

Autism Spectrum

The Official Publication of the Autism Society of New Hampshire

Vol. 1 ~ No. 2

P O Box 68, Concord, NH 03302-0068

Spring Issue 2004

From The President's Desk...

Dear Members,

Following is the Autism Society of New Hampshire's Annual Report for Year Ending December 31, 2003. It recaps the activities of the Society for the whole year. 2003 was a year of reorganization and revamping. We have added some new faces and built the foundation upon which the future will ride. 2004 promises to be even more exciting with our first ever Awareness Walk, 7th Annual Golf Tournament and Free April concert. Please join us and support us in whatever way you can.

ASNH Annual Report 2003

WEBSITE: Our website is growing by leaps and bounds thanks to our webmaster Steve Anderson.

Slowly but surely we are using technology to our advantage. Many new resource links have been added. There is also a new section where folks can purchase an Autism pin, Tote bag or a copy of the Crossing Bridges book using Paypal. Steve maintains a listing of upcoming conferences and events. You can even download our latest newsletter. Many thanks to Steve for bringing us into the 21st century so gracefully.

The website is www.autism-society-nh.org

LIBRARY: The Autism Society of New Hampshire purchases books and videos for the Family Resource

See From The President ~ Page 8

**APRIL IS
AUTISM AWARENESS
MONTH**

What's Inside ...

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Get To Know

Your Board Members ...

Please welcome our new Vice- President: Chris Jarvis! Chris Jarvis, CFA, is an Associate Director of Private Client Research at Advest, Inc. He joined the company in May 1999 as a Junior Sell Side Analyst covering software stocks. In Decem-

See Get To Know Your ~ Page 4

Happy Spring!!

WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!!

Joyce Ninness, with the help of her State Rep., is setting up a meeting with the Governor and Commissioner to discuss Katie Beckett and the Autism Community.

We need letters (with photos if possible) describing how changes to Katie Beckett would directly affect your family. We don't have an exact date yet so please send to nhautism@yahoo.com.

News Across Our Nation ...

West Virginia first state to establish autism registry

By Jennifer Bundy ~ Associated Press

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. — West Virginia is launching an ambitious effort to unravel those mysteries of autism as the nation's first state to establish a registry of residents diagnosed with autism.

Beginning Jan. 1, health care providers who determine a West Virginia resident has autism or an related disorder must report the patient's name, diagnosis, symptoms and related conditions to the registry at Marshall University's Autism Training Center. Even physicians in other states must report on West Virginia residents they diagnose.

"We realized there were no registries in the United States that would be able to track the number of cases of autism year to year," says Barbara Becker-Cottrill, the center's executive director. "We have such a challenging disorder, and we can't even say how many people are affected?"

About 1.5 million Americans are believed to have some

form of autism, according to the Autism Society of America. While researchers at the federal Centers For Disease Control and Prevention once thought there were four or five cases per 10,000 people, they now put the number at about six per 1,000.

In West Virginia, state education's officials say the number of schoolchildren ~ ages 3 to 21 ~ with autism has increased five-fold in the last nine years, from 108 in 1994 to 508 now. West Virginia is not the only state to see an increase. A California study earlier this year indicated the number of autistic school children in that state had nearly doubled in the last four years to 20,377.

School-age statistics do not count children under 3 or adults with autism. The West Virginia registry will count all residents diagnosed after Jan. 1. The information will be confidential, but researchers at Marshall and elsewhere will be able to use it to track potential increases in the number of people diagnosed. It also could be used to track trends, such as whether there are more cases in one geographic area, in urban or rural settings or if people of a particular race or socio-economic group are more likely to have the condition. "We want to be part of finding those answers," Becker-Cottrill says.

Autism is a spectrum disorder, with symptoms and characteristics varying from mild to severe. It is the most common of five Pervasive Developmental Disorders, a category of neurological problems characterized by impairment in several areas of development. The others ~ which also will be included in the registry ~ are Asperger's Syndrome, Childhood Disintegrative Disorder, Rett's Disorder and Pervasive Development Disorder-Not Otherwise Specified.

