Autism Society of the Fox Valley Newsletter

Message from the President

Wow—I can’t believe the year is half over already. The past few months have flown by. ASFV held a very successful golf outing, the social groups continue to thrive, and we are planning the September 12th ASFV/Xavier High School football camp. Bob Olson is coordinating this wonderful event. Email him with questions or registration: bob.olson1976@gmail.com

ASFV has a new website and email address: www.autismfoxvalley.org and info@autismfoxvalley.org. A change was also made for all social outing information. Please email me at: asfvevents@autismfoxvalley.org for that info.

ASFV continues to be an all volunteer board who actively seeks input from our membership. Please feel free to offer suggestions, attend monthly board meetings (held the 4th Tuesday of every month at Goodwill in Menasha), or volunteer at any outing. We want to hear from you. As we grow—we are 142 member families strong—ASFV strives to provide a high level of support and opportunities.

Have a wonderful summer,

Diane Nackers, President

Save the Dates

** August 1st - Special Needs Farm Outing— info inside
** August 15th—Spectrum Saturday—Building for Kids
** September 12th— ASFV/Xavier Hawks Football Camp
** September 26th— Octoberfest Fundraising Booth—volunteers needed —
  subject line: Heidi Dahle: asfvevents@autismfoxvalley.org
** October 3rd— Annual Membership meeting at Monkey Joes
**October 11th—Packer Game Seat Sale—volunteers needed
Hanging Out Social Outings

ASFV offers social opportunities for kids 7 – 12 years old who have high functioning autism or Asperger’s. The children have participated in a variety of outings. The goals of these outings are to foster socialization, experiences, and fun. All outings are supervised by the social group facilitators. All event opportunities are emailed to parents. If you would like your child on the list please email Diane Nackers: asfvevents@autismfoxvalley.org

Teen Group

The ASFV teen group is in its 6th year!! We hold monthly outings at a wide variety of locations. The group consists of teens 13-19 who have high functioning autism or Asperger’s syndrome. The teens should demonstrate a level of independence so they can participate in community outings without parental supervision. The teens are supervised by board members Diane Nackers. All events are emailed to those who wish to be on the list of outings: asfvevents@autismfoxvalley.org

Spectrum Saturday Continues

Everybody Play Spectrum Saturday events are hosted by The Building for Kids—downtown College Ave Appleton—and ASFV at no cost to the families who participate. Doors open at 9 am the 3rd Saturday of each month.

The new start time reflects when a majority of participants typically showed up, but please feel free to stay as long as you like. Also, registration at the front desk will replace the table. Building for Kids is using a computer data system to streamline data collection for grant writing and participation numbers.

Starting in August—Appleton Public Library will present a sensory story time activity option. No registration required.
Parent Support Group Meeting

Are you interested in talking with other parents who have children on the spectrum? Once a month, parents have the opportunity to get together in a relaxed, informal atmosphere to talk about everything from their personal experiences to available resources and general education about autism. The ASFV Parent Support Group will meet on the **first Sunday of each month** from 6-8pm at 211 E. Franklin Street, Appleton, WI 54911.

Free parking is available in the adjacent lot and our meetings will be held in the 1st floor board room space. The exterior doors will remain locked for safety purposes, but a doorbell is available for entry.

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.

Pixar Movie—Inside Out Review by Michelle Garcia Winner

A movie review by Michelle Garcia Winner

*Inside Out*, the new movie by Disney-Pixar, is like taking a Disneyland ride through the way the brain works. The movie was action-packed as we watched the interplay of five emotions (joy, anger, disgust, sadness, and fear) within the brain of Riley, an 11-year-old girl who struggles emotionally with a recent move from her home in the Midwest to San Francisco. The cute way in which Disney-Pixar created characters to represent each of the emotions will definitely appeal to young and old children and encourage many positive discussions. While the movie is marketed to younger children many of the ideas and themes will best be interpreted by older children (adolescents). As in a Disney ride, we were whipped around through a lot of fascinating information about the brain, but we never got to stay in one place very long to learn about any of the concepts in depth.

