive Director of LDAF, joins the Autism Delaware staff. Melissa will become responsible for POW&R in Sussex, and will undergo training in 2010 and 2011 to be fully prepared. She will continue her responsibilities as a local person providing information and referral, remain on some state councils and support the traditional programs of LDAF.
- By June of 2012 Autism Delaware will have a fully staffed office downstate, shared by Melissa, Dafne Carnright, our Downstate Coordinator, and the POW&R staff.
- Over this period, LDAF will award their funds to Autism Delaware at three major milestones made toward developing POW&R services. This is a way for LDAF to ensure their funds are supporting programs and services in southern Delaware.



We are all very excited about our future as a single autism organization in Delaware, using our combined resources and energy to create a great life for our loved ones with autism. We are also very grateful to the LDAF board for approaching Autism Delaware and making this merger possible. We all appreciate your foresight.

Lots of Locks for Beauty and Baseball

It's common to find passionate people related to autism. What's not so common is find a passionate person who is not related to autism. Last winter Marcy Wilkinson of J. Christian Studios called the office out of the blue, and said, "I want to do a public awareness/fundraiser at the Blue Rocks for you!" Marcy was introduced to autism by member Sharron Cirillo who uses the salon.

Marcy rolled up her sleeves, called her friends and found sponsorship through Cosi, Red Robin, and Discover. She then arranged an amazing day with the hairdressers of J. Christian who set up a stage and cut hair for four hours. The J. Christian stylists have some experience with autism, so we set up a quiet place for kids' haircuts that

worked beautifully. We all had a fabulous time and we came out looking better! They helped us raise \$2,500 and reach a new community audience about autism.

Best of all, DAP student Ikea modeled makeup and hair with blue streaks as a result of her new internship at J. Christian, and we now have a site at the Blue Rocks as well. Thanks to Marcy, Dave Arthur of the Blue Rocks, J. Christian, and all the other wonderful folks who set up tables and chairs, painted faces, did updos and all the other fun things that we did. It was a great day!



POW&R

PRODUCTIVE OPPORTUNITIES
FOR WORK AND RECREATION

Meet the POW&R Staff

by Katina Demetriou

POW&R is full of extraordinary individuals, so it's great to have the opportunity to share their stories with membership. In this edition I would like to introduce you to the staff that makes POW&R so successful. They are the people who day in and day out support, teach and provide productive opportunities to the people we serve.

Karen Anderson is our manager, and with over 20 years of experience working with individuals with all ability levels, she brings the ability to execute our Division of Vocational Rehabilitation contracts and support the growth of POW&R by managing day-to-day operations. Les Dukes has a way of teaching our participants to reach their fullest potential, and if everyone in POW&R had his patience, what better people we would all be. Michelle Fogg, I believe, has grown so much in the time she has been with POW&R. As the parent of a son on the spectrum, she is willing and able to work with those with unique support needs. Dean Nagowski is the brother of a POW&R participant who has taken on the role of supporting his brother in his daily activities to increase his independence. DVR specialist and AWARES facilitator Shaheda Pine brings order to the always chaotic schedule as well as providing a tremendous support to the team. Matt Linder may be the young man who all the guys want to hang out with on Fridays, but to me he is the leader in building relationships with large employers and always advocates for our participants to be challenged in their positions. Deb Sidell is the "mother" of our group. Her nurturing and caring attitude gives our participants the reassurance and support they need. Jen Pugh is my "go-getter". She embraced our transition program and is currently transitioning four Early Start to Supported Employment (ESSE) clients into our program. Rachel Donaldson is the "jack-of-all-trades". She is the co-facilitator of AWARES and the staff member that is always there when something needs to be done.

Through all of their efforts our participants are employed or intern at: Sodexho at A.I. duPont Children's Hospital, Burger King, Christiana Care Neurology Specialists, J. Christian Studios, and the Palmer Chiropractic Clinic, among many others. Clearly, our great staff make POW&R the wonderful program it is today.

Welcome to the following new members...

- Ms. Victoria Page and Family
- Ms. Tonya Cassell and Family
- Ms. Amber Burks and Family
- Ms. Sara Crabill
- Mr. Charles Lasley & Mrs. Chastity Williams-Lasley
- Mr. & Mrs. Richard & Jacquie Levett
- Mrs. Nancy Bellinger and Family
- Mr. & Mrs. Gilbert and Cheryl Kimble
- Pat Foley and Family
- Mr. & Mrs. Michael and Sharron Cirillo
- Ms. Myla Haug and Family
- Mr. & Mrs. David Morrow



Autism Delaware is interested in bringing a variety of viewpoints about autism and emerging research findings.