The state Legislature authorized the registry in 2000. It has taken three years to establish. Dr. Marshalyn Yeargin-Allsopp, with the CDC's Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities, call the registry a significant step because it requires all cases to be reported, and researchers will not have to rely on voluntary reports from doctors and parents. Mandatory reporting will make research more accurate and eliminate any bias caused by self-reporting.

"That date can be key to early intervention and services, producing lifelong benefits," says Rob Beck, president of the Autism Society of America in Bethesda, Md

COMING EVENTS

SUN., APRIL 25 – FREE Concert

Details See Page 15

SAT., MAY 8 – Autism Awareness

WALK in Manchester

Details See Page

WED., MAY 26 – 7th Annual

Autism Society of NH Golf Tournament

Details See Page 15

ASNH Officers and Directors

OFFICERS

Stacey Shannon, President ~ Chris Jarvis, Vice President
Joyce Ninness, Secretary; Bruno DelGreco, Treasurer and Glee Hooper, Past President.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dawn O'Neil, Stephen Anderson, Dee Belle Isle,
Tom Benjamin, Cory Collier, Deb Dalzell, Viki Gayhardt, Cindy Addario
Martha Hickey, Dawn Marquis, Brian Mikol, Janet Stafford,
William White, Carolyn Woodman, Sue Scheinman and Barbara Peeenboom.
Cindy Addario, Editor, *Autism Spectrum*

This article was submitted by State Rep. John DeJoie Concord/Merrimack ~ 39

“We may be small, but there’s more of us. Together, I know we can do great things!”

-Flik, Disney’s “A Bug’s Life”

As we approach Autism Awareness Month in April, we need to look forward. How can we protect the services that our families need and insure that our families receive every possible advantage? The answer is simple, and complex. The answer is we must find our political voice, and exercise our political muscle. ***Together, I know we can do great things!***

The current issues facing all of us: drastic reductions in the Katie Beckett program, \$20 Million in cuts to social service programs across the state, are a direct result of the 2002 general election. A majority of the candidates who were elected, place a higher value on reducing the size of government, than on government meeting the needs of our most vulnerable citizens. There will be another election in November of 2004. We will again elect a Governor, 24 State Senators and 400 State Representatives. This is an opportune time to exercise our political muscle. ***Together, I know we can do great things!***

How do we affect the political process? It seems so overwhelming, what can we really do? When organizations exercise their political muscle, they do it in one of two ways. Either they lobby elected officials to vote in their favor, or they work to elect officials who support their issues. While they may sound similar, they are very different. The former is the realm of lobbyists. Typically, it involves a significant amount of money, relentless contact with representatives and the support of more than 200 representatives. The latter solution involves a desire to become involved and legwork to support candidates, who often win or lose based on only a few votes. Working to elect lawmakers who support your issues shows the most immediate results and is normally the best way for an organization to make a significant entrée into the political process. The more than 400 members in your organization can make a tremendous impact on the outcome of the November elections. ***Together, I know we can do great things!***

There are several steps involved in this process: Identify, Investigate, Support, Vote and Communicate.

Identify issues that are important to your organization. As a bi-partisan group, it is important to identify issues that all of your members can support. An example might be the status of the Katie Beckett program, or the social service cuts to the HHS budget.

Investigate where each candidate stands on your identified issues. Remember, incumbent candidates have a voting record. Review their record, but ask all candidates to explain their positions. This can be done through a survey, one on one meeting with the candidates or a candidates forum which addresses issues important to you. If you find that a candidate does not understand an issue, it becomes a teachable moment and an opportunity to create an ally.

Support the candidates who support your issues. This is an essential part of the equation. If you spend a few months supporting your candidates prior to the election, they are far more likely to be elected and support your concerns. Otherwise, you will spend the next two years, issue by issue, trying to convince unsympathetic lawmakers to support your concerns. We see more and more each day how difficult and time consuming this is.

