



AUTISM SOCIETY

Improving the Lives of All Affected by Autism



Nebraska

JUNE 1, 2010

NEWSGRAM

Autism Society Board Member Vacancies

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 call 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!

Download an application form [here](#). Application are due July 1, 2010.

Autism Society Announcement

The Autism Society is having to change our toll free phone number. Please be sure and update your records to show our NEW phone number!

1-800-580-9279

New column coming to the Newsgram...but we need your input!

We will be launching a "Dear Abby" style column that will be answered by a local autism professional who has been serving our families for many years. If you have a question or need advice please email to AutismSocietyNewsgram@autismnebraska.org.

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

The Barn Summer Camp Applications

The Barn is now taking registrations for their summer camp for special needs kids. Camp size ranges from 5-10 to allow for more one to one interaction and less waiting by the campers. Campers will experience a variety of sensory activities, outdoor activities and many typical camp events to enhance sensory integration opportunities. Summer camp provides an opportunity for the kids to interact with peers, and build on the skills they have been learning all year through individual therapy, school and other special services.

Socialization with peers within a community setting is important for kids with sensory integration disorders and The Barn summer camp provides that privilege in a safe and nurturing environment. Activities to include: paint, art creations, water play, horses, hayrack rides, climbing, swinging, hiking, wood crafts, gardening, musical instruments, imaginative games, outdoor games and so much more.

Visit their web site for more information www.myplaybarn.com or call (402)301-6829

LINCOLN: Dreams Unlimited

Dreams Unlimited is dedicated to helping children with disabilities have the opportunity for fun and challenge in areas they may never have thought possible. Our mission is to assist children with disabilities and their families to access & coordinate adapted recreation that may otherwise not be available to them. Dreams Unlimited coordinates and funds recreation opportunities for children with disabilities and their families.

Check out their web site for some neat upcoming events... www.dreamsunlimitedlincoln.org

LINCOLN: Project EXCEED taking applications for 2010-11

Project EXCEED & Ruth Staples Child Development Lab will be accepting applications for young children with an educational verification or medical diagnosis of an autism spectrum disorder to take part in a research, teaching and service project as part of the Ruth Staples Child Development program. Participating children receive research-based individualized instruction and opportunities to practice critical early social, communication and behavioral skills while participating in a high-quality early childhood program.

For the 2010-11 academic year, Project EXCEED is accepting applications for children between the ages of 18 months-3 years of age. The program takes place Monday-Friday from 7:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. from August 23rd 2010 through April 29th 2011. The Ruth Staples child development program is a full-day program (7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.). Participating families will be responsible for partial tuition costs (see application for details). Project EXCEED participants will be required to attend during the morning hours (7:30-12:30) and parents/guardians may choose whether their children continue to participate in the Ruth Staples child development program in the afternoon.

LINCOLN: Project EXCEED (continued)

Space for participants is limited. Children and families who are selected will be invited to join Project EXCEED and to voluntarily make a decision whether to participate or not participate. Direct questions to Laura Maddox via email at autismproject@unl.edu or by phone at 402-472-2121. Download an application [here](#).

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

OMAHA: PTC announces Summer Friendship Camps

Pediatric Therapy Center is taking applications for their Summer Friendship Camp. The class is a 6 week social skills program designed for 6-8 and 9-13 year olds. They are also introducing a new preschool group for ages 4-5. Click [here](#) for more information or call (402)932-2782. Deadline is June 4th.

OMAHA: PTC announces Fit Kids Camp

This is a 6 week summer program for children with low muscle tone, decreased strength, coordination difficulties, and sensory processing differences. Sessions will focus on increasing strength, improving coordination, and developing healthy habits. This camp will provide opportunities for learning and participating in a variety of team and individual sports. This is a great opportunity for developing skills and increasing activity in a fun and encouraging environment where kids can be successful and make new friends. For an application to this camp please contact us at office@ptcne.org or visit our website at ptcne.org

June 21—August 22

Ages 6—12 Cost is \$75

Monday and Wednesday at 3:30pm

HETRA—Summer Camp

Summer Camp at HETRA - Heartland Equine Therapeutic Riding Academy facilities

Discover what it takes to keep a horse healthy, happy and strong. Each student will learn how to groom and saddle a horse, make horse treats, even how to clean a stall. There will be plenty of “horsey” crafts and activities for all ages. This camp is open to everyone. For more information contact www.hetra.org or 402-359-8830. HETRA’s mission to improve the quality of life both physically and emotionally of adults and children with disabilities through equine assisted activities.

Valley: July 5-9, 2010 - 29430 Ida Street, Valley NE

Omaha: July 12-16, 2010 – 4906 S 180th Street, Omaha NE

Advanced Independent Riding Camp: July 19-23, 2010, Valley NE (Student must have previous riding lessons and ability to walk and trot independently.)

