

ACT Autism Community Together of Northeast Indiana

Volume 6 Issue 2

September 2008

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Readers' Corner	2
Schedule of Events	2
2008 Presidential Election	3
Hand in Hand Preschool	4

Northeast Indiana Disability Advocacy Coalition

Autism Community Together (ACT) • Anthony Wayne Services (AWS)
Down Syndrome Association of Northeast Indiana (DSANI) • Easter Seals Arc
Fifth Freedom • League for the Blind and Disabled • Turnstone

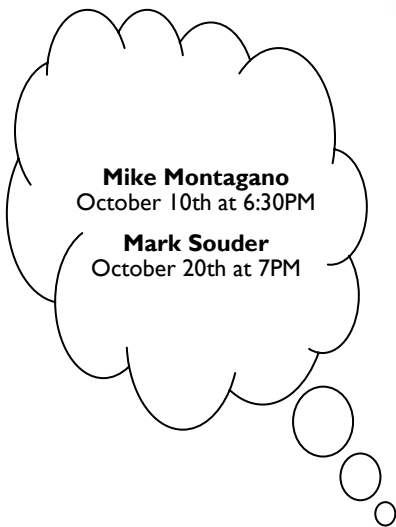
EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

ACT is one of several area organizations coming together to form the Northeast Indiana Disability Advocacy Coalition. This group will be hosting the first collaborative disability-centered forum with Congressman Mark Souder and his opponent Mike Montagano.

The purpose of this forum is to hear the candidates thoughts and learn where each one stands on policy issues and legislative agendas that affect individuals with disabilities and their families in Northeast Indiana, including health care, education, employment and transportation.

The forums will take place at the downtown branch of the Allen County Public Library, 900 Library Plaza, at the corner of West Wayne and Webster, in meeting rooms A,B and C.

Mike Montagano will take questions on Friday, October 10 at 6:30 pm. Mark Souder will take questions on Monday, October 20th at 7pm.



The 2000 U.S. Census Bureau reports that in Indiana's 3rd District, 121,738 individuals over the age of five have a disability. "Too often individuals with disabilities don't have the chance to be heard. Through the efforts of several disability, advocacy and service organizations, we have come together as a community to provide a common voice for the largest minority population in the United States" states Tom O'Neill, Chairman of the Northeast Indiana Disability Advocacy Coalition.

Northeast Indiana Disability Advocacy Coalition's mission is to provide advocacy and a voice to ensure equal opportunities and knowledge of rights and legislative issues that affect children and adults with disabilities and their families.

We at ACT encourage you to attend, become informed, and vote!

Readers' Corner

I don't know about the rest of you, but I am always looking for resources to make my life affected by autism easier. Here are a couple of books I thought would be interesting for our readers to know about.

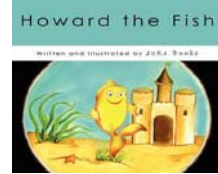
Happy Reading!! Susan

GLUTEN/CASEIN-FREE GROCERY SHOPPING GUIDE. find at www.Cecelia'smarketplace.com
 This book is published annually and is for those looking for a guide to help them find products already on the grocery shelves that are gluten/casein free. It includes popular brands such as Heinz, Kraft, Del Monte as well as chains such as Kroger and Wal-Mart.



HIDDEN CURRICULUM 2009 ONCE A DAY CALENDAR published by Autism Asperger Publishing find at www.aspergers.net For the third year, this handy calendar addresses those invisible social rules that our kids have such trouble with, and its format makes it a simple visual reminder to use throughout the year. Go to www.aspergers.net to see sample pages.

Looking to build awareness among peers, consider using "Howard the Fish" available from Juka Books, www.jukabooks.com.