All information provided or published by Autism Delaware is for informational purposes only. Reference to any treatment or therapy option or to any program, service or treatment provider is not an endorsement by Autism Delaware.

You should investigate alternatives that may be more appropriate for a specific individual. Autism Delaware assumes no responsibility for the use made of any information published or provided by Autism Delaware.

Legislative Corner

Legislative Roundup 2010

As of press time, the General Assembly had not closed so more actions may have been taken. Check our website for any updates!

Autism insurance reform (SB204): SB204 would require insurance coverage of ABA (up to \$50,000/year) and other standard therapies for autism. The bill's prospects were dimmed by an overestimated cost to the state, so we and Autism Speaks are working with the state to come up with more accurate projections, and smooth the way to passage in 2011! See our website for the actuarial report.

Needs-based funding (HB436): Part of this bill would end the guarantee of specific specialists and ratios in the "special schools" serving kids with disabilities and impose a system of classifying all special ed students in a district by need to determine how many specialists in general would be allocated to them. Because it would reduce resources and safeguards for DAP, we oppose that and advocate for a way to better serve all children with disabilities without taking away from existing services. The bill is tabled in committee.

Funding for adult services (state budget): We advocated to preserve funding for adult services in the Division of Developmental Disabilities Services for existing clients and to add incoming graduates. At press, day services should be funded, but only seven emergency placements (for when a family can no longer care for their adult child) are funded, though in FY10 over 50 were needed.

Education rights (HB328): Signed into law on June 17, the new law broadens the definition of a "free and appropriate education" to comply with a federal court's ruling on what IDEA requires. Autism Delaware testified in favor of this bill, which passed with no opposing votes.



Educational Advocacy

Autism Delaware receives many calls each month about educational concerns from parents of children with Asperger's Syndrome or high functioning autism; students who are not served by the DAP programs but are on the spectrum. Many parents report concerns about how difficult it seems for the unique needs of their children to be appropriately addressed at school.

Last summer, we received so many parent calls about this that we began an educational advocacy project to address this issue. We contacted parents and experts to draft recommendations to improve the education of these students. We first presented the need for such change to the Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens (GACEC) in February of 2010. Then, more recently, we presented recommendations to the Delaware Department of Education, Secretary Lowery and Martha Toomey, who recognized the need to address this issue. We forwarded the specific recommendations to the GACEC, who formed an ad hoc committee to review them and make recommendations from the Council.



Some of our recommendations were:

- A major Department of Education initiative that would include teacher training and certification, in-service opportunities, financial incentives for teachers, technical assistance for school districts, a support materials check-list and increased accountability for schools.
- An expanded pilot program for the Social Thinking initiative, with the goal to have Social Thinking in effect in every school where it is needed.
- Specialized training for teachers, paraprofessionals, educational diagnosticians, counselors, psychologists and principals. These training programs should help professionals identify those with Asperger's and high functioning autism as well as effectively teach academic skills, social skills and functional life skills.



We will keep you informed on the progress of this advocacy effort. To get involved, please call our office!

Downstate Summer Programs and Happenings

We have many new activities and ventures planned for downstate individuals and families. First, we have partnered with the Milton Historical Society and planned a free Day of Family Fun at the Milton Museum in July. Limited openings are available – please call the Milford office to register.

We also recently formed a partnership with Carmike Cinemas at the Dover Mall. They are going to offer Saturday Sensory Friendly movie events to be scheduled as appropriate movies become available. The first one was held in May and they kept the volume turned down, the lights on low, and it was ok for people to get up and move around if needed. They also allowed our families to bring in a snack from home if they were on a special diet!

Several successful LDAF programs will also continue downstate through the merger of the two organizations.

The Junior Golf Program will be led

by Coach Butch Holtzclaw, Golf Pro at The Rookery. This is the second summer Coach Butch will introduce children and teens with autism ages 8-22 to the great game of golf. This is a family program, which means that a parent or caregiver is also a participant during the evening sessions. Equipment for this program will be provided by The Rookery, purchased through a grant generously provided by The Philadelphia Foundation and The Greater Philadelphia PGA.

Youth with autism ages 2-22 can make a splash during our Summer Swim Camp Program at the Plantations Pool in Lewes on Fridays from 10-11am. Coaches Nancy Berg and Christina Cutts will help develop swimming skills and pool etiquette in a safe, supportive environment.

