

# **AUTISM SOCIETY**

*Improving the Lives of All Affected by Autism*

*Nebraska*

SEPTEMBER 30, 2011



NEWSGRAM

# Husker Heroes

Sunday, October 30, 2011

6:00—7:30 pm

Hawks Championship Center  
Lincoln, NE



A time for individuals with disabilities and their families to hang out with Husker athletes. All ages and abilities welcome!

**Registration is required. Space is limited.**

**Due to limited space a MAXIMUM of 4 people per family will be allowed.**

**Register TODAY!**

Please RSVP today by emailing [huskerheroes@gmail.com](mailto:huskerheroes@gmail.com) or by calling 402-421-8866.

Download a flyer [HERE](#).

\*\*Please note that due to the busy schedules of Husker athletes this is the time and date they have available. We realize this makes it hard for our non-Lincoln families to take part in this event. We hope that you will still consider traveling and enjoy this opportunity.

## **Cuties for a Cause: 2012 Calendar to benefit the Autism Society**

*The Autism Society of Nebraska is thrilled to have been chosen by Miracle Photography as the recipient of their "Cuties For A Cause" fundraiser! Thank you Miracle Photography by ShariLynn!*

*Miracle Photography will be taking photographs of visitors at Roca Farms (near Lincoln) this fall and using their adorable photos to create a calendar. Then all of the proceeds from the "Cuties for a Cause" calendar are being donated to the Autism Society of Nebraska!*

*Please note this is a calendar of "cuties" exploring the fall scenes at Roca Farms and not specifically a calendar of children from the autism community. The autism community was selected to benefit from the sales of the calendar.*

*But...we've seen your kids and they are cute! So don't hesitate to schedule a photo session and see if you can make the calendar!*

*Here is how it works:*

Every October thousands of fun-seekers journey to the pumpkin patch near Roca, Nebraska to pick their own pumpkins, go on hay rack rides, experience the thrill of a haunted house and explore the surrounding haunted woods. For many it has become a fall tradition.

This fall, Miracle Photography by ShariLynn is partnering with Roca Farms to help families preserve these memories for a lifetime. Families can arrange to have a professional photographer meet them at the pumpkin patch to capture those precious moments of family fun. Best of all, the family will come away with fantastic keepsakes that will include everyone in the family! Inevitably someone is always missing from family photos because someone has to take the picture! That will not be the case this year!

Children can then be entered into the "Cuties for a Cause" contest for a chance to be in the "Cuties for a Cause" Calendar. All children featured in the calendar will receive a \$50 gift certificate to Miracle Photography and a free 8x10 from their "costumed cuties" session in appreciation for helping support the cause. The winner of the contest will be the cover model on the calendar and also win a \$100 gift certificate to Miracle Photography.

The contest will take place on Miracle Photography's Facebook page with the winners being announced on October 30th.

Photo sessions can be scheduled from September 24th through October 24th. Contact 402-792-3225 or 402-310-6157 to schedule a session.

Proceeds from the "Cuties for a Cause" calendars will be donated to the Autism Society of Nebraska to help the organization fulfill their mission of supporting Nebraska families living with autism! And while touring Roca Farms be sure and bring your dollar bills as the Autism Society will be raffling off an iPad 2. The Winner will be announced on October 30th!



**\$1 give you a chance to win an iPad 2!**

## **What is the difference between the two AUTISM WALKS in Nebraska?**

### **Walk Now for Autism / Autism Puzzle Walk**

#### **Why are there two autism walks?**

#### **What is the difference?**

#### Autism Speaks WALK NOW FOR AUTISM — October 9, 2011

This walk supports Nebraska families by...

- funding global research into the causes, prevention, treatments and cure for autism
- raising public awareness about autism
- supporting insurance legislation efforts in various states. In 2011 they began working with Autism Action Partnership on this initiative here in Nebraska.
- Providing community grants that are awarded to service providers throughout the United States.

100% of the walk proceeds are used by the Autism Speaks national organization in carrying out their global mission.

#### Autism Society of Nebraska AUTISM PUZZLE WALK — April 28, 2012

This walk supports Nebraska families by...

- facilitating a support network across Nebraska. The Autism Society funds support groups across the state and has helped created family events such as pool parties, pumpkin patch outings, holiday gatherings, movie nights and family events at local attractions. Local groups have joined forces with other organizations to create Fire Safety Days, Day Camps, Husker Heroes, Sleeping with the Sharks as well as helping sponsoring the Lose the Training Wheels camp.
- keeping the Nebraska Autism Community networked through our web site, electronic Newsgram, Yahoo list serve and Facebook page.
- creating conferences and workshops to bring training to our local community in conjunction with other Nebraska advocacy and educational groups.
- providing family and individual scholarships for Nebraska citizens.
- NEW in 2012! Providing community grants to teachers and service providers who serve the local Nebraska autism community.