September/October

Schedule of Events

- Saturday September 27, Foster Park, Fort Wayne: Autism Speaks "Walk Now for Autism".
- Saturday October 4th: Gluten Free Expo at Clinton Frame Mennonite Church, 63846 CR 35, Goshen, IN.
- Friday October 10 at 6:30 PM Candidate Mike Montagano at Allen County Public Library
- Friday-Sunday October 10-12: Autism Summit, Cleveland, Ohio. www.AutismSummit.org or 1-866-838-3687.
- Wednesday October 15, Columbia City: Tucker Signing Strategies for Reading Workshop.
- Friday and Saturday October 11-12 in Chicago, IL: Sensory Diet: Strategies for Home and School. 1-800-405-8942.
- Monday October 20 at 7PM Congressman Mark Souder at Allen County Public Library.
- Monday Oct. 20: Autism Support Group at Dupont Library at 7PM.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
21	22	23	24	25	26	27 Autism Speaks
28	29	30	1	2	3	4 Gluten Free Expo
5	6	7	8	9	10 Montagano at ACPL	11 Autism Summit
12 Autism Summit	13	14	15 Reading Workshop	16	17 Sensory Diet W/S	18 Sensory Diet W/S
19	20 Souder at ACPL	21	22	23	24	25

Mark Your 2009 Calendars!

- 2009 **Walk To Talk** is scheduled for **Saturday, May 16th**.
- 2009 **Autism Weeks at Camp Red Cedar** is scheduled for **June 15-19**.

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION 2008

AUTISM: WHERE DO THE CANDIDATES STAND?

By Susan Crowell

Everywhere you go the topic of conversation seems to land on the topic of the Presidential election. Many have already decided who they will vote for. But, do you know where the candidates stand on the issue of autism?

This mom decided to visit each of the candidates websites and see for herself. Both of the candidates have the traditional fluff. . . Senator McCain and Obama are very concerned about the rising incidence of autism. Senator McCain and Obama have talked to parents of children affected by autism. But there are some interesting suggestions from the websites as well. Here is my synopsis, but I HIGHLY ENCOURAGE YOU to visit the candidates websites and take a look for yourself!

I am starting alphabetically so we start with Senator John McCain. The McCain website has a two paragraph section titled Combating Autism In America. It stresses that he was a co-sponsor of the Combating Autism Act of 2006. He also held a hearing in 2007 regarding factors affecting incidence and treatment to help determine where research could be directed by the federal government. As President, John McCain will work to advance federal research, promote early screening, identify better treatment options while providing support for children with autism.

The Obama website has an eight paragraph download titled Supporting Americans With Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). Senator Obama is a co-sponsor of a measure to expand federal funding for life-long services by \$350 million for those children and adults affected by ASD. As President, Barack Obama will increase federal ASD funding to \$1 Billion annually by the end of his first term for research, treatment, screenings, public awareness, and support services. He will appoint a federal ASD coordinator to oversee all federal efforts. He will fully fund the Combating Autism Act of 2006 and federal autism research initiatives. Barack Obama will support full funding for IDEA and also work to change IDEA's definition of "autism" to Autism Spectrum Disorders so all children receive the support they need. He wants to set a national goal of re-screening all children at age 2, the age which some conditions, such as ASD, appear.

I also researched the Libertarian Party and the Green Party. Neither of them had a statement regarding autism that I could find.

Get informed, and then vote!



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AUTISM COMMUNITY OF NORTHEAST INDIANA

New Preschool Open in Fort Wayne

Hand in Hand, "A Language Enriched Preschool", is now accepting applications for 3—5 year olds.

According to its Director, Janice Anne Cook, what makes Hand In Hand different than other preschools is that it offers:

- Speech Therapists on Staff
- Hands on Learning
- Curriculum designed to encourage language and social skills
- Student Education Plan (SEP)
- Specials including art, science, music and movement, and library.
- Visits from a Therapy Dog once a month.

For more information on Hand in Hand Preschool, contact Janice Anne Cook at (260)637-1794 or handinhandpreschool@verizon.net.

For more information on other educational programs catering to those with Autism, visit our website at www.ACTpositive.org.

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 individuals 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 extend best practices for enhancing the lives of people with Autism. ACT's key programming consists of:

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

Good News for Northeast Indiana

2008 Walk To Talk raised over \$27,000 for individuals impact with Autism in Northeast Indiana

During the Summer of 2008, **ACT provided summer services for 34 individuals in Northeast Indiana.** Services included Speech Scholarship at Lutheran Hospital, a week of Camp at Red Cedar, and tutoring.

Don't Miss Out

In an effort to contain costs, future ACT newsletters will be distributed via e-mail.

According to our database, your e-mail address is:

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If your email address is not on file or inaccurate, please contact us at info@ACTpositive.org