Message from the President

Hello everyone,

I hope the school year is off to a good start. New teachers, classmates and classroom environment can add a great deal of stress to many families. This newsletter is full of social outings to help alleviate some of that stress. We have a fun family outing planned for October 22nd, social outings for all age groups, and continued support at our monthly parent support group meetings. We have even planned a financial planning seminar for parents to learn more about the ABLE Act and planning for your child’s future.

Once again the joint efforts of ASFV and the Xavier Hawks football team and boosters created a fantastic day for a lot of kids and families. See some of the pictures inside.

Thank you to all who volunteered and/or supported ASFV at our Octoberfest booth. Final totals aren’t in yet, but we had a great time, connected with a lot of community members who are touched by autism, and shared information about our group of wonderful volunteers. It was a wonderful day.

Have a fantastic fall,
Diane Nackers

Keeping contact information up to date

As always, please keep your email contact current. Check out our new website: autismfoxvalley.org.

General information questions: info@autismfoxvalley.org.

All social outings: asfvevents@autismfoxvalley.org

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The Autism Society of the Fox Valley Presents:
Bob Johnston,
President/CEO of Special Needs Planning, LLC
“Ensuring Your Wishes for Their Future”

What will happen to your child when you are no longer around to take care of them? How does the ABLE Act of 2014 impact their future? This session will help families plan for the financial future of their child(ren), or other dependents, with special needs. Learn how to maintain eligibility for government benefits while meeting the needs for a lifetime of care and quality of life issues. This presentation will cover estate planning, guardianship, wills and trusts, and letters on intent.

Important issues to be discussed:
Government Benefit Eligibility
Guardianship & Guardian Ad Litem
Special Needs Trust & Letter of Intent
Financial Security through Funding Options

Date: November 15th, 2016
RSVP by November 1st to ensure enough handouts and materials are available for each participant asfvevents@autismfoxvalley.org

Time: 6:30-8 pm
Cost: FREE
Location: Miron Construction Main Office
1471 McMahon Road, Neenah, WI 54956

Parent/Educator Workshop—November 15, 2016

Special Needs Planning, LLC
ASFV October Family Outing Planned

October 22nd Family Outing at Meuer Farm

WHAT: Combined outings for ALL of our social groups including all family members

**Check in at the ticket booth for your wrist bands.**

WHEN: October 22nd

TIME: 3-5 pm  There is no time limit if you are with your family.

WHERE: Meuer Farm, N2564 US Hwy. 151, Chilton, WI 53014

FOOD: The Jumping Cow Café is in a sheltered clean covered area: burgers, hot dogs, brats, pulled pork sandwich, pizza, soda, juice, water, chips, caramel apples and many more items available. Prices range from .50 for chips to $7.00 for a whole pizza.

WEBSITE: Please visit their website to see all they have to offer. www.meuerfarm.com

PHONE HOTLINE: (920) 418-4777 for updates on times and weather conditions

Last year the adult and teen groups went to the maze and had a great time. It is a wonderful family environment so ASFV is opening this up as a family outing. There is a hayride tour of the farm that we need to get on the schedule for by calling ahead of time. The hayride takes 45 minutes.

COST: Entrance to the maze and hayride (if you like) are FREE. All other expenses for your family are your responsibility.

**RSVP required by Wednesday the 18th: asfvevents@autismfoxvalley.org** Please indicate # of adults and # of children as well as if your family will be taking the hayride.

This event will be canceled if it is raining.
Monkey Joe’s Play Dates

Come enjoy a fun outing at Monkey Joe’s during the school year. They open exclusively for families with a child on the spectrum the first Saturday of each month.

For those new to ASFV, we reserve Monkey Joe’s, an indoor inflatable play-ground, once a month starting at 9am.

This time is exclusive to ASFV and our families, until they open the doors to the public at 10am. Members are free! Non-members pay $5 per family. No RSVP necessary.

