

AUTISM SOCIETY

Improving the Lives of All Affected by Autism



Nebraska

APRIL 14, 2011

NEWSGRAM

The Autism Puzzle Walk now has TWO locations!

Saturday, April 30, 2011

Chalco Hills Recreation Area
154th & Giles Road
Omaha, NE

9:00am - 12:00pm

Cody Park Pavilion

North Platte, NE

2:30 Registration, 3:00 Walk

Can't attend either walk? No problem!
Sign up as a Virtual Walker and you can still support the statewide effort!

[SIGN UP AS A VIRTUAL WALKER HERE!](#)

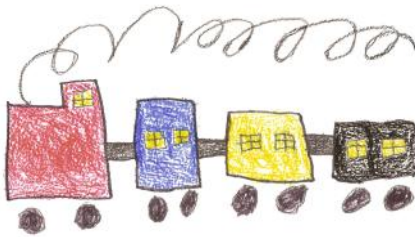
Not really sure about paying online? No problem! You can personally collect donations
and mail them in to the Autism Society!

[DOWNLOAD A DONATION FORM HERE](#)

[GET REGISTERED ONLINE TODAY!](#)

[WATCH THE "AUTISM IS A JOURNEY" VIDEO SUBMISSIONS HERE](#)

Want a video to spotlight on your fundraising page? Let us help you!
We have video submissions created by our community for you to use!
Please feel free to use any of them on your own personal fundraising page!
And thank you to everyone who helped share their journey!



Autism is a Journey

North Platte walk details:

[DOWNLOAD A NORTH PLATTE WALK FLYER HERE](#)

1st place fundraiser—iPod

2nd place fundraiser—\$100 Omaha Steaks gift card

3rd place fundraiser—\$50 gift card

Omaha Walk details:

[DOWNLOAD AN OMAHA WALK FLYER HERE](#)

New this year for the Omaha walk! We have incentive prizes to help inspire walkers to fundraise for the cause! You can receive prizes for raising \$50, 125, \$250, \$500 and \$1000!

[CHECK OUT THE INCENTIVE PRIZES HERE](#)

1st place fundraiser—iPad

2nd place fundraiser—iPod Touch

3rd place fundraiser—2 Husker Football tickets

Join the party from 9am to noon! Join us at 9am for a free continental breakfast. We'll have fun door prizes, bounce houses, games, face painting and fun for the whole family!

We will be taking care of all prizes prior to the walk kick off at 10:30am. Then you can take the short 1 mile walk OR continue on for a longer journey. Either way, the bounce houses and fun activities will continue until noon!

[SCHEDULE OF EVENTS](#)

[GET YOUR PARTICIPANT GUIDE HERE](#)

[UNABLE TO REGISTER ONLINE? DOWNLOAD A REGISTRATION FORM HERE](#)

[FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS](#)

Open call for Volunteers!

The Autism Walk is an amazing event but that is due to the amazing hard work of our troop of volunteers. We've had a crew working for months pulling it all together. But now we need more recruits! Therefore we are putting an open call out for volunteers who might like to help us behind the scenes during the walk.

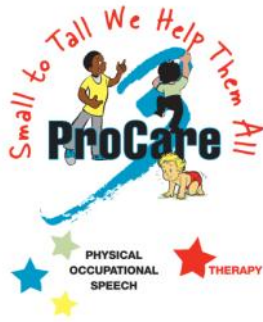
set up / tear down / registration / food / supervision of bounce houses / supervision of games

If interested please email autismsociety@autismnebraska.org for more information!

And a BIG THANK YOU to our Sponsors



PEAR'S GOURMET



Lorrie E. Bryant, Ph.D., PC
Galaska and Son, Inc
Keys to Harmony
Kids, Inc

PE 101
Handprints & Footsteps
Boulder Creek
LaNeis Rindone

WALK News

UNO hosts Together We Dance— a fundraiser for the Autism Society

Come enjoy a night of fun with dancing, door prizes, and contests while raising money for the Autism Society of Nebraska. This event is open to all ages and will be a family friendly evening.

Friday, April 15th

Adults: \$5

Children 12 and under: \$3

Please spread the word to friends, family, co-workers!

Download a flyer [HERE](#).

Casino Night: A benefit for Autism sponsored by Nebraska Methodist College

Friday, April 15th
Nebraska Methodist College
720 N 87th St

6:00pm—9:00pm

\$5/person or \$20/family

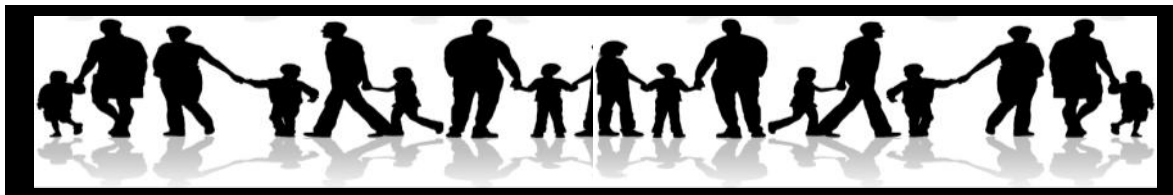
RSVP to Drew Deraas at andrew.deras@methodistcollege.edu

Download a flyer [HERE](#).

