

# ASFV Newsletter

January 2020

Autism Society of the Fox Valley



## Message from the President

Happy New Year!!!

2019 was a very special year!! ASFV has grown in membership, families reached, and activities offered. 2020 promises to be even busier. I am humbled by the generosity of our community. ASFV has been blessed with many donations that will keep our programs active for the next year. THANK YOU!!

Inside you will meet Vivian Sologaistoa, an ASFV member who is starting a support group for our Hispanic families. Her contact information is within her bio. She has the support of another ASFV member, Luissana Henriquez. We are very excited to reach more people. Thank you Vivian and Luissana.

Please save February 11th to attend a CESA6 presentation about the College and Career Ready IEP. The information presented will cover seclusion and restraint, transportation, supplementary aids and services and much more.

Save the date of May 12th. ASFV is bringing back the Safe and Sound parent and law enforcement training. This program was very well received 2 years ago with our local law enforcement and first responders. More details to come.

As we grow, ASFV is looking for those interested in donating their time to support our mission. If you are interested in attending our monthly board meetings, or volunteering at our events, please email [asfvevents@autismfoxvalley.org](mailto:asfvevents@autismfoxvalley.org).

We couldn't provide our services and outings without your support. Please consider sponsoring a hole or more for the annual golf outing. The 2020 sponsorship letter is included in the newsletter.

I sincerely hope you have a healthy and safe New Year!!

Diane Nackers, ASFV President



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 **AUTISM SOCIETY**  
*Improving the Lives of All Affected by Autism*  
*Greater Wisconsin – Fox Valley*

# ASFV Outings and Events

## Hangin' Out Social Group

The Hangin' Out Social Group is for children 7-12 who want to meet other kids and socialize. The kids have so much fun at these outings. If your child would like to participate in our monthly outings, email [asfvevents@autismfoxvalley.org](mailto:asfvevents@autismfoxvalley.org). A confirmation email will be sent to let you know you are on the list.

Details to come via email:

January 18th - Hollywood Cinemas: Dolittle 1:40-4:00

February 9th—Classic Lanes Neenah 1-3

March 14th — Boards and Blades Oshkosh 12-2

## Teen Group Outings

Teen Group begins its 9th year. This social group is designed for kids 13-20 who want to hang out, socialize and share their interests. All group outings are supervised by an ASFV board member. If you have a teen who would like to meet new people on the spectrum please email: [autismevents@autismfoxvalley.org](mailto:autismevents@autismfoxvalley.org)

Details to come via email...

January 18th: Hollywood Cinemas: Dolittle 1:40-4:00

February 9th — Classic Lanes Neenah 1-3

March 14th—Boards and Blades Oshkosh 12-2

## A-Team Adult Social Group

A Social Networking Group for Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder. If you are an adult in your 20's AND want to get out and get social.....this group may be for you. All outings are planned based on feedback from the attendees.

If you have any questions, please contact Diane at [asfvevents@autismfoxvalley.org](mailto:asfvevents@autismfoxvalley.org)

Upcoming events:

January 17th: 6-8 pm Boards and Blades—Oshkosh

February 21st: 6-8 pm Mad Apple Burger and Billiards

*ASFV is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization run by an all volunteer board.*

# ASFV Information and Events

## Keep Your Contact Information Up to Date



As always, please keep your email contact current.

Check out our website: [autismfoxvalley.org](http://autismfoxvalley.org)

General information questions: [info@autismfoxvalley.org](mailto:info@autismfoxvalley.org)

All social outings: [asfvevents@autismfoxvalley.org](mailto:asfvevents@autismfoxvalley.org)

Hispanic support group: [asfvespanol@autismfoxvalley.org](mailto:asfvespanol@autismfoxvalley.org)

## Monkey Joe's Playdates

Monkey Joe's and ASFV offer a once a month play time open exclusively for families with a child on the spectrum. This event is free for all members. All non-members pay only \$5.00 per family. It's a chance for the kids to play while parents network.

