

AUTISM SOCIETY

Improving the Lives of All Affected by Autism

Nebraska

NOVEMBER 1, 2011



NEWSGRAM



The Autism Society is a proud member of the ONE Coalition who hosted the 2nd Annual Husker Heroes event. Thank you to the University of Nebraska—Lincoln, Husker athletes, wonderful volunteers and amazing families who came out and made the evening a fantastic success!

OMAHA: Autism Family Skating Spectacular

Join the Autism Society—Omaha Support Network for a fun day of skating!

Skate City
1220 South Fort Crook Rd
Bellevue, NE

Sunday, November 20
5pm—7pm

Fun for all ages!

Cost: \$4 per skater
(price covers traditional skate rental; inline skates extra)



Additional \$3 for those 10 and under wanting to do the bounce house/play structure

We are also thrilled to have Creighton Occupational Therapy students joining us to help out! They will be on hand to help our newest skaters get adjusted to life on wheels as well as to help guide our veteran skaters in fine tuning their skills.

Download a flyer [HERE](#).

RSVP online at <http://asnskatingspectacular.eventbrite.com>

RSVP not required but is very much appreciated as we try to line up enough volunteers.

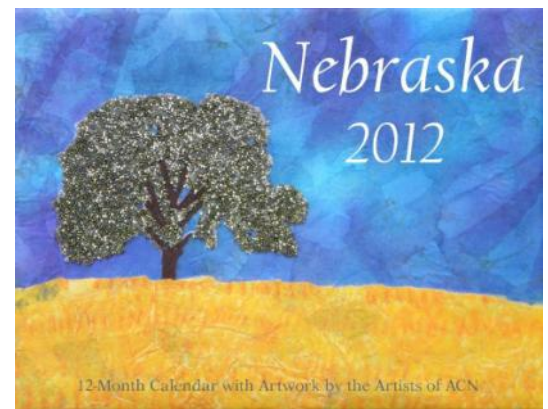
AUTISM CENTER OF NEBRASKA 2012 Calendars and cards for sale

Time to think about those Holiday cards! The Autism Center of Nebraska has a great solution for you!

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](#).



In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity.
Albert Einstein

Cuties for a Cause—calendar fundraiser to benefit the Autism Society

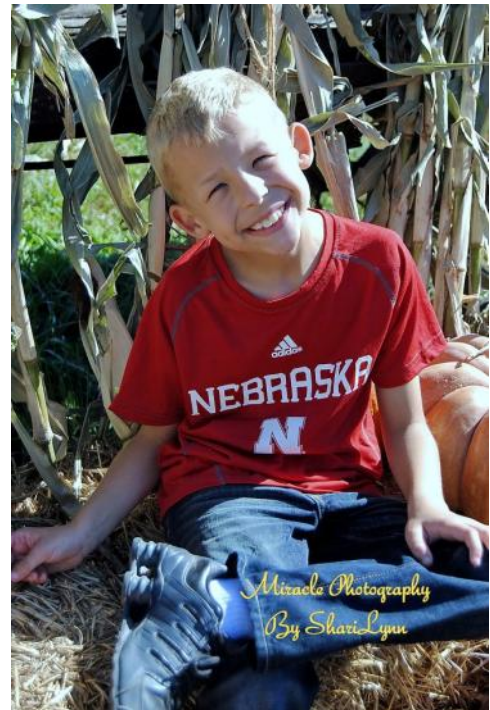
The photos have been taken.
The cuties have been selected.
The calendars are off to the printer!

Thank you to all the Cuties who are championing the Autism cause!

Cross a few names off your holiday list while you help the Autism Society! Cuties for a Cause calendars are now for sale! All proceeds from the Cuties for a Cause calendar come to the Autism Society of Nebraska and go directly into helping our local autism community.

Download an order form [HERE](#).

Have a sneak peak of some of the CUTIES!



And a BIG congratulations to Linda Lichtenberg for winning the iPad2!

Autism Insurance Mandate Update

SAVE THE DATE

**Your stories and presence will be needed
at a public hearing on**

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2011

**More information will be available after
AAP's Autism Summit later this week!**

OMAHA: Special Needs Planning

Thursday, November 10th

7:00 pm—8:30 pm

Presented by Dan Kline MBA and Marvin Brinkman

MassMutual / Continuum Financial Offices

10250 Regency Circle, Suite 250

RSVP is appreciated. Space is limited. 402-397-8600. Refreshments will be served.

Download a flyer [HERE](#).