Monkey Joe’s
1800 N Casaloma Dr
Appleton, WI 54913

Questions? Email: asfvevents@autismfoxvalley.org

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Thank you Monkey Joe’s for this wonderful opportunity :)

Hangin’ Out—7-12 year old Social Group

The Hangin’ Out Social Group is designed for kids who are 7-12 who would like to participate in social outings with same age peers. Extreme Air, Pizza Ranch, and bowling are just a few of the activities we have done. If your child is 7-12 years old and would like to participate in our monthly outings, email Diane or Heidi at asfvevents@autismfoxvalley.org to be placed on the email list for these events.

Upcoming Events: October 22nd—Meuer Corn Maze
November 12th: Movie—details to come when the movie schedule is updated
December 17th - Annual Christmas party at Diane’s house—8042 Sequaro Ct Neenah 12-2pm

Teen Group Outings

Teen group continues to be very popular. If you have a teen 13-20 who would like to meet new people, socialize, and have fun, email Diane Nackers at asfvevents@autismfoxvalley.org to be added to the email list. We have several fun events planned for the next few months.

October 22nd—Meuer Corn Maze
November 12th: Movie—details to come when the movie schedule is updated
December 17th - Annual Christmas party at Diane’s house—8042 Sequaro Ct Neenah 2-4pm
Parent Support Group

Do you need to talk, or just need a break? Please join us the first Sunday of each month, from 6:00-8:00 pm for ASFV’s monthly Parent Support Group meeting.

Where: 211 E Franklin St. in downtown Appleton (just two blocks west of City Park) in the building that houses Soar Fox Cities Inc. The doors will be locked, but there is a doorbell and someone will let you in. Refreshments will be provided.

Parents and other caregivers have the opportunity to get together in a relaxed, informal atmosphere to talk about everything from your personal experiences to available resources and general education about autism. We hope to see many of you there! For more information: info@autismfoxvalley.org

Spectrum Saturday at the Building for Kids

The Building for Kids Children’s Museum in Appleton opens its doors the 3rd Saturday for children with autism and their families. Guests are invited to explore the museum’s exhibits and connect with other families. This event is free of charge for all families who arrive between 9 and 10am.

For more information please call The Building for Kids Children’s Museum at (920) 734-3226.

100 W. College Ave. Appleton, WI

www.buildingforkids.org

NEW!! Special programming each month.

- October 15 – Sensory Yoga with the Downtown Appleton YMCA
- November 19 – Sensory Interactive Story time with the Appleton Public Library

Twenty Something Social Network—The A-Team

This social opportunity is designed for adults on the autism spectrum who like to participate in social activities, and are interested in getting to know others.

An ASFV Board member organizes the events and is present to facilitate socialization for those who attend. Our expectation is for all adults with ASD be a member of the Autism Society of the Fox Valley (ASFV). All A-Team members should have the ability to independently participate in social events in the community. We engage in varied activities and events that are communicated to individuals via email. Please contact Diane Nackers at asfvevents@autismfoxvalley.org.

Upcoming Events: October 22nd Meuer Corn Maze—3-5 pm  November 11th Dinner in Appleton
ASFV Safety Scholarship

The Autism Society of the Fox Valley offers three (3) safety scholarships annually—up to $250 each. Families who need assistance purchasing locks, alarms, fence gates, or anything to help ensure safety measures can be taken for your child, can apply.

Just send a short letter explaining what your needs are and the expense you expect to incur. The ASFV board will vote on your request at the next board meeting. You will then be notified via email. If your scholarship is approved, provide a receipt and you will be reimbursed for up to $250. You must be a member of the Autism Society of the Fox Valley to be considered.

Send the email to: info@autismfoxvalley.org and in the subject line write "ASFV Safety Scholarship".

United Way Giving made easy to support ASFV

The United Way has kicked off their annual fund raising campaign. Did you know that you can allocate your donation to the Autism Society of the Fox Valley? Simply click the “write in” button and type in our organization’s name in the designation area of your pledge form and United Way will take care of sending your donation to ASFV.

ALL donations go to support our programs and social outings for kids and families who are touched by autism. ASFV is a 501(c)(3) run by an amazing all volunteer board.