An ASFV board member is on site to answer questions about our affiliate or offer support. The new owners are making GREAT changes! Come check it out!!

1800 N. Casaloma Appleton, WI 54913 Phone: (920) 954-5437

Come and join the fun! These are the remaining dates for this school year.

**January 4th**    **February 1st**    **March 7th**    **April 4th**  
**May 2nd**        **June 6th**



## Sensory Superstars at the Building for Kids

The Building for Kids Children's Museum in Appleton opens its doors the 3rd Sunday 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 11 and 1pm but stay as late as you like.

For more information please call The Building for Kids Children's Museum at (920) 734-3226. 100 W. College Ave. Appleton, WI

Special programming each month.

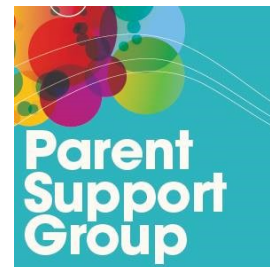
January 19th                      February 16th                      March 15th

## 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 Cites 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](mailto:info@autismfoxvalley.org)



## Safety Scholarships Available

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](mailto:info@autismfoxvalley.org) and in the subject line write "ASFV Safety Scholarship".

## Social Skills Education at Home

My name is Matt Schmitz and I work for the Conover Company. We are based in Appleton and we create educational software that focuses heavily on helping learners with special needs transition into functioning independently. We traditionally have focused on creating programs for schools and corporations, but we are just beginning to roll out programs focused more on individuals learning at home. Our first product is our Life Skills Academy. If this interests you, please take a look at the link for more information:

<https://www.conovercompany.com/lifeskillsacademy/>

As we roll out the program for individuals, we are looking to get feedback from on how we could make it a better experience for parents and children who could benefit from our programs. Please give me feedback on our product:

[matthew.schmitz@conovercompany.com](mailto:matthew.schmitz@conovercompany.com)

# Donations! Donations! And More Donations!!

ASFV is VERY thankful for every  
generous gift!!!

In memorium for Robert Lindberg

Sargento Cheese

Norma (Robert) Argall 90th birthday—family and friends donated a total of \$1590.00 (in honor of great-granddaughter Ava)

Pastor and Mrs. Elwood Skarpness

Kathryn Schroder

Ruth Hartig

John Brantmeier

Unison Credit Union—12 gifts of Unison Campaign

Connections Kimberly—Bake Sale

St. Raphael Knights of Columbus, Council 11305

Kathy Lett Family

Several Anonymous on Network for Good Link



# Save the Dates

## February 9th

Family Bowling Outing

Classic Lanes—Neenah

Time: 1-3 pm

Cost: FREE—unlimited bowling, and shoes

RSPV: [asfvevents@autismfoxvalley.org](mailto:asfvevents@autismfoxvalley.org)



## February 11th

CESA 6 Presentation on the CCR-IEP

Time: 6-8pm

Tim Borud, the WSPEI Family Engagement Coordinator for the CESA 6 region, will present information about seclusion and restraint, transportation, education supports, answer questions about your child's IEP and more.



Registration link will be coming very soon with location information.

## May 12th and May 13th

ASFV is proud to be bringing back the first responder training. Sgt. Jimmy Donohoe of the Pensacola, Florida Police Department and Retired Captain Bill Cannata of the Westwood, Massachusetts Fire Department have been training first responders on how to better handle a call involving autism and related disabilities for 12 years. Both Jimmy and Bill, have sons on the autism spectrum and are career long professionals in their perspective fields.

More information to come.



