

AUTISM SOCIETY

Improving the Lives of All Affected by Autism

Nebraska



FEBRUARY 10, 2011

NEWSGRAM

Once again we called upon our community to help us design the Autism Puzzle Walk T shirts. All of the submissions were WONDERFUL and we applaud your creativity!

THANK YOU!

But now we need our community to help us decide which design to put on the walk T shirts. Which do you think best captures the spirit of our community?

Please follow the link (or visit the Autism Society of Nebraska's web site) to vote!

Vote A



Vote B



Vote C



Vote D



Click [HERE](#) to vote! Voting closes Monday!

RE: Autism Insurance Legislation

The Autism Society is very disappointed to forward the following memo from the Autism Action Partnership. If you have any questions please contact Gail Durkin at (402)763-8830 or gdurkin@autismaction.org

Memo To: All Parents, Caregivers, Extended Family Members and Service Providers
From: Gail Durkin
Subject: Follow up to 1st Meeting for Nebraska Autism Insurance Bill
Lunch and Learn held January 12, 2011
Date: February 2, 2011

As many of you know, over the last few years the autism community has been watching the movement and success for insurance reform for autism. In October we had our first presentation from Autism Speaks on their nation-wide effort and success in 23 states. We were told from the beginning that most states spend 2-3 years working diligently to get this accomplished and it would require a comprehensive effort by many in Nebraska.

In late fall, we reached out to Senators that sponsored the autism waiver in the hopes that we could get a Senator to introduce and Autism Insurance Bill, prioritize it and make it his issue. As you might know, we were working within a very short timeline. We were also keenly aware that we had a significant amount of work that needed to be completed, but we wanted to give it our best efforts to try to get it introduced into the 2011 Session. Our goal was lofty.

After meetings and thorough and careful consideration by a Senator, we were advised that this legislative session would not be the best time to introduce this important insurance bill. In fairness to that answer, we were also asked about some critical areas of support and/or opposition that would be required to accomplish our goal. We knew we still had a great deal of work to complete before we were totally prepared. The Senator has suggested that we collaborate with his office on some important prep work for this important bill. We were also informed that a significant focus of our state legislators this session is the looming budget deficit and uncertainties that our state economy faces.

After a great deal of discussion with key legislative experts and advisers we respectfully agreed. We were disappointed, yet we also are keenly aware that a great deal of planning and execution of those plans needs to be done with various stakeholders involved in different aspects of autism and related issues.

Our first family and service provider meeting was held on January 12th and we are appreciative of the 53 people that attended and those that signed up for committee work. We want you to know that we chose to turn our disappointment into a more aggressive "call to action". We assembled an experienced Steering Committee representing legislative expertise, medical providers and parents that have graciously agreed to provide time and talent to work with the Committees of volunteers to get this introduced in the second half of the Session 2012.

Thank you for your continuous support of this effort. It will take all of our efforts to get this passed for our families in Nebraska and we greatly appreciate your support. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at 402-763-8830 or gdurkin@autismaction.org.

2011 State Autism Conference

IMAGINE THE POSSIBILITIES

REGISTRATION IS OPEN! DOWNLOAD A CONFERENCE FLYER [HERE](#).

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

The 2011 ASD State Conference will feature over 25 breakout sessions. Topics and themes include: Assistive Technology, Evidence Based Practices, Positive Approaches to Problem Behaviors, Social Thinking, Communication Interventions, and much more. This is going to be a great conference so register soon to make sure you get a seat!

A Parent Breakout Strand will be offered throughout the conference with topics specifically designed for parents and family members. This strand is sponsored in part by the Autism Society of Nebraska.

A Panel of Individuals on the Autism Spectrum will discuss their experiences in middle school, high school, college and beyond.

New to the conference this year will be Networking Sessions which will include informal meeting and collaboration rooms for Parents, Support Group Leaders, Ziggurat Model Users, Best Practices in Assessment, STEPS/District Leadership Participants, and Assistive Technology.

Scholarships for family members and individuals with ASD are available through the Autism Society of Nebraska. Learn more about our scholarship program [HERE](#).

NEW THIS YEAR! Autism Society of Nebraska members can save 25%! Email us today at autismsociety@autismnebraska.org to find out how to save 25% on your state conference registration!

NEW THIS YEAR! Childcare will be provided by the Autism Society of Nebraska during the Thursday evening dinner/keynote presentation. This is first come first served and you must pre-register! To help us ensure adequate staffing you must complete your registration form prior to April 1st! Download a registration form [HERE](#).

