



March 2007

AUTISM TIMES

Wake County Autism Society

Mission Statement

The mission of the Wake County Autism Society is to build bridges of understanding through support and information to assist families, individuals and professionals experiencing an autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

Board of Directors

Richard Adamson
Laurie Eckenrode
Michele Lete'
Cynthia Magliocca
Dr. Kristi Milowic
Thomas Swanson

Executive Officers

President
Michele Lete'
jamlete@nc.rr.com

Vice President
Susan Hughes
wshs@nc.rr.com

Treasurer
Sean Godwin
sean@piedmontfinancial.com

Secretary
Adam Caudill
acaudill1@nc.rr.com

Phone
(919) 459-2544

Website
www.wakecountyautism.org

E-group
<http://www.egroups.com/group/WakeCountyASNC>

President's Place

Dear Friends,

I have a very important announcement to make that concerns all of you, but first I want to explain how this organization works. The executive officers and committee members enter into volunteer positions for various durations of time - anywhere from a year, to two years, or more. Each time new volunteers take on positions with this organization, they do so knowing that eventually they will hand over their responsibilities to another volunteer. It is time again to fill the positions of volunteers who will be exiting their positions.

This is a great opportunity for you to experience the rewarding and enriching opportunities that await you with the Wake County Autism Society. While I will be looking for a replacement as president, I will still continue to be involved as a member of the board of directors. Susan Hughes will be lessening her responsibilities also and will remain as a representative for the WCPSS parent advisory council meetings. Sean Godwin will stay involved to assist in fundraising.

I have been involved with this organization for 7 years (time flies). These last two years have been busy because I have been balancing my presidency responsibilities together with being a full-time student at NCSU and family life. I have met my best friends through this organization, a payment that could never be matched with real dollars, and learned a lot about the important roles that all of us play in creating autism awareness and standing up for the rights of individuals with autism. I know that you too can receive similar rewarding experiences through volunteering with the WCAS. Just keep on reading to learn how.

You can take this opportunity to volunteer in one of **the following positions that will be open in May, 2007:** (While this is a couple of months away, we still need to get volunteers in place as soon as possible so that this transition can be an efficient one).



- President - (This could be your name)**
- Vice President - (... or your name)**
- Treasurer - (This could be your good friend's name)**
- Newsletter Editor - (Put your talents to work here)**

Positions that are not listed above do not need to be filled. That said, whoever takes over as president can establish more committee positions as the need arises, but at this time we only need to fill these core positions.

For those of you who are interested in volunteering please call our phone line. We prefer that you call when inquiring about these positions instead of e-mailing and we look forward to hearing from you. Don't hesitate to call if you have any questions.

Thank you,
Michele Lete'

What did the Wake County Autism Society do for Christmas 2006?

Thanks to a generous grant from the Raleigh Knights of Columbus, we were able to bring a little more Christmas cheer to individuals with autism living in supported living homes. We purchased and delivered Christmas gifts for these individuals last December with the help of Jennette Horton who did the shopping leg work and the youth from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints' Cary 2nd Ward who wrapped gifts and sang Christmas Carols when they delivered them. Together we helped bring a happier holiday to 35 adults with autism. **Thank you Raleigh Knights of Columbus and Volunteers!**

Wake County Autism Society Support Groups

Committee Leaders

Father's Group
Tony Flores
250-9513

Newsletter Editor
Hope Kennedy
303-0054 or
kennedyhe@
hotmail.com

Parents of Adults 18 and Over
Marie Horne
772-9424 or
mhorne0409@aol.com

Parents of Children Asperger's/HFA
Laura Graham
676-5987 or
lgraham@nc.rr.com

Preschool Social Group
Selena Jacobs
Edwards_jacobs@
yahoo.com

Youth Social Group
Kim Feller
kimfeller@juno.com

Teen Social Group
Hope Kennedy
303-0054 or
kennedyhe@
hotmail.com

Sibling Support
Robin Schiffmiller
676-3440 or
rschiffmiller@nc.rr.
Com

Parents of Adults w/ Asperger's/ HFA
Helen Dawkins
847-7337

Webmaster
Cynthia Magliocca
cbm1963@
bellsouth.net

Lunch Time Support This support group meets the first Thursday of every month. The next meeting is on March 1st. There will be no April meeting due to Spring Break. Meetings are open-topic and offer support and information for parents or guardians of individuals with autism spectrum disorder. Meetings are from 12:00 to 2:00 and lunch will be provided. Contact Susan Hughes at 459-2544 or wshs@nc.rr.com to reserve free child care (leave a message). Meetings are held at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1811 Seabrook Ave, CARY, NC 27511.

