

**Autism Society of
Cumberland County**

Jackie Pfuntner, Editor

Calendar of Events:

§ Nov. 9 @ 5:45 pm ~ HFA
Support Group at
Spainhour

§ Nov. 9 @ 6:30 pm ~
Parent Ed. Mtg. at
Spainhour

§ Nov. 10 @ 11:30 am ~
ALC Support Group at
Tripp's

§ Nov. 18 @ 9:30 am ~
ABC Support Group at
Ckick-Fil-A on Skibo

§ Dec. 1 @ 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 Christine
Brown Seeburger

**Director of Programs and
Outreach**

Jackie Pfuntner

**Program and Outreach
Assistant**

Jennifer Cashwell

Monthly Parent Education Program

Valerie McCants, MSW

Will Present

Coping with Autism: Shouldering the Responsibility

November 9, 2009 at 6:30 pm

Dorothy Spainhour Center,
223 Hull Road, Fayetteville, NC

Presentation will include information about:

1. Common emotional reactions to finding out that your child has a diagnosis of autism
2. Coping strategies to help deal with the emotional stress associated with raising a child with autism
3. Differences in coping styles between mothers and fathers
4. Factors that contribute to the different ways individuals cope with stress



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.

Attention Members

The nomination and election of the Board of Directors of the ASCC will be held at the November 9 meeting of the general membership. Nominations for the Board of Directors may be made by the general membership and a majority vote of the members present shall be required to elect all directors. If you are interested in serving on the board, please contact Jackie at 826-3004.





A BIG Thank You to Erin Gillum

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, Nov. 18** 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, Nov. 10** at 11:30 am at Tripp's. This group is for parents of ages middle school—adults with autism.

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

Erin Gillum recently earned her Bronze Award, the highest award possible for a Junior Girl Scout. For her community service project, she raised money for the Autism Society of Cumberland County. Erin raised \$450.00 and bought learning supplies and equipment for Camp Sunshine. Erin is a 6th grader at St. Patrick School. She is the daughter of Debra and David Gillum.



SAVE THE DATE

21st Annual

Leo M. Croghan Conference *on Developmental Disabilities*

*A Conference for Parents and Professionals Concerned with
the Care and Development of Young Children*

December 7, 2009

Sheraton Imperial Hotel, Durham, NC

For more information please visit www.croghanconference.org



Teacher's Wish List:

Over the years, ASCC has tried to assist the teacher's of self-contained autistic classes by printing their wish list in the ECHO. We are once again asking that the teachers of Cumberland County send us any wish list items they would like to have, such as Velcro, laundry baskets, books, CDs, puzzles, etc.

Goody Bag Items:

Next time you are out...

Pick up a bag of candy, some pencils, large erasers, or even little cars. Be creative but remember nothing too small as that will impose a choking hazard. This applies with candy too! Bring it to the November 9 meeting or to the office between now and December 8. We will use it to stuff goody bags for all the children in self-contained autistic classrooms.

We will be stuffing over 350 goody bags for the self-contained classrooms on Wednesday, December 9 at 10:00 am at the Omni Family Resource Center (upstairs conference room).

Call Jackie or Jennifer if you can help at 826-3004/3005.

Story Time at Library:

A representative from the Cumberland County Library has informed an ASCC volunteer that they would be willing to host a special needs story time. They would tailor their regular story time to fit the needs of our "special" children.

If you would be interested, please contact our office at 826-3004/3005 and let us know. If there is a great response then we will pursue collaboration with the library on this issue.

Brain Development in Autism: Infant Sibling Study at UNC School of Medicine

This study, which is funded by the National Institutes of Health under the direction of Dr. Joseph Piven, is being conducted by some of the world's leading researchers in the field of autism at 4 different sites across the US. Currently, we are searching for 100 participants in the South Eastern US who meet the following criteria:

- Are between 0-12 months of age (parents who are expecting may also be eligible)
- Have an older sibling diagnosed with autism

Once a family is enrolled in this study, they will travel to Chapel Hill, NC for a comprehensive series of developmental, non-invasive assessments completed on the infant sibling at the 6, 12 and 24 month time periods. Also, during this trip the infant will receive an MRI scan while they sleep.

There is no cost for family participation. All travel and lodging costs are reimbursed by the study, and any services the study provides are at no charge to the family. Families will receive feedback on the assessments and each MRI scan. The family will also receive \$50 for each assessment completed and \$50 for each MRI scan completed on the infant sibling.

Want to Learn More? Call the Autism Research Program at 1-800-793-5715.

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.