The Day Camp Program in partnership with the Children's Beach House in August is designed to increase self-confidence, improve peer and social interactions, and encourage campers to discover

and pursue their own unique interests and goals. In all activities, we will use a "Challenge by Choice" approach, meaning that we will encourage campers to stretch their limits in trying something new, but will never force them into an activity in which they may not be comfortable.

These programs cannot happen without the support of our dedicated and encouraging volunteers. If you are interested in participating as a program volunteer for golf, swim or day camp, please contact Melissa Tice Martin at 302-644-3410.

Our summer golf, swim and camp programs are full at this time. If you wish to put your child's name on the waiting list for one of these programs, please contact Melissa Tice Martin at (302) 644-3410.

Registration for Go Fish 2010 now open!

Join us at the second annual Go Fish for Autism Delaware on Sunday, September 19th! Bring your family for a fun-filled day, and support our cause at the same time. The day starts with our Bass Catch and Release Fishing Tournament in the morning and continues with a great community-wide Celebration beginning at 1:30 in the afternoon



at Bicentennial Park in Milford. Our Celebration will include music from the rock band Code Blue, refreshments, family fun activities and the day's fishing awards as well. Not fishing? No problem! Join other

community members at the celebration and join in the fun with moon bounces, face painting and a kid's casting demonstration by DNREC. Bass Pro Fisherman Mike Delvisco will fish with us again this year and attend the Celebration. This year's participating ponds include Blair's Pond, Haven Lake, Griffith Lake, Coursey's Pond, Garrison's Lake, Abbot's Pond, Trap Pond and Killen's Pond.

Pond assignments are made on a first come first served bases so if you have

a favorite spot to fish, call to register now. To register your team or to find out more about attending the celebration, call the Autism Delaware office at (302) 422-2255 or visit our website at www.delautism.org.



INSIDE Autism Delaware

In just a few short months Autism Delaware has made some key changes that will impact our future. Here are the highlights.

Welcome to New Board Members

Autism Delaware would like to welcome our five new board members from Sussex. They are John Willey II, Nancy Bellinger, Dale Oberender, Dorian Kleinstuber, and Karen Shaud. All are highly experienced board members from LDAF, and bring their perspective as parents to the board. The Autism Delaware board will meet around the state as well as look into opportunities for video conferencing so that folks don't always have to make a long drive. We will all be drinking champagne at the first board meeting in July to celebrate the merger.

What's Happening with Autism Delaware Staff

Executive Director: Several months ago Theda Ellis announced that she wanted to start a step down to retirement, reducing her time from full time to 80%. That is actually happening in July. Now that we have an Associate Director, Theda will spend her time on program growth and addressing systems issues.

Associate Director: After a several month search project, we hired Teresa Avery to be our new Associate Director. Teresa comes from the private sector, with an MBA and a background in marketing and communications. She will be developing greater relationships with the Delaware business community, improving our communications with members around the state, helping to make Autism Delaware better known in Delaware, and expanding the website to be more useful to parents of children across the spectrum and across the lifespan.



Southern Delaware Service Director: Melissa Tice Martin has accepted employment with Autism Delaware as well. She will start her new job doing many of the duties she held as Executive Director of LDAF; talking with families, and supporting major programs and events. Melissa has expressed the desire to get involved with POW&R so we have a two-year plan to prepare her to open POW&R services in Sussex by summer of 2012.

Policy and Events Director: Kim Siegel has many more hats than development. Kim will continue in this role, but she will also officially be our Policy and Events Director, spending more time working on legislation and advocacy. Kim understands legislation and is working hard to guide us through the maze of insurance and the state budget process.

Communications Coordinator: Our longest serving staff person, Cher Frampton, will be changing her role with us in the fall – continuing to support Autism Delaware in a contract and volunteer

capacity. Cher is an original member of Autism Delaware and we owe a great deal to her creativity, her resourcefulness, and all her hard work for these past 12 years. Autism Delaware would not be what it is without her leadership with our golf event, graphics style with the newsletter, and warm voice offering information and support to parents with newly diagnosed children. We are going to miss her daily presence and we know we'll never be able to replace the "unsinkable" Cher Frampton, but don't fear, she isn't going away – she's just changing her role.



Are you looking for recreation activities for your child? How about something the whole family can join in on? Check out our ever expanding recreation opportunities on our new Rec4All webpage <http://www.delautism.org/DEREC4All.html>.