DINNER INCLUDED!

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

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



GRAND ISLAND hosts an Autism Walk

Congratulations to all the walkers in Grand Island this past weekend for the Grand Island Support Group's Autism Walk! It is great to see a community coming together to support each other! Keep up the great work!

[Click here to see some local TV coverage of the Grand Island walk!](#)

[And yet another!](#)

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
-

LINCOLN: Autism Event at LOST IN FUN

Wednesday, April 20th 5:30pm—7:30 pm

Lost in Fun 8431 Cody Dr, Lincoln (15th and Yankee Hill Rd)

FREE but must RSVP to Megan Misegadis 402-805-4200 or jemmr5@gmail.com

Come have pizza, pop, cupcakes & FUN!

This event is sponsored by the Autism Society of Nebraska and Nebraska Students for Young Children
Download a flyer [HERE](#).



Three cheers to Milio's of Omaha for becoming a Champion for the Autism Society! Drop in at their sandwich shop at 14440 F Street for some delicious food AND donate your spare change to the Autism Society!

Do you know anyone else willing to become a Champion? Email us at autismsociety@autismnebraska.org

And special thanks to Genisa Neal who is hand crafting the donation boxes! They are amazing!

Parent/Caregiver Training Event & Safety Expo

Thursday, 4/28/11

5:30pm - 8:30pm

This event is for those who want to ensure the safety of a child or young adult with special needs.

Parents, family members, caregivers
Educators
Human Services Professionals
Adult & child care workers
College & medical students



Schedules are hectic and life is stressful. Why should you make plans to attend? This event is the first of its size in Nebraska. Not only will you be getting tips and training from national speaker and trainer Dennis Debbaudt, but there's a Safety Expo! Before and after the training session, businesses and organizations that are committed to protecting and ensuring safety of Nebraska's special needs children and young adults will be on display. The first 200 participants will receive a FREE gift bag!

Dennis Debbaudt will be conducting a training session in which everyone will walk away with ideas and plans designed to lower the risk and increase safety for every child or adult living with a developmental disability. Topics include:

How to develop an Emergency Response Plan
Learn safety at home, on campus, and when traveling
How to register with your local 911 registry
Develop partnerships with emergency response agencies

This training is FREE OF CHARGE – but RSVP is required. Space is limited. Please make plans to attend and save the date! Download a flyer [HERE](#).

LINCOLN: Swimtastic opens new location

In the Omaha area, Swimtastic Swim School has been an amazing supporter for our families who are seeking smaller class sizes and individual attention for our developing swimmers. We wanted to share with you that Swimtastic is opening a new facility in Lincoln.

Download a brochure [HERE](#).

2011 Schedule and Pricing [HERE](#).

Charter membership info [HERE](#).

For more information visit www.swimtastic.com

OMAHA: Easter Egg Hunt

Who: Kids ages 0 - 12 with special needs and their siblings
When: Saturday April 23, 2010
Time: 1:30 pm. to 3:00 pm. Hunt starts promptly at 2:00
Location: Camp Brewster and Kiewit Lodge
Address: 1313 Bellevue Blvd. North in Bellevue



Reservations: Must be made to Annie Anderson at 346-5220 Ext. 23 or email Annie at aanderson@olliewebbinc.org
Download a flyer [HERE](#).

Enjoy Camp Brewster and Kiewit Lodge underneath the arching canopy of 200 year old oak trees. There will be a 'Hardest to Find Egg" and 'Most Prized Egg" contest. Please bring your own Easter basket to collect eggs. If the weather is questionable, call 345-5220 ext 23 or go to the Autism Society of Nebraska web page to see about a cancellation.

This event is sponsored by the Autism Society of Nebraska—Omaha Support Group and the Parent to Parent program of the Ollie Webb Center.

OMAHA: Support Group

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, May 2, 2011
6:00pm - 8:00pm
WHERE: Pump It Up 960 S 72nd (72nd and Pacific)
COST: \$5 per child (\$10 maximum charge per family)

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 April 21 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.

Rio

Saturday, April 30 (Same time as our Annual Puzzle Walk!)

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

Kung Fu Panda Saturday, June 4

Cars 2 Saturday, July 2

Harry Potter & the Deathly Hallows, Part 2 Saturday, July 23

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!