Hours: 9:00 am - 11:00 am

Cost: \$35/day or \$150/week

HETRA—Call for volunteers

Without our dedicated Volunteers we would not have a therapeutic riding program! We would love to have you join the HETRA team. To become a volunteer, you do not need to have experience with horses or working with individuals with disabilities. All it takes is one [volunteer training session](#), and you are on your way to becoming part of the volunteer team! Email jan@hetra.org or call 402-669-1504 for the June trainings. Thank you for supporting HETRA in our mission to improve the quality of life both physically and emotionally of adults and children with disabilities through equine assisted activities!

June 4 – New Volunteer Training at the Omaha barn 4906 S 180th Street, 6:00-8:00 pm.

June 19 - Grooming & Tacking Training - must attend a new volunteer training before attending grooming training. Omaha Barn 8:00-9:30 am and Valley Barn 29430 Ida Street, Valley NE 1:00-2:30 pm

June 19 - Horse Leader Training- must attend new volunteer training and grooming training before attending leader training. Omaha Barn 9:30-12:00 am and Valley Barn 2:30-5:00 pm

Can't make this training? Check out their events page at www.hetra.org for the next scheduled volunteer training.

OMAHA: Step by Step Dance Class

Step By Step is a fun, safe dance class for special needs students up to age 16. They meet weekly for an hour and stretch, learn basic dance positions, leap, jump, tap and hip hop!

When: June and July Thursdays 7:35-8:35pm (begins Thurs. June 3)

Where: Broadway Connection Dance Center, 2329 N. 90th St. (90th & Blondo)

Instructors: Sue Booton and Carly Nass plus community volunteers

Tuition: \$35 per month (you may participate in one month or both!)

Download a registration form [here](#). Contact Sue Booton at 571-4446 with any questions.

Get Connected!

A huge part of our mission here at the Autism Society is to link our community together. We have so many voices and the only way they are going to be heard is if we use them together! So come on out and get to know your neighbors and fellow members of the Nebraska autism community!

Check out our online Yahoo Discussion Group [HERE!](#)

Check out our Facebook Page [HERE!](#)

Please help us help each other!

OMAHA: Volunteers needed for a Bike Riding Camp

They are still looking for some volunteers to help out at the Lose The Training Wheels Bike Camp next week in Omaha. If you are interested please contact Sam Armstrong at 763-8830 or sarmstrong@autismaction.org

OMAHA: Join the Omaha Support Group for a barbecue at The Barn

Join us for a barbecue at The Barn on Saturday, June 5th from 5:00pm—9:00pm. The Barn will provide hotdogs, drinks, plates, silverware and a fun time! The cost is \$5 per person and families should bring a side dish. Call the Barn to RSVP at (402)301-6829

The Omaha Support Group will be providing smores and will even have GFCF smores available.

Come join us at a sensory friendly venue and have some outdoor fun!

OMAHA: June 7th Support Group to host Bridget Cannon Hale

The June Support Group will be held at Pump It Up on Monday, June 7th from 6—8pm. This month we will have a guest speaker, Bridget Cannon Hale. Bridget's first point of reference comes as a sibling to a 35 year old brother with autism. She also has her Masters in Social Work and worked for 7 years in school systems as a School Social Worker working directly with autism programs. Bridget then served as the Metro Region Autism Coordinator for 5 years. She has since served in various roles in non profit management where she has remained passionate about autism. Bridget is planning to host a Q & A with families about anything from A to Z...so please come armed with your best questions!

OMAHA: 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

TOY STORY 3

Saturday, June 26

10:00 am

Omaha's AMC Oakview 24

3555 S 140th Plaza

The Despicable

Saturday, July 17

10:00 am

Omaha's AMC Oakview 24

3555 S 140th Plaza

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

OMAHA: Biomedical Discussion Group

The Omaha Support Group has created a separate support venue for those families pursuing biomedical interventions. The Biomedical Discussion group is meeting the third Thursday of every month at 7pm. This is a discussion forum for those families currently involved in biomedical treatments.

However, on Thursday, June 17th the group is inviting those parents who might be new to biomedical and diet interventions to join them. This is your opportunity to speak with parents who are familiar with these practices and learn how they are helping their children. The group suggests you do some research prior to the meeting so that you can be prepared to ask questions. They recommend visiting these websites generationrescue.org and tacanow.org or reading the books, "Louder Than Words" and "Healing and Preventing Autism" by Jenny McCarthy or "Changing the Course of Autism" by Dr. Bryan Jepson.

The June meeting will be held at Senor Matias' Restaurant, located at 2505 S 90th St. Please RSVP to Karen Al-Hindi by Monday, June 15th at karen.alhindi@gmail.com or 554-3834 (leave a message).

If you have any questions regarding the group you can contact Chrissy Cameron chrissycameron@cox.net or Karen Falconer Al-Hindi karen.alhindi@gmail.com for more information.