In an NPR interview on June 13th, the movie’s director Pete Docter mentioned they took liberties with the information they used to build the movie (not all facts presented were factual!). So I left the movie a tad bit confused and a bit discouraged that it was not a better teaching tool for children about how their emotions work with memory and thought to create self-regulation in each of our brains. But then I got inspired thinking that we have many lessons we can teach based on the flaws in the movie! For example, a real problem for me was that Riley never took control of her emotions (cognitively)—instead her emotions controlled her. That’s a problem! So let’s have our kids discuss and learn strategies about how they can take control of their emotions. Riley also ended up running away from home (although she decided to turn back). Let’s work with our kids on ways they can initiate communication when they feel sad or worried or left out so they can solve problems before they turn into bigger problems for everyone.
Messages from our donors:

“This year Jennifer and I made fabric bookmarks and sensory bags. All of our proceeds are being donated to ASFV and is to be used as found necessary by the board members. We very much enjoy sewing together and sharing with our community.”

“Thank you for all you do!!”

With well wishes,
Kate Wagner and Jennifer Dausey

To Whom it May Concern,

“Enclosed is a check as a donation to the Autism Society of the Fox Valley. On Thursday nights there is a Hackers Golf League at Eagle Links Golf Course.

The golf course started doing 50/50 raffles. Whomever wins the raffle gets half the cash and then chooses a charity of their choice that they would like to donate the other half of the winnings to.

Here is a little background of why Autism is so dear to our hearts. My son was diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder at the age of two and from that day forward, myself, my amazing family, and all our incredible friends have been beyond supportive for not only my son Carson, but advocating for all those affected with Autism. Autism is truly a beautiful diagnosis, everyday I admire the little adventures and gains we have with my son. After all, challenges are what make life interesting and overcoming them are what make life meaningful. We’ve been challenging people to cherish the amazing children marching to the beat of their own music, because in our eyes they play the most beautiful songs!

So here is a small donation from my parents and some close friends who won the 50/50 raffle the past two weeks in support of those with Autism. They couldn’t have picked a better charity to donate this to. Thanks for your continued advocacy!”

Thank you!!
Ashley Anderson
Dan & Lynn Haen
Mike and Diane Killian

The ASFV board is proud to accept these and all donations that help us continue our mission. Thank you for your thoughtfulness. All donations are used to provide support, advocacy, social group and family outings. We have an all volunteer board.
11th Annual Golf Outing a Huge Success

Irish Waters hosted our golf outing again this year. The 37 teams enjoyed a perfect weather day, lunch and steak dinner. The silent auction, 50/50 raffle, margarita stand, and putting contest helped ASFV raise almost $11,000.

THANK YOU to all who helped make this day a success. The hole sponsors, silent auction donors, golfers, and volunteer workers put on another great outing. Mark your calendar for our next outing—June 4th, 2016!!!
Changes coming to Autism Treatment Benefits

Why are changes being made?

In July 2014, the federal government issued guidance requiring states to provide coverage of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) treatment services as a regular statewide Medicaid benefit through BadgerCare Plus; Medicaid for the Elderly, Blind or Disabled; and the Katie Beckett Program. This means that in the future, coverage of ASD treatment services will be provided through one of these programs instead of through the Children’s Long-Term Support Waivers (CLTS Waivers).

Wisconsin's changes will increase the availability and comprehensiveness of ASD treatment services available through Medicaid.

Note: The CLTS Waivers will continue to provide support services to meet children’s assessed needs.

The Department's Commitment to ASD Treatment

The Department is committed to continuing to support families of children with ASD, county waiver agencies, and providers to ensure high-quality, individualized treatment services are available to children with ASD.

Wisconsin's ASD treatment goals include:

• Providing evidence-based treatment that meets the need of the child by teaching new skills while decreasing challenging behaviors seen in some children with ASD, and Reducing the child's future long-term needs by making significant gains toward typical development, including increased social, behavioral and communication skills.

When will the changes be made?

Details about these changes, including what they mean for counties, parents, children receiving ASD treatment, and providers, are still being worked on by the Department. This webpage will be updated as more information is available.

The tentative start date for coverage of ASD treatment services being provided through BadgerCare Plus; Medicaid for the Elderly, Blind or Disabled; or the Katie Beckett Program instead of through the CLTS Waivers is January 1, 2016. However, the start date depends on approval from the federal government.

How can I learn more about the changes?

Sign up to receive email updates about the changes to coverage of ASD treatment services. (link is external) The Department will notify you when additional details about the changes are available.