Support takes many forms: house parties to introduce candidates to your neighbors, letters to neighbors to support a candidate, letter to the editor, holding signs on election day. Anything you do brings a candidate

Get To Know Your Board ~ From Page 1

ber 1999, he moved into the Private Client Research area as a Research Associate covering international equities. In October 2000, he became a Senior Research Associate covering both domestic and international equities before moving into his current role as Associate Director in December 2001.

Mr. Jarvis received his BA degree in history and minored in political science with a certificate in international relations from the University of Massachusetts and his MBA degree in finance from the University of Connecticut. Chris has earned the right to use the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) designation. He is a member of the Association for Investment Management and Research (AIMR) as well as the Boston Security Analysts Society (BSAS). Mr. Jarvis also routinely contributes to regional and national financial publications such as *Business Week*.

Lastly, Chris co-founded with his wife, Michelle, the Portsmouth Parents Special Education (SPED) Union, which is a non-profit, self-organized group of individuals who share a common voice in insuring the education integrity for children with special needs in the City of Portsmouth. Chris lives with his wife Michelle, and two children (Connor and Ashley) in Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

7th Annual Golf Tournament Scheduled For May 26

The 7th annual Autism Society of New Hampshire Golf Tournament is scheduled for Wed., May 26 at the Stonebridge Country Club in Goffstown, NH.

The cost per golfer is \$125 with a foursome being \$500 which includes 18 holes, cart and reception with steak and chicken barbeque. For additional information contact person for this event is Paul Shannon at 425-0372. Sign up forms will be available on our web site, [nhautism @ yahoo.com](http://nhautism@yahoo.com) at the end of March.

WE NEED SPONSORS !

If you have a company or know of one that would like to sponsor us **PLEASE CALL!!**

There are many ways to participate. We need hole/green sponsors, cart sponsors, trophy sponsors, golfball sponsors, etc. It is a great way to promote your company while supporting the Autism Society of NH.

Approaching Autism Awareness ~ From Page 3

one step closer to being elected.

Vote for your candidates. Encourage all your friends and neighbors to vote as well. The common myth is that "I'm only one vote. My vote doesn't really count", the truth is your vote is essential. Many state representative elections required a recount. Several of these recounts resulted in a margin of victory of less than **10 votes**. Every vote counts, which is why candidates work so hard for every vote.

Communicate with your newly elected lawmakers. You know your elected officials support your views because of the work you have done to help us get elected, but stay in touch with us. When bills come before us, the bill may appear to support issues that are important to us, but we are not the experts. You folks are truly the experts on the issues important to you. Let us know how you feel about these bills. A single phone call can often clarify the actual effects of a bill. Hopefully, I have not scared you away. Politics can appear overwhelming, but at its core it is simply people talking to people. I guarantee you will spend much less time getting sympathetic lawmaker elected, than you will trying to convince unsympathetic lawmakers to support you, or in picking up the pieces after these lawmakers make changes which effect your family. Now is the time for all of us to mobilize to elect lawmakers who support our issues.

Together, I know we can do great things! ~ Rep. John DeJoie

From The Mailbag

Parents Job Description

JOB DESCRIPTION: Long term team players needed for challenging permanent work in an often chaotic environment. Candidates must possess excellent communication and organizational skills and be willing to work variable hours, which will include evenings and weekends and frequent 24 hour shifts on call. Some overnight travel required, including trips to primitive camping sites on rainy weekends and endless sports tournaments in far away cities. Travel expenses not reimbursed. Extensive courier duties also required.

RESPONSIBILITIES: For the rest of your life. Must be willing to be hated at least temporarily, until someone needs \$5. Must be willing to bite tongue repeatedly. Also, must possess the physical stamina of a pack mule and be able to go from zero to 60 mph in three seconds flat in case, this time, the screams from the backyard are not someone just crying wolf. Must be willing to face stimulating technical challenges, such as small gadget repair, mysteriously sluggish toilets and stuck zippers. Must screen phone calls, maintain calendars and coordinate production of multiple homework projects. Must have ability to plan and organize social gatherings for clients of all ages and mental outlooks. Must be willing to be indispensable one minute, an embarrassment the next. Must handle assembly and product safety testing of a half million cheap, plastic toys and battery operated devices. Must always hope for the best but be prepared for the worst. Must assume final, complete accountability for the quality of the end product. Responsibilities also include floor maintenance and janitorial work throughout the facility.