OMAHA: Support Group sets a Meetup Time for Summer Bowling

The Omaha Support Group will be again having a standing bowling date at Sempeck's Bowling (former Thunder Alley location) in Elkhorn every Friday morning at 10am. This will be all summer long. No RSVP...just show up!

Sempecks again is offering the Kids Bowl Free program where kids can bowl 2 free games every day during the summer! You will need to register online at www.kidsbowlfree.com you can get your kids 2 free games EVERY day during the summer! You can also get yourself a pass for \$25 bucks to bowl along with them all summer long! You will need to pay for shoe rentals but otherwise this is a VERY low cost event!

We are going at their starting time when they are a little less busy. This is an informal gathering. You don't need to check in with anyone with the support group...just come and bowl and expect to see other ASD families!

Again, there will not be any reservations for our group. This is just an open event at Sempeck's and we are establishing it as a meet up time where our families can go bowling and know there will be some familiar and understanding faces!

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)

Guest Speaker:
Bridget Cannon-
Hale will be
presenting parent
advocacy tips

NEW! NOTICE OUR CHANGED FORMAT!

We now have two rooms available to our group. One room is for those 8 and older and the other room will be for the younger children. Parents have the right to chose their room if one age group does not work for their child. The children will switch after 45 minutes so that both groups will get to experience both play areas. We will then combine the group for the last 20 minutes in order to facilitate opening up the rock wall.

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.

OMAHA: Calendar of Events

Friday Bowling—Kids Bowl Free Program

The Omaha Support Group will be again having a standing bowling date at Sempeck's Bowling (former ThunderAlley) in Elkhorn every Friday morning at 10am. This will be all summer long. No RSVP...just show up!

We are going at their starting time when they are a little less busy. This is an informal gathering. You don't need to check in with anyone with the support group...just come and bowl and expect to see other ASD families!

If you register online at www.kidsbowlfree.com you can get your kids 2 free games EVERY day during the summer! You can also get yourself a pass for \$25 bucks to bowl along with them all summer long! You will need to pay for shoe rentals but otherwise this is a VERY low cost event!

Again, there will not be any reservations for our group. This is just an open event at Sempeck's and we are establishing it as a meet up time where our families can go bowling and know there will be some familiar and understanding faces!

Saturday, June 5th "Welcome to Summer" Barbecue and Open Play at the Barn

5:00pm—9:00pm

The Barn, 13504 South 226 Avenue, Gretna Call 402-301-6829 with questions.

Monday, June 7—Pump It Up/Support Group Guest speaker: Bridget Cannon Hale

6:00 pm—8:00 pm

960 S 72nd St, Omaha

\$5 per child / \$10 family maximum

Thursday, June 17—Biomedical Discussion Group for those activity using biomedical interventions

7:00 pm Location: Senor Matias Restaurant (2505 S 90th St)

For June, the group is inviting parents who are new to biomedical and diet interventions. This is your opportunity to speak with parents who are familiar with these practices and learn how they are helping their children. It is highly suggested that you do some research prior to the meeting so that you can be prepared to ask questions. The group recommends visiting these websites generationrescue.org and tacanow.org or read these books, "Louder Than Words" and "Healing and Preventing Autism" by Jenny McCarthy or "Changing the Course of Autism" by Dr. Bryan Jepson. Please RSVP to Karen Al-Hindi by Monday, June 15th karen.alhindi@gmail.com or 554-3834 (leave a message).

Saturday, June 26—AMC Sensory Friendly Movie Toy Story 3

10:00 am \$5 per person

Oakview AMC Theater 3555 S 140th Plaza

Saturday, July 17—Omaha ASD Family Pool Party and Barbecue

10:00am—12:30pm

Maple Village Country Club 3645 Maplewood Blvd

Click here to RSVP <http://www.evite.com/app/publicUrl/ZCVSTYQWMRIOUGOOPYAL/poolparty>

Or contact Karen Al-Hindi at karen.alhindi@gmail.com before Thursday, July 15th.

Summer Resources to Check Out!

Please help us complete our list of resources by forwarding any ASD friendly events to AutismSocietyNewsgram@autismnebraska.org

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](#)

PTC Camps [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](#)



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

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!



The Project Lifesaver Bracelet.

A track-and-respond program for families who deal with Alzheimer's, autism and Down Syndrome.

Do you care for a loved one who might wander away from home or become confused while away from their house? Project Lifesaver makes finding them easier. We fit your loved one with a wristband transmitter **before** they wander off, which makes them easy for us to find. And once we find them, our staff has been specially trained to communicate with special needs individuals. So if you need us, we're sure to bring your loved one home quickly and safely.

Take comfort in Project Lifesaver. For more information, contact the Sarpy County Sheriff's Office at 402.593.2288 or projectlifesaver@sarpy.com.



projectlifesaver.org

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!