



# Kalamazoo/Battle Creek Chapter Autism Society of America February 2005 Newsletter



[www.asa-kal.org](http://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."*

## 2004-05 Meeting Schedule

*Social Time begins at 6:30 p.m.*

*Meeting begins at 7:00 p.m.*

**September 14, 2004-**

*Introductions and Social Meeting*

**October 12, 2004-**

*Topic: Social Thinking*

**December 14, 2004-**

*Topic: Safety Issues*

**February 8, 2005-**

**Annual Meeting: Board of Director Elections**

**Topic: Estate Planning**

**April 12, 2005-**

*Topic: Behavior Issues*

**May 11, 2005-**

*Social Meeting and Networking*

## Estate Planning

After our social time at 6:30, we will have a special speaker to discuss **estate planning for families with special needs**. As you know, there are many things to be aware of as we plan for the future of our loved ones with autism.

## Directions

Chapter meetings are held at Croyden Avenue School in Kalamazoo. To get to the school, take US 131 to the West Main St. 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.

## 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 Melanie Giddings at 269-373-4714 or at [mgiddings@asa-kal.org](mailto:mgiddings@asa-kal.org)

## Paid Your Dues?

Have you paid your \$10 local membership dues? Please help support our local chapter by paying at our upcoming meeting. Only paid members have voting privileges.

## February Meeting - Board Elections

At 8:00, after our presentation on estate planning, we'll call our **annual business meeting** to order. If you are interested in a position on the board, please fill out the nomination form on Page 3 of this newsletter and mail or fax it in as soon as possible. We encourage all of you to consider serving with us!

Nominations for the Board of Directors will be accepted the night of the business meeting. According to our by-laws, we can have a minimum of 5 people and a maximum of 15 people on our board. At this time, the following people are running for election to our board:

**Kim Prater** is running for President. Parenting her daughter with autism has made Kim aware of the need for autism support and advocacy. She lives in Battle Creek and hopes to help us serve more effectively there. Her job as store manager of Marshall Field's proves that she has the strong management and public speaking skills needed to serve as President of our chapter.

**Sheri Marvin** parents a five year-old daughter with autism. She is an RN working as a clinical educator for the Family Birth Center and Pediatrics. She would like to help offer more education through police and healthcare trainings. Shelly is interested in serving as the Battle Creek Liason but is willing to help in other ways too.

**Cyndi Carstens** has a seven year-old son with autism. She hopes to raise autism awareness and work toward having Project Lifesaver available in Calhoun County.

**Katrina Wood** has a son with autism and has served on our board well as chairperson of the fundraising committee for the past year. This year Trina hopes to serve as Vice President.

**Jean Steele** is a stay-at-home mom who has a 7year-old son with autism and 3 other children. She has served on the Croyden School Improvement Team and the board for Parent 2 Parent. Jean has serves as our liaison with Parent 2 Parents and keeps us working closely with this organization. She also hopes to serve as Secretary this year.

**Kelly Davis** is the father of 11 year-old Nathan, who has autism. Kelly has a Bachelors in Accounting, but has worked as a District Manager for Waste Management for the last several years. Kelly has served as newsletter editor for the past year and hopes to serve as Treasurer for this coming year.

**Betty Schimmel** is the parent of two high-schoolers on the autistic spectrum. She has served on the board for one year and hopes to continue working with the fundraising committee.

**Carey Whitfield** has served as Battle Creek Liason on our board for the past year. He is also very active with the NAACP. Carey is very flexible and will serve on our board this year in whatever capacity he is needed!

**Brenda Gagie** is currently a teacher for KRESA in an autism classroom in Schoolcraft. She has served as the KRESA liason and hopes to continue serving in this capacity.

**Beverly Bishop** has served on the board for 2 years, both as Secretary and President. Beverly's goal is continue giving autism awareness presentations for area police agencies, healthcare providers, educators, and others. Beverly is a homeschooling mom of 2 kids (one with autism).

# 2nd Annual Walk About—Talk About Autism Event

## Portage Celery Flats

### April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2005

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

Place: Celery Flats—Meet at the Grain Building

Registration Fee: \$15 for adults (includes a T-shirt)

Distance: Approximately 2 miles

Lunch will be served following the walk!

We are very excited to be planning our 2nd 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.

Each registered participant will receive a T-shirt, lunch, and will have an opportunity to win door prizes after the event. Funds raised through registration fees and pledges will be used to support autism awareness and provide services to families.

Please tear off the registration form and mail it in as soon as possible. We will mail you a pledge form and more instructions. We must receive your form by April 10<sup>th</sup> in order to insure that you receive a T-shirt. Encourage your friends and neighbors to walk with you or to pledge you as you walk. Use the form on the page to the left in order to collect your pledges. Please collect the money at the time of the pledge and submit all money collected on the day of the walk.