POSSIBILITY FOR ADVANCEMENT AND PROMOTION: Virtually none. Your job is to remain in the same position for years, without complaining, constantly retraining and updating your skills, so that those in your charge can ultimately surpass you.

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE: None required, unfortunately. On-the-job training offered on a continually exhausting basis.

WAGES AND COMPENSATION: You pay them! Offering frequent raises and bonuses. A balloon payment is due when they turn 18 because of the assump-

Is Your Child A Runner???

My name is Teri Volz, I have an 11 year old son Alex who is autistic. For the past 6 years Alex has been a runner. Numerous times we have found Alex in the neighbor's yard or across the street. We have struggled to find alarms & locks to help us know when Alex attempts to leave the house, or even when he leaves his room in the middle of the night.

A couple of years ago I began working for Stanley, and I recently developed a portable door alarm that allows you to record a verbal reinforcement message that plays when the door is opened. Now when my son opens the door, my recording plays "Alex, Stay In The House," and then the alarm notifies me that he's attempting to exit.

Product information, including a video clip showing how the TABS door alarm works is available at www.autismally.com. I am trying to get the word out to as many families in the autism community as possible so they know that there are alternatives to reversed locks or security systems that call the police all the time. If you know of anyone who could benefit from the peace of mind I've found please forward this information on to them. I also know several families that were successful in getting this product paid for by their state waiver program.

If you'd like brochures, video clips on CD's or other materials to circulate at support/parent group, or to learn more about my story, feel free to contact me.

Thank you for helping me help other families coping with autism.

Sincerely, Teri Volz 1-888-224-8547 ex 3430

tion that college will help them become financially independent. When you die, you give them whatever is left. The oddest thing about this reverse-salary scheme is that you actually enjoy it and wish you could only do more.

BENEFITS: While no health or dental insurance, no pension, no tuition reimbursement, no paid holidays and no stock options are offered; this job supplies limitless opportunities for personal growth and free hugs for life if you play your cards right.

The Autism Society Of NH welcomes any and all letters to the editor. We may be subject to space available at the time of publication, please mail them to us at Post Office Box 68, Concord, NH 03302-0068.
~ The Editor

From The President ~ From Page 1

Connection which is located at the New Hampshire State Library. These materials are available free of charge to anyone in the state through the interlibrary-loan system offered via any public library. We purchased almost \$400 dollars worth last year. Alice Nye the librarian can be reached at 1-800-298-4321. You can link to this site through our web page for a detailed list of available titles and authors.

AWARENESS: We celebrated April as Autism Awareness Month by producing two TV commercials. Thanks to the efforts of Dawn O'Neil who secured funding for the production and air time through a generous donation from The Shaheen & Gordon law firm. One commercial featured Teresa Bolick and was geared towards early detection and intervention. The other showed Stacey Shannon and depicted older kids and how they are kids first who just happen to have Autism. We received many positive comments from the public and it definitely helped to broaden our image statewide.

Dawn O'Neil and Stacey Shannon also represented the Autism Society of NH at the KidsFest Expo held at the Center of New Hampshire. We set up a booth with brochures and ran the commercial on a loop on a small TV. We were available to answer questions throughout the day.

In the fall there was a 2 day Asperger's Assoc. conference in Keene that we attended as an exhibitor. We set up a booth with brochures, pins, totes, books and were available to answer questions. Sue Scheinman and Stacey Shannon attended the first session in November, then Stacey and Barbara Peerenboom manned the booth in December.

During the summer Barbara Peerenboom and Stacey Shannon also made a road trip to visit an Autism Resource Center in Central Massachusetts. We were able to see how they ran it and ask many questions. We came away with many useful ideas.

