



Kalamazoo/Battle Creek Chapter Autism Society of America



September 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.*

September 13, 2005-

Behavior Issues

Future Meeting Dates:

October 11, 2005

December 13, 2005

February 7, 2006

Board of Directors

Kim Prater

President, kprater@asa-kal.org

Carey Whitfield

Chairman of the Board, cwhitfield@asa-kal.org

Cyndi Carstens, Vice-President—Calhoun County, ccarstens@asa-kal.org

Katrina Wood, Vice-President—Kalamazoo County, Fundraising, kwood@asa-kal.org

Jean Steele

Secretary, jsteele@asa-kal.org

Kelly Davis

kdavis@asa-kal.org

Brenda Gagie

KRESA Liaison, bgagie@asa-kal.org

Karrie Kemery

Treasurer, kkemery@asa-kal.org

Sheri Marvin

CISD/CDC-Act Early, Project Lifesaver, smarvin@asa-kal.org

Betty Schimmel

Fundraising

Save the Date: Saturday, November 13th
For this year's Stop and Shop!



www.autism-society.org

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

United Way Contributions to ASA

Annual United Way Pledge campaigns are beginning at many workplaces. Your United Way contributions can be designated to be received by our chapter and directly impact our Autism community. Ask your employer for a designation form along with your pledge card and fill in the name and address of our chapter. Autism Society of America-Kalamazoo/Battle Creek Chapter, 4606 Croyden Avenue, Kalamazoo, MI 49006. We are a non-profit 501 (c)(3) corporation. Your contributions are tax-deductible.

New Phone Number 1-800-628-6421

Our chapter has a new toll-free telephone number. The phone number has several extensions for you to leave messages. Please pass this phone number to those you encounter who are new to the community or newly diagnosed. We want to be the number one resource for Autism in Kalamazoo and Calhoun Counties. Ext. 1—Trina Wood, Kalamazoo County. Ext. 2—Cyndi Carstens for Calhoun County. Ext. 3—Bev Bishop for Project Lifesaver. Ext. 4.—Kim Prater, President. Ext. 5—Other Surrounding Counties.

Michigan Family Support Subsidy

The Family Support Subsidy is one of an array of community-based, family-centered support services that makes it possible for children with developmental disabilities to remain with and to return to their birth or adoptive families. This subsidy provides a monthly stipend (\$222.11) that a family must spend on special needs that occur as a result of caring for a child with a severe disability at home. To be eligible, the child must be younger than 18 years and live in the family home. The family's most recently filed Michigan income tax form must show a taxable income of less than \$60,000. Children with autism must be receiving special education services in a program for students with autism or in a program designed for students with severe cognitive impairment. Family Support Subsidy applications are available at all community Mental Health Services Programs. Contact: Cheryl Thelen, (517) 241-5773, Thelenc@michigan.gov

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.

Call for Entries

Autism Society of America Kalamazoo/Battle Creek Chapter Holiday Card Contest

The Kalamazoo/Battle Creek Chapter Autism Society is hosting its first Holiday Card contest. This is an opportunity for children to show their artistic ability and awareness for Autism.

Theme:

"The Holidays and Autism". Each piece of art entered must use this theme. Contestants should strive to capture their favorite parts of the fun, color and festive spirit of the Holidays in their artwork. Some symbol of Autism must be included in their artwork.

Categories:

1. Ages 4-6 years old
2. Ages 8-12 years
3. Ages 13+



Entry Deadline:

All entries must be received by September 24th. No late entries will be accepted. Please mail entries to:

Trina Wood
8031 West H Ave
Kalamazoo, MI 49009



Winners:

A panel of judges will judge all entries based on age group. One winner from each group will be selected. They will be judged on the following criteria:

1. How well the theme is carried out.
2. Originality of design.
3. Quality of workmanship.

Prizes:

One prize will be awarded per category. A gift certificate in the amount of \$15.00 to Toys R Us will be given to each winner.

Artwork:

Each winning artwork will then be printed up into Holiday Cards and sold as a fundraiser for the Autism Society. The child's name will be on the back of the card along with our chapter name.

Notification:

The winning child will be notified by phone. Their prize will then be mailed to them.

Rules:

1. The artwork must be hand-drawn. No computer images will be accepted.
2. The artwork must be in a vertical format.
3. Each entry must be on 8 1/2 X 11 size white paper.
4. Use pen, pencil, marker, or colored pencil to draw with.
5. Complete the entry blank at the bottom of the page and return with your artwork.
6. All entries become the property of the Autism Society.

Holiday Card Contest Entry Blank Form:

Complete this form and return it with your artwork. No late entries will be accepted. The deadline is September 24th, 2005. The artwork will be judged on Tuesday, September 27th.

Mail entries to Trina Wood, 8031 West H Ave, Kalamazoo, MI 49009.

Name of Child: _____

Home Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Age of Child: _____

Release to put child's name on back of card: YES or NO (circle)

Name of Parents: _____

Upcoming Events

Community and School Inclusion Workshop September 10, 2005, Kalamazoo, MI

Moving Beyond the Myths, Miracles and Silver Bullets. An Interactive Workshop on Community and School Inclusion. Practical strategies and techniques to promote inclusion for your child with a disability. Contact Ronda SanCartier with Community Advocates (269) 342-9801 ext 204

2005 Gray Center Conference

New Ideas: Mutual Understanding in Practice October 18-19, 2005, DeVos Place, Grand Rapids, MI

The Gray Center will be hosting its FIFTH ANNUAL conference of perspectives on autism spectrum disorders! Featuring Carol Gray, Dr. Tony Attwood, Diane Twachtman-Cullen, Jerry Newport, Marie Howley and Eileen Arnold. Online Registration at www.thegraycenter.org or (616) 954-9747

Wrightslaw Special Education Law and Advocacy Training

November 12, 2005, Clinton Township, MI

Registration fee includes a copy of "Wrightslaw: IDEA 2004" and "Wrightslaw: From Emotions to Advocacy" and a copy of the Michigan Special Education Rules and Regulations. Contact Annette Duda (586) 447-2235 or adudamccasa@yahoo.com.

Walk About Talk About Autism 2005 A Success!

This year we had 235 walkers and over 50 hard working volunteers. This was our 2nd annual walk at the Celery Flats in Potage. We raised over \$11,500 through the hard work of our walkers and volunteers. We look forward to seeing you on the third Saturday of April 2006 to help us celebrate Autism Awareness Month.

Thank You!

Many generous businesses supported us and we would like to extend our sincere gratitude to all of those who donated. Outback Steakhouse, Design Ware, Goggin Rental, Gretchen Smith Group-Remax, Kenn Livingston, Ritter's Frozen Custard, Great Harvest Bread, Domino's, Treat Street, Minute Maid, Roe Comm, McDonald's, Marshall Field's-Battle Creek, Krispy Crème, Holiday Lanes, Little Caesars, Olde Peninsula, Indy Mac Bank, Grainger, Pfizer, Blue Dolphin, Walter's Seeds, Stellar Promotions, Country Wide Lending, Kellogg's, Olive Garden, Kara's Closet, Meijer, Main St. Pub, Kansas City Bar and Grill.

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.