AUTISM WALK

SPONSORSHIPS

We are still looking for community partners to help sponsor the 2011 Autism Puzzle Walk. Are you interested in sponsoring or do you know someone who might? Our most amazing supporters tend to come from those who know our families personally.

So as a member of our community please take a few moments and consider if you might know anyone who would like to help support the Nebraska Autism Community!

[2011 Sponsorship Letter](#)
[Sponsorship Levels](#)
[Sponsorship Commitment Form](#)

In order to have a company's logo included on brochures and T shirts we must have their information prior to **March 4, 2011. However, TEAMMATE (\$250) and FRIEND (\$100) level sponsorship can be taken up until the walk date!

The 2011 Autism Walk
will be
Saturday, April 30th!

 **AUTISM SOCIETY**
Improving the Lives of All Affected by Autism
Nebraska



You are invited to the Capitol on March 9th

You are invited to join the board members from the Autism Family Network & the Autism Society of Nebraska as we gather in support of Autism Speaks at the Capitol on March 9 at 1:30 p.m. as Governor Heineman proclaims April as Autism Awareness Month and April 1, 2011 as World Autism Day in Nebraska.

We will meet March 9 @ 1:30pm at the State Capitol in the Warner Chamber which is on the second floor across from the Rotunda. Everyone is welcome; parents, grandparents, kids, siblings, aunts and uncles and even children of those on the spectrum!

Please join us in support of those affected by autism!

Here is a copy of the proclamation:

Autism Speaks together with The Autism Family Network and Autism Society of Nebraska would like to proclaim April as Autism Awareness Month and World Autism Awareness Day on April 1, 2011. During the month of April, local and national autism organizations will work to educate the public about autism spectrum disorders, as well as inform parents and professionals about available services. We encourage all Nebraskans to work together to ensure that individuals with autism spectrum disorders are accurately diagnosed and treated with equal rights, respect, and dignity throughout their lives. By joining autism organizations all around the world, we will give a voice to the millions of individuals worldwide who are undiagnosed, misunderstood and looking for help. Please join us in our effort to inspire compassion, inclusion and hope.

Autism Event at Lincoln Children's Museum

Monday, May 2

3:00 pm—7:00 pm

During this event, the museum will be dedicated to families with at least one member falling on the Autism Spectrum. It will be free admission, and they will be making several unique modifications to the museum space:

- reduced lighting
- no overhead music
- extra building-themed activities (like Lego's, KEVA planks, Zoob, etc)
- classrooms will be set up as "calm rooms" if anyone needs a quiet place to get away

2011 Autism Society of Nebraska Awards

EXCELLENCE IN AUTISM Award

Every year the Autism Society of Nebraska awards an individual who shows outstanding commitment to the Autism Community. Anyone who touches the lives of individuals with ASD's is eligible. This award will be presented at the State Autism Conference on April 7th in Omaha.

Nominations should be emailed to the Nomination committee at autismsociety@autismnebraska.org prior to March 15, 2011.

Please include the name of the person being nominated, contact information for yourself and the nominee, and a one page narrative on why you think this person should be awarded the Excellence in autism Award from the Autism Society of Nebraska.

Please help us honor those who work so diligently to improve the lives of those affected by autism!

Dan Archwamety Post Secondary Scholarship

The Autism Society is seeking applications for the Dan Archwamety Post Secondary Education Scholarship. A scholarship up to \$500 is available this year for an individual with a diagnosis of ASD. The scholarship must be used toward completing an accredited post-secondary course of study (educational or vocational). Applicant must be currently registered / admitted for the program.

This scholarship will be presented at the Nebraska State ASD Conference on Thursday, April 7th in Omaha. Persons who have already received this scholarship will not be eligible. Download the scholarship form [HERE](#).

The Dan Archwamety scholarship was created to give hope, affirmation, and some financial help to you people diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder who plan to continue their schooling after high school. Dan died on June 1, 1997, as a result of a bike-truck accident, shortly after he completed his sophomore year at the University of Nebraska—Kearney. Dan's family describes him as "an above average student who really had to study hard for the good grades he earned". Dan worked equally hard to learn how to socialize with other students, both his classmates and those who lived at his dorm.

The day after he died, two letters arrived from UNK, awarding him two different scholarships for his junior year. At his funeral service a fellow student confided that she had no idea that he had a disability. She thought he was much more mature than the other college boys because he would offer to help her and other students in the computer lab.