We participated in the Institute on Disability calendar by sponsoring the month of April. This reached over 5000 people. We also sent a calendar to each of generous sponsors of last years' golf tournament.

EDUCATION: Once again we were pleased to support the efforts of SERESC (Southeastern Regional Educational Service Center) and Carolyn Woodman. Carolyn continues to innovate and improve the series-gearing the topics to the current needs and wants of the population. The Autism Society of New Hampshire

provided scholarships either full or reduced rate for parents and some paraprofessionals to attend these workshops. These workshops are very popular and well attended. In doing so we are continually reaching towards our goal of education.

Our annual general membership meeting was held at SERESC. Our guest speaker was Eric Mann who spoke about PBIS- Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports - a program for schools to improve how challenging behaviors are handled on a school-wide basis. It is based on mutual respect and defusing volatile situations before they happen.

Stacey Shannon also did several talks on Autism including speaking to graduate students at Southern NH University on 2 occasions. She also spoke at the University of New Hampshire to graduate students. She also presented to the NH Leadership Series about Community Organizing. Joyce Ninness spoke to students up at Plymouth State College. In this way we strive to foster better understanding of Autism.

ADMINISTRATION and SUPPORT This year we cut our administrative expenses and went back to our roots as a volunteer organization. We had an influx of new, highly motivated volunteers who were willing to take on some of the tasks that we had been contracting out. The phones system is now going to a voicemail box. On a monthly rotation a volunteer accesses the messages and answers the calls as quickly as possible. If they do not know the answer the message is then relayed to the appropriate person.

I am very pleased to announce that Cindy Addario has

See From The President ~ Page 7

Once again we want to thank
Spectrum Monthly

for their continued support and
generous printing donation of The Spectrum,
our official publication.

If you are in need of their services
please call them - 603-627-0042
and show your appreciation.

Spectrum Monthly

97 Eddy Rd., Manchester, NH 03102
or visit their web at www.spectrummonthly.com

From Page 6 ~ From The President

agreed to be our editor for the newsletter the Autism Spectrum. It will be a quarterly newsletter going out in Jan, March, June and September. Our first issue was very successful and we got many accolades including a request from the Autism Society of America to post it on their national website for an example for other chapters to use as to how a good newsletter may be set up. Many thanks to Cindy.

FUNDRAISING: As always fundraising is a never-ending activity. We held our 6th Annual Autism Society Golf Tournament. It was at a new venue this year-The Stonebridge Country Club in Goffstown, NH. Chairman- Paul Hooper along with Paul Shannon and Dan Calegari helped make the day a success. Though the weather was a bit threatening heavy rains held off until everyone was safely inside the clubhouse. Golf was followed by a steak/chicken meal and a raffle. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped make the day run so smoothly . A special thank you to Deb Dalzell who is our official photographer and to Connie Breen for taking care of all of the financial details.

We attempted a new fundraising event with a Christ-

RESOURCE HANDBOOK:

Traditional and Alternative Practitioners

We are putting together a Resource handbook of practitioners available in the state who specialize or have experience in dealing with Autism. We need your input.

Please call, mail or email us names #'s and addresses of professionals you have dealt and would recommend. Here are some categories to think about.

EVALUATION TEAMS, PEDIATRICIANS, NEUROLOGISTS, OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS, SPEECH THERAPISTS, PSYCHOLOGISTS, BEHAVIORISTS, CRANIO-SACRAL, AROMATHERAPISTS, NATUROPATHS, REIKI, MASSAGE, CHIROPRACTORS, THERAPEUTIC RIDING, AUDITORY INTEGRATION ETC...to name a few. Call send your suggestions to 609-679-2424, or email them at nhautism@yahoo.com, or write to NH Autism Society, PO Box 68 Concord, NH 03302 Thank you for your help!!

**GET THIS NEWSLETTER
DIRECTLY ON LINE ...
SEND YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS TO:
nhautism@yahoo.com
THANKS!**

mas cash raffle. Tickets were sold for \$50 each and 3 cash prizes were awarded. It was not the money maker we had envisioned but we did cover costs and had 3 very happy winners. Though the raffle tickets were sold in 2002 the prizes were pulled in 2003.

