



May 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 Committee

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jamlete@nc.rr.com

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Phone
(919) 459-2544

Website
www.wakecountyautism
society.org

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

President's Place

Dear Friends,

I am excited to announce the new officers and committee members for this organization. Thank you so much to all of you who have offered your help. Everyone of our volunteers lead very busy lives, and I am so grateful that they have decided to help despite the many constraints on their time. It is wonderful that we all continue to work together as members of the Wake County Autism Society to keep this network of parents and friends united in our common cause.

New Officers and Committee Members (Effective June 8, 2007)

President—Dana Vail jvail1@nc.rr.com

Vice President over Autism—Michelle Corbitt


Vice President over Aspergers—Laura Graham lgraham@nc.rr.com

Newsletter Editor—Gillian Hadden ghadden@wcpss.net

Parents of Adults with Autism—Jeanne Timberlake ptimberlake1233@bellsouth.net

I have thoroughly enjoyed volunteering with this organization. It's hard to let go, but knowing that we have such a great group lined up to take over makes this much easier.

I want to thank Susan Hughes, Sean Godwin, Hope Kennedy, and Marie Horne for the great jobs that they have done in their respective duties. I wish that I could offer them more than a simple thank you, because they certainly deserve more.

I also have some very  **IMPORTANT NEWS**. The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) plans to make changes that will GREATLY affect children with autism by deleting a class size and student to teacher ratio chart from their policies and procedures. To find out more about these proposed changes you can contact the Autism Society of NC at 743-0204. To voice your concerns directly to DPI, please write them at ECPolicy@dpi.state.nc.us or Public Schools of NC. Exceptional Children Division, ATTN: Brenda Gilchrest or Ira Wolfe, 6356 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-6356 or call them at (919)807-3450. This policy change endangers the integrity of autism self-contained classrooms, as well as many others—don't let DPI fool you!

Thank you, Michele Lete'

Meet our next President

Hello, my name is Dana Vail. I was born and raised in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. My husband and I have 4 beautiful children, with one living with Autism. My son was diagnosed 4 years ago and ever since I have been committed to making a difference in his life as well as, helping to promote autism awareness. I have relocated to North Carolina 4 years ago for my job at GlaxoSmithKline.

I look forward to working with all of you to make a difference in the lives of those with Autism.

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

Youth Social Group
Kim Feller
kimfeller@juno.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

Wake County Autism Society Support Groups

Lunch Time Support The final meeting for this school year will be on May 3rd, so don't miss this last opportunity to connect before the chaos of summer begins. 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 May Annual Overnight Outing to Camp Royall (See more details on pg. 4) Contact Tony Flores for more information at 250-9513.

Parents of Adults 18 and Over Support Group NEW LOCATIONS!! On May 8, the group will meet at ASNC headquarters (505 Oberlin Rd., Ste. 230) at 7:00 p.m. Topic: "Medications" and "Favorite Stories". On June 12, the group will meet at the new Creative Living Building (6300 Chapel Hill Rd.) at 7:00 p.m. Discussion topic will be "Research". (Directions to new CL location: From I-40, take exit to Fairgrounds. Go about 2 blocks, passing stop light at Nowell Road. Pass a church, then CL is the 2nd building on the left.) Or, go west on Hillsborough Street past the Fairgrounds. Take right fork to go out Chapel Hill Road. Go about one mile and watch for brick buildings on right before getting to Nowell Road stop light. For more information call Marie Horne 772-9424 or mhorne0409@aol.com.

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 There are no meetings planned for the summer. Please contact Robin Schiffmiller at rschiffmiller@nc.rr.com for information about this group.

Parents of Adults with Aspergers'/High Functioning Autism Support Group 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.

Wake County Autism Society 2007 Awardees

You nominated them and they won:



Teacher of the Year—Pat Schweitzer,
Dillard Drive Elementary Pre-K.



Inclusion Teacher of the Year—Byron 'Bo' Reece,
Washington Elementary Music Teacher



Professional of the Year—Dr. Kim Painter,
Silber Psychological Services



Teacher Assistant of the Year—Leone Maxwell,
Penny Road Elementary



Transportation Specialist of the Year—Chandra Holloway,
AA & D Transportation

LOCAL INTERESTS

(not sponsored by WCAS)

Manga (Japanese Anime) Art Classes are being offered by Cary Parks & Rec. at Middle Creek Community Center. Lots of our children have an interest in this type of art. The teacher has a daughter with AS. Check out this opportunity for kids 11-14 at www.townofcary.org.

Camp GRACE (New Opportunity) at the A.E. Finley YMCA is starting a Counselor in Leadership Training program for children with Aspergers and High Functioning Autism. The camp is designed for children with autism and is expanding this summer to benefit the older campers that could benefit from a leadership experience. Contact information: A.E. Finley YMCA - www.ymcatriangle.org, 848-9622. Sarah Hatcher sarah.hatcher@ymcatriangle.org, A Small Miracle, Inc., krista.bader@asmallmiracleinc.com, 854-4400.



