



# ACT Autism Community Together of Northeast Indiana

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## Focus on The Future

### Sibling Issues

This fall, ACT is hosting Don Meyer's "Sibshops: Workshop on Lifelong Issues Faced by Brothers and Sisters". In our mission to focus on the future, we will be exploring the impact and responsibilities siblings encounter. The program will be split into a day for counselors, therapists and parents and a day for siblings themselves. We hope this will be an opportunity to consider the broader impact disabilities have on a family.

What does the future hold for those with Autism? What is your vision for the future? While you are knee deep in supporting the primary education needs of a child; remember that most of their life will be spent outside the education system. Occasionally, we all need to reflect on what the future holds for those we love with Autism. Will he grow up to be independent? What does independent entail—married with children and a job with full benefits? A group home with full time staff? A job as an engineer or working in a workshop? We all dream about a "normal" life. However, we must prepare to support our loved ones after they finish formal schooling. Assuming that your child with Autism will outlive you . . . Then what? To this end, we have assembled a team of parents who will be exploring the vast range of options available in Northeast Indiana for adult individuals impacted with Autism. We will be reporting on our site visits with young adults in college, those living in group homes, those still living at home as well as a variety of occupations held. We will also be exploring long-term financial and legal planning options.

If there are specific questions you would like us to consider, please e-mail them to us at [info@Actpositive.org](mailto:info@Actpositive.org) or leave a message at (260)609-7412.

2007 Summer  
Program Applications  
Enclosed

### 1 in 143 in Indiana

In February 2007, the Center For Disease Control and Prevention updated the incidence rate of Autism in the United States, raising it from 1 in 166 to 1 in 150. Reports in Indiana suggest it's a little more prevalent, occurring at a rate of 1 in 143 school-aged children.

### Area Support Groups

**Northeast Indiana Autism Support Group** meets the third Monday of each month at Dupont Library starting at 7PM. For more information, e-mail [joe.ostrowski@std.com](mailto:joe.ostrowski@std.com)  
**Asperger's Support Group** is currently not meeting. If you are interested in helping restart this important community service, contact Kristen at [krprschoon@aol.com](mailto:krprschoon@aol.com)  
**Angola Autism Group** meets the first Thursday of each month at Faith Harvest Church, 1105 Williams St., Angola. Contact Cynthia Church at 260-475-1842 or LeAnne Snyder at 260-665-8848 for more information.  
**Adams Wells Autism Research Education (AWARE)** meets the third Tuesday of each month at Youth for Christ Building at 1515 North Sutton Circle Drive in Bluffton. For more information, contact Bruce and Teresa Ley 260-597-7359.



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## **AUTISM COMMUNITY OF NORTHEAST INDIANA**

**Walk-To-Talk  
May 19, 2007**

### **2006 Autism Fundraising**

The 2006 Walk to Talk earned a little over \$30,000 for those impacted by Autism in Northeast Indiana. It is our practice to award current year net proceeds to area families in the form of Summer Programming opportunities. The money raised in 2006 allowed Act to provide individuals with Summer Programming ranging from Autism Camp at Red Cedar to speech scholarships and academic tutoring. Unfortunately, 2006 marked the first year ACT was unable to fulfill all the requests it received. The \$30,000 raised in 2006 fell far short of the \$60,000 raised in 2005. Help ACT continue to assist families in Northeast Indiana by supporting the 2007 Walk To Talk on May 19, 2007.

In the Fall of 2006, Lisa Compton, owner of Sensory Critters, Inc., organized a walk at Shoaff Park which raised over \$31,000 for Autism Speaks, a National organization whose goal it is to change the future for all who struggle with Autism Spectrum Disorders. Recently Autism Speaks has joined forces with Cure Autism Now. Jointly their agenda is political as well as research oriented. The 2007 Walk Now for Autism will take place the September

# **A C T** **Autism Community Together of Northeast Indiana**

ACT's role is to engage and support individuals, families, medical professionals, therapists and educators on effective methods to improve the lives of individual with Autism and their families in Northeast Indiana. By focusing on the front-line service providers and high-tech solutions, we will be able to build communities of providers and promulgate best practices for enhancing the lives of people with Autism. ACT's key programming consists of:

- Parent Mentor Network
- Lecture Series
- Community Website
- Summer Programming for Individuals with Autism
- Training Sponsorships for Area Professionals

### **2007 Autism Summer Camp at Red Cedar**

We are very eager for the third year of Autism Week at Camp Red Cedar. Last year marked the true customization of the camp to serve those with Autism Spectrum Disorders. Area professionals and Lutheran Hospital employees volunteered their time and talent to make Autism Week appropriate and fun. Attendees ranged in age from 5 to 19 years of age. The functionality of the group varied as well. In addition to typical summer camp activities, supplemental programs such as music therapy, therapeutic horseback riding, social skills workshops, moon walks, karate and yoga were added. Consistent with the first year, staffing remained 1 to 1. This week of fun was for the bargain price of \$35. We are thrilled to continue to provide this opportunity for area individuals impacted by Autism. However, due to 2006 fundraising shortfalls, we will be implementing a sliding scale fee in 2007. We believe this will enable us to continue to serve those with the least opportunity and greatest need in Northeast Indiana.