## August 15th

ASFV Family Timber Rattler Outing







# WISCONSIN *Autism* CONFERENCE

April 29th—May 2, 2020



## Pre-Conference Workshops

Thursday April 29th

Pre-Conference 1: All Day

**Interoception, The Eighth Sense: Practical Solutions for Promoting Self-Regulation, Positive Behavior, Language Development and Social Participation**

Presented by Kelly Mahler, MS, OTR/L

### Pre-Conference 2A

**Using Video Modeling and High Tech Supports**

Presented by Sharon Hammer and Lisa Ladson

### Pre-Conference 2B

**Regulation and Disability Related-Needs: Developing College and Career Ready IEPs**

Presented by DPI and Discretionary Grant Staff

### Pre-Conference 3A

**Navigating the IEP Process**

Presented by WSPEI's Caroline Rossing

### Pre-Conference 3B

**Comprehensive Evaluation for Special Education Eligibility**

Presented by DPI and Discretionary Grant Staff

Conference information:

<https://www.autismgreaterwi.org/event-cal/31st-annual-conference/>

# Autism Society of Wisconsin 31st Annual Conference

April 29th—May 2, 2020

For more conference registration information:

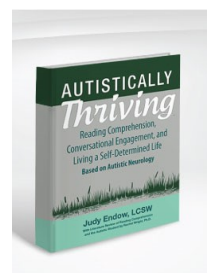
<https://www.autismgreaterwi.org/event-cal/31st-annual-conference/>

## Keynote: May 1, 2020



### Autistically Thriving

#### **Presented by Judy Endow, LCSW**



Judy's keynote will be based on her newest work *Autistically Thriving: Reading Comprehension, Conversational Engagement and Living a Self-Determined Life Based on Autistic Neurology*, which represents a shift in how autistic support is thought about and implemented. Rather than supporting deficits (as is typical in the field of autism), Judy covers who autistic people are and how they comfortably function, going over key elements of taking in, processing, storing and retrieving information along with autistic thinking style. Numerous examples are included so autistic individuals, parents, educators and therapy providers will come to understand that when autistics are honored for who they are and supported for who they want to be in this world they can truly thrive! (Note: identity-first language used intentionally as it is the preference of most autistics.)

## Keynote: May 2, 2020



### Assembly Required

#### **Presented by Haley Moss**

Autism does not come with an instruction manual, but it does come with lots of magical parts and important tools to utilize to build the best life possible. *Assembly Required* is the story of Haley Moss: an autistic attorney who has gone from a nonverbal child diagnosed with autism at age 3, to an author, artist, attorney, and autism advocate. Haley's explores her journey, the assembly of her village, finding her written and spoken voice, looking to the future full of hope, inspiration, and excitement as she writes the next, ongoing chapter in her life as a practicing lawyer. She also explores neurodiversity, acceptance, and explores the perspectives of how society views autism and related disabilities.



# Autism Friendly Communities Program Is HERE!!!



The Autism Society envisions that individuals and families living with autism are able to maximize their quality of life, are treated with the highest level of dignity, and live in a society in which their talents and skills are appreciated and valued. Quality of life indicators, such as the opportunity for community involvement and the freedom to spend time in a meaningful way, are essential aspects of the human experience.

The Autism Society of Greater Wisconsin is implementing the Autism Friendly Communities Initiative to ensure that families affected by autism feel included and welcomed at community activities and events. The Autism Friendly Communities Initiative's overall goal is to increase the quality of life for those affected by autism by improving community understanding of autism and improving access to inclusive experiences, programs, and events.

## What does it mean to be Autism Friendly?

As an Autism Friendly Communities partner, you recognize that individuals with autism experience the world differently and commit to evaluating and adapting your business or organization in several ways:

- Training staff and volunteers to understand autism and strategies to support individuals and families affected by autism.
- Assessing and making modifications to environment, programs, or procedures.
- Developing visual supports as applicable.
- Implementing inclusive hiring practices.
- Committing to quality improvement.

## How are partners recognized as Autism Friendly?

As an Autism Friendly Communities partner you can expect:

- An Autism Friendly Window Decal to display
- An Autism Friendly Certificate to display
- Recognition on Autism Society of Greater Wisconsin social media accounts
- Recognition on the Autism Society of Greater Wisconsin website

<https://www.autismgreaterwi.org/autism-friendly-communities/>

Contact Kirsten Cooper at [kcooper@autismgreaterwi.org](mailto:kcooper@autismgreaterwi.org) or 920-215-3303 to start the conversation on how you can become an Autism Friendly Communities partner.



