



**Autism Society of  
Cumberland County**

**Jackie Pfuntner, Editor**

**Calendar of Events:**

- § Feb.3 @ 11:00 am ~  
ABA Support Group at  
Jason's Deli
- § Feb. 9 @ 5:45 pm ~ HFA  
Support Group at  
Spainhour
- § Feb. 9 @ 6:30 pm ~  
Parent Ed. Mtg. at  
Spainhour
- § Feb. 10 @ 11:30 am ~  
ALC Support Group at  
Ruby Tuesdays—Skibo
- § Feb. 18 @ 9:30 am ~  
ABC Support Group at  
McDonald's Sante Fe
- § Feb. 24 @ 11:00 am ~  
Board of Directors Mtg.  
at Omni Family Resource  
Center

**Board of Directors:**

- President: Chris  
Leacock
- Vice Pres.: Anna Finch
- Treasurer: Gwen Scott
- Secretary: Mary Potter

**General Board Members:**

- Cynthia Dr. Debra  
Billops Gillum
- Brenda  
Brown

**Director of Programs and  
Outreach**

Jackie Pfuntner

**Program and Outreach  
Assistant**

Jennifer Cashwell

Monthly Parent Education Program

**Heather Wilkerson, MSW, LCSW**

*Will Present*

***Equine Assisted Psychotherapy for Individuals with Autism***

**Discussion will include information about:**

1. How equine-assisted psychotherapy differs from traditional "talk" therapy
2. How equine-assisted psychotherapy utilizes the team approach
3. What kind of feedback horses offer people especially those with Autism
4. Why we use horses versus other types of animals.
5. How horses assist a client in overcoming fear and anxiety.

**Join us February 9, 2009  
at 6:30 pm at the  
Dorothy Spainhour Center  
223 Hull Road, Fayetteville, NC**

For your convenience, free respite care is available on site through Community Based Developmental Services. Contact Cynthia Billops at least 24 hours prior to reserve your space at 488-5820/488-4584. You may leave a message to reserve your space; you will not receive a return phone call.



Save The Date:

**3rd Annual Autism Awareness**

**Golf Invitational**

**May 30, 2009 @ Cypress Lakes Golf Course**





## Support Groups

ASCC Monthly Support Groups are open to parents, professionals, and anyone else who wishes to attend. Our support groups are a great place to network with other parents and share your ideas or concerns. Find a support group meeting to fit your busy schedule.

The **Autism Breakfast Club** (ABC) Support Group will meet **Thursday, Feb. 18** at 9:30 a.m. at McDonald's on Sante Fe. This group is for parents of ages pre-school—elementary with autism.

The **Autism Lunch Club** (ALC) Support Group will meet **Tuesday, Feb. 10** at 11:30 am at Ruby Tuesdays—Skibo. This group is for parents of ages middle school—adults with autism.

The **High Functioning Autism** (HFA) Support Group will meet **Monday, Feb. 9** at 5:45 pm at Dororthy Spainhour Center. This group is for parents of individuals with high-functioning autism/aspergers.

The **Applied Behavior Analysis** (ABA) Support Group will meet **Tuesday, Feb. 3** at 11:00 am at Jason's Deli.

## Camp Sunshine Employment Applications:

In an attempt to decrease mailing expenses, we are not mass mailing employment applications for Camp Sunshine. We will be mailing applications late February to Teachers of self-contained autism classrooms. We will also be mailing applications to past employees. If you are a past employee, and have a new address, please notify the office as soon as possible. If you do not fall into the categories listed above & are interested in working for the Autism Society of Cumberland County at Camp Sunshine this summer, please call the office at 826-3004 to request an employment application or e-mail us at autismcc@ccpfc.org. Qualifications required for employment are at least a high school diploma or GED and be 18 years of age. Experience with individuals with developmental disabilities and/or behavioral/emotional disabilities is preferred but not required. (Exceptions are made for students in the college internship program and high school graduating seniors.)

---

Thank you to the following list of volunteers who provided support to the ASCC between October–December 2008.

