

AUTISM SOCIETY

Improving the Lives of All Affected by Autism

Nebraska

April 20, 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

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 to make a donation!

Visit www.autismnebraska.org for current information!

Go to 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!

THANK YOU TO THE **NEBRASKA METHODIST COLLEGE** AND EVERYONE WHO CAME OUT IN SUPPORT OF THE PUZZLE WALK! IT WAS FOR AN AMAZING NIGHT OF FUN AND GAMES!

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!

AUTISM PUZZLE WALK SUMMARY

*Sign up today
and help us
meet our goal of
800 walkers!*

PUZZLE WALK REGISTRATIONS
328

PUZZLE WALK FUNDRAISING PAGES

69 PUZZLE WALKERS PAGES
17 VIRTUAL WALKERS PAGES

PUZZLE WALK FUNDRAISING TOTAL
\$13,915

HURRY!
THERE ARE
ONLY
10 DAYS
UNTIL THE
PUZZLE WALK!



Lorrie Bryant, Ph.D. is a vital member of our community in so many ways. Her private practice focuses on evaluation, behavioral and cognitive-behavioral therapy, parent training, and consultation for children ranging in age from 2 years through high school.

The Autism Society would also like to thank her for her support as a VIRTUAL WALKER and the creation of a fundraising page to help us support the Autism Society mission! Our families are truly blessed to have such a caring professional to help us through this journey!

You can contact her at...

Behavioral Pediatric and Family Therapy
4501 South 70 Street, #120
Lincoln, NE 68516
Ph: (402) 483-1936

or visit her fundraising page at www.firstgiving.com/lorriebryant

Autism Society Board Members Needed

The Nebraska Chapter of the Autism Society seeks to have board representation for across the entire state of Nebraska. We currently have board vacancies and are taking applications for these very important positions.

Board members are asked to attend a quarterly meeting that rotates between Lincoln and Omaha locations. Additionally they are required to participate in a monthly teleconference calls to review and discuss Autism Society matters.

Anyone interested in helping advocate for individuals affected by autism is eligible, but we particularly need board representation from the professional community serving our population. Please consider this important volunteer opportunity!

If you are interested in learning more please contact Autism Society President, Michaela Newman at autismsociety@autismnebraska.org.

NORTH PLATTE: Autism Society Sensory Room at Cody Fun Night

The Autism Society—North Platte Support Group is hosting a sensory game room in conjunction with Cody School Fun Night on April 23, 2010 from 6:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M. located at 2000 West 2nd Street.

Contact Becky Rossell at 308-532-3132 or Melissa Mackely at 308-534-1935 for details.

ALLIANCE: Autism Society hosts an Autism Family Bowling



Thanks to Bowl Mor Lanes and everyone from the autism community who came out to celebrate and kick off the new Alliance Support Group!

Look for more information about community events in the near future!

NORFOLK: Support Group hosts a Family Fun Day

For Autism Awareness Month the Norfolk Autism Support Group will be hosting a family fun day on Sunday April 25th from 1-3. It will be held at the Norfolk YMCA in the East Gym. There will be games for the kids and refreshments. There will be no charge for this event.

Contact Meg Westby at 640-3668 with questions.

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 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

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

**A barking dog is often more
useful than a sleeping lion.
—Washington Irving adapted
from the Bible**

**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!**

**All information on this Newsgram is also available by visiting our web site at
www.autismnebraska.org**

ASD Network: SE Region's April 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

Today we are thrilled to share with you their SE Region's new Newsletter! This is written by Melissa Trautman and it is fantastic! Check them out! Print them off! Take them to your school! Teachers...put them in the teachers lounge!

Download the April Newsletter [here](#).

Brookes Publishing: Free Download a Day during April

Each day in April, Brookes Publishing is featuring excerpts from one of the books in our 2010 Brookes Autism Library (with a few special extras added in for good measure).

Visit their web site at www.brookespublishing.com/autism

Check it out for some great information!

OMAHA: Summer Acting Classes at The Rose

Autism Action Partnership and The Rose Theater are offering children and teens with ASD an unique theatrical experience that promotes creativity, confidence and self-esteem. Professional actor/educators from The Rose will use team exercises, game playing and interactive storytelling to introduce your child to the world of theater. These classes are designed specifically for students who are diagnosed on the autism spectrum.

Tuition is \$30 per ASD student, and a registration form is required for enrollment. Please contact Niki Mulkey at nikim@rosetheater.org. *Note: Sibling scholarships are not available during the summer session

Classes for K-2nd Grade: June 14-18 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Classes for 7th - 10th Grade - June 21 - 25 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Classes for 3rd - 6th Grade - July 19 - 23 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Cost: \$30.00 per ASD student; Registration: Call The Rose Theater at (402) 502-4617 for an application. Download a flyer [here](#).

CBS's *The Doctors* to discuss Autism

Center for Autism and Related Disorders, Inc. (CARD) Founder and Executive Director Doreen Granpeesheh, PhD, BCBA-D will appear on the CBS nationally syndicated talk show, *The Doctors*, this Friday, April 23rd. Dr. Granpeesheh, a world-renowned autism expert, will join a diverse panel of guests in discussing autism.

What happens when you go to the doctor and learn that everything is not OK? Friday's show will empower you to tackle any medical crisis and stand up for your health. Plus, inform you of the warning signs that may indicate autism.