Father's Group Contact Tony Flores for more information at 250-9513.


Parents of Adults 18 and Over Support Group Meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month. The March 13th meeting will be from 7:00-8:30 at Creative Living. The topic is "Sexuality" featuring Mary Van Bourgondien, Exec. Dir. Of Raleigh TEACCH. For more information, contact Marie Horne at 772-9424 or mhorne0409@aol.com. Creative Living Center, 1220 Nowell Road, Raleigh, 27607--From I-40, take exit 290. Turn right onto Chapel Hill Rd./NC 54. Go .53 miles. Turn left on to Nowell Road. Go .47 miles.

Parents of Children with Asperger's/HFA Please check the newsletter and website for upcoming meeting news. Contact Laura Graham at lgraham@nc.rr.com or (919) 676-5987 for more information.

Youth Social Group This group is for children ages 5 to 9 who would like to meet for outings and socializing. Contact Kim Feller at kimfeller@juno.com for more information.

Sibling Support Group This support group offers brothers and sisters ages 9-15 a chance to address issues surrounding having a sibling with an autism spectrum disorder. There are monthly meetings during the school year. A \$10.00 fee per session will apply (scholarships are available upon request). Meetings will be held at the Elks Club from 6:30 to 8:30 with a pizza dinner provided. Participants are not required to register for all sessions. Parents are not required to stay. The groups will be facilitated by Heather Allen, a therapist who works exclusively with families of children on the autism spectrum. Sessions will include warm up activities, arts and crafts, games and peer support discussions. Remaining sessions: March 22, and April 19. THANKS to the Elks Club for donating the meeting place!! Please contact Robin Schiffmiller at rschiffmiller@nc.rr.com to register. Elks Club, 5538 Lead Mine Road, Raleigh, 27612--From I-440, take exit US-70/Glenwood Ave./NC-50 exit, towards Crabtree Valley Mall. When on Glenwood Ave., turn right onto Lead Mine Road. Club is approximately 1.24 miles.

Parents of Adults with Aspergers'/High Functioning Autism Support Group (NEW DAY!) This support group meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm at Borders Book Store, at the corner of Strickland Road. 8825 Six Forks Road in Raleigh. The group does not meet in the cafe but at grouped tables elsewhere in the store. Contact Helen Dawkins for more information, 847-7337.



As a parent of a son diagnosed with Autism, I understand the challenges of moving with a special needs child. If you are thinking about selling your current home or buying or building a new home, please call me for a free, no obligation consultation.

www.ToddsTriangleHomes.com

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Each Keller Williams office is independently owned and operated.

Donations

The Wake County Autism Society welcomes donations that help provide support and promote opportunities for Wake County residents affected by autism. Your donations will help enable us to grow and expand our services. Make your **TAX-DEDUCTIBLE** checks payable to: Wake County Autism Society and mail to Wake County Autism Society c/o Michele Lete, 1187 Fairlane Rd., Cary NC, 27511.

ADVERTISE WITH US

Please check out the advertisements in our newsletters. They help bring the Autism Times to you each month. If you know of anyone that would like to advertise with us, please let us know or if YOU would like to place an advertisement, please contact Hope Kennedy at 303-0054 or kennedyhe@hotmail.com. And remember, if you contact an advertiser for an appointment, please let them know that you saw the advertisement in this newsletter. Thank you!

Don't forget that the best way to find out the latest information is to log on to www.wakecountyautismsociety.org or to join our on-line e-group at <http://www.egroups.com/group/WakeCountyASNC>. When you have advice, questions, concerns, or sometimes need to vent, join others who will understand.

