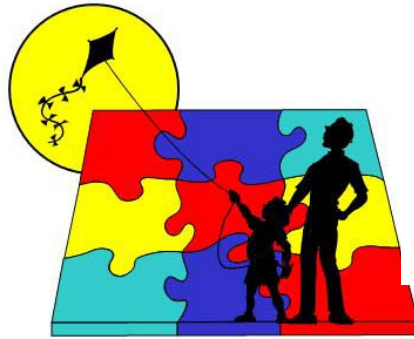


Autism Community Together  
P.O. Box 8203  
Fort Wayne, IN  
46898-8203  
Phone: 260-609-7412  
www.ACTpositive.org

info@ACTpositive.org



# ACT Autism Community Together of Northeast Indiana

March-April 2009

## WALK -TO -TALK 2009

**Saturday, May 16th**

Special Thanks to:

**Lawton Park**

**1900 Clinton Street Ft. Wayne**

**RAIN OR SHINE!**

Registration, Food and Festivities at noon.

1-mile Walk around the Old Fort at

2:00pm



**Lutheran  
Hospital**

### What's the Difference? ACT and Autism Speaks

By Susan Crowell

Recently, I have been asked the question from numerous people "What makes ACT different from Autism Speaks?"

Very simply, ACT's mission is local. We provide training seminars to local agencies. We provide parents information to help them obtain services for their child. Primarily, our goal is to help bridge the gap in the summer when many children lose their much needed therapy services because school is not in session. ACT helps people with the least opportunity by providing scholarships for speech therapy, summer programming and Camp Red Cedar. ACT serves local families in the following eight county area: Allen, Adams, Huntington, Wells, Whitley, DeKalb, Steuben, **We are helping local families now! See the enclosed applications for this year's summer programming and 2009 Walk-To-Talk.**

Autism Speaks' mission is national. They are raising money to fund research to find causes and treatments for autism as well as bringing political awareness to the problem. They have done and continue to do phenomenal work and they have been instrumental in bringing a national spotlight to autism. They are working on making the future of families affected by autism better.

Both groups are worthy of your time, and fundraising efforts. So now when someone asks you, "What's the difference?" you can reply; "ACT is helping my child affected by autism today. Autism Speaks is helping ensure my future grandchildren will not have autism!"

#### Inside this issue:

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Autism Awareness  
Through Body Art 4

Social Skills  
Training 5

NIDAC  
March: Disability  
Awareness Month 5

April: Autism  
Awareness Month 6

**2009 WALK-TO-TALK  
REGISTRATION FORMS  
AND  
SUMMER  
PROGRAMMING  
APPLICATION  
ENCLOSED  
IN THIS ISSUE**

## LOCAL SUPPORT GROUP CONTACTS

**Autism Parent  
Support Group**  
3rd Monday of the Month  
7-8:45pm  
Dupont Library  
Joe.Ostrowski@steeldynamics.com

**Asperger's Support Group**  
2nd Monday of the Month  
Lutheran Hospital 7-9pm  
Function Room 4  
kara@karaskaggs.com

**Sibling Support Group**  
Ages 12-18  
3rd Saturday of the Month  
Higher Grounds 1-2:30pm  
St Joe Village  
Maplecrest Road  
carlanunez24@yahoo.com

**Grandparents Support**  
Dates vary  
Sue Watson 637-7225

# MARK YOUR CALENDAR !

**MARCH**  
**APRIL**  
**MAY**  
**JUNE**



### MARCH

- 9th **Asperger's Support Group** Lutheran Hospital 7pm
- 16th **Autism Parent Support Group** Dupont Library 7pm
- 20th **"Disability is Natural and Other Common Sense"** DSANI meeting author Kathie Snow. Kachmann Auditorium Lutheran Hospital 7:00pm for more info call 260-471-9964.
- 21st **Sibling Support Group** Higher Grounds St Joe Village 1-2:30pm
- 26th **Understanding Public Health Insurance for Children with Special Needs** 9:30-4:30 About Special Kids Easter Seals ARC 4919 Coldwater Road, Ft Wayne \$60 Must PRE REGISTER 1-800-964-4746 or e-mail at [asktraining@abousspecialkids.org](mailto:asktraining@abousspecialkids.org)

