

# **AUTISM SOCIETY**

*Improving the Lives of All Affected by Autism*

*Nebraska*

March 29, 2010



NEWSGRAM

This Newsgram has links embedded in the text to take you to more information on the Autism Society web site. Simply click on the links OR you can obtain all of the same information by visiting our web site at [www.autismnebraska.org](http://www.autismnebraska.org)

## **AUTISM PUZZLE WALK**



Saturday, May 1, 2010

Chalco Hills Recreation Area  
154th & Giles Road  
Omaha

[GET REGISTERED ONLINE TODAY!](#)

[SCHEDULE OF EVENTS](#)

[GET YOUR PARTICIPANT GUIDE HERE](#)

[CAN'T COME? SIGN UP AS A VIRTUAL WALKER!](#)

[FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS](#)

Do you have a contact that would be interested in donating a raffle prize for the Puzzle Walk? The raffle is always amazing! We'd appreciate your help making it even better!

Help us make it even more spectacular and raise even more funds for a great cause! Contact Shawn Neff at [saneff@cox.net](mailto:saneff@cox.net) to make a donation!

Visit [www.autismnebraska.org](http://www.autismnebraska.org) for current information!

Go to [WWW.FIRSTGIVING.COM/ASN](http://WWW.FIRSTGIVING.COM/ASN) to register today!

**The Autism Society owes a big thanks to our 2010 Puzzle Walk sponsors!**

Remember! 100% of the Puzzle Walk proceed stay in NEBRASKA to help our local community!



**EVERY SECOND. EVERY DAY.**

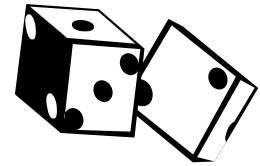
## Spotlight on Puzzle Walk Fundraising

THANK YOU TO UNO NSSLHA AND TO EVERYONE WHO CAME OUT TO SUPPORT THIS EVENT. IT TURNED OUT AMAZING!



Join the Nebraska Methodist College for a Casino Night fundraiser in support of the 3rd Annual Autism Puzzle Walk!

Friday, April 16th, 2010  
Nebraska Methodist College  
720 N 87th Street  
6:00pm - 9:00 pm  
\$5 for adults  
\$20 for a family



Join the UNO NSSLHA group for Dance fundraiser in support of the 3rd Annual Autism Puzzle Walk!

Friday, April 23rd, 2010  
Prairie Lane Church  
3111 South 119th Street  
6:00pm - 10:00 pm  
\$5 for adults  
\$3 for children



Friday April 23rd—Omaha’s Gallup Organization will be having an employee Pancake Feed with the proceeds being donated to the Autism Society Puzzle Walk! Thank you to Stephen Lichtenberg for advocating for our community and THANK YOU to our friends at Gallup!

**Is your organization having a fundraiser to support the Autism Walk? Please send us the details and we’ll happily share the news!**

## 2010 State Autism Conference

The Nebraska ASD Network will hold its 7th annual ASD Conference in Kearney, NE on April 8th and 9th. Speakers will include Fern Sussman, Ruth Aspy, James Emmett, Barry Grossman, and Mary Schlieider. They will also hold a speakers dinner with individuals on the autism spectrum.

This year the conference will include a new vocational strand sponsored by Voc Rehab & Region 7 TACE as well as a parent track sponsored by the Autism Society of Nebraska.

You can register [here](#) or download the conference flyer [here](#).

## Extra! Extra! You have to read the ASD Network Newsletter!

The Nebraska ASD Network is an amazing resource for families and professionals in our state. If you haven't already met your regional coordinator, do it now! Also be sure and check out their statewide website as well as their regional pages for training opportunities near you! [www.unl.edu/asdnetwork](http://www.unl.edu/asdnetwork)

Today we are thrilled to share with you their SE Region's new Newsletter! This is written by Melissa Trautman and it is fantastic! Read them! Print them off! Take them to your school! Teachers...put them in the teachers lounge! Thank you Melissa and the ASD Network! You can visit them directly at <http://seasdnetwork.wordpress.com/> or follow our links below.

[Click here to read the December Edition](#)

[Click here to read the January Edition](#)

[Click here to read the February Edition](#)

[Click here to read the March Edition](#)

## Other State Conferences

There are some other great Statewide Conferences going on right now. Check out our web site for more information.

[2010 ARC State Conference](#) April 9-10, 2010

[2010 Learning Disabilities State Conference](#) April 10, 2010

## OMAHA: Grandparents (and other family members) Workshop

This Workshop is designed for grandparents, aunts, uncles and other extended family members of children with disabilities.