Educational Meeting

Tuesday, March 20th at 7:00 pm

Pediatric Possibilities
7209 Creedmoor Rd., Suite 101
Raleigh, NC



Chiropractic Care...The Missing Piece

Dr. Alisha Davis, a family wellness chiropractor, will present a lecture on brain and nervous system functioning. She will also explain how chiropractic care can help turn on your child's nervous system to help reach their full life potential. She will also present some of the latest research and case studies regarding Autism and the benefits of chiropractic care.

RSVP to Susan Hughes at wshs@nc.rr.com or the WCAS phone line: 459-2544 (if no answer, leave RSVP on the machine).

LOCAL INTERESTS

(not sponsored by WCAS)

Autism Society of North Carolina (ASNC) — State Organization, 505 Oberlin Rd., Raleigh, NC 27605/ (919) 743-0204, www.autismsociety-nc.org/

TEACCH Mother's Group is a support group that meets monthly. Your child will need to have been seen for an intake appointment prior to attending your first meeting. If your child has not had an intake appointment, you can call to be placed on the waiting list at 662-4625. Meetings are held at the Raleigh TEACCH Center.

Teen to Adulthood Group meets monthly 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. at Millbrook Exchange Community Center. For information, please contact Kathy Honeyman, 878-3239.

Newly Diagnosed Workshops are for parents and guardians of children who have been recently diagnosed with autism. For more information or to register, contact Linda Griffin at the Autism Society of NC, 743-0204.

Autism Spectrum IEP Workshops are for parents and guardians who are involved in all stages of the IEP process and would like to learn more. For information on the next session contact Linda Griffin at the Autism Society of NC, 743-0204.

Special Education PTA is a district-wide organization for teachers and parents of children who have an IEP. Contact Leigh Menconi for more information, 788-2500.

Autism Community Initiative A group of parents from the Triangle area have formed a coalition to explore the possibility of developing a residential community (ultimately a continuing care facility) for adults with autism age 18 and above. The goal is to provide a small cluster of houses and/or apartments that would serve 2 or 3 persons per unit, providing 24 hour care and a day program. The coalition would like to hear from anyone who may be interested or want more information. Contact Genie and Roger Robinson at genrog@mebtel.net.

Raleigh Parks and Recreation Specialized Recreation Department Classes, sports, social clubs, etc. are coordinated through this department for persons of all ages with disabilities. Information on Special Olympics can be found through this department also. Check out the opportunities for Spring at www.parks.raleighnc.gov.

Voices Together—This is a program of the Arc of Orange County. There are several choruses across the triangle that focus on music, speech and social skills. For more information visit voicestogether.net.

GRACE—Offers free riding 1 day each month. Register to ride at www.graceofraleigh.org.

Horse and Buddy Therapeutic Riding— Ride in New Hill year round for \$30.00 per ride. Visit www.horseandbuddy.org.

LEARN MORE!

There are many opportunities to learn about services, education, advocacy, and more this spring! There are many conferences, workshops and classes being held all around the state. Here are just a few that you might be interested in.

Autism Society of North Carolina - 2007 Annual Conference, "Autism, Answers for a Lifetime", March 23-24, High Point, NC. Find more information at autismsociety-nc.org.

The Arc of Wake County - Transitions Conference, "Successful Transitions—Where Reality and Vision Meet", March 10, Raleigh, NC. Find more information at www.arcwake.org.

Division TEACCH—28th Annual Conference, "Current Research Advances in Autism", May 24-25, Chapel Hill, NC. Find more information at www.teacch.com.

Autism Society of North Carolina—Newly Diagnosed Workshops: Feb. 2, Mar. 2, Apr. 13, or May 11 from 10:00am to 12:00pm. For more information, contact Sheila Knapp at sknapp@autismsociety-nc.org.

GIFTSNC—2007 Home Schooling Special Needs Conference and Exhibitor's Hall, April 20-21, Cary, NC. Find more information at www.giftsnc.com.

The Wake County Autism Society does not endorse, promote or warrant the products, medical or alternative treatments, services, or therapies mentioned in this newsletter. This newsletter is for informational purposes only.

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