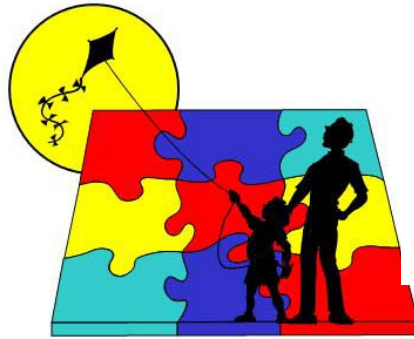


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ACT Autism Community Together of Northeast Indiana

Volume 6 Issue 2

November-December 2008

Looking for Support?

There are many opportunities for families affected by autism spectrum disorders to come together and support one another. We are glad to see that a [sibling support group](#) is starting for middle school and high school age teens. They will be having their first meeting at Higher Grounds at St Joe Village (at the corner of Maplecrest and St Joe Center roads) on Sunday, November 23rd at 4:00pm. Contact Carla Nunez at: 260-749-1081 or e-mail carlanunez24@yahoo.com for additional information.

There is also a new [Asperger's support group](#) starting up soon! It will be held at Lutheran Hospital. Check out our website www.ACTpositive.org for additional details



WEBSITE HELP NEEDED!

ACT is looking for volunteers to help keep our website up to date with information relevant to our community. If you are interested contact us at info@ACTpositive.org

TIME TO START PLANNING!

I know that it isn't even Christmas yet, but we need to be thinking SPRING! Anyone who is interested in helping plan the 2009 Walk-to-talk please come

to the planning meeting on Thursday, January 15th, 7pm at the Starbucks on Coliseum Blvd. across from Glenbrook Mall. There are many behind the scenes jobs that need your expertise to make this year's walk a success!



Inside this issue:

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ACT says Thank you for over \$5,200.00 in generous gifts!

A big shout out to Bishop Luers High School Baseball team for their Strike Out Autism campaign. Thank you for your volunteer efforts at Tumble X, CAC, and raising \$2,240.00 for ACT this summer.

Thanks to Jeff Bunn, Terry Tescula, Mary Keefer, and Liz Seculoff for



their part in this awesome group effort bringing such joy and positive male role models to children affected by an autism spectrum disorder. In our book, you definitely hit this one out of the park!

Thank you Jason and Melissa Shores for all your hard work at the first annual Auburn autism walk at Eckhart Park on October 18th raising \$1,000.00. Mark your calendars for next year's walk on October 17, 2009

Thank you to the Daughters of Penelope Kirke Chapter for asking us to share our story of autism at your fundraiser in May and for your gift of \$2,000.00. Thank you to Toni Printzos, Cheri Dori, Kathy Byrum, and Sandy Thompson for your time and efforts to make this event possible. Thank you for blessing the families affected by autism.

Mark your calendars for these upcoming events !

November 17– Autism Parent Support Group Dupont Library 7pm

November 23– Sibling Support Group Higher Grounds St Joe Village see article on page 1

December 2- Nutrition Therapy for children with ASD Elizabeth Strickland Fort Wayne Grand Wayne Center

December 4- Building Social Relationships Dr. Scott Bellini Indiana University East Richmond, Indiana

December 10- Sensory Strategies to Improve Children’s Learning Behavior Carol Kranowitz & Paula Aquilla Indianapolis

December 15– Autism Parent Support Group Dupont Library 7pm

TIPS FOR SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS

1. Write a social story about what to expect during the holiday season.
2. Try to set aside a quiet place where your child can escape from noise and activity.
3. Practice unwrapping gifts ahead of time, taking turns opening gifts, and thanking the gift giver, to help your child understand the meaning of gift giving.
4. Take the toys out of the unnecessary packaging and insert any batteries and then wrap the gift. It is much less frustrating for your child with ASD.
5. Get a list of toys from your child’s therapists and teachers to share with gift buying relatives.
6. Try to relax and enjoy the holiday. Your anxiety may just make you child with ASD more anxious as well.
7. Be watching for signs of stress; rocking, humming, it may be time for a short break in the festivities for your child. **Happy Holidays!**

November/December

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
16	17 Autism Parent Support Group Dupont Library 7:00pm	18	19	20 WBCL Radio 90.3 FM — Autism Interview 9-10am	21	22
23 Sibling Support Group Higher Grounds St Joe Village article page 1	24	25	26	27 Happy Thanksgiving	28	29
30	1	2 Nutrition Therapy for Children with ASD see left	3	4 Dr. Scott Bellini See left	5	6
7	8	9	10 Carol Kranowitz & Paula Aquilla See left	11	12	13
14	15 Autism Parent Support Group Dupont Library 7:00pm	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 Merry Christmas	26	27
28	29	30	31	HAPPY 2009		