Date: Saturday, April 17, 2010

Location: ESU #3, 6949 So. 110th St., Omaha Nebraska

Lower Level: Cass/Douglas Room

Time: 8:30 am to 2:30 pm

Fee: \$5 for individuals, \$8 for couples

Confidential scholarships available: Call 402-597-4936 to inquire

### Agenda

8:30 Registration and Continental Breakfast (Provided)

9:00-10:30 Family Story Activity

10:30-10:45 Break

10:45-12:00 Community Resources Panel Presentation and Q & A

12:00-12:30 LUNCH (Provided)

12:30-1:45 Brothers and Sisters Perspective

1:45-2:15 Wrap-up and Evaluation

2:15-2:30 Door Prize Drawings

Be sure and check the [ASN Web Site](#) and [Calendar](#) between Newsgrams! We often have new information on the web site that we have yet to include in the Newsgrams!

Download a flyer [here](#).

## OMAHA: Support Group for Siblings of Children with Autism

Siblings of children with autism have unique needs. The Support Group for Siblings of Children with Autism may increase siblings' understanding of their brother or sister's disability and help them feel more positive about themselves and their role with their sibling.

- Sponsored by Autism Action Partners—no cost for participation!!!
- Meet weekly for four weeks
- Age groups (younger elementary, upper elementary, middle school, high school)

You can register your child for one of the following sessions by filling out the online registration on the Munroe-Meyer Institute web site at [www.unmc.edu/mmi](http://www.unmc.edu/mmi) Download their flyer [here](#).

Session C: April 6, 13, 20 & 27 (younger & upper elementary 4:30 - 5:30 pm)

Session D: May 4, 11, 18, 25 (middle & high school age) 5:30 - 6:30 pm

**All information on this Newsgram is also available by visiting our web site at [www.autismnebraska.org](http://www.autismnebraska.org)**

## Support Group for Siblings (continued)

Sessions C & D will be held at the Millard Library - 13214 Westwood Lane

Session E: June 1, 8, 15, 22 (younger & upper elementary) 4:30 - 5:30pm

Session E will be held at Munroe Meyer Institute - 44th and Dewey Ave

If you have question, please contact Teri Sedersten at (402)559-5732 or [tsedersten@unmc.edu](mailto:tsedersten@unmc.edu)

## KEARNEY: Adaptive Easter Egg Hunt

The Kearney Family YMCA and The Arc of Buffalo County are sponsoring an Adaptive Easter Egg Hunt & Family Fun Time for children with disabilities and their siblings/families. Volunteers from UNK's Social Work and Service Learning Classes, along with UNK's Greeks, will assist children with finding eggs, playing games, and making crafts. To register or for more information call the Arc at 237-4343.

When: Saturday, April 3, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Where: Kearney YMCA , 4500 6th Ave

Who: Children ages 12 and under with disabilities and their siblings & families

Special Invitation for families involved with:

Early Development Network, ASK - Autism Spectrum Disorders of Kearney, Kearney Area Down Syndrome Group, The Arc of Buffalo County, & Kearney Supporting Parents

Download a flyer [here](#).

## OMAHA: Autism Society Easter Egg Hunt



**Saturday, April 3rd**

**1:30 pm - 3:00 pm**

Hunt starts promptly at 2:00 pm

Enjoy Camp Brewster and Kiewit Lodge underneath the arching canopy of 200 year old oak trees. come and have your picture taken with the Easter Bunny and hunt bright colored Easter Eggs.

-For children and their siblings ages 0 -12 years

-Bring your own containers to collect eggs

This event is being sponsored by the Autism Society - Omaha Support Group and Parent to Parent of Ollie Webb Center, Inc. **To attend you must RSVP by Wednesday, March 31st.** Please contact Annie at 346-5220 ext. 23 or [aanderson@olliewebbinc.org](mailto:aanderson@olliewebbinc.org)

Camp Brewster and Kiewit Lodge is located at 1313 Bellevue Blvd North in Bellevue.

## KEARNEY: Respite Provider Training

UNMC Munroe Meyer Institute's Department of Pediatric Psychology in Partnership with the Nebraska Respite Network Presents:

### **Respite Provider Training Workshop: Managing Challenging Behavior**

The Respite Provider Training Workshop is designed to educate and train new and current respite providers to successfully and confidently manage challenging behavior exhibited by children with developmental disabilities.

Workshop will be held at ESU 10 in Kearney on Saturday, March 27th from 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Lunch will be provided.

