

AUTISM SOCIETY

Improving the Lives of All Affected by Autism

Nebraska

OCTOBER 14, 2011



NEWSGRAM



Be sure to visit Roca Farms to support our Cuties for a Cause fundraiser!



**Don't miss your chance to be in the 2012 Cuties Calendar!
(and to enter the drawing for an iPad2!)**

And we are announcing a **BONUS OPPORTUNITY** for entering the drawing for the iPad2!

You can also join the Omaha Support Group at the Bellevue Berry and Pumpkin Ranch this Sunday for a chance to enter the drawing. \$1 per ticket!

The winner will be drawn October 30th along with announcing the Cuties for a Cause calendar stars!

\$1 = A CHANCE for



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 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!

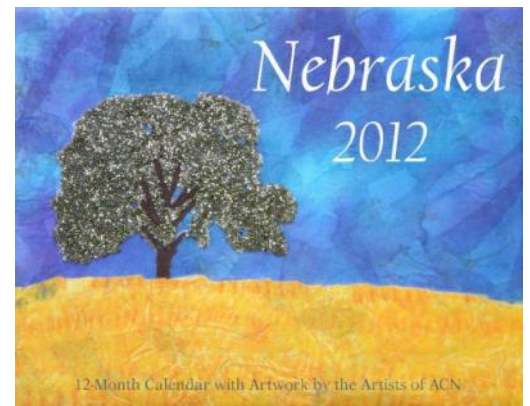


AUTISM CENTER OF NEBRASKA 2012 Calendars and cards for sale

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](#).



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!

****Please note that we have received maximum registrations****
Registration is CLOSED!

Registration is required. Space is limited.

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

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.

OMAHA: Halloween Party for Teens/Adults with ASD

Jordan's Place
1915 Dana Lane, Papillion

October 28, 2011
6:00 pm- 10:00 pm

Calling all teens and adults with an autism spectrum disorder! Come socialize with friends or meet new ones! There will be lots to eat, drink and do. Come play video games, board games, puzzles, and arts and crafts.

Please RSVP to Rachael at (402)212-9575

Download a flyer [HERE](#) and help spread the word!



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!

OMAHA: Consider becoming a Supporting Parent!

The Parent to Parent program of the Ollie Webb Center is in the process of recruiting parents of children with special needs to become supporting parents (mentors) for new families.

As the mother or father of a child with developmental disabilities, you have unique parenting experiences. Through time, training, and trial and error, you have gained valuable skills. Use your knowledge to help another parent on the journey by becoming a mentor. Parent to Parent (P2P) programs link parents of children, adolescents and adults with developmental disabilities with experienced and informed veteran parents who understand the day-to-day experiences of raising a child with special needs. Parent to Parent Omaha is offered by Ollie Webb Center, Inc., a local nonprofit agency.



Download a flyer [HERE](#) to learn more.

To talk with someone about becoming a mentor, please contact Annie Anderson at 346-5220 ext. 23 or aanderson@olliewebbinc.org.

OMAHA: Registration is open for AAP'S Autism Summit

November 2-3, 2010

Scott Conference Center, Omaha, NE

Wednesday, November 2 - KEYNOTE: Carol Gray "Creating Opportunities for Friendship to Decrease the Incidence of Bullying".

Carol Gray is the Director of The Gray Center for Social Learning and Understanding in Grand Rapids Michigan. In 1991, Carol developed Social Stories and Comic Strip Conversations strategies that are used worldwide with person on the autism spectrum. She has published several resources on topics related to children and adults with ASD, including articles on bullying, death and dying, and how to teach social understanding.

Thursday, November 3 - Nebraska Legislative Workshop: What, Where and How. How to pass legislation and more.

AAP is bringing in speakers with subject matter expertise on the Nebraska legislative process to provide an educational presentation for all parents, caregivers and service providers.

The last part of the presentation will be an update from the Autism Action Partnership about where things stand with their initiative to pass an Autism Insurance Mandate here in Nebraska.

Download a flyer [HERE](#).

MEE! Webinar: Building Collaborations and Working Together through Difficulties

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, November 1, 2010 @ 2:00pm

Presented by: Bridget Cannon-Hale, MSW; Consultant

Download a flyer [HERE](#).

****Future Webinars****

Building Relationships with Your State Senators

Wednesday, December 6th @ 2:00pm

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

LINCOLN: Asperger's Support Groups

Williamsburg Behavioral Psychology offices in Lincoln hosts Asperger support groups. Please download their flyer for more information. To register for the group please call 402-489-2218.

Learn about their support groups [HERE](#).

Learn about Dr. Tapley [HERE](#).

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.

Pediatric Therapy Center

10791 S 72nd St

Papillion, NE

OMAHA: Coffee Talk—a group for caregivers and loved ones of Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders

1st Thursday of the month - 7pm

Second Unitarian Church of Omaha
3012 S 119th St, Omaha, NE

The Autism Society of Nebraska along with the second Unitarian Church of Omaha are sponsoring a support group for caregivers and loved ones of adults with autism spectrum disorders. Please join us to share your stories and hopes and questions with one another in a safe space.



Download a flyer [HERE](#).

OMAHA: Why Arts? Come and explore your Artistic Side

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1011 FROM 6:15 – 8:00 PM AT THE VSP CLUB.

There will be opportunities for teens and adults to explore the arts through visual and dramatic arts.

This event is for individuals with disabilities ages 13 – 21+. There is no charge for this event, but registration is required and is limited to the 1st 20 individuals who RSVP.

For reservations, email Mary at nebuddywalk@cox.net by October 26, 2011 with the following information:

Name of individual who will be attending

Age of individual

Contact email and phone number

Download a flyer [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 or by phone to Kim Yaeger at 402-515-7234.

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

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 and specifically learn about their special needs classes [HERE](#).

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](#).

**Coming together is a beginning;
keeping together is progress;
working together is success.
—Henry Ford**

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, November 7, 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.

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 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.

Puss in Boots

Saturday, November 5

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:

December 3, 2011—The Muppets
January 7, 2012—The Adventures of Tin Tin
February 25, 2012—The Secret World of Arrietty
March 10, 2012—Dr. Seuss' The Lorax
April 7, 2012—Pirates! Band of Misfits

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!

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