

**Autism Society of
Cumberland County**

Jackie Pfuntner, Editor

Calendar of Events:

- § Jan. 11 @ 5:30 pm ~
HFA Support Group at
Spainhour
- § Jan. 11 @ 6:00 pm ~
Parent Ed. Mtg at
Spainhour
- § Jan. 12 @ 11:30 am ~
ALC Support Group at
Little Italy
- § Jan. 20 @ 9:30 am ~
ABC Support Group at
Ckick-Fil-A on Skibo
- § Jan. 26 @ 11:00 am ~
Board of Directors Mtg.
at Omni Family Resource

Board of Directors:

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

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Cynthia Carrie
Billops Boone
Dr. Debra Christine
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Lydia
Short

**Director of Programs and
Outreach**

Jackie Pfuntner

**Program and Outreach
Assistant**

Jennifer Cashwell

Monthly Parent Education Program

Doreen Byrd, ECAC

Will Present

Section 504: Supporting Students with Autism

January 11, 2010 at 6:00 pm

(please note time change)

Dorothy Spainhour Center,

223 Hull Road, Fayetteville, NC

Presentation will include information about:

1. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973
2. How Section 504 applies to your child with an Autism Spectrum Disorder
3. Accommodations that can be included in a 504 plan
4. How Section 504 relates to special education



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.





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 **Wednesday, Jan. 20** at 9:30 a.m. at Chick-Fil-A on Skibo. This group is for parents of ages pre-school—elementary with autism.

The **Autism Lunch Club** (ALC) Support Group will meet **Tuesday, Jan. 12** at 11:30 am at Little Italy. This group is for parents of ages middle school—adults with autism.

The **High Functioning Autism** (HFA) Support Group will meet **Monday, Jan. 11** at 5:30 pm at Dorothy Spainhour. This group is for parents of individuals with high-functioning autism/aspergers.

Family Corner:

“My Uncle Has Autism”

By: Logan Savage

When I was little, my uncle Michael was the coolest guy in the world. When we came to visit, he let my brother and I play in his room. We'd jump on his bed, watch his television, and play with his stuffed animals. All the while, he would stay quietly out of the way, twirling his string and secretly tape recording us. My uncle has autism.

Looking back, he was probably extremely anxious the whole time we disorganized his photos and Little House on the Prairie books. We might have prevented him from watching a few soaps. He put up with us though. He would even go on bike rides with us when no one else wanted to. My brother and I would stuff as many beanie babies as possible into our pockets and ride off. We would arrange them on a rock somewhere, like they were real animals in the wild, and then he'd snap Polaroid photos for us.

My uncle has many hobbies and interests. Photography is possibly his biggest hobby. If he isn't using his camera, he has some photographs in his pockets. Some of his favorite subjects include photographs of photographs, family members, his television, his tape recorder, and the mailbox. When friends or family visited, he used to blind his unsuspecting victims with a camera flash but now asks before he takes pictures. Besides his own photographs, he likes to collect school portraits of family members and random photographs that he's found. A couple of years ago, Polaroid decided to stop selling film so we bought him a digital camera. With his newfound technology, he now takes hundreds instead of dozens of pictures of his soap operas daily.

His most unusual hobby is probably string twirling. Michael likes to twirl a shoelace-type string and takes this string wherever he goes. He twirls over books when he reads, he twirls over photographs he looks at, and sometimes just twirls it. Once, he left his string at an amusement park and my grandmother had to drive all the way back to find it. Now, she keeps a draw full of strings in case he loses one. Another one of his hobbies is tape recording. He records conversations, television shows, and opera songs. He used to hide his tape recorder between seat cushions or in my mom's room, but has either stopped doing this or found better hiding places.

Yes, my uncle likes soap operas. He also likes to read about them in the TV Guide and Soap Digest. As I mentioned before, he also likes Little House on the Prairie. He watches the show, reads the books, and even the biographies of actors on the show. He used to play opera records over and over again in his room and break them when he was done.

I don't remember when I realized he had autism, but I know it didn't change how I felt about him. I've never been embarrassed by him; I'm actually proud of my uncle. He earns his own money with a few different jobs every week and attends lots of social functions through the ARC and other agencies. He also has an amazing memory. If you tell him your birthday, he will remember the month, date, and year of birth for the rest of his life. He knows the birthdays of all the family members, of his favorite celebrities, and of neighbors who moved away decades ago. Today I still know that my uncle is a pretty amazing guy.

Social Group for Ages 3-5

Autism Consulting Services will be holding weekly social group sessions for children with autism ages 3 -5. The group will meet on Mondays beginning on February 8 from 9:30—10:30 am at Highland Learning Center. The cost is \$150 for 10 weeks. Space is limited but if there is a great enough response a second class will be opened.

For more information contact Christine Seeburger at 910-495-3568 or visit www.autism1o1.org.



Teacher's Wish List:

These local classrooms have requested donations of the following items for their students. If you can donate some of these items, please contact ASCC at 826-3004.

Ms. Tifanni Dash, College Lakes Elementary

- ◆ Small and medium plastic tubs with lids
- ◆ Wooden puzzles (1-10 pieces)
- ◆ Board games (ages 3-12)
- ◆ Legos and Duplos
- ◆ Cardstock

Ms. Karen Burke, T.C. Berrien School

- ◆ Sticky Velcro
- ◆ 9 Volt Batteries
- ◆ AA Batteries
- ◆ Toy Cars and Trucks

We Need Your Help - Become a Member - 2010:

ASNC Membership (includes local and state membership): \$40.00 _____ (make check payable to ASNC)

ASCC Membership: \$10.00 _____ (make check payable to ASCC)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone (h) _____ (w) _____

E-Mail _____ Child's Birth Date (if parent) _____

Local Affiliate Name: **Autism Society of Cumberland County**

Mail all memberships, ASNC and ASCC to:

Autism Society of Cumberland County, 351 Wagoner Drive, Suite 140, Fayetteville 28303

To charge memberships to ASNC, visit www.autismsociety-nc.org and click on "Be a Member" on the left hand side or to charge to ASCC, visit <http://autismcc.org/membership.php>



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

Return Service Requested

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 _____

Disclaimer: The Autism Society of Cumberland County does not take any position regarding studies of ASD, nor endorse any particular form of treatment, intervention, or therapy. This newsletter allows us to pass along current information in the field of ASD to our families and organization members.