100% of the walk proceeds are used by the Nebraska chapter of the Autism Society in carrying out their local mission.

## **MEE! Webinar: Nebraska's Legislative Process**

Come and learn how to tell your own/your child's story to other caregivers and local elected officials. Have your voices heard!

The Mosaic MEE! (Nebraska Advocacy Project) is an opportunity for individuals, parents, and guardians of children with intellectual and developmental disabilities to build relationships with elected officials. You'll receive resources to assist you along the way.

Tuesday, October 4th @ 2:00pm

Presented by: Sheila Page

Legislative Aide to State Senator Colby Coash

Download a flyer [HERE](#).

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### **\*\*Future Webinars\*\***

Building Collaborations and Working Together Through Difficulties

Tuesday, November 1st @ 2:00pm

By: Bridget Cannon-Hale, MSW; Consultant

Building Relationships with Your State Senators

Wednesday, December 6th @ 2:00pm

Presented by: Denny Byars ; Former State Senator for NE Legislature

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## **BELLEVUE: Healthcare Information workshop for Military Families**

Tuesday, October 11 6:00pm - 7:30pm

Airman & Family Readiness Center

EFMP - Offutt AFB

Come for an informative workshop about the Tricare Extended Care Health Option (ECHO) program. The Nebraska Regional representative will be available that evening to go over eligibility, enrollment, benefits and to answer any questions guests might have. To reserve your seat at the workshop, or for more information, please contact the Airman & Family Readiness Center, 294-4329. (note: childcare will not be provided for this event.)

## **OMAHA: PTC hosts Halloween Party**

Everyone is invited! Bring a friend or a neighbor to the 4th Annual PTC Halloween Party!

Gather your little ghosts and goblins and join PTC for an open house party on Oct 27th between 4pm and 6pm. Kids can wear their costumes and there will be fun activities and treats.

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## **OMAHA: PTC Friendship Camps**

Ages 6 - 8    October 11 - November 22    Tue / Thur    4:30pm

Ages 9 - 12    October 10 - November 16    Mon/ Wed    4:30 pm

Cost is \$225 per child.

The groups meet 2 times a week for 50 minutes per session for a series of 6 weeks. The SLP and OT will collaborate to use interactive materials, sensory based activities, role playing, and group discussions. The children will have fun making friends and developing pragmatic language skills.

Learn more [HERE](#).

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## **OMAHA: Run, Walk, Roll...against Bullying**

Run, Walk, Roll...against Bullying

Saturday, October 8, 2011    8:00 am start

5K Run / 1 Mile Fun Walk/Roll

Walnut Creek Lake & Recreation Area  
9902 Schram Rd, Papillion, NE

PTI Nebraska is a non-profit organization and statewide resource dedicated to supporting families with children with disabilities or special health care needs. Bullying is a serious issue that affects all students, including students with disabilities. Every day, more than 160,000 children nationwide stay home from school to avoid being bullied. PTI is inviting the area communities to help address bullying prevention by supporting our 1st Run, Walk, Roll Against Bullying event. Come make a difference and support this important cause! For more information call PTI @ 402-346-0525 or 1-800-284-8520.

Download a registration form [HERE](#).

## **OMAHA: Little Leaf Learning Center Presents 'Game Night'**

Fridays 6:00 pm—8:00 pm

\$10 per week

Game Night will focus on one social skill per Game Night and practicing that skill through games and social interaction.

Register online at [www.mylittleleaf.org/game-night](http://www.mylittleleaf.org/game-night) or by phone to Kim Yaeger at 402-515-7234.

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## **OMAHA: Little Leaf Learning Center**

Little Leaf Learning Center has been created to help students with disabilities reach their full academic potential by providing early academic, social, and life skill interventions for students 18 months to 6 years. Tutoring services for school aged students in cooperation with their school districts are also available.

Preschool services are available for 1-3 hours per day and up to five days per week. Available services include instruction in the areas of life skills, social skills, math, and literacy.

Tutoring services for school aged students are available during the evening hours. Learn more by visiting [mylittleleaf.org](http://mylittleleaf.org)

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### **ASA's Options Policy:**

The Autism Society promotes the active and informed involvement of family members and the individual with autism in the planning of individualized, appropriate services and supports. We believe that each family and individual with autism should have the right to learn about and then select the options that they feel are most appropriate for them.

No single type of program will fill the needs of every individual with autism.

Our goal at the Autism Society is to help YOU be educated and informed about your various options.

[Click here to read the full Options Policy!](#)



## **LINCOLN: Art Planet offers classes for special students**

Children with special needs often have trouble expressing themselves, but one form of communication can help transcend all barriers – art. A new kids’ art studio opening in Lincoln aims to nurture the creative spirits of special-needs children, and along the way help them gain confidence, develop social skills, and of course create their very own works of art.