By Sue Watson

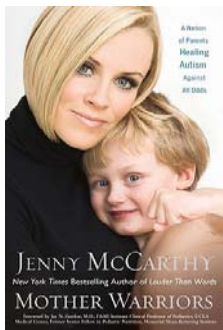
Attending the 2008 ASA National Conference on Autism July 9-12, 2008 in Orlando, Florida was an awesome experience. The event was professionally planned and executed and proceeded flawlessly with emphasis on meaningful information available to the attendee. All was presented well. The presenters such as Lee Grossman, Jim Ball, Dr. Cathy Pratt and Temple Grandin were all highly regarded in the field of Autism. The use of audio-visuals impacted the presentations and all sessions took place in a comfortable environment designed to accommodate sensory integration differences. Each day there was a keynote speaker followed by sessions lasting until four or six o'clock. Friday evening there was an Awards Dinner where individuals and corporations were acknowledged for their contributions: Walgreen's for their distribution center designed for individuals with disabilities, Micro-Soft for their health insurance autism coverage policy..



I attended the conference with Sue Christman, Director of Quality for Arc-Easter Seals of Fort Wayne. Sue and I attended different sessions so that we could bring back more information for our community. I attended what I considered methods such as : floor time play, understanding of Apraxia, Monarch Schools use of TV in a clinical setting as well as sessions that gave me a better understanding of Aspergers such as: Driving, transition to work and getting a job, transition to college, and what it is like to have lived a life with Asperger's. Rather than detailing each class, we will be receiving DVD's of our sessions to share.

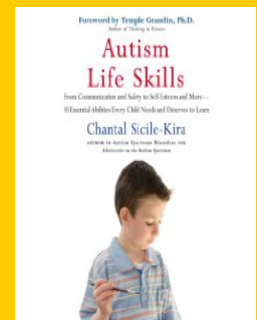
The exhibition hall offered the opportunity to see and interact with individuals and companies developing new strategies as well as products to help and support families on the spectrum. Going forward I am developing a simple five year plan structure and setting personal goals. The 2009 Autism Society of America's National Conference will be held in Chicago, Illinois July 22-25. Visit www.autism-society.org for more information.

Readers' Corner



Love it or hate it... actors, sports figures, and politicians get news coverage and affect change on the national level for those affected with Autism Spectrum Disorders. And one of the most vocal of these, Jenny McCarthy has recently published her new book titled *Mother Warriors: A nation of parents healing autism against all odds.* Be sure to check it out at the Allen County Public Library!

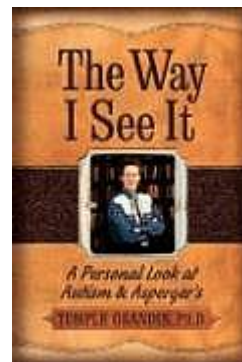
The way I see it, it is likely that the genetics that produce autism are the same that create and Einstein or Mozart— it is more a matter of degree. Temple Grandin pg. 240



Another good read to pick up at the Allen County Public Library would be *Autism Life Skills* by Chantal Sicile-Kira. This book helps inform parents about the necessary skills our children need to master so that they can function at the most independent level they can when they reach adulthood.

If you can only read one book this year, **MAKE IT THIS ONE!**

Temple Grandin had compiled her articles from magazine *Autism Digest* into her latest book : *The Way I See It: A Personal Look at Autism and Asperger's*. This book will be helpful not only to parents of recently diagnosed children with ASD but to those with older children as well. Topics include diagnosis and early intervention, sensory issues, behavior issues, non-verbal autism, adult issues and employment, to name a few. Temple Grandin herself has an autism diagnosis and she has once again eloquently given us insight into the world of autism and encourages us never to stop working when it comes to our children.





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2009 events

Saturday, May 16
2009 **WALK TO
TALK** at Lawton Park

June 15-19 2009 Au-
tism Week at **Camp
Red Cedar**

Saturday, October 17,
2009 Auburn Autism
Walk

Don't Miss Out!

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

If your email address changes,
please notify us by visiting
www.ACTpositive.org and click
the join mailing list link and com-
plete the information
requested.

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

FOR TEENS AND ADULTS WITH ASD

EASTER SEALS ARC RECIEVES GRANT FOR JOB TRAINING

Easter Seals Arc has received a \$95,000 Earmark Work Incentive Training Grant from the Federal Government. The money from this grant must be used for either work training or placement of individuals in community private employment.

Easter Seals Arc of Northeast Indiana has decided to utilize the grant funding to work with adult (18+) individuals diagnosed with Asperger's that are interested in community private employment. While the program is not yet fully devel-

oped, we intend to include specialized training for the partici-
pants in work and general employment skills; in addition to pro-
viding training to employers to help assimilate these individuals
into their workplace.

The program will commence in the first quarter of 2009 and conclude approximately twelve months later. It is the intent of the project to assist each participant in obtaining gainful employment and in retaining that employment over an extended period of time . If you are interested, please call Sue Christman at 260-456-4534 ext. 271.