ASFV Mission Statement

The Autism Society of the Fox Valley, Inc. was established in 1989. We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization serving the counties of Calumet, Fond du Lac, Outagamie, Waupaca and Winnebago. Our mission is to provide information and referral, advocacy, public awareness, education and support for individuals, families, professionals and others who support people with autism.
ASFV/Xavier Hawks Day Camp for Kids with Autism

The 11th Annual football camp was a huge success. Families and 68 kids got to practice their football moves with the wonderful Xavier Hawks football team. Thank you to all of the Xavier boosters who provided a picnic lunch for the families after all of the exercise!! Please visit the link to see more of the photos from this terrific day!!

Supported Decision Making for Transition Age Youth  
Information from Family Voices of Wisconsin  
http://www.familyvoicesofwisconsin.com/

Any person in Wisconsin over the age of 18 is legally an adult, and is presumed to be able to manage his or her own financial affairs, choose where to live, consent to medical treatment, vote, make contracts, marry, and exercise his or her own legal rights as an adult. This presumption does not change because a person has a disability.

When a person is unable to do some or all of these, some form of supported decision making is needed. It is important that families start this conversation early and learn about the full range of options. While guardianship is the most widely used legal tool, there is a growing use of less restrictive options to support a young adult’s ability to have control over his/her own life, allowing them to determine their own future as an adult.

Decision-Making — A Skill that Requires Practice and Experience

Decision-making is a learned skill. If we give young children the opportunity to choose what they wear, eat or want to do for fun we encourage their independence, their self-confidence and their ability to make decisions that direct their own life. All youth and adults make mistakes in decision making at times and these mistakes usually help their ability to make better decisions in the future. If youth are not given the opportunity to choose and make mistakes they are less likely to develop these skills and may not believe they are capable of decision making as adults.

As a family considers a young adult’s abilities to make their own decisions they should think about:

☐ What do you worry about as you consider your child’s future – is guardianship necessary or would a less restrictive option do?

☐ Does your child have skills and strengths in some areas of decision-making, but not in others (e.g., could they decide what classes they want to take but not be able to make financial decisions)?

☐ Would support from friends, family, technology or professionals be enough to assist the young person with their decisions?

☐ How important is the decision they need to make and what are the consequences of a wrong decision?

What is Supported Decision Making? Supported decision making is an alternative to guardianship through which people use friends, family members and professionals to help them understand situations and choices they face, so they may make their own decisions without the “need” for guardianship. It is an emerging approach to providing decision-making assistance without imposing any long-term legal limitations on rights or personal liberties. (Blanck & Martinis, 2015)

1Got Transition, Center for Health Care Transition Improvement, Guardianship and Alternatives for Decision Making Support
Legal Tools to Support Decision-Making

- **Release of Information**: One option for supporting an individual with a disability is to work with healthcare organizations, financial institutions and schools to have your adult child sign a release of information form. This will allow a parent, family member or guardian to talk with providers, schools and financial institutions and assist with making decisions if needed.

  No attorney or legal representation is needed for this legal tool.

- **A Power of Attorney for Finance (POA-F)** is a document that authorizes another person (the agent) to handle all the financial affairs of the individual (the principal). Families can use a standard state form (see resources below) to complete a POA-F and an attorney may not be necessary.

- **A Power of Attorney for Health Care (POA-HC)** authorizes the agent to make health care decisions for the principal, consistent with the terms of the document and based on the wishes of the principal. Families can use a standard state form (see resources below) to complete a POA-HC and an attorney may not be necessary.

- **A Power of Attorney for Education / Educational Interests** allows a parent or guardian to represent a student’s educational interests, communicate with schools, give consent for evaluations, receive notices, attend IEP meetings and assist with making decisions related to school. There is no standard state form but online forms are available and an attorney is not necessary to complete this form.

- **Guardianship** is a legal process where a court decides if a person lacks “capacity” to make decisions for themselves and there are no less-restrictive alternatives than guardianship. In Wisconsin there is an option for Full Guardianship or Partial (limited) Guardianship. Once this has been established, the guardian has custody and control over all decisions made for the “ward”.