Sam Fleishman	Chris Leacock	Brenda Brown
Cynthia Billops	Cathy Howell	Gwen Scott
Debbie Gillum	Apple Boyce	Elizabeth Paley
Emily Gogdell	Kristin Termini	Sandra Surles
April Kumm	Mary Potter	Anette Schell
Catherine Pollard	Thomas Bridges	Theresa Thomas
Desiree Leacock	Theodore Avant	Jennifer Hucks
Misty Surles	Andre Faison	Anna Finch

---

Thank you to the following list of donors who made financial contributions to the ASCC between October–December 2008.

- Partnership for Children of Cumberland County  
Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Adelphotis Society  
Mr. and Mrs. George Dais  
Committee to Elect Tony Rand  
Mr. Charles Perry  
Ms. Grace Roman  
Mr. and Mrs. Jody Perry



CONFERENCE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION  
TEACCH - High Functioning Autism & Asperger Syndrome

Highland Country Club, Fayetteville, NC  
Thursday and Friday, March 12 & 13

8:30 am—3:30 pm

DUE DATE: NO LATER THAN Monday, March 2, 2009

A limited number of conference scholarships are available for parents interested in attending a TEACCH training in Fayetteville, NC. Information on the conference can be obtained by calling TEACCH at 437-2517 or by visiting their website [www.teacch.com](http://www.teacch.com).

If you are interested in attending this conference, please complete this brief application and return to: **ASCC, 351 Wagoner Drive, Suite 410, Fayetteville, NC 28303** as soon as possible! There are a limited number of spaces for this training. These scholarships are available to parents of children and adults with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). If you have any questions, call our office at 826-3004. Upon acceptance and selection of your application, we will notify you.

**Applications received after March 2 will not be considered.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (day) \_\_\_\_\_ (night) \_\_\_\_\_

Name of child with ASD \_\_\_\_\_ age \_\_\_\_\_

*Please note that the ASCC will pay the registration fee directly to TEACCH. If you are selected as a recipient of this scholarship and for any reason are unable to attend, this fee will be **non-refundable to ASCC**. Please notify our office at 826-3004/3005 immediately in case of any emergency that might prohibit your attendance. We would prefer to send an alternate applicant in your place to prohibit any loss of money.*

Please provide a brief statement below as to why you would like to attend the TEACCH workshop and how you feel that this would benefit you or individuals with autism.

---

---

---

---

---

Scholarships are partially funded by Kaleo Supports, Inc. Kaleo Supports, Inc is owned and operated by Nancy Szymkowiak and Karen Campbell (910-630-2255).



CONFERENCE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION  
**2009 Autism Society of North Carolina Annual Conference**

At the Sheraton in Chapel Hill  
Friday and Saturday, March 27 and 28

**DUE DATE: NO LATER THAN March 6, 2009**

A limited number of conference scholarships are available to parents interested in attending the ASNC Annual Conference in Chapel Hill, NC on March 27 and 28. **Scholarship funds are available for the conference attendance only; funds for hotel accommodations are not available.** These scholarships will be provided on a reimbursement basis. Selected recipients will be reimbursed after the conference ends and upon confirmation of conference attendance.

If you are interested in applying for a scholarship to attend this conference **please do the following:** 1) **complete this scholarship application form** and 2) **return to: the Autism Society of Cumberland County, 351 Wagoner Drive, Suite 410, Fayetteville, NC 28303.**

**Send no money or credit card information at this time.** If selected as a scholarship recipient, we will notify you to register online at [www.autismsociety-nc.org](http://www.autismsociety-nc.org). Please call our office (826-9100, Ext. 266) if you have questions.

**Applications received after March 6 will not be considered.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a current member of ASNC? \_\_\_YES\_\_\_NO ASNC \_\_\_YES\_\_\_ NO

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

Name of child with ASD \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide a brief statement as to why you would like to attend the ASNC Annual Conference and how you feel that this would benefit you or your child.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



## Autism Memoir by Austin Gillum, Age 13

When I was three, I was diagnosed with a condition called autism. With this condition, my brain doesn't function exactly the same way as the brains of other kids. I don't always think the same way as other kids, or have the same opinions about certain things. However, there are some positive aspects about my autism.

Because of my autism, I have a wonderful imagination. I come up with many amazing ideas and stories. The many ideas roaming around in my mind could fill up a whole blimp. Thanks to my awesome imagination, I have also created a lot of excellent drawings. The creativity of my drawings has impressed many people. Last of all I have an absolutely phenomenal memory. I still astound my family with the power of my memory. For example, I remembered what was written on the back of a book I had read three years ago, word for word.