Dan did not live to receive his scholarships, but he would be very happy to know that the memorials people gave to honor his life are helping other deserving young people with ASD to achieve their dreams.

KEARNEY: ADVOCACY NEEDED!

*****CHANGE TO DATE***This meeting is now February 22nd at 7pm**

Download a flyer [HERE](#).

The Arc of Buffalo County hosted a Kearney City Council Listening Session last Thursday evening to share their vision for an inclusive playground. They are now needing to organize a calling campaign to educate the city council members about this project before they make their final capital improvement project decisions in February.

The city is hosting a public hearing on Tuesday, February 22th at City Council Chambers (18 East 22nd Street) at 7:00 pm. It was strongly recommended that playground supporters personally call each of the city council members to ask them to support the project. Please contact them to ask them to support the inclusive playground. Ask friends and other city citizens to also call in support of the project. (Download a list of council members and their contact information [HERE](#).)

It is imperative that supporters attend the public hearing city council meeting on February 22nd. This initiative has made progress but it must end strong in the coming weeks to make the final cut and secure funding.



GRAND ISLAND—Autism Support Group Parent Meeting

The Grand Island support group will have their parent meeting Sunday, February 13th from 2pm to 4pm. This group meets the 2nd Sunday of the month at Third City Church located at 4100 W 13th. Child care is provided. For more information please contact Roxanne at (308)385-5655 or rvipond@gips.org

Henry Doorly Zoo Autism Overnight!



April 16 at 6pm

We will stay overnight in the aquarium and have a behind the scenes tour of some animal exhibits. You get to spend the night sleeping with the fish!

You will be able to enjoy the zoo the following day after donuts and juice. The cost of the overnight stay is \$28 per person.

This event is in conjunction with our friends at the Autism Family Network and space is limited so RSVP today to autismsociety@autismnebraska.org

Upcoming Workshops

There are a number of upcoming workshop in the next few months. Even though many of these are designed for teachers and school professionals we want to remind our families that YOU are your childs first and perhaps most important teacher. Parents are always welcome to attend the workshops and...

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER!

OMAHA: Paula Kluth—Your going to love this kid!

Date: Thursday, March 24, 2011

Location: Nebraska Children's Home Society, 4939 S. 118th St., Omaha, Nebraska

Time: 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Audience: Parents, Teachers, Special Education Directors, Principals

ESU #3 will sponsor Dr. Paula Kluth for an evening presentation. Dr. Kluth's presentation "You're Going to Love This Kid" focuses on practical ways to support special education students within a general education classroom. Topics addressed include differentiating instruction, creating more active and responsive lessons, making the classroom comfortable and providing opportunities for communication and social skill development. The session will focus on the importance of pushing beyond access and participation and asking schools to challenge students and understand each learner as complex and capable.

Dr. Kluth is a consultant, teacher, author, advocate and independent scholar who works collaboratively with teachers and families to provide inclusive opportunities for students with disabilities and to create more responsive and engaging schooling experiences for all learners. Paula is a former special educator who has served as a classroom teacher, consulting teacher, and inclusion facilitator. She works with teachers in K-12 schools, pre-schools, and early intervention programs. She also regularly works with family organizations and disability-rights and advocacy groups.

Download a flyer [HERE](#) for registration information.

Parents Encourage Parents Conference (PEP)

Are you a Nebraska parent of a child with special needs? Does your child have an IFSP or IEP? Then this conference is for you! Download a registration form and flyer [HERE](#).

MARCH 17-19
Midtown Holiday Inn
Grand Island, NE

Sponsored by Nebraska Department of Education, Office of Special Education, & ESU 16

A Time for YOU: Family Caregiver Retreat

Wednesday, April 27th—Thursday, April 28th

Anyone who cares for a person of any age with special needs. As a family or professional caregiver, you are integral to the independence and well being of a person who depends on you. But, who takes care of YOU? This two day retreat will give you emotional, physical, spiritual and mental respite that is so vital. You will have the opportunity to reflect, energize, and create.

Download a flyer [HERE](#).

MILFORD: Executive Function Skills

February 28th, 2011

ASD Network Workshop: ESU 6, Milford, NE
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Cost: Free (Lunch will be provided)

Do you work with a student that struggles with organization, assignment completion, following direction, displays poor time management skills, and keeps losing things? If so, this workshop is for you! Come and learn about executive functioning skills and how they affect school performance.