Can't watch or record the show? The April 23rd show, featuring Dr. Doreen Granpeesheh, will be available for viewing online, one week after broadcast, by visiting: www.youtube.com/cardinc1990.

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 or call 308-237-4343! Thank you!

ASA News: Text a donation to the Autism Society

Spread the word. Helping the autism community can be as easy as updating your Facebook or Twitter status! On April 1, the Autism Society is asking supporters to change their status on Facebook and/or Twitter to "Autism affects 1 in 110."

Help spread the word: <http://bit.ly/bUAVRf>.

For the first time ever, supporters can now simply text "AUTISM" to 50555 to donate \$10 to the Autism Society of America. 100% of your donations will go to support the Autism Society's mission of improving the lives of all affected by autism.

This donation will go to our parent organization and the funds will go towards the national initiative!

All information on this Newsgram is also available by visiting our web site at www.autismnebraska.org

OMAHA: An ASD Birthday Party!

The Omaha Support group would like to make a very big and very public **THANK YOU** to our amazing advocates at the University of Nebraska—Omaha. Dr. Mitzi Ritzman has once again established herself as one of our biggest advocates!

This semester Dr. Ritzman is teaching a graduate level class specific to Autism Spectrum Disorders. The Omaha Support Group provided a group of parents for a panel discussion with the class several weeks ago and it was an amazing discussion. The students then also had similar panel discussions with working autism professionals as well as a “persons on the spectrum” panel. Thanks to Dr. Ritzman this group of students have an amazing insight into the lives of individuals on the spectrum as well as their families!

This past weekend the class completed their semester long group project— a birthday party for kids on the spectrum. And words cannot convey what an amazing experience this was!



The students covered all the details starting with the birthday invitations mailed to all attendees which included a social story explaining what happens at birthday parties. All party activities had PECS signs explaining how to participate. The under-the-sea themed party included a bouncy house, magician, games with prizes, pizza and even gluten free cupcakes. Perhaps the big surprise was that gifts were provided for each child!

This was a breakthrough for 8 year old Jonathan who has anxiety about gifts and has never opened a wrapped gift before. Never! Not a Christmas present nor a birthday gift. Ironically his actual birthday was just the day before the UNO birthday party. At home, on the day of his real birthday, Jonathan had begun to cry at the mere mention of his presents from Grandma and Grandpa. At his real birthday party Jonathan’s big brother opened his presents for him.

But Mom persisted. She and Jonathan still came to the UNO birthday party on Saturday. Mom figured that it if took 20 minutes to get him into the party than at least at this party she knew all of the other guests would understand. And Jonathan did balk at entering the gymnasium. Mom explained to the UNO students that Jonathan’s birthday had just been the day before and that he had specific anxieties about parties and presents. The UNO students rose to the challenge!

It started with an agreement to eat pizza. Jonathan loves Sam and Louie’s! And with a little TLC and a lot of support, Jonathan’s mom stood there in awe as Jonathan opened his first birthday present—ever!

Thank you to Dr. Ritzman and all of her students. You were all amazing! Your professionalism and level of detail was astonishing and your compassion was truly breath taking. Thank you for giving our children a birthday party that they will always remember!



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[®]" 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

SHREK 4

Saturday, May 22nd

10:00 am

Omaha's AMC Oakview 24

3555 S 140th Plaza

TOY STORY 3

Saturday, June 26

10:00 am

Omaha's AMC Oakview 24

3555 S 140th Plaza

OMAHA: Autism Awareness Day with the Royals



The Autism Society was able to throw out the first pitch. Great job guys!!



Some of our Star Wars friends joined us for the Autism Awareness Day at Rosenblatt. Darth Vader, Princess Leia and several Storm Troopers helped us hand out Puzzle Walk information to the baseball fans.

Walk Secret!

Our Star Wars friends will be joining us again at the Puzzle Walk on May 1st!

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.

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

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)

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 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 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

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

7:00 pm – 9:00 pm \$7 admission - proceeds 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

Have you registered yet! Get going!

www.firstgiving.com/asn



Monday, May 3—Pump It Up/Support Group

6:00 pm—8:00 pm

960 S 72nd St, Omaha

\$5 per child / \$10 family maximum

Saturday, May 22—AMC Sensory Friendly Movie Shrek 4

10:00 am \$5 per person

Oakview AMC Theater 3555 S 140th Plaza

Summer Resources to Check Out!

KEARNEY:

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

OMAHA:

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

The Barn Summer Camp [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 !



Put on the Puzzle! The Autism Awareness Puzzle Ribbon is the most recognized symbol of the autism community in the world. Autism prevalence is now one in every 110 children in America - that's 13 million families and growing who live with autism today.

Show your support for people with autism by wearing the Autism Awareness Puzzle Ribbon this month – as a pin on your shirt, a magnet on your car, a badge on your blog, or even your Facebook profile picture - and educate folks on the potential of people with autism! For suggestions and resources, visit www.autism-society.org/ribbon.

All information on this Newsgram is also available by visiting our web site at www.autismnebraska.org

Autism Society of Nebraska

PO Box 83559
Lincoln, NE 68501-3559

Phone: 1-877-375-0120
E-mail:

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](#)



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. 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!

Once you choose hope, anything's possible.
—Christopher Reeve