Rec4All is a collaboration of many groups and organizations working together to increase social and recreation events in the general disability community across the lifespan. There are three overall goals of the group: to share events that are open to friends and family; to train individuals to support people in traditional recreation settings; and, as always, to find funding to expand recreation opportunities.

Individuals and families can find events listed on the Rec4All calendar online. You can also find a link to Rec4All on the front page of our website that highlights events held throughout the state.

If you know of anyone who might like to volunteer, please call Heidi Mizell at the office for more information. If you know of an event that you would like to share please feel free to call the office or email Heidi.Mizell@delautism.org.

We are encouraging all disability groups to list their open activities here.

PARENT PARENT

written by parents for parents

What's a parent to do?

By Jen Nardo

You get that phone call, memo or email that details another change in your child's school program. If you are like me, you start to wonder what's going on and make some calls or send some emails yourself to gather information. Maybe you start to wonder if this change will affect your child or the integrity of the program. Is this issue worth raising your voice and will you be alone in the outcry?

The founding parents of the DAP worked very long and very hard to create a program to suit the needs of children who are growing up while living with autism. Those parents worked with legislators and the school districts to ensure that no child with autism who lives in the state of Delaware will be without a free and appropriate public education. Like the founding fathers of our country, they couldn't foresee the growth and change that would take place as time went on. They also tried to think of all possible scenarios, but as with the Constitution, there is much left for interpretation.

When changes are proposed, we need to ask ourselves about how the change will serve the greater good of the program. If we give a little now and lose this opportunity, what more will be compromised? Will there be a domino effect that has no end?

As parents, we are always our children's best advocates. It is our job to oversee decisions being made on behalf of our children's education and to question those making the decisions. It can be as simple as attending a PAC meeting to voice your concerns or making a phone call to your local legislators asking them to allocate funds where they can do the most good. Pay attention to the legislative alerts sent out by Autism Delaware. Don't assume that someone else will do it – we need to be a united front, a force to be reckoned with.

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." – Margaret Mead



Thank You to the Ribbon Lady

Andrea Russell is a long time volunteer whom we recognized in 2003 as a Volunteer of the Year for making hundreds of autism awareness pins for us. By 2010, you can only guess how many Andrea has made. She brings in bags for Cookie Day and the Drive for Autism every year. Every legislator receives her pin every year, as well as every golfer, celebrity and sponsor who come to our events. Andrea has made it clear that she doesn't like to get recognition, but it's been seven years now, so we have the seven-year itch. We need to recognize Andrea for the donation of thousands of autism awareness pins.

Because Andrea has a granddaughter on the spectrum, she is concerned about what girls need. As a result, she sat down and wrote *Kaitlyn and Zoe's Guide to Growing Up!* Andrea was referring to her own grand-daughters, who were 11 and 9 at the time. It gives very basic information about the changes in a young girl's body as she matures. The information is presented in a very simple, straightforward manner that a child with autism can understand. Autism Delaware has included information about this book to parents, but we also thought it was time to remind our general membership about the availability of this book. Please contact (302) 322-8656 to order *Kaitlyn and Zoe's Guide to Growing Up!*



Autism Delaware Skating Parties!

New Castle County
September 18, 2010
5:15-7:15 p.m.
Christiana Skating Center

Milford
October 2, 2010
5:30-7:30 p.m.
Milford Skating Center

Sensory friendly. Parents can wear regular shoes on skate floor to better assist their children with learning to skate! No RSVP required. Free admission. \$2.00-3.00 rental fee for skates.



Teen/Tween Game Night

Game night provides a fun, safe, facilitated environment for teens and tweens to participate in activities with peers, giving them the opportunity to develop and generalize social skills such as: turn taking, sharing, following group rules, expected behavior in group settings and how to win and lose graciously. Ages 9-19. RSVP to Heidi Mizell (302) 224-6020, ext 205

July 16, August 13, Sept 10.
774 Christiana Road, Newark



Autism Delaware's Annual Beach Party Picnic!

August 15, 2010
Cape Henlopen State Park
Lewes, Delaware
10:00 - 4:00 p.m. (rain or shine)
Food served from
11:00 a.m- 1:00 p.m.



We provide the hamburgers, hot dogs, rolls, condiments and paper products. Please bring beverages for your entire family as well as a side dish such as potato salad, pasta salad, etc. and/or a dessert item to share with everyone. Oh, and don't forget the kids and all of your beach gear too!

There is no charge for this event but the park charges a \$4 (in-state) and \$8 (out of state) parking fee.