Intended Audience:

This workshop is intended for Regular Education Teachers, Special Education Teachers, Parents, Administrators and other Professionals working with students on the Autism Spectrum or other Neurological Disabilities.

Download a flyer [HERE](#).

KEARNEY: Social Communication, Play Skills and Theory of Mind based on Fern Sussman's More than Words and Talk Ability

ASD Network workshop presented by: Judy Lauby, M.S., CCC-Speech/Language Pathologist; Karen Verraneault, Early Childhood Special Educator

This workshop is intended for parents, early childhood teachers, speech/language pathologists, resource specialists, classroom teachers, paraeducators, occupational and physical therapists and community providers seeking information about young children with Autism Spectrum Disorders and/or other developmental delays.

Where: Educational Service Unit 10, 76 Plaza Blvd, Kearney, NE

When: February 18, 2011

8:00 a.m.-8:30 a.m.—Registration

8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.—Workshop

Cost: \$10 (Lunch and Handouts included)

Deadline: February 11, 2011 Please download their flyer [HERE](#). Contact Polly Hays at 308-237-5927 with questions.

COLUMBUS: Teaching Language to Children with Autism

ASD Network Workshop presenters: Deb Rauner, Behavior Specialist from Lincoln Public Schools
Teresa Schultz, Private Practice SLP/Autism Consultant/UNL Project EXCEED-SLP

February 28th and March 1st, 2011, ESU 7, 2657 44th Ave., Columbus, NE

8:00am-4:00 pm

Verbal Behavior is based on the teaching principles of Applied Behavioral Analysis. Understanding Verbal Behavior strategies are key to developing and implementing a language-based curriculum for children with autism. Verbal behavior is a way of understanding the different purposes of language (e.g., a child may use language to ask for things, or to label things in his environment). We will be learning about echoicvocal imitation, tact-labels, intraverbals- answers to questions, mands-requests and listener behavior-following instructions.

Intended Audience:

This workshop is intended for Regular Education Teachers, Special Education Teachers, Parents, Administrators and other professionals working with students with autism.

Please email Angie Stankoski at astankos@esu7.org , or call (402) 564-0815 ext 1017. Download a flyer [HERE](#).

Discovery Toys Fundraiser

We are always thankful for our community!

Amy Schnacker is an Occupational Therapist and Educational consultant in central Nebraska. She is also a consultant with Discovery Toys. She has reached out to the Autism Society and has pledged to donate her personal commission on all sales from January 24—April 7 back to our community! Thank you Amy!

Here is a link to her discovery toys web site.

<http://www.discoverytoyslink.com/esuite/home/amyschnacker>

And [HERE](#) is her February sales flyer. Great products and a great cause! (And thank you again Amy!)

OMAHA: Support Group at Pump It Up

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: All Autism Families

WHEN: Monday, March 7, 2011
6:00pm - 8:00pm

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

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

WE WILL HAVE A GUEST
SPEAKER HELPING US
ADDRESS OUR UNIQUE
DENTAL NEEDS WITH
OUR SENSORY KIDS!

Visit our web site at www.autismnebraska.org/omaha to learn more about how this night can work for your family!

OMAHA: Biomedical Discussion Group

The Biomedical Discussion group meets **Thursday February 17** 7pm at Whole Foods in the Lifestyle Center room. Whole Foods is located just south of the Westroads mall at Regency and Dodge. This is a discussion forum for those families currently involved in biomedical treatments. Contact Chrissy Cameron chrissycameron@cox.net or Karen Falconer Al-Hindi karen.alhindi@gmail.com for more information.

SENSORY FRIENDLY FILMS

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 there are now sensory friendly showings 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.

Gnomeo & Juliet

Saturday, February 12

OMAHA: **10:00 am**
Oakview 24 Theater (AMC Theatre)
 3555 S 140th Plaza

COUNCIL BLUFFS: 10:00 am
Council Bluffs Star 17 Cinema (AMC Theater)
 3220 23rd Avenue

Mars Needs Moms

Saturday, March 12

OMAHA:: **10:00 am**
Oakview 24 Theater (AMC Theatre)
 3555 S 140th Plaza

COUNCIL BLUFFS: 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!

OMAHA: Movin' and Groovin'

TheraPlayce is offering an exercise and fitness program for children with special needs. They will focus on getting your child up and moving in activities to help increase bone and muscle growth/strength, motor control, and function, and cardiovascular endurance. As your child's strength and endurance increases you will also see an increase in self esteem, socialization skills and attention. The classes will be run by an Occupational Therapist, Physical Therapist Assistant and a Certified Speech Language Pathologist.