NEW! NEW! NEW!

WCAS SUMMER CAMP SCHOLARSHIP DONATIONS

We are thrilled to be able to offer donations to area camps this summer to help them provide scholarships to attendees. With the help of a generous grant to our organization from The Knights of Columbus, we are helping the following camps: Autism Society of North Carolina's Camp Royall, Finley YMCA's Camp Grace, and Raleigh Parks and Recreation's Camp Friendly. We have given the funds directly to each camp for the use of camp scholarships so there is no need to contact us. These camps will use the money to provide scholarships to those families that have financial need. This is one more way that our organization can offer help and support within our community.

LOCAL INTERESTS, CONT.

Special Education PTA is a district-wide organization for teachers and parents of children who have an IEP. Contact Leigh Menconi for more information, 7882500.

Autism Society of North Carolina Bookstore This local resource is worth looking into. It is located in Suite 101 in the same building as ASNC. With nearly 600 titles, it is the largest non-profit autism specific bookstore in the US. Call Darla Coffey to make an appointment between the hours of 9:00 and 3:00 to ensure the store will be open.

Grace offers free therapeutic horse riding to children with autism and their families once a month. Contact Susan Belton, 556-9460 or www.graceofraleigh.org, to register.

Newly Diagnosed Workshops are for parents and guardians of children who have been recently diagnosed with autism. For dates and times, contact Sheila Knapp at the Autism Society of NC, 743-0204.

Parents of Teens Educational Meeting meets monthly during the school year from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. at Millbrook Exchange Community Center. For information, please contact Kathy Honeyman, 878-3239.

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.

Raleigh Parks and Recreation Specialized Recreation Department SUMMER CAMPS, 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 summer 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.

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

CAMP TEKOA: This annual event offers a family retreat weekend for persons with developmental disabilities and their families. It's a special weekend together sharing, worshiping, and enjoying camp activities. Volunteers are assigned to each camper, allowing the parents a much deserved respite time to relax, talk with other families, or participate in activities themselves. A parent must attend with the camper and the camper must be ambulatory. The camp is owned and operated by the Western N.C. Conference of the United Methodist Church, 5 miles southwest of Hendersonville. It provides swimming, fishing, canoeing, paddle boating, and a zip line and many other activities are planned. The camp has authentic cabins with bunk beds and most cabins have screened in porches. The camp is held **Friday, June 1st - Sunday, June 3rd, 2007**. The fees are \$70 per person for 1-3 family members and discounts given for those families with additional members. For additional information as well as the registration form, please contact Ashley Stone at astone@wcpss.net or at ashleys_2@yahoo.com.

Raleigh Parks & Rec. has a variety of theme dances at different locations throughout the school year for teens. There is no 1:1 assistance provided for this activity. The cost for the dance is \$5. You may pay at the door, mail in a registration, or register online. The Summer Dance is on June 8, 2007 from 7-9:30 at the Chavis Community Center (505 MLK Jr. Blvd.).

LAST BUT NOT LEAST!! Thanks to everyone who helped coordinate the Newsletter over the last 2 years. Thanks to those of you who read it and overlooked the errors! It has been a fun and educational experience. I have learned more editing the newsletter than I knew in all my other 11 years Of Autism experience combined. With a son entering High School next year I am Sure I will be learning more than I ever wanted to know. Ha! Ha! Thanks again to everyone, and here's to another great year!



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.



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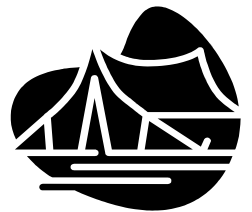
Father's Support Group Annual Camp Royall Overnight Outing

The outing is set for Saturday May 12th and 13th. The gates to camp will open around 10 am. There are four cabins. When you get there you can pick out where you want to sleep. Each cabin has a bunkhouse that sleeps 16 people and private rooms for two if large groups are too much. It will be first come first serve. Cost for the event is \$10 for adults and \$5 for each child. **Moms and siblings are welcomed and encouraged to attend.**

The amenities offered at camp are: Activity center, Gymnasium, a pond for fishing, a paddle boat and canoes will be out for a couple of hours in the afternoon. There are hiking trails and a playground on site as well.

You will need to bring: Bedding for single beds; Towels (there are showers available in each cabin); Food for lunch and breakfasts (There are large walk in coolers to put items in the cafeteria); Fishing poles if you want to fish.

There will be a spaghetti and meat ball dinner for everyone. Please bring a salad, bread or dessert to share. Anywhere from 50 - 100 people usually attend, so there will be plenty of people to talk to and kids to have fun with. If you are interested in going please contact Tony Flores at tonyf33@aol.com or 250-9513. We would like to get a head count before the event. Hope to see you all there.



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.

Wake County Autism Society
c/o Michele Lete'
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