  While it is possible to complete the guardianship process without legal representation, most families work with an attorney. It is important to find an attorney who is familiar with the different legal options (partial guardianship vs. full guardianship). The Wisconsin Guardianship Support Center (GSC) can provide a list of attorneys. There may be some options for low cost legal assistance for families who cannot afford to hire an attorney. Talk to the GSC or your CYSHCN Regional Center to learn about these programs.

Additional Resources

- **National Resource Center for Supported Decision Making** – this online center has a wealth of resources on decision making for adults with disabilities and older adults.
  www.supporteddecisionmaking.org

- **Guardianship and Alternatives for Decision Making Support** - a fact sheet developed by Got Transition available at www.gotransition.org/resourceGet.cfm?id=17

Youth in Partnership with Parents for Empowerment

An opportunity for youth with disabilities and their parents to learn about the transition process in a unique way!

Tundra Lodge Resort & Conference Center
865 Lombardi Avenue
Green Bay, WI

October 7 & 8, 2016
November 11 & 12, 2016
January 6 & 7, 2017
February 3 & 4, 2017
March 3 & 4, 2017

YiPPE starts at 5:00 p.m. Friday and ends by 3:30 p.m. on Saturday.
Youth, ages 15-20, along with their parents/guardians, must attend all five weekend sessions.

YiPPE is FREE!

YiPPE assists youth with disabilities to:
- learn how to make decisions for themselves
- get involved in their school and community
- learn about self-advocacy and self-determination
- prepare for work and/or college
- get to know other youth, make friends and have fun

YiPPE assists parents to:
- plan for their youth’s future
- learn about transition topics such as: health care, employment, education, inclusion, legislation, and adult services
- learn about valuable resources
- become part of a network of parents who have youth with disabilities
- enjoy time with other parents

Registration, food, overnight stay and resources are paid for with a DPI IDEA Discretionary Grant, Wisconsin Statewide Parent-Educator Initiative (WSPEI)
Autism Society of Wisconsin
Membership Application Form

Date: ____________________
Name:  
________________________________________________________________________________________
Street Address:  
_______________________________________________________________________________
City, State, Zip:  
________________________________________________________________________________
Email: ________________________________________________Phone (         ) __________________________

Chapter joining  
_____ ASFV, Fox Valley area, Outagamie, Winnebago, Calumet, Fond du Lac, and Waupaca Counties.  
By joining ASFV—you are automatically a member of ASW.

Membership Categories (select one): _____ Individual $12.00 _____ Family $15.00  
(Select one) _____ New _____ Renewal  
_____ Bill My Master Card/VISA Card#______________________________________ Exp Date_________

(Please print clearly)  
_____ Check enclosed, check # _____________________  
_____ Enclosed is $5.00 to contribute to the cost of the newsletter  
Additional contribution (tax deductible) for the work of ASW for individuals with autism:  
_____ $25 _____ $50 _____ $100 _____ $ Other

Please send your completed membership form and mail to:  
ASW  
1477 Kenwood Drive  
Menasha, WI 54952

ASW membership benefits include: Reduced conference rates, ASW voting privileges, and a quarterly subscription to the ASW newsletter, “Connecting Wisconsin”. Membership is for one year. Check your mailing label on your newsletter for membership information. If you have questions, email ASW at asw@asw4autism.org or call 888-428-8476.
Newsletter Submissions

Articles of interest, stories/poetry of persons with autism, book reviews and upcoming conferences or workshops are accepted. Submissions can be sent to: Diane Nackers, 8042 Sequaro Ct, Neenah WI 54956 email: bnack5@gmail.com.

Submission deadlines are November 30, February 28, May 15, and August 15. Responsibility for accuracy of information remains that of the author of the article.

Articles from this publication may be reprinted, giving credit to the author and ASFV. The ASFV Editorial Review Board reserves the right to edit or refuse submissions.

Thank you for your continued support. Donations are greatly appreciated. All donations are used to advance our mission of supporting families who love someone with autism.

In Memory of Linda Lyon
Amy Fischer
William Gillette
Tiffany Odom-Evans
John Oehler
Chad Leder
Julie Kloiber

www.autismfoxvalley.org