

AUTISM SOCIETY

Improving the Lives of All Affected by Autism



Nebraska

AUGUST 26, 2010

NEWSGRAM

Life is a series of transitions

Birth—>Preschool—>Kindergarten—>Adolescence—>
Middle School —>High School —>Adulthood—> *AND THEN WHAT?*

Many of us are bogged down thinking about how to get through today and perhaps tomorrow. Fortunately, a group of advocates with loved ones coming up on adulthood have been working together thinking about tomorrow's tomorrow. They hope their dream will be there to help their loved one and yours. But right now they need your help.

Everyone wants to hope that their loved one will grow up to be able to live life on their own. But what if they need a little help? What if they need a lot of help? The reality is that adults on the spectrum right now do not have a lot of options. Caritas Place Village could be one of those options...

Caritas Place Village will be a residential/vocational facility that will respect the abilities of all people with developmental disabilities by assisting them in developing a work ethic while learning independent living skills in a rural setting. Caritas Place, Inc. is a 501(c)3 non-profit agency established in 2007 with the vision to provide a village community, Caritas Place Village, in the Lincoln area. It will include residential living (both group homes and independent living), education, recreation, and employment opportunities for adults with developmental disabilities.

You can learn more about their mission at www.caritasplacevillage.com/

But right now they have a call out to the autism community for support. There is a risk that the Caritas dream may never happen because DHHS won't give them a group home license. Please consider copying the form letter at the link below or write your own letter and send it today to Michelle Kosmicki at mkosmicki1@gmail.com or you can mail a letter to Michelle at 8030 Creek View Ct, Lincoln, NE, 68516.

Please have your letter or email to Michelle by September 1.

[\(Click here for a sample form letter\)](#)

Register today for Autism Action Partnership's Annual Autism Summit

Autism Action Partnership's Annual Autism Summit will be held November 4 & 5, 2010 at the Scott Conference Center. The Scott Conference Center is located at 6450 Pine Street, Omaha, NE 68106.

Registration for the two day conference will be \$35 for parents, \$50 for students and college disability service coordinators, and \$150 for professionals. Discounted hotel accommodations are available at the Courtyard by Marriott, 1625 South 67th Street, Omaha, NE 68106. Call (402) 951-4300 and mention the AAP Summit when making the reservation. The Marriott is conveniently located directly across the street from the Scott Conference Center.

Dr. Jed Baker will be the keynote speaker. Dr. Baker's outstanding program is recognized as one of the most effective for teaching social and emotional skills.

For more information about the Autism Summit or to register visit www.autismaction.org

Council for Exceptional Children: 3rd Annual Conference

SAVE THE DATE: 3rd Annual Nebraska Federation Council for Exceptional Children Conference: Instructional Strategies and Methods for Educators

October 29, 2010
Regency Lodge
Omaha, NE

Geoff Calvin, Ph. D.
University of Oregon
www.behaviorassociates.org

Visit their web site for more information at <http://nebraskacec.homestead.com/>

ASD Network Workshops

The Nebraska ASD Network is overseen by the Nebraska Department of Education and works in an advisory capacity providing training to Nebraska schools. They offer exceptional training to professionals as well as parents. Be sure and keep an eye out on their website for the current list of workshops!

These are a GREAT way to bring training to your teachers as well as into your home!

<http://events.unl.edu/asdnetwork/upcoming/>

**Special note: There is still space for the September 28-29th Ziggurat Model Training with authors of the Ziggurat Model, Ruth Aspy and Barry Grossman. Get your registration in soon!

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

OMAHA: Step by Step Dance Class for children with ASD

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

When: Sundays from Aug. 29, 2010 - May 22, 2011
11:00am - 12:00pm (follows Broadway Connection yearly calendar)

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, two, or as many as you want!)
**tuition is the same whether there are 3, 4, or 5 weeks in the month of classes

To register: Download registration form [HERE](#) and mail or drop of with your tuition to: The Broadway Connection, 2329 N. 90th St. Omaha, NE 68134

Questions? Call Sue Booton 571-4446

Free Art Workshop sponsored by Council for Exceptional Children

The Nebraska Council for Exceptional Children will be hosting a free adapted art workshop for youth and families on August 28, 2010 at the College of Saint Mary from 1:00-3:00. They will have several different art stations in which youth are able to participate. Registration is available [HERE](#).

Everyone is welcome.

OMAHA: Sibshop Workshop at Ollie Webb

This award winning, national affiliated program for youth ages 6 -13 is uniquely designed to provide high-energy activities for siblings of children with developmental disabilities. Sibshops will be held Saturday, August 28th at the Ollie Webb Center from 10:00am to 12:15pm To make reservations for Sibshops, call Annie at 346-5220 ext 23 or email her at aanderson@olliewebbinc.org

OMAHA: Transitions—A social skills program for College-aged young adults with autism and Asperger's Syndrome.

Transitions is a new program designed to assist high-functioning young adults on the autism spectrum develop and refine social skills needed for their transition into adulthood. Transitions has been created through a collaboration among Autism Action Partnership, the Robertson Family Foundation, and the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

Participation is free and completely voluntary. Participants will be paired with college-aged peers to develop and practice social skills, attend regular group meetings to prepare for organized social activities, interact with other participants and peers, and complete periodic written surveys to assess the effectiveness of the program.