### APRIL

- 13th **Asperger's Support Group** Lutheran Hospital 7pm
- 15th **Overview of Article 7 Special Education Law**, 6-9pm Easter Seals ARC, 4919 Coldwater Rd, Ft Wayne. FREE. Must PRE REGISTER before April 10th. Gloria Wall 260-359-9685 or [gwall@insource.org](mailto:gwall@insource.org)
- 16th **TOPS Soccer Sign Up** Ft Wayne Sports Club details article page 5.
- 16th **Voices of the Spectrum** 6:30-8:00pm White River Christian Church 1685 N10th Street, Noblesville. Teens and young adults speaking about their lives with autism [janesgrimes@hcasg.org](mailto:janesgrimes@hcasg.org)
- 18th **Partnering to Build Better IEP's Workshop** Summit Middle School, 8:30am-3:30pm, 4509 Homestead Road, Ft. Wayne, PRE REGISTER 260-471-9964 or [dsani4u@aol.com](mailto:dsani4u@aol.com)
- 18th **Sibling Support Group** Higher Grounds St Joe Village 1-2:30pm
- 20th **Autism Parent Support Group** Dupont Library 7pm

### MAY

- 11th **Asperger's Support Group** Lutheran Hospital 7pm
- 16th **Sibling Support Group** Higher Grounds St Joe Village 1-2:30pm
- 16th **ACT 2009 Walk-to-Talk** Lawton Park noon-3pm
- 18th **Autism Parent Support Group** Dupont Library 7pm

### JUNE

- 8th **Asperger's Support Group**, Lutheran Hospital 7pm
- 15th **Autism Parent Support Group** 7pm, location TBA contact info at left
- 15-19 **Camp Red Cedar** details article page 3
- 20th **Sibling Support Group** Higher Grounds St Joe Village 1-2:30pm
- 28-July 3 **Camp R.O.C.K.S** details article page 3

## RED CEDAR DAY CAMP

3900 Hursh Road, Ft. Wayne

June 15th-19th

A day camp for children on the spectrum ages 5-15

Autism Community Together is once again sponsoring "Autism Week" at Camp Red Cedar, 3900 Hursh Road, Fort Wayne. This day camp is a wonderful opportunity for children ages 5-15 will be June 15 –19 from 8:00-3:00pm.

There are many activities for your child to enjoy such as swimming, horseback riding, karate, games, music and crafts all with a one-on-one helper for your child. There are certified speech, physical, and/or behavioral therapists present daily and regardless of where your child falls on the spectrum, he or she will have a great time and is welcome to attend!



Please fill out the enclosed summer programming application, and mail back to us at

Autism Community Together, Inc.  
P.O. Box 8203  
Fort Wayne, IN  
46898-8203

**CHECK  
OUT  
THESE  
OPTIONS  
FOR  
INDIANA  
SUMMER  
CAMPS!**

## Camp R.O.C.K.S!

**Respecting Others Capabilities is the Key to Success**

*a camp for individuals on the autism spectrum ages 10-17*

**June 28, 2009 - July 3, 2009**

**Noblesville, Indiana**

**Arrival/Registration begins 2 p.m. on Sunday, June 28;**

**Camp concludes at 10 a.m. on Friday, July 3**

**\$375 per camper**

Easter Seals Crossroads and the Autism Society of Indiana recognize that traditional camps are not always an option for children on the autism spectrum. That is why we have partnered to offer Camp R.O.C.K.S! Camp R.O.C.K.S! is a 5-night / 6-day outdoor camp for young people with autism who are 10-17 years old. Age appropriate activities will allow campers the opportunity to enjoy an outdoor camping experience in a fun, nurturing environment. Activities will include science exploration, swimming, nature hikes, arts and crafts and music.

Camp R.O.C.K.S! will take place just northeast of Indianapolis in Noblesville, Indiana. All activities will be led by a team of professionals trained to work with individuals on the autism spectrum. Camp counselors will consist of parents, social workers, teachers, occupational therapists, speech pathologists and behaviorists in addition to peer mentors. Meals will be provided.