RSVP no later than Monday, August 9 as space is limited and so we have time to purchase enough supplies.

(302) 224-6020 or delautism@delautism.org

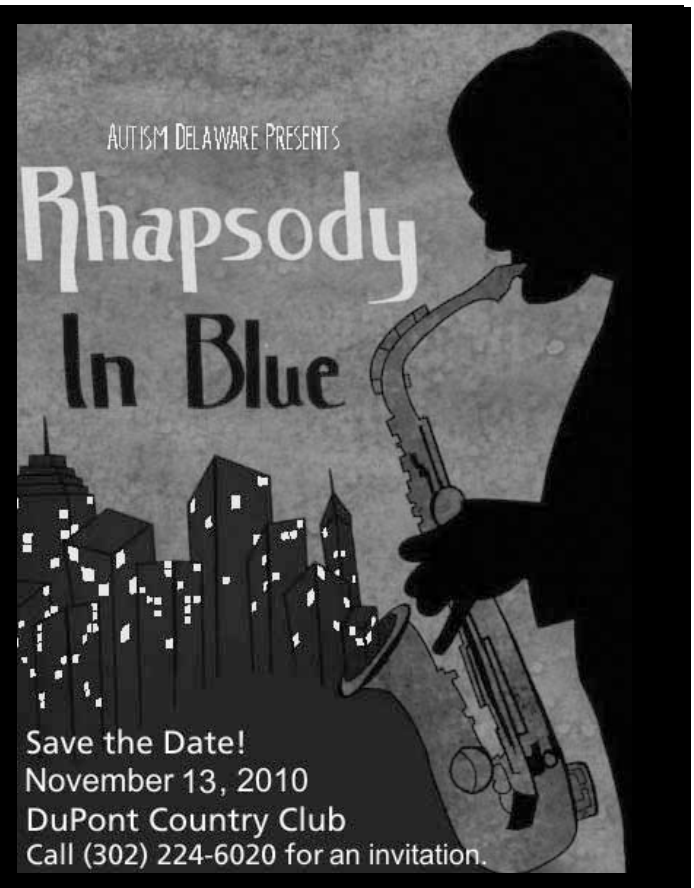
The Inner Circle

Autism Delaware will pilot Social Thinking groups for the summer — one group upstate and one downstate. Pilot groups are for students entering 3rd and 4th grades who are not served by the DAP sites. Call 302-224-6020 or 302-422-2255 for more information or to inquire about the next groups. These groups follow Michelle Garcia Winner's Social Thinking curriculum and use Lego building activities to facilitate practice of skills learned. The group facilitator is Ellen Coulston, who has been leading groups in the Brandywine School District.

Office Closed

The Autism Delaware and POW&R offices will be closed on the following days:

July 5 - Independence Day (Observed)
September 6 - Labor Day



Save the Date!
November 13, 2010
DuPont Country Club
Call (302) 224-6020 for an invitation.

CALENDAR *of* EVENTS

Community Meetings

July

July 7, 21, 28 – N.C.C. Family Bowling Night. 5:30 pm. Join us every Wednesday night at AMF Price Lanes at Prices Corner on Kirkwood Hwy, Wilmington. No commitments. Pay after you play. Play as many or as few games as you like. Bumpers, ramps and special discounts available. Game room and snack bar open. Parents, siblings, friends are welcome to bowl. Special discounts available.

July 13 – N.C.C. Parent Coffee and Conversation Hour. 9:00 am. Prince on Delaware, 124 Delaware St., New Castle. Join us along with other parents and family members. Children are welcome. Restaurant is closed to the public. Coffee is on us!

July 16 – Teen/Tween Game Night. 6:30-8:15 pm. Christiana Care Neurology Specialists, 774 Christiana Rd., Newark. Board and card games for children with Asperger's Syndrome, PDD-NOS or NVLD. Ages 9-19. Cost is \$10.

July 17 – Sensory Friendly showing of Toy Story 3. 10:00 am. Regal People's Plaza. Not 3D. Concession stand will be open. \$8.50 for members and \$10.00 for non-members. Call the Autism Delaware office at (302) 224-6020 to pre-purchase your tickets.

July 22 – Dover Parent Coffee and Conversation Hour. 9:00-10:00 am. Holiday Inn Express, Dover. Join us along with other parents, caregivers and grandparents for informal support! Network and share ideas about diagnosis, finding help, transition, legislation – any issues or lifestyle! Meet in the breakfast area for coffee only.