We continued to be affiliated with Community Health Charities and the Combined Federal Campaign. Folks are able to donate to the Autism Society through automatic payroll deduction. The administration of CHC of NH has been transferred to CHC of Massachusetts who has the infrastructure in place to make the program grow. Our revenue from this source continues to grow.

Now available on our website is the ability to order Autism pins, I Love Someone with Autism Tote bag and copies of the book Crossing Bridges. Thanks to Steve Anderson we are now set up to accept Paypal making it more convenient for those wishing to purchase. It is a small but ongoing income stream.

Lastly we wish to thank all of those who so generously donated to the Autism Society of New Hampshire either in memorial of a loved one, in celebration of a birthday or a wedding or just out of pure generosity and wishing to help out and further the cause of the Society. To all of you a sincere Thank You!

Respectfully submitted by

Stacey Shannon, President

**Texas Roadhouse in Nashua
is helping to celebrate
Autism Awareness Month
by selling mini ribbon placards
for \$1.00 during April
PLEASE SUPPORT THEM!**



www.stitches4autism.com

Lovely Embroidered Golf, Denim & Sweat Shirts
Embroidered Canvas Book/Tote Bags
Embroidered Autism Awareness Holy Bears
Embroidered Baseball Hats ~ Autism Awareness Ribbons

Helping Raise Autism Awareness ... One Stitch At A Time
P O Box 3933, Concord, NH 03302-3933
MEMBER AUTISM SOCIETY OF NH
MEMBER UNITING PARENTS FOR AUTISM AWARENESS

Support Groups And Contacts

Concord: Pre-Schooler Autism/PDD Support Group

Recently diagnosed families will be meeting 2004 on the following dates: Feb. 10; April 13, to discuss the Autism Awareness Walk; June 8, Summer issues; Aug. 10, Back to School Issues; Oct. 12 and Dec. 14, Holiday Issues at either the home of Joyce Ninness, 3 Dudley Dr., Concord or locations announced in their newsletters. Please Contact Joyce at 228-3771 or jminness@comcast.net

New Hampshire's NLD/Asperger's Support Group: Meetings are the last Tuesday of each month at 7:30 at the Rundlett Middle School, Room 503, South St. Concord, N.H. For further information contact Beth at 635-9256 or e-mail to: nldnh@aol.com

Laconia: Lynn Carlson, Lakes Region Community Services Council, Streetcar Place, 63 Beacon St. West Laconia, NH 03246; tel. 524-7755. Call for meeting schedule and location.

Manchester Area: Manchester Regional Autism Support Group, meetings are held the first Monday of the month from 7-9pm in the Board Room of the Moore Center, Region V11 Area Agency, 132 Titus Ave., Manchester, NH. 03103. Contact Margie Louney at the Moore Center 206-2745 or co-leaders Josephine Fraser 627-7027, Dawn Rivard 647-6497 or Steve Hambleton 647-9567 for further information.

Manchester Developmental Pre-School: Contact Karen Davis at the Manchester Developmental Pre-School, 555 Auburn Street, Manchester, tel. 624-6340 for further information.

Region VI Area Agency for Developmental Services of Greater Nashua. 144 Canal St., Nashua, NH Meeting first Thursday of each month. Call 882-6333.

Broad Street School: Nashua, NH 03063. Simonne Perry, 594-4404. This group is held during the morning at the school while the children are in class. It is geared to all developmentally disabled in pre-school.

Region 10 Area: Region 10 Autism Support Group meeting will be held on the first Monday of the month from 7-9 p.m. at the Kelley Library in Salem, NH. The library is located at 234 Main Street, Salem. This is the corner of Rt. 97 and Gerromity Rd. Their phone number is 898-7064 for anyone needing further directions. The contact person is Kathy Waterson from Region 10, 893-1299.