Checks for registration and pledges should be made payable to Autism Society of Kalamazoo/Battle Creek. We are registered as a federal exempt non-profit organization 501©3, so your donation is tax deductible.

If you would like more information or have questions, please contact Trina Wood (269) 372-1509 or at [kwood@asa-kal.org](mailto:kwood@asa-kal.org).

**Registration and pledge forms are also available at our website: [www.asa-kal.org](http://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 under 10 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  
 C/O Trina Wood  
 8031 W. H Avenue  
 Kalamazoo, MI 49009

Name	Address	Phone	Registration 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

**TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**KALAMAZOO/BATTLE CREEK CHAPTER  
AUTISM SOCIETY OF AMERICA  
BOARD MEMBER NOMINATION/VOLUNTEER FORM**

**2005-2006**

The term for a Director is one year with a maximum of 3 years to be served consecutively. The term of office is April 1, 2005 through March 31, 2006.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**I am interested in serving on the board because:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Please indicate which activities and tasks interest you:**

- |   |   |                                    |
|---|---|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> President                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Treasurer                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Secretary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Autism Awareness Education (police/healthcare) | <input type="checkbox"/> Battle Creek Liaison           |                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Website Maintenance/Graphic Design             | <input type="checkbox"/> Refreshments                   |                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Answering Information Request Calls            | <input type="checkbox"/> Organizing/coordinating events |                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Diagnosis Support Baskets                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Grants/Scholarships            |                                    |

Please list any additional positions you would be interested in:

\_\_\_\_\_

**Please indicate which of the following issues interest you (check all that apply):**

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Advocacy                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Inclusion        | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreational opportunities    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Federal/State/County funding | <input type="checkbox"/> Teaching methods | <input type="checkbox"/> Community awareness           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Social Skills                | <input type="checkbox"/> IEPs             | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please list/describe): |

\_\_\_\_\_

**Please indicate which of the following best describes you and your interest in/relationship to Autism:**

- |                                   |                                   |   |                                       |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parent   | <input type="checkbox"/> Educator | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual with Autism | <input type="checkbox"/> Professional |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Relative | <input type="checkbox"/> Friend   | <input type="checkbox"/> Service Provider       | <input type="checkbox"/> Other        |

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature

Date

**Please submit completed form to:  
ASA-Kalamazoo/Battle Creek  
4606 Croyden Avenue  
Kalamazoo, MI 49006**

**Or fax to (269) 585-6040  
Questions may be directed to:  
Beverly at 269-381-2456.**

## Upcoming Events

### All Kids Can! Rec Expo

March 5, 2005 10:00 - 2:00 pm Kalamazoo Air Zoo

### Autism Society of Michigan Spring Conference 2005

March 18, 2005

*"Epilepsy, Autism Spectrum Disorders and Behavior"* Speakers include Dr. Harry Chugani and Dr. Luke Tsai  
Sheraton-Novis, Michigan [www.autism-mi.org](http://www.autism-mi.org) or 1-800-223-6722

### The Abilities Center

Walled Lake, MI (Metro Detroit Area)

Feb. 24, 2005: *Sensory Intergration and Vision*

Pre-register at [www.abilitiescenter.com](http://www.abilitiescenter.com)

### Asperger's Parent Support Group

Next meeting is Wed., Feb. 23 at Croyden Avenue School 6:30-8:00pm. Contact Michelle Gulbis at 553-9311.

## Other Resources

### The Gray Center

has moved to 4123 Embassy Dr. SE; Kentwood, MI

Founded by Carol Gray, renown for her social stories, The Gray Center is now offering networking opportunities for parents of children diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder, as well as monthly meetings for young adults with ASD.

For information: [www.thegraycenter.org](http://www.thegraycenter.org) or call 616-954-9747

### Battle Creek: Meetings coming to you!!

With enough participation, we hope we can soon have additional meetings in Calhoun County. This would certainly be a welcome break from the long drive to Kalamazoo, in addition to creating more resources for your local community. If you would like to assist or have input into creating more resources for the Battle Creek area, please contact Carey Whitfield at [cwhitfield@asa-kal.org](mailto:cwhitfield@asa-kal.org) or 969-8686

**Don't forget to bring \$10 to pay your local dues this 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. If you are already a member of the national organization, only \$10 should be sent for local chapter dues. If you are not a member of the national organization, please send the following for membership in both the national organization and the local chapter :

Student – \$25.00

Individual – \$40.00

Family – \$50.00

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. Questions?? Contact Karrie Kemery at 324-1264.