For more information and an initial application please contact Beth at 317.466.1000 x2501 or visit our website at [www.incamprocks.org](http://www.incamprocks.org)



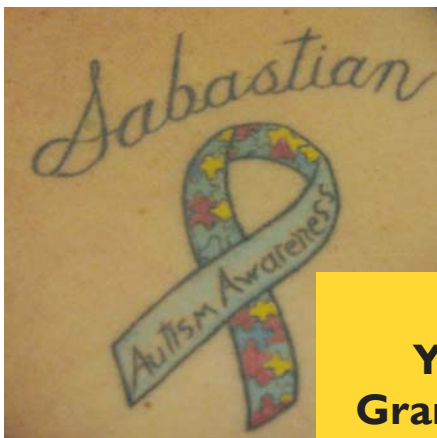
# AUTISM AWARENESS THROUGH BODY ART

By Susan Crowell

Cathy Jewel has a passion for autism that is more than just skin deep!

When one thinks about sharing with others their autism story, most think about telling the story using words or photographs, but this local grandmother has taken her story a step further. She has made it a permanent part of her.

Cathy and her husband Doc live in Fort Wayne and have 4 children, Adrienne, (deceased), Catanna, Fraser, and Candice. Through them she has been blessed with 8 grandchildren ranging in age from 7 months—8 years. Cathy and Doc run Cathy's Custom Catering within the Navistar building for the last 13 years. Both Cathy and Doc are Native American. Cathy is Cherokee and Doc is Ojibwee. Their Native American heritage is important to both of them and Cathy in particular finds a special connection and meaning through her heritage and her grandson affected by autism, Sabastian age 7.



Sabastian was born in October 2001 to Cathy's daughter Catanna. When Sabastian was born, he was beautiful and covered with hair, which helped him get his Native American name "Little Wolf". Cathy's Native American spiritual sign is the wolf. By all accounts, Sabastian's birth and early childhood were normal. He was a happy, loving child that Grandpa nicknamed "Smiley". And like so many other parents report, when he got his vaccinations at age two, Cathy states "It was as if someone turned the lights off upstairs". Sabastian was diagnosed with autism at 2 1/2 years old.

**Your  
Grandchild  
is very  
special and  
there is hope.**

Cathy herself admits to struggling for quite some time about Sabastian's autism diagnosis. She knew that her daughter, Catanna's, relationship with Sabastian's father wasn't going well and felt that was the reason for Sabastian's withdrawal. She felt as if it took more than a year to finally accept that Sabastian had autism.

Part of that acceptance process was getting tattoos meaningful to her in honor of Sabastian's autism. Cathy's got her first tattoo at age 23. Now for her 50th birthday she getting her 85th tattoo, a portrait of



her parents and herself as a young child, the only picture she has of three of them together. Cathy was born in Merced, California. Her father was in the military and transferred to Grissom Air Force Base in Peru, Indiana with her two brothers and one sister. All of Cathy's tattoos have special meaning for her. Each tattoo represents either her children, grandchildren, or her parents. Sabastian has three in his honor; a little wolf, an autism ribbon, and a Celtic star.

Because of Sabastian's autism, Cathy herself has become more aware of her attitude towards others with disabilities, as well as the attitudes of others towards her grandson. She see that as part of her mission as well. She has to get past the initial anger of an ignorant comment and inform those who don't know that autism is not bad behavior that can be disciplined out of a child. "We can be sitting in a restaurant and Sabastian will be doing great, for him, and strangers around us feel that he is acting up. That is frustrating!"

Her message to other grandparents of children affected by autism is this; "Autism is not your fault. Autism is not your child's fault. Your grandchild is very special and there is hope"

## TOPSoccer

### Fort Wayne Sports Club Soccer Program for Disabled Children ages 5-18

The Fort Wayne Sports Club at 3102 Ardmore Avenue is teaming up with volunteers from local school soccer programs and hosting a soccer program for children with special needs. TOPSoccer is a national program developed by US Youth Soccer with their mission to teach all children regardless of disability to learn and enjoy playing the game.

Children will be broken into age groups and taught soccer skills. All children regardless of the severity of their disability are welcome. Sign ups will be at the Fort Wayne Sports Club on Saturday, April 11th from 9am-1pm.



Each session will be one hour long and will be run by US Soccer licensed coaches. The session will include skill development and a game. The sessions will be on Thursdays; June 4, 11, 18, and 25th. The cost is \$40 and includes a t-shirt and a trophy.

