SAVE THE DATE!

Tee Up for Children with Autism

Sunday, August 9, 2015
Highfields Golf & Country Club
42 Magill Drive
Grafton, MA
To Register:

Donations and Memorial Gifts

UNITED WAY DONATIONS
Webster Five Cent Savings Bank  
Donna Austin

Reliant Medical Group  
Maleah Gustafson  
Amy Krysiak

UMass Memorial Health Care  
Bobbi-Jo Lewis

Hanover Insurance  
Brian Kelly

Margo McCaffrey Bishop  
Maria Panerelli  
Kevin Ertell  
Coreen Gaffney

Worcester Telegram & Gazette  
Denise Anderson

Liberty Mutual  
Matthew Desimone  
Brittany Tirozzi  
Michael Couturier  
Chelsea A. Olson

To designate the Autism Resource Center as the recipient of your United Way Donation use the name Autism Resource Center and the code UN 00365

MEMORIALS

In Memory of Joseph Lucek  
Janet Such

Kathleen F. Koprusak  
Amy LeBlanc

William & Ann LeBlanc

In Memory of Joseph Haughey

Lee Hoffstein  
Mary T. Shaw

Nicole & Philip C. Haughey  
Urania Filipe  
Maureen Durden  
Robert M. Haughey  
Linda Stauffer  
Dr. & Mrs. Paul Spinale

Patricia MacMillan  
Carlene A. Haughey

Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Spellman  
Ms. Patricia Ketchum  
Paul & Helen Foley  
R.C. & M. C. Barry  
Theodore & Nancy Mattus  
Robert & Patricia MacMillan

In Memory of

Joseph Lucek
Janet Such
Kathleen F. Koprusak
Amy LeBlanc
William & Ann LeBlanc

Our condolences to the families who’ve lost loved ones. The gifts made in their memory will be used with care and concern to benefit the families we serve.

DONATIONS

Margaret Locke
Joe Rutcho

CARS FOR AUTISM

You can donate a used car and support your Center. A professionally licensed, bonded and insured towing company will pick-up your car donation and provide you with a vehicle donation receipt. We make donating a car more convenient than selling it and more rewarding than trading it in.

Car Donations are accepted at http://www.donateacar.com/ or call 800-240-0160 to speak to a representative of Car Program LLC directly

JUNE CAMP

June 22, 2015

Family Summer Vacation Fun  
Leominster State Forest  
Crow Hills Pond  
Rt 31

Play Date in The Park
Pack a picnic & bring swim gear  
11 AM

Family Fun & Fitness  
Strength Training with Julie O’Mara  
3 Bartlett Pond Way Sterling MA  
HMEA  
6-7 PM

June 23, 2015

Roger Williams Zoo  
1000 Elmwood Avenue, Providence, RI  
10 AM - $5.00/pp

June 24, 2015

Dunn Park  
289 Pearl St, Gardner, MA  
Play Date in The Park
Pack a picnic & bring swim gear  
11 AM

June 25, 2015

Take Me Out To the Ball Game  
Bravehearts vs Silver Knights  
Fitton Field, Worcester MA  
7:05 PM

June 26, 2015

Dean Park  
Play Date in The Park  
Main St, Shrewsbury
Pack a picnic & join us  
11 AM
Family Fun Days at Camp 2015

Come join friends and families for a week of summer fun, designed to fill the gaps in your school’s summer program. Parents, grandparents, and siblings may accompany a child with autism for a day or a week of family fun. (One to one aides are welcome for families with multiple children on the spectrum but may not substitute for the presence of a parent; all children must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian).

Due to late school closings we will offer a week of Day Trips the last week in June, as opposed to a camp, details are found on page 2. In August a full week of camp activities is scheduled, although parents may choose to attend as little or as much as their child prefers. Camp offers swimming, crafts, games, archery, canoeing and entertainment for the children. It also offers a chance to network and visit for the adults. There is an evening cookout and swim that can include those parents who are away from home during the day. An optional overnight, for those families that are ready for the experience, follows the extended day.. Family Fun Days is a great way to entertain the entire family in a safe and supportive environment. Come spend time with old friends and make new ones.

**August 24-28 9 AM-4PM cook out & overnight on Thursday Camp Green Eyrie, 69 Still River Road ,Harvard**

**WHAT TO BRING:**  Bathing suits, towels, floatation devices if used for safety, sunscreen, flip-flops & beach chairs for the beach, fishing poles and bait . Shoes for wear in camp, change of clothing, bag lunches and drinks (refrigeration available)

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<th>Day</th>
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**Make Checks payable to Autism Resource Center & mail to 71 Sterling St, West Boylston, Ma 01583**
Dad’s Night Out

Autism Resource Center
Presents
Dad’s Night out
With the Worcester Bravehearts!
Tuesday, June 30th
@5:30pm

Join the Dad’s group at Hanover Insurance Park at Fitton Field to see the reigning champion Bravehearts take on the Pittsfield Suns. The night starts at the corporate picnic area to enjoy burgers, chicken sandwiches, hot dogs, chips/cookies, and more. After the game, we complete the night with a fireworks display! The best part, there is no cost to attend! Autism Resource Central is paying your way! Space is limited to the first 20 dad’s to register, so hurry!