Visit their website [HERE](#) for more information or to download a registration form.

OMAHA: Social Skating for Special Needs

Theraplayce is offering a new fun way to assist with developing your child's socialization skills along with increasing their strength and balance. Ice skating is also a fun way to spend family time over the winter season and a great way to get exercise at the same time!

Social Skating for Special Needs will take place on Wednesdays from 12:00pm - 2:00pm at Moylan Tranquility Iceplex located on 127th and West Maple Road and will be taught by our Speech Language Pathologist and Physical Therapist Assistant. Our SLP has taught USFSA basic skills and both have backgrounds in skating and enjoy teaching it to others.

Your child will be learning the basic skills for skating as described by the USFSA. These skills include: balance, weight bearing, sitting and standing, marching in place, dipping in place, dipping while moving, and forward two foot swizzles (according to each child's needs and abilities). The skills that will be taught are a progressive set of skills and build on each other so it is very important that you attend each week so your child can get the maximum benefit from our program.

After skating they will enjoy snack together while working on their social language skills like staying on topic; initiating and responding; taking turns; and figurative asking and answering question.

All activities your child participates in during Social Skating for Special Needs are therapeutic and provide input to help your child enhance their lives.

Visit their website [HERE](#) for more information or to download a registration form.

OMAHA: Sensational Saturdays

Drop your kids off for a fun time of sensory activities; speech and language development; auditory, visual and tactile input; and gross motor activities and socialization. Multi-Sensory Saturday is \$25 per class or you can register for 4 classes for only \$90. You must register by the Thursday before the day you wish to attend. Payment is due at the time of drop off.

Theraplayce provides a variety of services and progress is due to the variety of treatment modalities and equipment they use. Sensory integration myofascial release, therapeutic listening aquatic activities and traditional land based interventions are all incorporated to each child's individualized plan of care.

Schedule	Activities during the day will include but are not limited to:
8:45am - 9:00am Drop-off	Tactile/Sensory Exploration
12:00pm - 12:15pm Pick up	Story Time
	Speech/Language Movie
	Social/Language Skills
Visit their website HERE for more information or to download a registration form.	Crafts
	Gross Motor
	Fine Motor

OMAHA: Mommy & Me Yoga

Saturday, February 26th 9:30am - 10:15am or 10:30am - 11:15am

Stones Worth Stepping, 2813 S 88th St, Omaha

Cost: \$35 per session (contact them to see about possible filing with your insurance)

This is an opportunity for you and your child to engage in yoga in a social and therapeutic setting. They will be addressing coordination, strength, body awareness, and motor planning. Only one child per parent. Limited spots available. Download a flyer [HERE](#).

ELKHORN: CREATE hosts a special needs Art Class

Every child is an artist! This class will give your child the opportunity to learn and explore using art. There will be a variety of activities, easily adapted to meet the needs of your child. This class is a place to play and explore using our imagination.

Special Needs class meets every Tuesday from 4:30-5:30pm

Cost - \$10 a day or \$30 for the month (4 Classes) Cost covers all materials and instruction for the class. This is for school age individuals. Just call ahead at (402) 933-4446 to reserve your space! You can join anytime!

LINCOLN: PUMP & JUMP DANCE CLASS

Dance class for boys and girls 8 years old and up with special needs. Class will consist of Hip Hop, Jazz, and Musical Theatre. Students may wear tennis shoes for class. Children will have a buddy to help them during the class.

Feel free to try the class first but please let Tracey know you'll be coming so we'll have enough buddies.

When: Saturdays 1:00-1:40 (beginning in January)

Hart Dance Academy
3534 South 48th Street Suite 2
Lincoln, NE 68506
402-488-9444
www.hartdance.com

Registration: \$15.00

Tuition: \$65.00 per quarter (2 month session)

For more information contact: Tracey Hart at the dance studio or Christy Champoux at 890-8023

OMAHA: Step by Step Dance Class

Step By Step is a Movement/Dance Class for Kids with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Come and dance in a fun, safe, class! They'll stretch their bodies, work general coordination and even do fun acting and creative movement to fun music in a sensory safe environment!