Training topics will include:

- Nebraska Respite Network Presentation
- Introduction to Developmental Disabilities
- Proactive Strategies to Prevent Disruptive Behavior
- Managing Problem Behavior

In order to attend, participants must register by emailing [respiteprtraining@gmail.com](mailto:respiteprtraining@gmail.com) by 03/20/10. Download their flyer for more information [here](#).

## OMAHA: You're invited to a birthday!

**Our friends at the University of Nebraska - Omaha are at it again!** They've heard us share that our kids are missing out on birthday parties and they decided to throw one in honor of our kids! If you have an elementary aged child who would like to attend a birthday party please email our friends at UNO at [unobirthday@gmail.com](mailto:unobirthday@gmail.com) to get on the birthday invitation list!

**The party will be April 17th from 1:00 - 3:00 pm.**

You will need to provide them with

1. Child's name and mailing address (so they can send an invite)
2. Child's birthdate and age
3. A picture (will be used for some visual references during the party)
4. Any special dietary needs
5. The child's main interests in toys and activities

More information to come!

## OMAHA: Upcoming Sensory Friendly Movies

The Autism Society of America and AMC Entertainment have worked together to create sensory friendly films in an attempt to accommodate families with special needs. This is not only for autism families but also for any families with special needs.

The movie auditoriums will have their lights brought up, the sound turned down, and AMC's "Silence is Golden<sup>®</sup>" policy will not be enforced. There will be no previews before the film so plan to arrive early as the movie will start at 10am! AMC is also being very generous and letting our families bring in their own GFCF snacks. Regular concessions are also available to purchase.

Questions - contact Michaela Newman at (402)933-1216 or [bnewms@cox.net](mailto:bnewms@cox.net)

### **HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON**

Saturday, April 10th

10:00 am

Omaha's AMC Oakview 24

3555 S 140th Plaza

### **SHREK 4**

Saturday, May 22nd

10:00 am

Omaha's AMC Oakview 24

3555 S 140th Plaza

## Are you a Special Olympian?

We are hoping to find a Nebraska athlete on the autism spectrum who is participating in the National Special Olympic Games in Lincoln this summer. Due to confidentiality reasons, the Special Olympics can't share participant information so we are putting a call out through the Autism Society to find you!

If you or your loved one is participating in the National games and would be willing to be interviewed please email Kristen Larsen at [larsenk@charter.net](mailto:larsenk@charter.net) or call 308-237-4343! Thank you!

## Autism Society Board Members Needed

The Nebraska Chapter of the Autism Society seeks to have board representation for across the State and will be taking applications to fill Board member positions. We need Autism Professionals as well as Autism Warriors. Anyone interested in helping advocate for individuals affected by autism is eligible.

If you are interested in learning more please contact Autism Society President, Michaela Newman at [autismsociety@autismnebraska.org](mailto:autismsociety@autismnebraska.org).

All information on this Newsgram is also available by visiting our web site at [www.autismnebraska.org](http://www.autismnebraska.org)

## AUTISM SOCIETY—OMAHA SUPPORT GROUP NEWS

Come join us at Pump It Up - The Original Inflatable Party Zone - for a night of bouncing, jumping and climbing! This will be a private event for families with children on the autism spectrum.

WHO: Autism Families

WHEN: The 1st Monday of every month  
6:00pm - 8:00pm

WHERE: Pump It Up 960 S 72nd (72nd & Pacific)

COST: \$5 per child (\$10 maximum charge per family)

**You don't have to be a member of the Autism Society to take part in our events!**

### **THIS EVENING CAN BE WHATEVER YOU WANT IT TO BE!**

There are a variety of ways this evening can serve your family:

1. Come to Pump It Up and climb, bounce and have a blast with your family. Consider it a family night out. You don't have to participate in the support group meeting. You can also look at this as a night to get the kids out and burn off some energy in reduced cost / autism friendly environment!
2. Leave the kids home (with Dad or Mom or Grandma or a babysitter) and join the support group for a chance to talk and meet other parents. The support group meets in a separate room away from the excited chaos.
3. Bring a helper to supervise/play with your kids and then the adults can come join the support group discussion. Then if you are needed you are only a few steps away. Or RSVP to Shawn Neff at [saneff@cox.net](mailto:saneff@cox.net) to see about a UNO Volunteer to supervise your child while you attend the support group.
4. One parent can play/supervise the kids and the other parent can attend the support group.
5. OR we have some amazing volunteers from the UNO NSSLHA (Speech language students) who are coming to help provide some respite. **If you need a college volunteer to supervise your child you MUST RSVP to Shawn Neff at [saneff@cox.net](mailto:saneff@cox.net) by the prior Wednesday in order to be ensured an adult volunteer.** This will be first come first served as our participation grows we are finding the kids are starting to outnumber the volunteers! We only need the RSVP if you are seeking a volunteer to chaperone your child.