There is, however, bad news that comes with my autism. That bad news is that I don't always behave the way other people would call normal. Grown-ups sometimes yell at me for not paying attention. I am easily angered by certain jokes and comments. Even the slightest false joke about me can easily tip me off. My sister still unintentionally annoys me every day. I also like to fiddle with strings or straps and make animal noises.

Although my autism can sometimes make me feel very terrible, I'm nothing like some other kids with autism. After I was first diagnosed with autism, doctors thought I would never talk or be able to learn. They also thought that my parents would eventually have to consider having me institutionalized. Surprisingly, things turned out to be the opposite way. I do plenty of talking, and even participate in conversations. I've gone to really good schools, learned a lot of important information, and have even won a few awards. Last of all, my parents have never had a single thought of having me institutionalized. Basically, I really proved the predictions of those doctors wrong.

My autism was a real life-changing condition for me and my family. It has provided me with a great imagination. Of course my autism has its drawbacks and sometimes I feel unhappy about it. At least I haven't gone the way other kids with autism have often gone. Basically, my Autism has turned out to be both a triumph and an obstacle in my life.

---

## Special Needs Awareness Sunday at Arran Lake Baptist Church February 17, 2009:

**Goal:** The goal is to have fun with our special kids/gifts from God and honor our special families. In addition to creating church-wide special needs awareness, educate, entertain, and recruit some help so we are able to reach more special families for Christ. Please feel free to invite your extended families and special friends.

**Three Morning Services:** We will have a special song. As the song is playing, we plan to have a slide show of our special kids and our special families. We will also have a prayer and something to hand out to the congregation. We WILL have Small Group and Extended Session on this day for your special child.

**Evening for all ALBC:** We will begin the casual evening with a fried chicken dinner in the Family Life Center. We will have a cake walk, door prizes, a collection of your special child's work on display, special Art Gallery and Auction, and more. We will then move into the worship center for worship, our youth group S.W.A.T. will perform, and an evening service with our guest speaker, Mr Carlton McDaniel, Life Way's Special Ministries Specialist. During the service, we WILL have child care for your special child ONLY.

**Tickets:** We will be printing dinner tickets to help with the cost. We will need help selling these dinner tickets to everyone. We will announce when they are printed and will ask you to take some to sell to friends, family, and church/small group members.

Please contact Enedelia Rhode for more information at [ecm-albc@nc.rr.com](mailto:ecm-albc@nc.rr.com).  
Arran Lake Baptist Church [www.arranlakebaptistchurch.org](http://www.arranlakebaptistchurch.org)

351 Wagoner Drive, Suite 410  
Fayetteville, NC 28303

Tel: 910-826-3004/3005  
Fax: 910-868-5881  
E-mail: autismcc@ccpfc.org  
Web: www.autismcc.org

Winner of the Autism Society of  
North Carolina affiliate of the Year  
Award—1996, 2002, & 2003

Supporting Individuals Within The Autism Spectrum



The Autism Society of Cumberland County is an affiliate of the Autism Society of North Carolina

**Mission Statement**

The Autism Society of Cumberland County is committed to providing support and promoting opportunities which enhance the lives of individuals within the autism spectrum and their families.

**Vision Statement**

The Autism Society of Cumberland County strives to create a community where people within the autism spectrum and their families receive respect, services, and supports based on individual differences, needs, and preferences.

**Funded In Part By:**



Donations

Please remember the ASCC with your **tax-deductible** charitable contribution!

**Checks should be made payable to:**

Autism Society of Cumberland County  
PO Box 35600  
Fayetteville, NC 28303

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Amount of Contribution \_\_\_\_\_

The Nicholas Fasul Finch Autism Fund was established in 1998 by Hank and Anna Fasul Finch, in honor of their son Nicholas. The fund is a donor advised fund of the Cumberland Community Foundation and was created for the purpose of supporting programs and services for individuals with autism in the Cumberland County area. All contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Checks should be made payable to:  
*Cumberland Community Foundation*  
PO Box 2345  
Fayetteville, NC 28302-2345

**\*Please write "For the Nicholas F. Finch Autism Fund" on your check.**