Upper Valley: Beverly Pare and Maryellen, tel. 448-6311. Saturday morning meeting babysitting provided.

NH Dietary Intervention for Autism and Related Disorders: Meeting times, dates and location variable. Please call or email Dawn Marquis for current schedule at 435-5313 or heartmom2two@yahoo.com

United Parents For An Included Community meets the 3rd Friday of every month from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the First Congregational Church in Hampton. Monthly speakers or topics with the focus on educating ourselves so that we may educate others on issues our children and families face. Contact Kate Portrie 926-0887, Portiek@aol.com or Melanie Muns 929-2183 melmuns@comcast.net for directions and more information.

NEW Adult Autism Social Support Group, geared for folks 20-30 years old with Autism/Aspergers. Jocelyn Lister, experienced speech pathologist and former Spec. Ed. director, will meet on Thursdays 6:30-8 p.m. at the Full Spectrum Wellness Center, 55 So. Commercial St., Manchester. Contact Jocelyn at 206-6866, jlister@comcast.net.

**ANY ADDITIONS, CHANGES OR OMISSIONS PLEASE
EMAIL [JMNINNESS@COMCAST.NET](mailto:jminness@comcast.net) OR WRITE TO
AUTISM SOCIETY OF NH, PO BOX 68, CONCORD, NH 03302-0068**

**NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
NEEDS TO HEAR FROM YOU!
PARENT FORUMS
NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

Wednesday ~~ April 14, 2004

Monday ~~ April 26, 2004

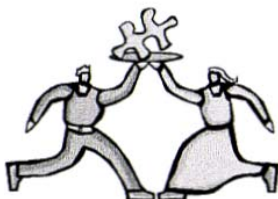
Monday ~~ May 10, 2004

Save the Date
Fri. & Sat. ~ September 17 & 18, 2004

**“Solving the Relationship Puzzle: Opening Doors
to Friendship for People on the Autistic Spectrum”**

Dr. Steven E. Gutstein will present
Relationship Development Intervention,
a developmental program for lifelong social and emotional growth

Wayfarer Inn
Bedford, New Hampshire



WATCH FOR THE BROCHURE!
Sponsored by Crotched Mountain

NH Autism Summer Institute Sets Date

The 6th annual NH Autism Summer Institute on Educating Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders in the general education classroom has announced their summer program from Aug. 16-19 at the Memorial Union Building, Holloway Commons, at UNH in Durham from 8:30 to 4 daily.

The Keynote Presenters and topics are as follows: **The Experience of Autism:** Rob Cutler, an adult with autism and President of the Autism National Committee and Jamie Burke, a teenager with autism; **Family Life and Future Plans:** Karen Turner, parent of a five-year-old; Stacey Shannon, parent of a teenager and President of the NH Autism Society and Beth Dixon, parent of a young adult. **Positive Behavioral Supports for Learning:** Cathy Pratt, PhD., Director of the Indiana Resource Center on Autism; **Communication and Learning:** Michael McSheehan, Project Associate, Institute on Disability/University of NH and **Literacy for All!** Karen Erickson, Ph.D., Director, Center for Literacy and Disability Studies, Univer-

AUTISM RESEARCH STUDY

Do you know a child or adolescent, who....

- Gets upset when interrupted from the usual routine?
- Repeats the same activities or movements again or again?
- Finds it difficult to relate to others or recognize social cues?
- Gets easily frustrated when faced with transitions?

The Dartmouth Medical School Department of Psychiatry is studying a medication for treatment of children and adolescents with Autism Spectrum Disorders and high levels of repetitive behaviors. Participation in this Study is free and includes comprehensive diagnostic evaluations, cognitive assessments, and frequent visits with Study psychiatrists and research staff to closely monitor participants and assess change. For more information contact Rosemary Affeldt, LICSW Study Coordinator, at (603) 650-0854 or E Mail at: Rosemary.Affeldt@dartmouth.edu

sity of NC, Chapel Hill.

For more information, contact the Institute on Disability at 603-228-2084 or 1-800-238-2048 (in NH).