Additional Resources

Overview of upcoming changes to coverage of ASD treatment services (PDF, 221 KB)
This is a presentation that was given at the Autism Society of Wisconsin Annual Conference on May 2, 2015.
Please note: The information in this presentation is current as of May 2, 2015, and is subject to change.

If you have a question, please email the Department of Health Services.
Autism Spectrum Disorder Benefits Update

July 8, 2015

Autism Spectrum Disorder Treatment Services Coverage Updates

Thank you for signing up to receive email updates about upcoming changes to coverage of Medicaid-funded autism spectrum disorder (ASD) treatment services.

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services is currently working on the details about these changes, including what they mean for counties, parents, children receiving ASD treatment, and providers. As it is available, information (including frequently asked questions) will be posted to the Department's website. In addition, email updates will be sent to this listserv when additional information about these changes are available.

If you have a question about the upcoming changes to coverage of Medicaid-funded ASD treatment services, please email: DHSASDBenefit@dhs.wisconsin.gov.

A few notes about this email distribution list:

- Please add ASDUpdates@public.govdelivery.com to your list of approved senders so you can continue to receive updates about ASD treatment services coverage. If you don't, these emails could get sent to your Spam folder.
- Email updates will display the Department's logo at the top of the email. If images like logos and photos are blocked by your email system, you should choose "Download Pictures" when you get the email to see the images.

If you have any questions, please email: DHSASDBenefit@dhs.wisconsin.gov.

Bertrand/Schmitz Summer Outings Dates

- July 28th Scavenger Hunt
- August 11th Bay Beach
- August 20th Swimming Party

Contact schmitzbscss@hotmail.com or bertrandbscss12@yahoo.com for specific information about each outing.
Partnering with Your Doctor
August 13, 12:00-1:00 pm
Presented by: Kara Van Vooren

As a parent, have you ever wondered...

- What is a medical home?
- How might it benefit my child?
- What is my role as a parent within a medical home?

A medical home is not a place – it’s a partnership you have with your child’s doctor and care team. In a medical home, parents and doctors make decisions together about caring for your child.

Join us and learn about strategies and tools for building a partnership with your child’s doctor and care team along with tips for parent-driven medical home improvements.

Kara Van Vooren has been with the Regional Center for 7 years providing support to families who care for children with special health care needs. She is doing this work in partnership with Parent to Parent of WI. Kara knows the value of partnerships from her own experience - raising a son who happens to live with Down Syndrome.

Registration opens July 14!

Check out ASW’s archived webinars as well.

**Webinars available at**
http://www.asw4autism.org/webinars.html
Twenty volunteers are needed to work alongside the ASFV board members on October 11th. Last year we had a great time! You can expect to be very busy, have fun, be done before the game starts, and the time will fly by. Email: asfvevents@autismfoxvalley.org for more information.

Volunteer Opportunity!

The Autism Society of Wisconsin kindly asks for your help selling seat rentals at 2015/2016 Green Bay Packer home games!

Volunteers, 18 years and older, are needed 3 hours prior to kickoff. Please choose one or more of the following games to help out! Volunteer at 3 or more games and receive a free t-shirt!

Thursday, September 3rd from 3–6 PM
Monday, September 28th from 4:30–7:30 PM
Sunday, October 11th from 9 AM–12 PM
Sunday, November 15th from 9 AM–12 PM
Sunday, January 3rd from 9 AM–12 PM

ASW receives a portion of the sales at each game!

To sign up and/or receive additional information please contact Kerry Hoops at khoops@wiautism.com or (920) 362–0394.

AUTISM SOCIETY
Improving the Lives of All Affected by Autism
Wisconsin
LIVE...LEARN GROW

Empower Me Camp

HELD AT MEMORIAL PARK • NEENAH
NEENAH-MENASHA YMCA
8:30 AM-3:30 PM

With every new experience comes a chance to learn and grow. At the Y, we strive to give every child opportunities to test their own limits and explore their potential. Every summer, the Empower Me Camp is designed to build leadership skills, taking on new responsibilities and experiencing independence. In fact, all of our youth programs work to develop leaders and pave their way for the future.

Grades K-2
July 20-24

Grades 3-5
July 27-31

Grades 6-8
August 3-7

Summer Camp for higher functioning youth on the Autism Spectrum.