# ASFV Announces Hispanic Parent Support Group

**Starting January 25th**, our Hispanic families are invited to join Vivian Solgaistoa to learn more about autism, share your story, and get support. Please email: [asfvespanol@autisfoxvalley.org](mailto:asfvespanol@autisfoxvalley.org) to be placed on the contact list for specific time and location. Please share with any families who may benefit from this meeting.

## Vivian Sologaistoa / Biografía

Vivian nació en la ciudad de Guatemala la cual dejó a los 18 años después de graduarse de Perito Contador, llegando a Chicago IL donde vivió por 5 años y se movió a la ciudad de Little Chute WI buscando una mayor educación para su primera hija, ya que para una madre soltera es difícil pagar una educación privada y por la seguridad de su hija decidieron moverse con su madre.

Después de vivir en Little Chute por 2 años se movieron a Grand Chute donde vivió sola hasta que su hija cumplió 16 años.

En Wisconsin fue a NWTC para tomar cursos de Early Childhood, también completó el curso de Bridging the Gap (curso para intérpretes en el campo médico), también completó el curso de Comensando Bien en Milwaukee para luego tomar el curso de instructora del mismo en Stanford University, después de algunos años de trabajar como intérprete se trató de incorporarse más a fondo en el campo médico como proveedora de cuidados y obtuvo su certificado para control de medicamentos.

Se casó con Severo Gregorio, una persona que conoció en la misma iglesia donde asistían ambos y estudiaron juntos en el colegio ministerial de la misma, luego contrayeron matrimonio en el año 2012 y de la unión consiguieron un hijo que en el principio del año 2017 fue diagnosticado con Autismo leve.

Desde Enero 2017 ha sido una etapa de descubrimiento en el mundo del Autismo con todo tipo de frustraciones, retos, búsqueda de ayudas apropiadas, mucha lectura, citas de terapia pero sobre todo encontrar una nueva perspectiva de la vida y disfrutar de cada pequeño logro que para nosotros es una batalla ganada sin nunca perder la esperanza de ver a nuestro hijo funcionando y totalmente independiente en su interminable universo de sorpresas y aventuras.

<https://theautismhelper.com/spanish-visuals-and-behavior-tools-visuales-en-espanol/>



## Vivian Sologaistoa / Biography

I was born in Guatemala City. I left at age 18 after graduating with a degree as an Accountant. I arrived in Chicago IL where I lived for 5 years before I moved to the city of Little Chute WI looking for a better education for my daughter. At that time I was a single mother and found it difficult to pay for a private education for her. I was also looking for a safe place to raise my daughter so we decided to move in with my mother.

After living in Little Chute for 2 years we moved to Grand Chute where we lived until my daughter turned 16.

I went to NWTC to take courses in Early Childhood, and also completed the course of Bridging the Gap (course for interpreters in the medical field). I also completed the course of Starting Well in Milwaukee and then took the course as a Trainer of the same course in Stanford University. After some years of working as an interpreter. I tried to become more deeply involved in the medical field as a Caregiver and obtained my certificate for medication control.

I met and married Severo Gregorio at the same church where we both attended and studied together in the ministerial college. We got married in 2012 and had our son who, at the beginning of the year 2017, was diagnosed with mild Autism.

January 2017 started a stage of discovery in the world of Autism with all kinds of frustrations, challenges, seeking appropriate help, much reading, and therapy appointments. But above all, finding a new perspective of life and enjoying every little achievement. We find that for us, it is a battle won, without ever losing the hope of seeing our son functioning and totally independent in his endless universe of surprises and adventures.