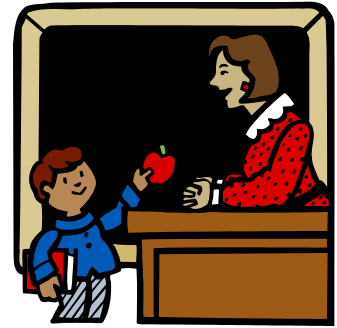
Come learn some basics to ballet, tap or even hip hop! The class is designed for ASD students needing extra help with motor skills, or have trouble assimilating with peers in other dance classes, or just want to have fun. And this is open to both BOYS and GIRLS!

The Broadway Connection Dance Center is located at 2329 N. 90th St. (90th & Blondo next to Hobby Lobby)

Sunday 12 noon-1pm
\$35/ month

For more information call 402-571-4446 or visit www.thebroadwayconnectiondance.com

Friend of Autism Nominations Sought by the Nebraska ASD Network



Do you know an educator who demonstrates remarkable dedication to individuals with autism spectrum disorders? Nominate them for the ASD Network Friend of Autism Award. Submissions should include details of how the nominee exhibits the following qualities.

Commitment: Has the education of families and children and youth with ASD as a primary focus and provides opportunities that enable students with ASD to reach their potential.

Vision: Sees potential in all individuals, readily adapts to change and accepts all individuals with ASD and their strengths and needs.

Innovation: Is aware of empirically supported practices in the field of Autism Spectrum Disorders and shows a willingness to adapt and use resources creatively.

Inspiration: Displays positive interactions with students and parents and actively influences peers with their energy and enthusiasm.

Please include contact information for the nominee and the person(s) submitting the nomination. Nominations can be submitted via email: to Annette Wragge at awragge2@unl.edu, or by mail to the following address: Annette Wragge, UNL, 253F Barkley Center, Lincoln, NE 68583-0738

*Nomination Deadline: March 1st, 2011

*The award will be presented during the evening event at the 2011 ASD State Conference on April 7th and 8th. (Embassy Suites, La Vista)

Please contact Annette with any questions!

**It takes a village to raise a child and we truly have to rely on all
of the villagers when it comes to our special needs children!**



Thank you to all of the professionals out there helping serve our families!

Autism Society of America Membership

The Autism Society, the nation's leading grassroots autism organization, exists to improve the lives of all affected by autism. We do this by increasing public awareness about the day-to-day issues faced by people on the spectrum, advocating for appropriate services for individuals across the lifespan, and providing the latest information regarding treatment, education, research and advocacy.

Founded in 1965 by Dr. Bernard Rimland, Dr. Ruth Sullivan and many other parents of children with autism, the Autism Society is the leading source of trusted and reliable information about autism. Through its strong chapter network, the Autism Society has spearheaded numerous pieces of state and local legislation, including the 2006 Combating Autism Act, the first federal autism-specific law. The Autism Society's website is one of the most visited websites on autism in the world and its quarterly journal, [Autism Advocate](#), has a broad national readership. The Autism Society also hosts the most comprehensive [national conference](#) on autism, attended by 2000 people each year. Our [information and referral](#) team, our program staff, and our strong chapter presence serve thousands of families each year who are searching for help in their journey with autism.

When you join the national Autism Society of America you become a member of your local Autism Society chapter here in Nebraska as well. In fact, the Autism Society of Nebraska receives 60% of those dues paid to the Autism Society of America. ASA forwards those fees on to the local chapter so that we can carry out our local mission here in your neighborhood! The Autism Society of America is committed to helping the grassroots grow in strength and they recognize that those in the local community have the best understanding of the local needs.

The Autism Society of Nebraska has the benefit of being part of a well respected national organization yet we are still able to keep 100% of all of our local fundraising efforts here in Nebraska.

So are you a member yet? It's not too late...you can join online [HERE](#) or download a form [HERE](#). A household membership is only \$25.

Join the Autism Society of Nebraska and help us make a difference here in Nebraska!

With ASA membership you will receive ASA's quarterly magazine, The Autism Advocate and 60% of your membership dues come back directly to our Nebraska chapter!

It is a win-win for everyone!

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



Help us make this Newsgram relevant to you!

We rely on our community to help us find useful information to share with you through this Newsgram. If you have an event that you would like added to the Autism Society of Nebraska Newsgram please email us at autismsocietynewsgram@autismnebraska.org.

You are our eyes and ears across the state. Please help us help you AND your neighbors by sharing your resources and contacts with us!



To have your event added to the Autism Society Newsgram and calendar please email autismsociety@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