To register for this event go to www.autismresourcecentral.org
For more information please contact David Iborra at:

diborra@hmea.org or 508-298-1617
Community 5K Run & Walk for Autism
Acceptance presented by DCU for Kids

I started my new job here at the center with two and a half months to the major fundraiser of the year. All I can say is that the pressure was on! There were planning committee meetings to attend, sponsors needed, permits to be secured, a new fundraising software for me to learn, and oh boy! Did I feel like this may have been more than I bargained for. Then I got to meet the staff here at the center who explained what their roles are and were quick to add ‘let me know how I can help.’ Next I met the run and walk committees and they too walked me through what they have done in the past and where they are in the planning for this year. I have to say that I felt a bit better.

For the next two months, I asked the staff a gazillion questions and they are a wealth of information. I started to learn and things started to take shape. I got to meet in person or over the phone some of our great supporters. I talked to people who said they wanted to be involved and they started fundraising. Looking at our First Giving page the numbers were going up. There were several third party events and all were successful. Running and walking teams registered, the vendors were confirmed, the t-shirts arrived and yes, my heart was beating a little faster as the D-day approached.

Finally, the day was here and by 6am all staff and several dozen volunteers were at DCR’s Quinsigamond State Park ready to start setting up. Like a well-oiled machine, everyone started to set up. The volunteers arrived early, tents started going up, balloon arch was up making it look festive, bounce house was up, tables and chairs, signage – oh yes, our new logo was looking fabulous thanks to Elevations Exhibits & Events that donated all the banners and lawn signs with our logo on it. The DCU van (which has an ATM) was there, the EMTs with an ambulance were set up and by 8:30am we were ready to start check-in and new registration for the runners. 10:00 O’Clock and the 5K started. About 100 feet in front of the run starting line was our lone wheelchair category 5K participant. (hopefully next year we get more in this category). Our first runner was back in 18:51 minutes and within the first 30 minutes 176 runners had completed the 5K. As the 5K race was going on, staff and volunteers were setting up for walk registration which started promptly at 11:30am. About 1,100 walkers came that day. Matthew Hicks one of the center’s champions and ambassador cut the ribbon for the walk and it was just beautiful to see all the families, friends and supporters join in and walk. Our Kids Corner sponsor, Behavioral Concepts, Inc. did a wonderful job running different activities for the kids. Lowe’s also did great with building kits for the little ones. Most sponsors had a table to exhibit their company information and we found that most of them also included activities or giveaways for the both kids and adults. Khaos Junkies and Sweet Fire did an excellent job entertaining the crowd.

The gift shop was in full operation mode and we had a lot of customers. The raffle booth full of donated items from Friends of the center was a buzz of activities and our raffle volunteers did not get any downtime. The Parrot Head volunteers who were with us most of the day did an excellent job and were very flexible in filling any volunteer spot that was open. Thumbs up to the best volunteer of the day, young Cainen Davis a.k.a. Parrot Kid who did an amazing job helping people fill out waivers, directing people on where to register, re-stocking, he even got people to donate, made sure volunteers ate lunch, clean up and was smiling all the while.

At the end of the day, we were tired but were glad we had a successful event. It was great to hear people say “great job!”, “we enjoyed ourselves”, “great event”, “we are looking forward to next year’s event”

Thank you to each and every one of you who made it happen!

Wanja Kiraguri
Calendar

Register for Events @ www.autismresourcecentral.org or call 508-298-1610 Fees for Events are as stated on site

JUNE

June 1, 2015
Family Fun & Fitness
Walking at DCR Lake Park  6 PM

June 3, 2015
Parent Night Out for ALL
Parent Support Groups
99 Restaurant
900 West Boylston St  Worcester MA
7-9 PM

June 6-7, 2015
Mother's Retreat
Registration Closed in May
Colonial Hotel
630 Betty Spring Road
Gardner MA
Check in 3 PM  Saturday
Check out 11 AM  Sunday

June 8, 2015
Family Fun & Fitness
Strength Training with Julie O’Mara 3 Bartlett Pond Way Sterling MA HMEA
6-7 PM

June 15, 2015
Family Fun & Fitness
Walking at DCR Lake Park 6 PM

June 23, 2015
Roger Williams Zoo
1000 Elmwood Avenue,
Providence, RI
10 AM
$5.00/pp

June 24, 2015
Play Date in The Park
Dunn Park
289 Pearl St, Gardner, MA
Pack a picnic & bring swim gear
11 AM