I look forward to meeting you all. Please email: [asfvespanol@autismfoxvalley.org](mailto:asfvespanol@autismfoxvalley.org) to be placed on the contact list for specific time and location.





# AUTISM SOCIETY

*Improving the Lives of All Affected by Autism*  
*Greater Wisconsin – Fox Valley*

**Autism Society of the Fox Valley, Inc**  
**PO Box 266**  
**Little Chute, WI 54140**

**January 3, 2020**

Dear ASFV Supporters,

The Autism Society of the Fox Valley, ASFV, is thrilled to announce our 16<sup>th</sup> annual golf outing will be held at Crystal Springs Golf Course in Seymour, WI on June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020. This exciting venue will provide new opportunities to support our mission: Improving the Lives of All Affected by Autism. Founded in 1989, the Autism Society of the Fox Valley is a non-profit 501(c)(3) with an all-volunteer board of directors who have been providing awareness, education, support and advocacy to those affected by autism throughout the counties surrounding the Fox Valley area.

According to the CDC, autism prevalence rates are estimated at 1 in 59, this work is more important than ever. ASFV has one of the largest affiliates in the state with over 230 family and individual memberships. We reach families through monthly parent support group meetings, family and specific age group social outings, parent/educator workshops, annual conference and safety scholarships, and email and phone supports.

Please consider a sponsorship through one of the levels below. Your generosity will be recognized in our quarterly newsletter, your company prominently placed on our social media, and signage placed throughout the golf course and clubhouse on the day of the event. Please consider donating company logo gear or items to the silent auction.

**Sponsorship Levels:**

|          |                |
|----------|----------------|
| \$250.00 | Hole Sponsor   |
| \$500.00 | Shortest Drive |
| \$500.00 | Longest Drive  |
| \$500.00 | Beverage Cart  |
| \$1,000  | Lunch          |
| \$3,000  | Steak Dinner   |

We sincerely appreciate your donation and support. I look forward to hearing from you.

Best regards,

*Bob Olson*

Bob Olson  
ASFV Golf Outing Chairperson and ASFV Board Member  
[bob.olson1976@gmail.com](mailto:bob.olson1976@gmail.com)

# ASGW and ASFV Membership

## Become a Member

Join the Autism Society of Greater Wisconsin today and add your voice to the growing number of families and professionals helping those with autism. With discounts to our conferences, a subscription to our printed, quarterly newsletter and other local affiliate benefits, becoming a member of the Autism Society of Greater Wisconsin is a great value.



<https://www.autismgreaterwi.org/get-involved/>

## Young Adult Program for Building Friendships

Covey is very excited to share that we are partnering with Best Buddies. Best Buddies is new to the area but it has been around for years. Attached you will find information about what Best Buddies College is, and information about how to apply. I have also copied below two links to videos, featuring the Best Buddies Program.

Covey's role is to help connect similar aged individuals with students at UWO who have a passion for building a friendship through this program.

What to expect when you join Best Buddies - <https://youtu.be/JPft0oW6MB0>

How to be the best Best Buddies - <https://youtu.be/sTp2WWxT--k>

**Brittany Rewolinski**  
Program Manager

Office (920)424-4073  
Fax (920)424-4074  
Covey House 920-230-2624  
Covey Cottage 920-292-1122  
[covey.org](http://covey.org)



Autism Society of the Fox Valley  
P.O. Box 266  
Little Chute, WI 54140  
(888) 428-8476  
(920) 558-4602

Email:  
[info@autismfoxvalley.org](mailto:info@autismfoxvalley.org)

### ASFV Board Members

Diane Nackers, MS CCC-  
SLP — President  
Ann Olson—Vice President  
Bob Olson—Treasurer  
Heidi Dahle—Secretary

Steve Brennan  
Archna Hendricks, MD  
Kristin Wahl  
Chad Leder  
Andy Teska  
John Oehler  
Dale Bushman

### 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](mailto: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.

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Like the Autism Society of the  
Fox Valley on Facebook



## Our Mission

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.