Participants will be selected for Transitions in mid August of 2010. Participants who are selected will be asked to commit about four hours a month to the program.

For more information or to apply to participate in the program, please contact Catelyn Newman at crnewman@unomaha.edu. You can download a flyer [HERE](#).

Omaha All Stars Basketball League

Great Plains Paralyzed Veterans Association and Ollie Webb Center, Inc host a Basketball League for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities

6 week league: September 20 - October 28

COST: \$35 Arc Member / \$45 Non-Arc Member

LOCATION: Great Plains PVA at 7612 Maple Street, Omaha, NE

If you have questions, please call contact person Annie Anderson at the OWC at 3465220, ext. 23.

For more information and to download their registration form please refer to page 2 in their Newsletter [HERE](#). Scholarships may be available.

ASD Network Training—Ziggurat Model

Check out this training opportunity the Nebraska ASD Network has coming up this fall!

PRESENTED BY Ruth Aspy, Ph.D. and Barry G. Grossman, Ph.D

WHEN: September, 28th, and 29th, 2010

LOCATION: NE Children's Home Society
4939 S. 118th St. Omaha, NE 68137

TIME: 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

COST: \$150 .00 In-State Participants
\$300.00 Out-of-State Participants

Deadline: September 13th, 2010. Registration is limited.

*Registrations are on a first come first-served basis.

The Ziggurat Model is a guide for designing comprehensive behavior interventions for individuals of all ages with autism spectrum disorders. The Model has been adopted at the district-wide and statewide levels. The Ziggurat approach centers on a five level system, structured in a hierarchy. Each level represents an area that must be addressed in order for an intervention plan to be comprehensive. The premise of the Ziggurat Model is that underlying needs and characteristics related to the autism spectrum must be addressed. Assessment tools to facilitate this process will be introduced including a new Early Childhood Underlying Characteristics Checklist (UCC-EC).

Parents, teachers, speech pathologists, psychologists, physicians, occupational therapists, counselors, school administrators, autism consultants, and others will benefit from this training. Emphasis is placed on working as an intervention team.

Download a flyer / registration form [here](#).

Resource to check out!

Autism Internet Modules (AIM):

Intervention Modules for Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders including Home Base, Structured Work Systems and Activity Organization, Transitioning Between Activities, and Visual Supports.

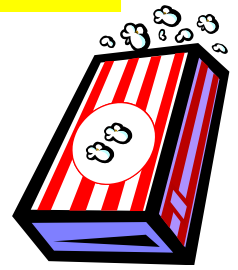
You will have to sign up and provide your email but this is an amazing resource to assist parents, para educators, and teachers in developing skills for effectively working with individuals on the autism spectrum. And it's FREE!



www.autisminternetmodules.org

Sensory Friendly Theater Options

The Autism Society is very thankful to AMC Entertainment for their leadership in bringing families affected by autism and other disabilities a special opportunity to enjoy their favorite films in a safe and accepting environment. We have now had almost two full years of Sensory Friendly Movies here in Omaha and for many of our families this has been an amazing way to overcome some of the isolation we as a community tend to experience.



A movie is something that so many in society take for granted but for those with sensory issues it can be very difficult. For some, walking into a dark theater is terrifying. For others the heart pounding sound system is too much to handle. 2 hours is an awful long time to sit still and for many of our community it is just not possible for them to be totally silent for the entire showing.

So what is a **sensory friendly** movie? This is a movie venue that is accommodating to YOUR needs! The auditorium will have their lights brought up, the sound turned down, and a silence policy will not be enforced. AMC showings do not have previews so plan to arrive on time!

We are thrilled to announce additional sensory friendly opportunities in the area! First of all, AMC has expanded their theaters and starting in July there will now be a sensory friendly showing at the AMC –Star 17 theater in Council Bluffs! Also Marcus Theatre has recently developed their own program called **Reel Movies for Real Needs** and there are two Nebraska theatres participating. You can learn more about the Marcus Theatre program [here](#) as some of their accommodations vary.

Omaha:

Nanny McPhee Returns

Saturday, September 4

10:00 am

Oakview 24 Theater (AMC Theatre)

3555 S 140th Plaza

Council Bluffs:

Nanny McPhee Returns

Saturday, September 4

10:00 am

Council Bluffs Star 17 Cinema (AMC Theater)

3220 23rd Avenue

The Autism Society of Nebraska has developed a toolkit to help you approach your local theater about creating sensory friendly showings in your community! Contact us at autismsociety@autismnebraska.org to find out more information about how to create sensory friendly showings in your community!

AUTISM SOCIETY—OMAHA SUPPORT GROUP

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.

Support Group moved due to Labor Day

WHO: Autism Families

WHEN: **MONDAY, September 13th**

6:00pm - 8:00pm

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

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



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 choose 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.

The Facebook logo, consisting of the word "facebook" in white lowercase letters on a blue rectangular background.

Join the Autism Society of Nebraska on Facebook!
Become a Fan...click [HERE!](#)

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

Autism Society of Nebraska

PO Box 83559
Lincoln, NE 68501-3559

Phone: 1-800-580-9279
E-mail: autismsociety@autismnebraska.org

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



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