All autism families are welcome. You do not have to be a current member of ASN or the Omaha Support Group.

## Omaha Calendar of Events

Saturday, April 3—Easter Egg Hunt

1:30pm—3:00pm Free

Camp Brewster and Kiewit Lodge, 1313 Bellevue Blvd. North, Bellevue

RSVP by March 31st to Annie at 402-346-5220 ext 23

Monday, April 5—Pump It Up/Support Group

6:00 pm—8:00 pm

960 S 72nd St, Omaha

**PUZZLE WALK KICKOFF PARTY—free admission to those who register and create an online fundraising page for the Autism Puzzle Walk prior or during the Kick off event**

Saturday, April 10—AMC Sensory Friendly Movie HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON

10:00 am \$5 per person

Oakview AMC Theater 3555 S 140th Plaza

\$5 per person

Saturday, April 10—Open Gym at the Barn

10:00 am—2:00 pm

13504 South 226th Avenue, Gretna

Call (402)301-6829 to RSVP

Friday, April 16—Casino Night Fundraiser

6:00 pm —9:00 pm

NE Methodist College

720 N 87th St,

\$5 per person / \$20 per family

Saturday, April 17th—ASD Birthday Party

RSVP to unobirthday@gmail.com

Thursday, April 22—Pump It Up: Bounce for Autism fundraiser for the Autism Society of America

7:00 pm – 9:00 pm \$5 of each admission with go to the national Autism Society organization.

Friday, April 23—Together We Dance Fundraiser

6:00pm —10:00pm

UNO NSSLHA

Prairie Lane Church, 3111 S 119th St

\$5 adults / \$3 child

Saturday, May 1—Autism Society Puzzle Walk

## Summer Resources to Check Out!

### KEARNEY:

Challenger Baseball [Click here for more information.](#)

### OMAHA:

AllPlay Baseball [Click here for more information](#)

The Barn Summer Camps [Click here for more information](#)

Camp Munroe Recreational Therapy Summer Camp Call 559-5777 for application

Challenger Baseball [Click here for more information](#)

The Rose Summer Classes [Click here for more information](#)

### LINCOLN:

Homer's Heroes Baseball [Click here for more information](#)

### STATEWIDE:

Nebraska Game and Parks Family and Friends Fishing Events [More information](#)

Easter Seals Summer Camp [Click here for more information](#)

**Please help us complete our list of resources! Please forward any ASD friendly events to [AutismSocietyNewsgram@autismnebraska.org](mailto:AutismSocietyNewsgram@autismnebraska.org) !**

**Please take a few moments to help us make sure the Autism Society has your current information in our mailing list!**

**[Click here to update our records](#)**

**All information on this Newsgram is also available by visiting our web site at [www.autismnebraska.org](http://www.autismnebraska.org)**

## April Autism Awareness Events by the Autism Society

### WORLD AUTISM DAY

Friday, April 2, 210

### ALLIANCE: Autism Society Bowling Event

Saturday, April 10, 2010

[Click here for more information.](#)

### LINCOLN: The Horse Boy sponsored by the Autism Society

April 2—8 Mary Riepma Ross Media Arts Center

### OMAHA: Autism Society Autism Awareness Day with the Omaha Royals

Sunday, April 11, 2010

[Click here for more information](#)

### OMAHA: BOUNCE FOR AUTISM - Proceeds go to the Autism Society of America

Thursday, April 22, 2010 7:00 pm—9:00 pm

[Visit Pump It Up's web site for more information!](#)

### **Get noticed and be heard for World Autism Day!**

**A group will be meeting at the State Capitol building at the West Entrance on April 1st at 10am. Please bring posters or something to signify that you are with the autism community. Contact Cathy Martinez at [cathykmart@yahoo.com](mailto:cathykmart@yahoo.com) with any questions.**

**Autism Society of Nebraska**

PO Box 83559  
Lincoln, NE 68501-3559

Phone: 1-877-375-0120

E-mail:



To have your event added to the Autism Society Newsgram and calendar please email AutismSocietyNewsgram@autismnebraska.org or you can post it directly to our calendar at [www.autismnebraska.org](http://www.autismnebraska.org). Please be aware that it may take 24 hours for your event to appear on the site.

We appreciate your help including our statewide community events! Please help us help you AND your neighbors!

When we recognize that a better word for Fundraising is “friend raising,” we open limitless doors to creativity in support of our causes.

- Sue Vineyard