For additional information, please contact Oliver Reelsen at 693-1921 or e-mail at [oliver@reelsen.us](mailto:oliver@reelsen.us)

## STEPPING STONES: BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE FOR AGES 13 AND UP

Easter Seals ARC is starting up a new program geared for those older children needing before and after school care at their location at 4919 Coldwater Road Ft. Wayne.

- Open from 6am - 6pm (before and after school only)
- Location is a FWCS bustop
- Limited space is available
- 1:4 adult to youth ratio
- Experienced teachers
- Homework help/touch-screen computers
- Health and wellness activities
- Full time registered nurse
- Life-skills training
- Offering healthy and nutritious snacks
- Subsidies accepted (including Cani and Medicaid Waiver)
- \$7.38 per hour (minimum 3 hours per day/15 hours per week)

For more information please contact Danielle Lyons at 456-4534 ext 230.

## SOCIAL SKILLS TRAINING

### Kara Skaggs and Holly Rothenbush

**Our goal is to teach children and adults how to act and speak appropriately in the company of other people in a variety of different situations.**

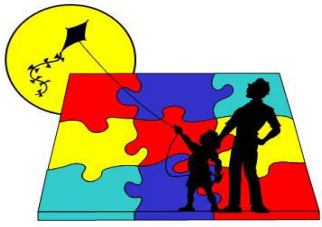
Future sessions are in the planning stages. There will be an initial assessment and 8 weekly sessions. If you are interested, please contact Kara at 260-418-8484 or [kara@ontargetbehaviors.com](mailto:kara@ontargetbehaviors.com) or Holly at 260-312-1124 or at [hrothenbush@yahoo.com](mailto:hrothenbush@yahoo.com)

## NIDAC PROMOTES MARCH AS DISABILITY AWARENESS MONTH

The Northeast Indiana Disability Advocacy Coalition (NIDAC) is helping our community through its efforts to promote awareness during National Disability Awareness Month. Many local disability groups including ACT are part of NIDAC. On Friday, March 13th, Fort Wayne Mayor, Tom Henry, signed a proclamation declaring that the City of Fort Wayne recognized March as Disability Awareness Month. The purpose of the proclamation is to increase awareness and promote independence, integration and inclusion for all people with disabilities.

In addition, the NIDAC will be holding disability discussions at local schools throughout our area. Various groups within the NIDAC will be talking to local students about what a disability is and how we should treat those in the disability community. The Allen County Public Library is also working with the NIDAC to promote the Governor's Planning Council message of "Disable the Label" by creating a display in all 15 of their branches so that the public can become more aware of the abilities of disability community.

The NIDAC came together last fall to bring 3rd district congressional candidates, Mark Souder and Mike Montano to Fort Wayne to discuss disability issues at two political forums held last October. The NIDAC is continuing their work to help the disability community in our area by working with the local, state and federal government agencies with a common voice to forward the need of the common goals within all the disability groups.



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 info@ACTpositive.org

## 2009 events

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

June 15-19 2009 Autism Week at **Camp Red Cedar**

Saturday, October 17,  
 2009 Auburn Autism Walk



**Ideas, suggestions, or input for the next newsletter?**  
 www.ACTpositive.org

## Don't Miss Out!

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

If your email address changes, please notify us by visiting [www.ACTpositive.org](http://www.ACTpositive.org) and click the join mailing list link and complete the information requested.

# ACT

## 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

## APRIL: AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

### KNOW THE FACTS!

Autism is a neurological disorder **NOT** a mental illness.

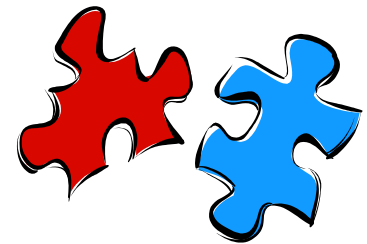
Autism involves over one hundred different genes and at least one environmental trigger.

Autism does **NOT** discriminate. Autism affects all races, geographical regions, and income levels.

Autism is more prevalent in boys. Boys are 3X more likely to have autism.

Autism in Indiana is 1:128.  
 Military is 1:88  
 U.S. is 1:150

Autism is the fastest growing disability in America!



**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](mailto:info@ACTpositive.org)**