June 25, 2015
Take Me Out To the Ball Game
Bravehearts vs Silver Knights
Fitton Field, Worcester MA
7:05 PM $2.00/pp

June 26, 2015
Dean Park
Play Date in The Park
Main St, Shrewsbury
Pack a picnic & join us
11 AM

June 29, 2015
Family Fun & Fitness
Walking at DCR Lake Park  6 PM

JULY

July 3, 2015
CENTER CLOSED

July 6, 2015
Family Fun & Fitness
Strength Training with Julie O’Mara
3 Bartlett Pond Way Sterling 6 PM

July 13, 2015
Family Fun & Fitness
Walking at DCR Lake Park  6 PM

July 17, 2015
Friends & Family Movie
West Boylston Cinema
Rt 12  West Boylston
10 AM $2.00/pp

July 19, 2015
Family Fun Day at
Breezy Picnic Grounds
520 NW Main St  Douglas MA
$5.00 /PP – children under 2 free
10 AM
raindate July 26, 2015

July 20, 2015
Strength Training with Julie O’Mara
3 Bartlett Pond Way Sterling 6 PM

July 24, 2015
Play Date in The Park
Westville Dam
159 Walker Pond Rd
Sturbridge
Pack a lunch  11 AM

July 27, 2015
Family Fun Day at
Breezy Picnic Grounds
520 NW Main St  Douglas MA
$5.00 /PP – children under 2 free
10 AM
raindate July 26, 2015

AUGUST

August 2, 2015
Take Me Out To the Ball Game
Bravehearts vs Dirt Dawgs
Fitton Field, Worcester MA
5:05 PM $2.00/pp

August 3, 2015
Strength Training with Julie O’Mara
3 Bartlett Pond Way Sterling 6 PM

August 7, 2015
Friends & Family Movie
West Boylston Cinema
Rt 12  West Boylston
10 AM $2.00/pp
Did you notice, we’ve a new look?

In 1997 the Autism Resource Center opened. With a small budget and two part time employees, the number of families served was under 500. Autism was a low incidence disability then, less than 1 child in 1,000 was diagnosed. Our logo then incorporated the concept of a lone human figure, which reflected the rarity of the disorder and the isolation that autism can impose.

In 2006 we adopted a new look, our current logo. It was polished looking, up-to-date and the lone figure was replaced by a three-dimensional puzzle piece, and we added “A Program of HMEA Inc.” to the logo, a fine point that had been overlooked for the first 10 years the Center was open. Autism was no longer a low incidence disability, and we moved to a new location. We now serve over 3,000 families in Central Massachusetts. Last fall we worked with a class of talented students at Fitchburg State to change the center’s look. Initially they produced concepts, which incorporated the puzzle piece, but we felt it was time to move away from the puzzle piece. Our “children” have become young adults and have found their voice. I listen and must admit that there is merit to the protest “I am NOT a puzzle piece” and that there are no missing pieces just different neurology for those with autism.

We owe it to those most affected by autism, to listen to their opinions and thoughts. The puzzle piece is more emblematic of the viewpoint of parents who are puzzled by the difference in their child, than the person with ASD. Our new look, based on the concept the students produced, infers the letter “A” for autism, but is the Greek sign for Delta, meaning a new beginning. The three sides stand for Acceptance, Assistance and Advocacy. We also shortened our name to Autism Resource Central as we expand to support those with ASD across the life span.

What do you think?
Family Reunion at Camp Green Eyrie

Do you have fond memories of “Autism Camp” those lazy hazy days when the kids were young when you’d pack them up and head out to the Family Fun Days at Camp program that the Center has run for 15 years now? Many of our “kids” are now young adults and have jobs or programs and are no longer part of that magical week.

WE MISS YOU!

So this year we are starting something new. On the Wednesday of camp week in August we invite all our Camp Alumni to return for an evening cook-out, swim and camp fire. We’ve put together pictures, from the days at Camp Woodhaven to present day, for a visual walk down memory lane that night.

Come sit on the beach once more, bring a white Tee –Shirt to tie dye and a dish to share with others. Come home to reconnect and reminisce.

Family Advisory Board
Chair
Mia McDonald (Worcester)
Vice Chair
Heidi Robbins (Millbury)
Secretary
Hope Marie Bonilla (Gardner)
AFAM Liaison
Erica Ploof (Sterling)
Carrie Noseworthy (Leominster)
Kim Athanassiades (Oxford)
Stacey Levine-Lavely (Shrewsbury)
Tina Colbert (Worcester)
Kristen Saad (Spencer)
Hope Marie Bonilla (Gardner)
Donmarie Smith (Oxford)
Kelly Carey (Shrewsbury)
Lisa Thompson (West Boylston)
Tina D’Asti (Bellingham)