



Kalamazoo/Battle Creek Chapter Autism Society of America



April 2006 Newsletter

www.asa-kal.org

“Connecting individuals within the autism spectrum, as well as their community, with life-long access to resources and opportunities through advocacy, education, research, and public awareness.”

2006 Meeting Schedule

*Social Time begins at 6:30 p.m.
Meeting begins at 7:00 p.m.*

April 11, 2006-

Bio-Medical Treatments of Autism

Guest Speaker, Jean Steele

Annual Election

April 22, 2006-

Walk About Talk About Autism.

At the Celery Flats in Portage.

Future Meeting Dates:

May 9, 2006

October 10, 2006

November 14, 2006

Board of Directors

The Annual Election of the Board of Directors will take place at our April 11th Meeting. We are able to take nominations the night of the meeting. If you are interested in helping our chapter, please nominate yourself. Call Kim Prater at 800-628-6421, ext. 4 with questions. The nomination forms are on our website.

Renew Your Membership

Become a part of our local chapter! Your local chapter dues are only \$10 per year. These funds help pay for the cost of this newsletter and our support our meeting costs. If you have benefited from your interaction with our chapter, please join us today.

Bio-Medical Treatments of Autism Discussed at April 11th Meeting.

The cure and cause of Autism is yet to be found. However, there are many successful treatments for Autism. Jean Steele, a Board Member and Secretary of our chapter, will be sharing her knowledge of some of the bio-medical treatments that are available. Jean worked at the former UpJohn/Pharmacia and Upjohn Company as a Senior Research Chemist, and is the mother of 5 children, one with Autism.

Annual Grants Announced.

We are excited to announce several Grant awards to support the awareness, education and treatment of Autism.

Croyden Music Program Supported.

A \$5000 Grant has been awarded to the Croyden Avenue School to support it's Music Therapy Program. Every classroom at Croyden Avenue is visited by the Music Therapist and is a vital part of therapies there.

Lending Libraries Funds Granted.

Two one thousand dollar grants have been awarded to establish a new lending library at the Croyden Avenue School and books will be donated to the Battle Creek Libraries. Autism awareness books that educate and support those with Autism will be purchased and donated to both communities. We are excited to begin these efforts and hope to grow the libraries in the coming years.

Parent to Parent of Southwest Michigan.

A one thousand dollar grant has been awarded to support Parent to Parent of Southwest Michigan. Parent to Parent of Southwest Michigan is a non-profit community organization offering services at no cost to families who have children with disabilities or special needs. Founded in 1998, Parent to Parent serves families in 5 counties and collaborates with other organizations. Since our inception, we have assisted over 900 families through mentor support, referrals, information, recreation opportunities, a bi-monthly newsletter, learning exchanges and informal social events.

Pre-Register for Childcare

We are happy to provide **free childcare for children with autism and their siblings** from 6:45 to 8:45 during our Chapter Meetings. We will provide structured activities and learning opportunities for this children during this time. Pre-registration is very important in order to insure that there is adequate staffing for the safety of every child, so if you plan to attend please contact the Childcare Voicemail at 800-628-6421, ext. 5. Leave a message with your name and child's names and ages.

Directions

To get to Croyden Avenue School, take US 131 to the West Main (M-43) exit. Go east on West Main to Drake Road. Turn North (left). Take a right at the first light to Croyden Avenue, you'll see the circle drive of the School immediately on the left.



3rd Annual Walk About—Talk About Autism Event

Portage Celery Flats

Saturday, April 22nd, 2006

Time: Registration begins at 10:00 a.m. Walk begins at 11:00 a.m.

Place: Celery Flats in Portage, (Garden Lane entrance)

The rate is \$15.00 per person/child—10 and under are free.

Distance: Approximately 2 miles

We are very excited to be planning our 3rd Fundraising Walk for Autism Awareness Month. This walk is just one of many efforts to continue our commitment to raise public awareness and ensure continued access to educational opportunities.

Please tear off the registration form and mail it in as soon as possible. 350 T-shirts are being ordered for the walk. Registration fee will still apply but shirts are not guaranteed for late registrations or on the day of the walk. Encourage your friends and neighbors to walk with you or to pledge you as you walk. Use the pledge form provided to collect your pledges and submit all money collected on the day of the walk. **Registration forms are due March 28th.**

Checks for registrations and pledges should be made **payable to Kalamazoo/Battle Creek-ASA**. We are registered as a federal exempt non-profit organization 501©3, so all donations are tax deductible. Check with your employer for matching funds.

If you would like more information or have questions, please contact Trina Wood (269) 372-1509 or at wooddoug@sbcglobal.net.

Registration and pledge forms are also available at our website: www.asa-kal.org.

Use this form to register your family and/or friends for the walk. The registration fee is \$15 for each adult, which includes a T-shirt. Children may walk for free, but must pay \$10 if they want a T-shirt.

Mail Form and registration fee to:

Walk About—Talk About Autism
2682 Sleepy Hollow
Portage, MI 49024

Name	Address	Phone	Registra- tion Fee	Child T- Shirt Size	Adult T- Shirt Size
				S M L	M L XL XXL
				S M L	M L XL XXL
				S M L	M L XL XXL
				S M L	M L XL XXL

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

Upcoming Events

ASD Parent Support Group Meeting

March 21st at Doris Klausen Center. Call ahead to Shannon to RSVP (269)964-2136. This group is sponsored by the CISD Social Workers.

Parent 2 Parent—Garden Art & Plant Sale

The 2006 Garden Arts & Plant Sale will be held on **May 27, 2006**.

Gray Center Spring Conference

"Adolescence and Beyond: Surviving and Thriving with ASD."
Thursday, March 23rd at Calvin College in Grand Rapids. To register online go to www.thegraycenter.org.

"Autism/ Asperger's 2006" Detroit, MI

Featuring Dr. Tony Atwood. For more information, call Future Horizons at 1-800-489-0727 or www.futurehorizons-autism.

Project Lifesaver Update

We are pleased to announce that Project Lifesaver may soon be coming to Calhoun County. This is due to the successful launch of PL in Kalamazoo County over the last year and with the hard work of our board members.

A survey of interested families is taking place now in Calhoun County. Please contact Cyndi Carstens at 800-628-6421, ext 2. Please leave a message with your name and phone number so that Cyndi contact you and add you as an interested party for Calhoun County. This survey is by no means an obligation to be a part of the program at this time.

Walk Volunteers Needed!

We hope that everyone is planning to join us for our Autism Walk on April 22nd and volunteer opportunities are available!

Volunteers will report to the Celery Flats at 9:00 AM and expect to work until 2:00 PM.

Contact Trina Wood with questions at wooddoug@sbcglobal.net or call her at (269) 372-1509 if you are interested. A free t-shirt is included for volunteering and refreshments are served after the walk.

**April is
Autism Awareness
Month**



Join Our Local Chapter!

We can use your help as a member of the Kalamazoo/Battle Creek Chapter-Autism Society of America!

By becoming a member of our local chapter, you are helping to support printing and postage for the newsletter as well as receiving voting rights. Dues at \$10 per person for one-year of membership.

Please make checks payable to: **Kalamazoo/BC Autism Society** and mail to:
Kalamazoo/BC Autism Society of America; Croyden Avenue School;
4606 Croyden Avenue; Kalamazoo, MI 49006.