



Kalamazoo/Battle Creek Chapter Autism Society of America



May 2005 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.”

2005-06 Meeting Schedule

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

May 10, 2005-

Social Meeting and Networking

Future Meeting Dates:

September 13, 2005

October 11, 2005

December 13, 2005

February 7, 2006

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Social Networking Meeting is May 10th

What do you want from your Autism Society?

Join us on May 10th for our Social Networking Meeting. (Please note the date change.) We will be asking for everyone's input for our future meeting topics. Discussion groups will facilitate networking for you to learn and share. This will be our last meeting before summer break, and we would love to see everyone there. **Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share!** We will provide beverages. Childcare will be provided; please pre-register your children. Don't miss this opportunity to meet others and help grow our chapter. The following chapter meeting will be on September 13th.

Learn the Signs. Act Early Campaign

From birth to 5 years, there are milestones your child should reach in terms of how she plays, learns, speaks, and acts. A delay in any of these areas could be a sign of a developmental problem, even autism. Fortunately, the earlier a delay is recognized, the more you can do to help your child reach their full potential.

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) is providing FREE informational packets for Health Care Professionals and Parents. The FREE kits are available to order by calling 1-800-CDC-INFO or visit www.cdc.gov/actearly.

Many of our Chapter Members are helping to personally distribute the informational kits to Pediatric Health Care Professionals in Kalamazoo and Calhoun counties. If you wish to assist in this awareness effort or have questions, please contact Sheri Marvin, smarvin@asa-kal.org.

Baskets of Hope

New to the area? Newly diagnosed? Contact our chapter for a personal delivery of a basket full of information to help you find services in Kalamazoo and Calhoun County.

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. Please drop off your child between 6:45-7:00 so the activity groups can begin together. If you plan to attend please contact Melanie Giddings at 269-373-4714 or at mgiddings@asa-kal.org

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.



Autism Awareness car magnets,
lapel pins, and bracelets
are available for purchase
at our meetings!

Upcoming Events

Asperger's Parent Support Group

Next meeting is Wednesday, May 25 at Croyden Avenue School 6:30-8:00 pm. Contact: Michelle Gulbis at 553-9311.

Nutrition Therapy for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder May 18—Saginaw, May 19—Lansing, May 20—Grand Rapids, June 3—Detroit

Elizabeth Strickland, MS, RD, LD nationally known Nutritionist specializing in nutritional treatment of Autism, will be presenting her 1-day seminar. The seminar is designed to be beneficial for both parents and professionals seeking reliable science-based information on nutrition interventions for the treatment of Autism and related disorders. For specific questions regarding the seminar content, contact Elizabeth at email: ASDpuzzle@aol.com or website: www.ASDpuzzle.com.

Going to the Heart of Autism—RDI

June 17 – 18, 2005, Ann Arbor, MI

Dr. Steve Gutstein dramatically illustrates the Relationship Development Intervention Program (RDI) via audience participation and hours of video taken from actual intervention sessions. For more information visit <http://www.connectionscenter.com/workshops/> or call (713) 838-1362.

ASA 36th Annual ASA Conference

"In Tune with the Future" July 13 - 16, 2005

We are hoping to arrange for some "carpooling" to this conference in Nashville, TN. If you are planning to attend, please e-mail Kim Prater at kprater@asa-kal.org. For more information call 1-800-3AUTISM or www.autism-society.org.

Thanks to everyone who made our
Autism Walk a success! Hear all about
it at our May meeting!



www.autism-society.org

Visit *AutismSource*, ASA's one-of-a-kind directory of Chapters, professionals, resources and providers serving families affected by autism.

Help build this resource!

This national database needs our community listings. Please ask service providers you use to visit the website and add their information. Think of these categories: Consultants, Dentists, Information and Support, Medical and Diagnostic, Psychologists, Research, Training, Camps and Recreation, Day School, Governmental Agency, Legal/Advocacy, Physicians, Related Services, and Service Providers. With everyone's help we can build a directory that will provide faster connections to support and therapy.

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.