$345 before June 1 ($395 after June 1)
Contact Julie Uhe at 886.2126 or juhe@ymcafoxcities.org.
YiPPE

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
Green Bay, WI

October 9 & 10, 2015
November 6 & 7, 2015
January 15 & 16, 2016
February 19 & 20, 2016
April 8 & 9, 2016

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!

How Do I Register for YiPPE?

Call....
Kristina Johnson
608-745-5422

Please register by September 25, 2015

Space is Limited!

For more information visit:
http://wspei.org/families/yippe.php

Questions contact:
Sherry Gundlach
sgundlach@cesa6.org
920-236-0538

“I cannot tell you what an impact the YiPPE conferences had on our entire family. My son has gained some wonderful friends, and we have a few families that we have become close to. It is wonderful!”

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)
ASFV Safety Scholarships Available

The Autism Society of the Fox Valley offers three (3) safety scholarships—up to $250 each. Families who need assistance purchasing additional 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 or mail. 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". You may also send a letter to ASFV, 1800 Appleton Rd., Menasha WI 54952.

ASW October Conference

Welcome to the Awesome of Being Different. Together.
Autism Society of Wisconsin Fall Conference
Presented by Jennifer O’Toole
October 1, 2015
Waukesha County Technical College

Early Bird Registration July 6-31, 2015 Member: $100 Non-Member: $125
General Registration August 1- September 21, 2015: Member: $125
Non-Member: $150

An Aspie, mother of three Asperkids, bestselling author of the Asperkids series, teacher, and social worker, whatever your connection to the spectrum might be….it’s one she shares. And understands. With her trademark wit, cheek, and “well, now, that makes sense” explanations everyone can understand, Jennifer speaks from the heart.

Jennifer’s opening talk, “Relentless Possibility (and a Little Bit of Caffeine)” is foundational. Smart ideas spoken lainly in ways that challenge veteran professionals and give real hope to families just beginning their spectrum journeys. It’s “the need to knows” everyone needs to really understand: the “evil nemesis” that is anxiety. The real effects of sensory stuff. The secret power of special interests. “Obstacle illusions,” learning detours, kindness, and — in “all-caps,” RESPECT.
Date of Application _____________________________
Name _______________________________________
Street Address ________________________________ Phone ( ) __________________________
City, State, Zip ________________________________
Email _________________________________________ □ ASW is going green! To receive a printed copy of the newsletter, please check here

The Autism Society of Wisconsin (ASW) shares membership with the local Autism Society affiliates listed below. By checking a local affiliate, you will join both the state and local affiliate and receive member benefits from both. To become a member of only the state chapter, leave this section blank. To become a member of the Autism Society of America, the Autism Society of South Central Wisconsin and/or the Autism Society of Southeastern Wisconsin and to find out more about their membership benefits, please contact them separately.

**Autism Society of the Fox Valley (ASFV)**
Outagamie, Winnebago, Calumet, Fond du Lac and Waupaca Counties.

**Autism Society of the Lakeshore (ASL)**
Manitowoc, Sheboygan, Calumet, Kewaunee and Door Counties.

**Autism Society of Northeast Wisconsin (ASNEW)**
Brown, Shawano, Oconto, Florence, Menomonee and Marinette Counties.

**Autism Society of Central Wisconsin (ASCW)**
Clark, Forest, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Oneida, Portage, Price, Taylor and Wood Counties.

**Autism Society of Chippewa Valley (CVAS)**
Sawyer, Polk, Barron, Rusk, St. Croix, Dunn, Chippewa, Pierce, Pepin, Eau Claire, Buffalo, Trempealeau and Jackson Counties.

Autism Society of South Central Wisconsin,
autismsouthcentral.org or autismsouthcentral@gmail.com

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_____ Bill my Master Card/VISA Card #______________________________ Exp Date ______________
Authorized Signature _____________________________________________
_____ Check enclosed, check # ____________________________
_____ Enclosed is a $10 contribution towards the cost of the newsletter—thank you!
Additional contribution (tax deductible).
  _____ $25  _____ $50  _____ $100  _____ $ (Other)

Please send your completed membership form and payment to:

**Autism Society of Wisconsin**
1477 Kenwood Drive
Menasha, WI 54952
Fax (920) 558-4611

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 December 1st, March 1st, June 1st, and September 1st. 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.