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exceptionaledibles@yahoo.com or 402-305-5614

**Thank you to Autism Mom
Cassandra Herfindahl
for sharing her baking
talents with us!**

**Be sure and check out her
delicious cookies at the
Omaha Support Group
events**

and

**Give her a call to order her
homemade treats**

Easter Seals Summer Camp

Easter Seal's knows it can be a difficult decision for families to send your child to camp. Leaving home for a different place and meeting new people is hard.

Easter Seals Nebraska's 2011 Summer Camp Applications are available. Visit www.campeastersealsne.com for more information. Be sure and click on the [staff profiles](#) that they posted to help you feel more comfortable.

Their Autism Day Camp is July 5 - 8 and is open to ages 6 - 21.

Summer Camp at The Barn

The Barn is now taking registrations for summer camp. New this year is transportation!

Download a flyer [HERE](#) for more information or visit www.myplaybarn.com to learn more about their offerings.

OMAHA: All Play Baseball Registration

Registration is open for the 2011 ALLPLAY Miracle Baseball League summer season. The registration deadline is April 22nd. Please download a registration form [HERE](#). Please complete a form for each player, buddy and volunteer.

The spring season begins Saturday, May 14th and runs through Saturday July 2nd. Games will be at 9am, 10:30am, and noon each Saturday.

Nebraska State Capitol turns blue for Autism

Thank you to everyone who came out on April 1st to help us turn the state Capitol blue! It was a beautiful evening as families from the Autism Family Network and the Autism Society of Nebraska came together for Autism Awareness.



PBS Newshour on Autism April 18—26

Autism - it's a developmental disorder that has become increasingly prevalent, affecting 1 out of 110 American children. Despite years of study, little is known about its cause and access to treatment varies. Meanwhile, hundreds of thousands of American families hungry for answers struggle to care for the unique needs of children with the disorder. Among them, Robert MacNeil, co-founder of the PBS NewsHour and grandfather of Nick, a 6-year old boy with autism.

"I've been a reporter on and off for 50 years, but I've never brought my family into a story ... until Nick," MacNeil said, "because he moves me deeply."

MacNeil and producer Caren Zucker tell the story of **Autism Today** in a 6-part broadcast series beginning Monday, April 18, 2011 and a robust online component where viewers can join the conversation. Ms. Zucker has produced many stories on autism and is the mother of a 16-year old son with autism.

OMAHA: Sibshops at Ollie Webb

The Ollie Webb is now taking reservations for their Saturday Sibshops workshops for Siblings of children with developmental disabilities. Download a flyer [HERE](#).

If you have been wondering if this program may be good fit for a sibling in your family, now would be a great time to get involved with the program. They have three more months of workshops scheduled— then will take a break over the summer and start up again in September.

Each workshop is facilitated by Adult Siblings. The friendships made through this program might be just what your child needs.

To make a reservation for your child ages 6-12 contact Annie at 346-5220 Ext. 23. Sibshops will be held at the Ollie Webb Center 1941 South 42nd Street, (the old Center shopping mall) lower level Suite 122.

OMAHA: Getting Connected—Safety and Netiquette in the World of Social Media

Presented by Munroe Meyer Institute, Social Work Department

This new and exciting class will take place at the Ollie Webb Center on Mondays starting April 4th from 4pm – 5:30pm. Participants will be meeting once a month for 6 months. Class sizes will be small allowing participants to receive one on one mentoring. This is a FREE class so there is NO COST associated with it.

Not only will participants will learn how to safely and appropriately increase adaptive skills in gaining additional formal and informal supports through the use of instant communication such as online social networking, text messaging and online video visiting, but caregivers will be provided with information on how to maintain the safety of their dependents while they access these supports. Caregivers are also encouraged to attend groups if interested in learning more about social networking, text messaging and online video visiting.

Download a flyer [HERE](#). For registration please contact Tina Sedersten or Jennifer Harmon with the Munroe-Meyer Institute at 402-559-6413.

LINCOLN: Rally for Autism Tennis Tournament

The Rally for Autism Tournament is an exciting evening of tennis that benefits the programming of the Autism Society of Nebraska and the building of Caritas Place Village. Caritas Place Village is being built for adults with special needs to live work, and be a community here in Nebraska.

Adult mixed doubles are determined by random draw. All you have to do is select your division on the registration form. This is a one evening round robin tournament (non members welcome).

They will be having a silent auction throughout the evening, so come ready for fun food, fun exciting tennis and items to purchase!

The entire round robin tournament will be played Sunday evening **April 17th** at the Lincoln Racquet Club.

Complete a registration form and mail or drop off with the \$25 entry fee by 6:00 pm on Monday, April 11th. You can download a registration form [HERE](#). Please call (402)423-2511 with any questions.

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](#).

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