July 25 – Sensory friendly showing of Toy Story 3. 2:00 pm. Clayton Theatre, 900 Main Street, Dagsboro, DE. Rated G. Not 3D. Concession will be open, restrooms on second floor, single screen theater. RSVP to chiegoro@gmail.com. \$5.50.

July 31 – Family Fun Day at Milton Museum. Boats, Buttons and Beans. Come out for a day of fun at the Milton Museum! Learn about Milton's history and see the museum exhibits. Volunteers will be on hand to assist you and your children with three fun craft activities. We will also have a demonstration of geocaching if you are interested! A great recreational opportunity for your family. Designed for tweens, aged 9-13. We have room for 12 families, so register early with our Milford office!



August

August 13 – Teen/Tween Game Night. 6:30-8:15 pm. Christiana Care Neurology Specialists, 774 Christiana Rd., Newark. Board and card games for children with Asperger's Syndrome, PDD-NOS or NVLD. Ages 9-19. Cost is \$10.

August 15 – Family Beach Picnic. 12th Annual Summer Beach Picnic. 10:00 am – 4:00 pm, rain or shine. Food served from 11:00 am – 1:00 pm. Cape Henlopen State Park, Lewes. RSVP to the



Newark Autism Delaware office as soon as possible – space is filling quickly!

August 18 – Milford Parent Coffee and Conversation Hour. 9:00-10:00 am. Georgia House Restaurant, 18 S. Walnut Street, Milford. Join us along with other parents, caregivers and grandparents for informal support! Network and share ideas about diagnosis, finding help, transition, legislative – any issue or lifestyle!

September

September 10 – Teen/Tween Game Night. 6:30-8:15 pm. Christiana Care Neurology Specialists, 774 Christiana Rd., Newark. Board and card games for children with Asperger's Syndrome, PDD-NOS or NVLD. Ages 9-19. Cost is \$10.

September 18 – Christiana Skating Party. 5:15-7:15 pm. Christiana Skating Center. All are welcome! Skate rental fee, snack bar open.

September 19 – Go Fish! See page 6 for more details!

October

October 2 – Milford Skating Party. 5:30-7:30 pm. Milford Skating Rink. Sensory friendly. Parents can wear regular shoes on the skate floor to better assist their children with learning to skate! Entrance is free, \$2.50 for skate rentals.



Fun and Fundraising

Walk for Autism

Thanks to the 1,300+ people who came out to support the Walk for Autism! It was wonderful to welcome new and past families and teams, as well as many new exhibitors offering their services and products. It was a great day, and we raised the most ever: \$115,000. To reach that amount it took thousands of donations with awareness of autism raised by each request. Congratulations to our top three teams:

Tony's Journey (Captain: Mike Graci): \$6,980

Christ Church Rite 13 (Captain: Marcy Kempner): \$6,500

Luke's Parade of Hope (Captain: MarRae Sipple): \$5,556

In 2011, the Walk will take place in Wilmington on April 9 and Lewes (as part of the Race for Autism) on April 10. If you have time and ideas to keep these successful events growing, please contact Kim Siegel about joining the Walk committee!



Photographs Courtesy of Andrew Zeltt



Photographs courtesy of Laura Novak Photography

Drive for Autism Celebrity-Am Golf Outing

The Drive for Autism Celebrity-Am Golf Outing was held on May 13 at the DuPont Country Club in Wilmington. 50 teams came out including Aaron's, Lowe's, Scotts, Direct TV, Sprint, Sunoco, Fed Ex, Philadelphia Eagles, Visa, RoboVision, ING Direct, Aflac, Crown Royal, TiWi/Valvoline, AAA MidAtlantic and so many more. A special thank you goes out to

Anheuser-Busch as our title sponsor for this year's event. So far the Drive for Autism has grossed \$500,000.

Also thanks to the many celebrities who come out each year to support us and make our event possible. In addition we wish to thank the National Guard and volunteers who come out and work tirelessly all day to ensure we have a smoothly running golf outing.





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Helping People and Families Affected by Autism

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State: _____

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Phone: (h) _____ (w) _____

Email: _____

I am a: Parent Family Member Service Provider Educator Medical Professional Individual with autism

Other (please describe): _____

Yes! Please add my name to the mailing list to receive Autism Delaware's newsletter *The Sun*.

(This is for families who do not receive The Sun through DAP Distribution only please.)

Becoming a Silver Member or up will make you

a part of a select group of individuals who have

demonstrated special leadership and a deep

commitment to making a significant difference

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special recognition in our newsletter or other

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