Creighton Research Study: Parent Participants Needed

Participants needed for a Research Study - An examination of the Relationship between Sensory Processing and Emotional Regulation in Children with Autism

Seeking: Parents with a child between ages 5 - 10

- a. Either typically developing (no disabilities)
- b. with Autism / Autism Spectrum Disorder
- c. be able to complete one time surveys regarding child's behavior

Estimated time: 40 - 45 minutes

Please download a flyer [HERE](#).

Nebraska City Autism Support Group forming

Join us on November 5th and meet others living with and/or have children under the ASD umbrella. Our goal is to share stories, what worked, what didn't, spread awareness to the community and offer education and support. Our group is for parents, guardians, individuals, teachers, educators, doctors or anyone that would like to learn more about autism!

Date: November 5, 2011

Time: 9:00 am - 4:30pm

Where: Arbor Bank in the lower level conference room, 911 Central Avenue

RSVP: afnlincoln@aol.com

Download a flyer [HERE](#).

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: PRISM workshop “Food Fights”

Tuesday, November 8

6:15 - 8:30pm

St. Timothy’s Lutheran Church 510 N 93rd Street

(Corner of 93rd & Dodge)

Chelli Westengaard, OTR is the Lead Occupational Therapist for the Feeding and Swallowing Department at Children’s Hospital and has worked as a feeding specialist at Children’s Hospital for the past 4 years and in pediatrics for the past 9 years.

Heather Young, OTR is a rehabilitation therapist who works at Children’s Hospital West Village Pointe satellite outpatient clinic and has worked in pediatrics for the past 12 years.

Chelli and Heather complete feeding evaluations using Video Swallow studies to determine safety of swallowing and Clinical Feeding Evaluations. They also provide follow up treatment of feeding issues including oral aversions, transitioning from G-tube feeding to oral eating, and progression of feeding using the developmental food continuum.

Download a flyer [HERE](#).

HASTINGS: Support Group Meeting

H A R T— The Hastings Autism Resource Team hosts a monthly parent support group meeting on the second Thursday of the month.

Thursday, November 10

6:30-8:00pm

Lincoln Elementary School

Presentation on using iPads with children on the spectrum. Ipads will be available to use during the training. If you plan on attending and would like to use our iPad, please let us know so there can be enough iPads for everyone. Email the HART team at kdetour@esu9.org.

All parents of children on the spectrum from Hastings and surrounding towns are welcome to attend, free of charge. Childcare provided

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!](#)



OMAHA: Overcoming Challenges of Refractory Epilepsy

November 15, 2011
6:00pm – 8:00pm

PTI - Nebraska
6805 Grover Street Omaha, NE

Featured Topic: “Overcoming Challenges of Refractory Epilepsy”

Presenter: Victoria Driscoll, BSN

Since graduating from Creighton University with BSN, Victoria has specialized as a clinician in pediatric epilepsy for over 20 years, working in such places as Boston Children’s Hospital, Minnesota Epilepsy group in St. Paul, and most recently at Children’s Mercy Hospital in Kansas City, MO. Victoria has been published multiple times on using the Ketogenic Diet and VNS therapies to help control seizures in Epilepsy.

Learn about:

- *Treatment options for all types of Epilepsy
- *What is today’s definition of Refractory Epilepsy?
- *What challenges does hard to control epilepsy present and how you can overcome those challenges?

All family/friends are welcome to attend. For more information contact: Stacey Doty 402-850-7680 or sdoty77@hotmail.com

Refreshments provided by Cyberonics, Inc.

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: Biomedical Discussion Group

Thursday, November 17, 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.

OMAHA: Autism Night at the Omaha Children's Museum

Sunday, November 13
5:30 - 8pm
Free admission

This is a special evening for children with autism and their families. The museum has worked to create an appropriate and sensory friendly environment.

Call 402-930-2353 with questions.

OMAHA: Breakfast Club for Adults with ASD

When: 1st Saturday of the Month

Time: 9:00 am - 10:30 am

Where: Autism Center of Nebraska

Cost: \$5

Facilitated by Carol Salber, MS, LMHP
Licensed Therapist
(402)658-9962 or csalber30@gmail.com

For adults 18 or older diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder or Asperger's Syndrome. Members come together to connect around common issues and interests in a relaxed, supportive environment. Each meeting includes light breakfast and relevant discussions.



to

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

Thursday, November 3 (1st Thursday of the month)
7:30 pm - 8:30 pm

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.



Contact Wendy Hamilton at wendy.k.hamilton@hotmail.com or 402-290-3840.

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 month we will have a GUEST SPEAKER on IEP's**

Our November guest speaker will be Bridget Cannon-Hale.

Bridget is the new incoming Executive Director for PTI Nebraska.

Bring your questions and prepare for a great night of discussion!

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 to attend!

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