AUTISM SOCIETY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE OFFERS

TOTE BAGS

They are heavy duty canvas with zipper top (natural color w/red trim) I Love Someone With Autism is stenciled on the outside pocket. They are great as gifts for teachers, paras, grandmothers and yourself!!

\$20.00 each plus \$4.99 shipping/handling

AUTISM RIBBON PINS

Colorful metal pins w/metal clasp **\$5.00 each plus 10% shipping**

CROSSING BRIDGES BOOK

Great first read for those with children newly diagnosed or to introduce someone to what Autism means.

\$6.00/ each plus 10% shipping Quantity Discounts Available

Call 603-679-2424 or email us at nhautism@yahoo.com today!!!

HELP SUPPORT AUTISM TODAY!



In Celebration of April as Autism Awareness Month a Concert featuring:

The Matt Savage Trio

Sunday, April 25, 2004 — 2-3 pm



Crotched Mountain Campus
Greenfield, NH

Free Admission: Please RSVP by calling
Phil Girard at (603) 547-3311 x251

Sponsored by Autism Society of New Hampshire,
Crotched Mountain Foundation,
SERESC (Southeastern Regional Educational
Service Center) and VSA of New Hampshire
For Directions: <http://www.cmf.org/Directions.htm>
or call (603) 547-3311



The Matt Savage Trio



Matt Savage, an internationally known 11-year-old Jazz Piano Prodigy, was born in the spring of 1992. He began studying classical piano in Oct. 1998. His first public performance was a recital in May 1999. Matt auditioned and was accepted as a private jazz student at The New England Conservatory of Music.

John Funkhouser, the bass player, received an undergraduate degree from Cornell University in Music Theory and a graduate degree in Performance and Composition from The New England Conservatory of Music. A leader of his own band, FunkHouse, he has toured the US, Asia and France. He currently teaches at The Berklee College of Music in Boston, MA.

Steve Silverstein, the drummer, has a BA from UMass-Amherst and MBA from Babson College. He began drum studies at the age of 8 and studied privately at The Berklee College of Music in Boston, MA. He has performed in the U.S. and abroad.



Autism Society of NH

Stacey Shannon, President
P. O. Box 68
Concord, N.H. 03302-0068

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April Is Autism Awareness Month

Come help us spread awareness about Autism. Join us for our first ever Autism Awareness Walk, Sat., May 8, 2004 at the Audubon Center at Lake Massabesic in Auburn, NH. Registration begins at 9:00. Walk starts at 10:00. Choose either a 1 mile or 3 mile loop on the beautiful nature paths at the Center. Our ultimate goal is to raise enough funds to open an Autism Resource Center in the state. For pledge forms call 603-679-2424 or go online to download directly at www.autism-society-nh.org

WALK AS A FAMILY
SAT., MAY 8

Many Thanks

To Mr. and Mrs. Steve Anderson for arranging
April Awareness at Texas Roadhouse, Nashua
See Page 7

Memorial Donations

Memorial donations were received from Eugene and Mary Shannon in memory of Jim Young, and Region 10 Community Support Services in memory of James Arnold. Seventeen donations were received in memory of James Fraser, grandfather of Gregory Barry. We thank Barbara Barry for remembering the Autism Society during a most difficult time. Our deepest condolences are extended to these families.

In Memory

The Autism Society of New Hampshire would like to acknowledge the passing of William A. McDonald. He was co-owner of the Black Brimmer on Elm Street in Manchester. Billy was a longtime supporter of the Autism Society of New Hampshire especially in regards to their golf tournament reception which was held at the Brimmer for five years. We offer our condolences to his family and remember his generosity.

Donations

We would also like to recognize the generosity of the following individuals: Arthur Anderson, Lynn Durand, Judy Enos, and Michael Lavalley.

Your donations are greatly appreciated. The Autism Society of New Hampshire receives no state or federal funding. We rely solely on the generosity of your contributions and the success of our fundraising efforts. It is now possible to make a donation on line @ www.autism-society-nh.org