The studio, Art Planet, is the creation of artist and educator Tamara Weber, who got the idea while talking with a parent of a child who has Asperger’s syndrome. “There just aren’t a lot of creative programs in Lincoln that are geared towards children who have special needs, such as those on the autism spectrum,” says Weber, who has a Master of Education in Special Education and a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. “Art Planet is a place where these students can explore the creative universe in a way that’s developmentally appropriate and also a lot of fun.”

Learn more at [www.artplanetlincoln.com](http://www.artplanetlincoln.com) and specifically learn about their special needs classes [HERE](#).

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## **OMAHA: HETRA hay rack ride and dinner**

October 15, 2011

4:00pm - 8:00pm

Wenninghoff’s Farm  
6707 Wenninghoff Road  
Omaha, NE 68122

Evening includes Hay Rack Ride, fun and games for the whole family, dinner as well as s’mores by the campfire.

Cost: \$15 person; \$10 children 12 and under

Download a flyer [HERE](#).

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**Spring passes and one remembers one’s innocence.  
Summer passes and one remembers one’s exuberance.  
Autumn passes and one remembers one’s reverence.  
Winter passes and one remembers one’s perseverance.**

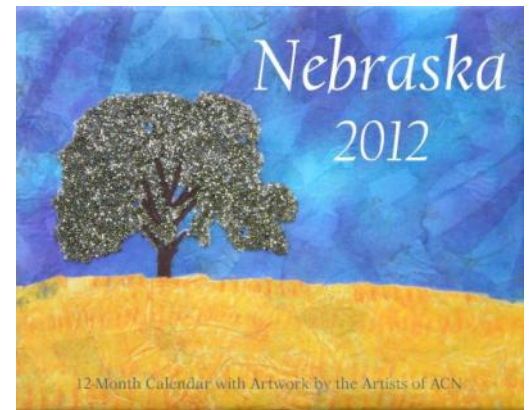
**—Yoko Ono**

## **AUTISM CENTER OF NEBRASKA 2012 Calendars and cards for sale**

The Autism Center of Nebraska is selling calendars and holiday cards that are made by artists participating in their vocational training program.

Proceeds from the sales go directly to the artists.

Download a flyer and order form [HERE](#).



## **OMAHA: Autism Family Fun at the Bellevue Berry & Pumpkin Ranch**

It's Fall! Come join the Omaha Support Group for an afternoon at The Bellevue Berry and Pumpkin Ranch!

We will have a campfire reserved at the Bellevue Berry and Pumpkin Ranch for our families from 2:00pm to 5:00pm on Sunday, October 16th. Bring your own campfire food as we will have the campfire blazing and the sticks available for your family to cook!

Cost is \$5 per family. The Autism Society will pay for your admission, hayrack ride, the campfire as well as provide traditional and GFCF smores, hot chocolate and yummy apple cider.

Please RSVP [HERE](#) or email Carol Salber at [csalber30@gmail.com](mailto:csalber30@gmail.com) or call 402-571-5690 prior to October 14th. Please mail your payment to:

Carol Salber  
9323 Meredith Ave  
Omaha, NE 68134



Come explore the Bellevue Berry and Pumpkin Ranch with other families who understand your sensory challenges and enjoy an afternoon with your friends from the Autism Society!

## **OMAHA: Support Group / 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, October 3, 2011**  
6:00pm - 8:00 pm

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

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

### **THIS EVENING CAN BE WHATEVER YOU WANT IT TO BE!**

There are a variety of ways this evening can serve your family:

1. Come to Pump It Up and climb, bounce and have a blast with your family. Consider it a family night out. You don't have to participate in the support group meeting. You can also look at this as a night to get the kids out and burn off some energy in a 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.
4. One parent can play/supervise the kids and the other parent can attend the support group.

All autism families are welcome. All ages are welcome. We have two bounce rooms in use and the equipment is even fun for the adults!

You do not have to be a current member of ASN or the Omaha Support Group.

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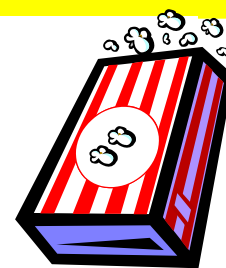
## **OMAHA: Biomedical Discussion Group**

Thursday, October 20, 2011 7pm

The Biomedical Discussion group meets the third Thursday of each month at 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](mailto:chrissycameron@cox.net) or Karen Falconer Al-Hindi [karen.alhindi@gmail.com](mailto: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.

### Dolphin Tale

**Saturday, October 1**

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

### Upcoming Showings:

**November 5, 2011-Puss in Boots**

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](mailto:autismsociety@autismnebraska.org) to find out more information about how to create sensory friendly showings in your community!

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](mailto: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](mailto:autismsociety@autismnebraska.org) or you can post it directly to our calendar at [www.autismnebraska.org](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.autismnebraska.org)